

# HERMENEUTICS

## Interpreting and Understanding the Bible

**“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”**

**Nehemiah 8:8**

**“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

**II Timothy 2:15**

# Introduction

1. This subject and what the Lord has kindly shown us is one of our most valuable treasures, which is saying much in light of seven proofs, five phases, Hebrews, Daniel, Proverbs, etc.
2. We emphasize the men in our church, since God does. Men are to teach wives and children, which is why we are using our monthly men's meetings in 2010 for this topic.
3. We want to discover any future men of God among us, and we want to teach every man to know the word of God to teach his family and give certain words of truth to others.
4. We want our men, young and old, to fulfill I John 2:12-17.
5. For the young men among us, this is a blessed privilege.
6. We are testing new technology to help comprehension and retention, requiring your patience through any difficulties.
7. **There are two outlines – these slides for public presentation, and another detailed outline in paragraph form for study.**
8. It is a work in progress, though much material is prepared, so your contributions and suggestions are welcome.
9. The audience is aged 13-80, thus a slow, careful approach.
10. It is each man's duty to review both outlines and to pray for these meetings that they will meet God's goals for us men.

# Dedication

**“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God,  
be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”**

**I Timothy 1:17**

**“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only  
Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath  
immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto;  
whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and  
power everlasting. Amen.”**

**I Timothy 6:15-16**

***This study is primarily for young men to be strong, to have the Word  
of God abiding in them, to overcome the wicked one, and to have  
the ability, confidence, and wisdom of Ezra and Elihu to give the  
sense of Scripture and the certain words of truth to all those who  
ask, including the wives and children they are to scripturally lead.***

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# Hermeneutics

**Hermeneutics.** The art or science of interpretation, esp. of Scripture. Commonly distinguished from *exegesis* or practical exposition. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Exegesis.** Explanation, exposition (of a sentence, word, etc.); esp. the interpretation of Scripture or a Scriptural passage. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Exposition.** The action of expounding or explaining; interpretation, explanation. Also an instance or mode of this; an explanation, interpretation. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Expound.** To set forth, declare, state in detail (doctrines, ideas, principles; formerly, with wider application). To explain, interpret. To explain (what is difficult or obscure); to state the signification of; to comment on (a passage or an author). [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Eisegesis.** The interpretation of a word or passage (of the Scriptures) by reading into it one's own ideas. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

# Assumptions

1. God is, and Jehovah only is God.
2. Jehovah God inspired Scripture.
3. Jehovah God preserved Scripture.
4. Scripture is absolute and final truth.
5. Scripture is internally accurate and complete.
6. The King James Version is true Scripture.
7. Faith is necessary to know Scripture and truth.
8. Human wisdom is a hindrance to Scripture and truth.
9. Satan is at war against God, Jesus, Scripture, and truth.
10. Jehovah God will reward diligent seekers.

# Purpose

1. Young men strong in the word of God (I John 2:14).
2. Able ministers to teach others also (Ezra 7:6; II Tim 2:2).
3. Able men to teach wives and children (I Cor 14:34-35; Ep 6:4).
4. To save others from lies and heresies (Prov 22:17-21).
5. To obtain God's full reward and blessing (Ps 19:11; Jas 1:25).
6. To know the mysteries of God for His own (I Cor 2:6-13).
7. To best enemies, teachers, ancients (Psalm 119:98-100).
8. To know the will of God for your life (Deut 4:5-8; 29:29).
9. To obtain nourishment of each word for life (Luke 4:4).
10. To learn the way of salvation through Christ (II Tim 3:15).



# Introduction - 1

1. It is possible to know the Bible in letter and not understand it.
2. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day repeatedly for it.

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matt 19:13).

“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless” (Matt 12:7).

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God” (Matt 22:29).

3. He boldly rebuked seminary graduates that fanatically adored the scriptures and read them constantly ... *for not reading!*

“Have ye not read ...” (Matt 12:3)?

“Or have ye not read ...” (Matt 12:5)?

“Have ye not read ...” (Matt 19:4)?

“Did ye never read in the scriptures ...” (Matt 21:42)?

“... have ye not read ...” (Matt 22:31)?

4. They read the scriptures constantly, but without understanding!
5. We must strive mightily to avoid such a paradoxical calamity!

# Introduction - 2

6. It is even more popular in our perilous times, when godliness is only a form, much learning is done without truth, and sound doctrine and truth are rejected for fables (II Tim 3:1 - 4:4).
7. It is a common practice to use Bible phrases as sound bites without truly grasping the meaning. The sound is better to most than the sense. Even conservatives like Spurgeon did it.
8. Do you believe the Bible? What do you believe? We must learn as much of it as possible, as thoroughly as possible, to answer.
9. The lack of understanding in Jesus' day caused many horrible heresies regarding Jesus Himself and rightly keeping the Law.
10. The lack of understanding the Bible today leads to even more heresies, which increase geometrically as the pulpit stops rightly dividing scripture and the pew demands a praise band.

