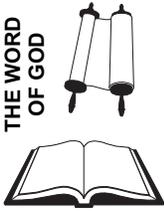


BRIEF: HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY & THE WORD OF GOD

THE WORD OF GOD



PRINCIPLE OF THE PLAIN, NORMAL METHOD OF INTERPRETATION

- The very nature of language supports this view. This is how we communicate in everyday life. God gave us language for the purpose of communicating with each other and with Him. Scripture does not ask us to communicate on some 'deeper' level. It uses every day language. When an interpreter looks for some hidden meaning in the WOG he abuses the text and the true clear meaning is lost. The interpreter's imagination becomes the basis of the meaning. The historical, grammatical, and lexical foundation of every day language needs to be applied to the Bible. This helps avoid abuse of Scripture, and helps protect the student from his own wild imagination.
- The Bible itself is the best evidence for the normal method of interpretation. It provides examples such as Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled by reading the text in its normal sense (**Psalm 22; Isaiah 7:14; 53:1-12; Micah 5:2**). The normal reading takes into consideration typical language as well (**Mt.2:15,18,23; 11:10; Ac.2:17-21; Rm.9:24-26; Ga.4:21-31**).
- In short, we must interpret Scripture grammatically, historically, contextually, and with a lexical understanding. We must also recognize the progressive nature of Scripture. God did not reveal Himself, or His plan all at once. If we fail to recognize this progressiveness it will produce apparent contradictions between passages of Scripture.



UNBELIEVER



- Unbelievers may be able to grasp the logical content of Scripture. Thus, an unbeliever can write a perceptive Bible commentary. But he cannot have a real appreciation of the spiritual implication in relation to himself, and to Jesus Christ.
- He may grasp the thoughts, but misses the 'spirit' and life-changing purpose behind the thoughts. He understands concepts, but does not "see" (**2Co.4:4**). The man who does not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within cannot grasp or appreciate the person of Christ, and the application to life. He cannot appreciate, for example, that we love Him because He first loved us (**1Jn.4:19**).

BELIEVER



- The Holy Spirit is not a "cure all" for poor interpretation. He does not reverse the consequences of violating hermeneutical principles.
- If the Holy Spirit is our teacher (**1Jn.2:27**), then why do we not all have the same interpretation? His illuminating ministry is dependant on our interpretive principles of communication. He works with 'normal' communication principles as found in the Word of God.
- A person's spirituality has no bearing on the validity of his interpretation. The interpreter's fidelity is based on sound interpretive principles. You may have seen godly people who differ in their interpretations.
- God expects us to have a consistent system of interpretation that is patterned after Scripture itself. That is, a normal hermeneutic.
- As we continue to study Scripture our minds should increasingly become sharpened and renewed (**Rm.12:1-2**). He does not bypass our minds.
- The Holy Spirit's ministry is to shed light on (illumination) already revealed Scripture, not to give "new truth". The material He uses is revealed truth from the Word of God of which He is the Author. He will help us recall what we have already learned in the past.
- If I expect direct revelation from the Holy Spirit to me, then why would I need the Bible? I would simply ask God to speak to me. But if I fail to study and absorb the message He has already given, I will end in error.

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



- The Holy Spirit of God will always point us to the Word of God for our instruction. He is the Author of the Bible (**2Pe.1:21**).
- **TESTIMONY TO UNBELIEVERS:** The Holy Spirit bears witness directly concerning Christ to unbelievers. It is through this testimony that all of us have come to a true and living knowledge of Jesus Christ (**1Co.12:3**). When the unbeliever surrenders his will to God, he has put himself into the attitude towards God where the Holy Spirit can do His work (**Jn.7:17; Ac.5:32**). The Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come (**Jn.16:8-11**).
- **TESTIMONY TO BELIEVERS:** The Holy Spirit bears witness concerning Jesus Christ (**Jn.15:26**). He does this through the Word of God. The ministry of the Spirit helps us to really come to see and know who Jesus is. [See **1Co.2:13-14; Jn.14:26**]
- **APPLICATION:** The Holy Spirit takes knowledge and guides us to live in its light (**Ps.119:105; Rm.8:14**). Illumination always points to action (**1Jn.1:6**). We could say it this way, 'if we say we have been enlightened, but still walk in darkness, we lie about understanding God's Word'.
- **AFFIRMS OUR ADOPTION:** The Holy Spirit gives us assurance through adoption that we are sons of God (**Rm.8:15-16**).
- **SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts freely (**1Co.12:1-10**). The gifts are given to manifest God's presence in the Body of Christ. They encourage believer's faith that God is near and working. They edify the church, and bring glory to God. Since there are different gifts they remind us of our dependence upon one another.
- **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:** This is the result of a process involving the believer yielding control to the Spirit (**Ga.5:22-23**). This fruit must be cultivated (nourishment, pruning). It is in contrast to living in the flesh (**Rm.7:14-25**).