# Chaos and Confusion

1. The devil corrupted God's word to deceive Eve (Gen 3:1-6).
2. The devil corrupted God's word to tempt Jesus (Matt 4:5-7).
3. Many in Paul's day were corrupting scripture (II Cor 2:17; 4:2).
4. They wrested scripture to their own destruction (II Pe 3:15-16).
5. Brethren died for these words: "This is my body" (Matt 26:26).
6. The SDA's and JW's both came from folly with Daniel 8:14.
7. The U.S. spends and fights for "holy land," missing Neh 9:7-8.
8. Most are waiting for an abomination of desolation (Mat 24:15).
9. Most have Jesus returning before the Man of Sin (II Thes 2:1-3).
10. Most churches obsess over a finished Commission (Mk 16:19).
11. Revelation 3:20 is bandied about like Alice's Wonderland door!
12. Galatians 5:4 is used to teach many they can lose salvation!
13. Proverbs 20:1 is used to teach abstinence from any alcohol!
14. Acts 2:17-20 is used to justify Benny Hinn's shenanigans!

# Means of Understanding - 1

**“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Neh 8:8).**

**So they found what was popular with carnal Christians and the unregenerate, and they computer-searched twenty translations for sound bites to support fleshly ideas of worldly success, and they caused everyone to get excited about a name-it-and-claim-it gospel!**

**So they read in God’s book ... and explained it away with one or two dead languages ... and quoted a lexicon and a commentary and a famous professor, and they caused the people to feel totally intimidated that they would never be as smart as such gods.**

**So they read in God’s book ... just a verse or two ... and then shared jokes, anecdotes, stories, jokes, personal events, songs, a chalk drawing, a few more jokes ... and sent them home after 15 minutes.**

**So they read in God’s book with transcendental piety, and gave the most mystical sense they could imagine, and they caused hearers to believe they had never heard anything so deep and beautiful.**

**So they read in God’s book in Latin, explained it in Latin, and refused to let the people hear anything in their vulgar tongue, and thereby caused them to believe poppycock like a cracker god.**

**So they read in God’s book one word at a time, and gave a primary definition for it, and caused them to understand words they had known since infancy to arrive at a mechanical, literal interpretation.**

# Means of Understanding - 2

**“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Neh 8:8).**

- 1. We READ to decode language marks for words and sentences.**
  - 2. We read DISTINCTLY to separate and differentiate each word.**
  - 3. We GIVE something to hearers by clear verbal communication.**
  - 4. We give THE SENSE as God’s intended meaning by the words.**
  - 5. We CAUSE hearers to obtain a desired effect by these means.**
  - 6. We cause hearers to UNDERSTAND the reading themselves.**
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- 1. We need a written revelation to read. We have it!**
- 2. We need the ability to read written words. We can do it!**
- 3. We need to distinctly read all the words. We can do it!**
- 4. We need spiritual ability and rules to interpret. We will learn!**
- 5. We need to communicate for understanding. We will learn!**

# What is Reading?

1. God chose to communicate truth to us by written information.
2. Therefore, we must learn to read and read well to comprehend.
3. Some foolishly think the Bible can be read like *Dick and Jane*.
4. Reading is merely and only decoding the written material.
5. The meaning of the words depends on interpretation.
6. Reading gives us the sound of words, interpretation the sense.
7. Children can read Proverbs, but the dark sayings will be words.
8. Reading generally assumes the common meaning of words.
9. We only consider alternative meanings for figurative literature, books beyond the third grade, when the context directs us, a when a literal sense causes a contradiction or an absurdity.
10. Everyone old enough to read knows most common meanings.
11. Primary definitions are common concepts of common people, for they are the ones that determine dictionary definitions.
12. We reject as foolish and dangerous all number schemes, hidden meanings, word patterns, and so forth.

# What is Understanding?

1. Deciphering letters and words and reciting them is not enough.
2. We must gather and absorb the situation, actions, qualities, and ideas being conveyed by the letters and words.
3. We must apprehend meaning and import, or grasp the idea.
4. Islam accepts the drone of Arabic chanting; we want meaning.
5. It is bad if men cannot understand or perceive (Acts 28:23-28).
6. The Jews fulfilled Scripture by not understanding (Acts 13:27).
7. Jesus spoke in parables to hinder understanding (Luke 8:10).
8. Hearing carelessly will cost you your understanding (Lu 8:18).
9. Jesus exhorted to understand what Daniel wrote (Matt 24:15).
10. He damned the Jews for inability to understand (John 8:43-47).
11. Luke and Philip sought understanding (Lu 1:1-4; Ac 8:30-35).
12. Paul limited tongues, due to no understanding (I Cor 14:1-20).
13. Godly ministers seek understanding (II Cor 3:12; 4:2; Col 4:4).
14. Understanding is needed for conversion (Mat 13:15; Ac 28:27).
15. Being without understanding is a sin, when so easy (Ro 1:31).

# The Need for Understanding

1. The Bible is the only authority for truth in the world (Is 8:20).
2. Our religion, Christianity, is entirely dependent on the Bible.
3. We must seek and see Jesus Christ above all else (John 5:39).
4. The Bible gives us assurance of eternity (I Jn 5:13; II Pet 1:10).
5. The Scriptures are a great heritage (Deut 4:5-10; 6:20-25; etc.).
6. There is great reward in scripture (Ps 19:11; Pr 16:16; Ja 1:25).
7. Paul warned us of lies and liars increasing (II Tim 3:13; 4:1-4).
8. Many people have given up on the Bible due to the confusion.
9. The Bible is an exalted book, so treat it reverently (Ps 138:2).
10. The Bible is a spiritual book, so think beyond sight (I Cor 2:13).
11. The Bible is a prophetic book, so prepare for signs (Hos 12:10).
12. The Bible is a poetic book, so embrace metaphors (Prov 1:6).
13. The Bible is a broad book, so seek all there is (Ps 119:96).
14. The Bible is a blended book, so prepare to divide (II Tim 2:15).
15. The Bible is a rigged book, so study it carefully (II Peter 3:16).



# What is Interpretation? - 1

1. It is the process of finding the right meaning of written matter.
2. **Interpret.** To expound the meaning of; to render clear or explicit; to elucidate; to explain.
3. **Expound.** Set forth, declare, state in detail. Explain, or interpret.
4. We must steer between mystical art and mechanical science.
5. Rules tend to make interpretation just a mechanical science.
6. Personal qualifications and need of the Spirit make it an art.
7. Rules will work only so far as God blesses the student's effort.
8. Yet expecting God to inspire you without rules is tempting Him.
9. God may translate for us, as part of interpretation (Matt 1:23).
10. God may interpret for us, so we can move ahead (Mark 7:2).
11. Fathers are supposed to interpret scripture to sons (Deut 6:20).
12. Solomon knew proverbs required interpretation (Prov 1:1-6).
13. Jesus interpreted the prophecy of Elijah for some (Matt 11:14).
14. Jesus explained His parables, for the apostles could not grasp.
15. Jesus opened the scriptures to His disciples (Luke 24:27-32).

# What is Interpretation? - 2

16. The Bible exalts the right interpretation, or explanation, as key.
17. Ministers must rightly divide, or interpret, scripture (II Ti 2:15).
18. Unless there are differences in similar words, why divide?
19. Is there division needed in Exodus 20:13 and Matthew 7:1?
20. Is there division needed in salvation or Israel in the Bible?
21. Peter interpreted Psalm 16:8-11 to show Christ (Acts 2:22-36).
22. Jehoshaphat appointed men to divide the law (II Chron 19:10).
23. The more sure word must be rightly interpreted (II Pe 1:19-21).
24. Paul worked like a lawyer in interpreting of Christ (Ac 17:1-3).
25. The eunuch would not have grasped Isaiah 53 without Philip.
26. The complete sense requires comparing words (I Cor 2:13).
27. Who could rightly apply oxen laws without Paul (I Co 9:8-10)?
28. Nicodemus thought primary definitions sufficient (John 3:4).
29. The gospel has many mysteries known only by interpretation.
30. Paul's epistles require careful interpretation (II Peter 3:15-16).

# Understanding the Bible – #1

## Read Nehemiah 8:1-18

1. The people came together in unity and peace for profit (1).
2. They had a strong desire to hear and learn Scripture (1).
3. They chose scripture rather than fables or a praise band (1).
4. Ezra was a ready scribe in God's law and did not delay (2).
5. The whole family attended the reading and preaching (2).
6. The people were attentive and focused, not daydreaming (3).
7. Ezra read the scriptures rather than tell jokes and stories (3).
8. He used a pulpit so all the people could see the Book (4).
9. All the people stood to show their reverence for God's word (5).
10. Ezra and the people reverently worshipped God first (6).
11. Ezra's assistants helped interpret rather than entertain (7).
12. They read in God's book rather than Purpose Driven drivel (8).
13. They explained the reading for all the people to grasp it (8).
14. Understanding the sense of scripture calls for celebration (9).

# Understanding the Bible – #1

15. A great reason for a party is understanding scripture (10).
16. It is a holy occasion when we hear and understand God (11).
17. They celebrated joyfully for understanding scripture (12).
18. One day of hearing God's word was not enough for them (13).
19. Understanding scripture taught them a forgotten practice (14).
20. When people come united and willing, God will reveal (15).
21. They readily obeyed the burdensome old commandment (16).
22. Though many had not kept the duty, they did very gladly (17).
23. They wanted to hear the scriptures explained every day (18).
24. They observed God's worship according to the due order (18).

# Understanding the Bible – #2

## Read Matthew 12:1-8

1. The disciples were hungry enough it disrupted the Sabbath (1).
2. The Pharisees were the most conservative Jewish group (2).
3. The Pharisees judged by sight and sound, rather than truth (2).
4. Jesus rebuked their ignorance by raising David's hunger (3).
5. He knew they read the story often, but without meaning (3).
6. He rebuked them for not rightly dividing two passages (4).
7. Jesus condemned the argument from silence by this usage (4).
8. Jesus indirectly commended David's correct hermeneutic (4).
9. He further rebuked them by priestly duties on the Sabbath (5).
10. Of course they read Leviticus, but without understanding (5).
11. Jesus taught an implied sense of Sabbath not for priests (5).
12. They should have recognized Jesus as the Great Interpreter (6).
13. They knew Hosea 6:6, but without good understanding (7).
14. Judging righteously requires a spiritual hermeneutic (7).

# Understanding the Bible – #3

## Read Matthew 22:23-33

1. The Sadducees were a heretical sect denying resurrection (23).
2. They came to ask Him, but their intentions were not noble (23).
3. The hypothetical was to confound, as they had Pharisees (24).
4. They did not know they were attacking the Law's Author (24).
5. They hypothetical was rhetorical to deny resurrection (25-27).
6. They wrongly assumed that resurrected saints marry (28).
7. Jesus stated their ignorance of scripture and God's power (29).
8. Doctrinal error is still made the same way – missing both (29).
9. Our Lord destroyed their faulty minor premise of marriage (30).
10. He then turned the scriptures against them to prove spirit (31).
11. This was a very popular passage that He asked about (31).
12. God taught them the resurrection, but they had missed it (31).
13. What marvelous interpretation of a verse we breeze over (32).
14. His hermeneutic astonished the assembled crowd (33,39-40).

# Understanding the Bible – #4

## Read Acts 13:27

1. Jews living in the capital fulfilled their scripture by killing Jesus.
2. Even the rulers of the Jews were no wiser, for they led the sin.
3. The Jews were able to do such by misunderstanding scripture.
4. The voices (sound) of scripture they heard, but not the sense.
5. Children of the promises, they ignorantly fulfilled them by sin.
6. This is incredible ignorance, even though they had great technical knowledge of the words.

# Elihu - 1

## Read Job 32:1-22

1. Elihu was a young man who was made great by God's words.
2. He had truth when four wise men had spent themselves (32:1).
3. He was angry at Job for justifying himself over God (32:2).
4. He was angry at Job's friends for ignorant accusations (32:3).
5. He showed respect by waiting for the older four to finish (32:4).
6. He was angry at their inability to defend and justify God (32:5).
7. He explained he waited on their ignorance due to age (32:6).
8. He was not afraid; he expected older men to be wise (32:6-7).
9. He believed God could inspire young men with wisdom (32:8).
10. He learned that great and older men may not be wise (32:9).
11. He told them to listen and he would give his opinion (32:10).
12. He had waited kindly, but they did not honor God (32:11-13).
13. He had listened well to see if they had any answers (32:11-12).
14. He denied their conclusion God was judging Job for sin (32:13).



# Elihu - 2

15. He knew he was an outsider, but he had the answers (32:14).
16. The four wise men could say nothing at Elihu's zeal (32:15-16).
17. He told them it was now his turn to give his opinion (32:17).
18. He admitted their folly had filled him with urgency (32:18-20).
19. He told of his spirit demanding he declare the truth (32:18).
20. He was fearless about teaching esteemed hearers (32:21-22).
21. He was convicted flattering titles would be sinful (32:21-22).

# Every Word of God - 1

“But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I **am** the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine” (Matt 22:31-33).

“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him **Lord**, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions” (Matt 22:41-46).

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I **am**” (John 8:56-58).

“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are **gods**? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God” (John 10:33-36)?

# Every Word of God - 2

“Now to Abraham and his **seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Gal 3:16).

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather **are known** of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage” (Gal 4:9).

“In that he saith, A **new** covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away” (Heb 8:13).

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, **Yet once more**, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:25-29).

# Personal Qualifications

## WARNING

Do not neglect or underestimate this section.

This is the most important factor in knowing scripture.

The Bible is a spiritual book, written by the eternal Spirit, Who demands we use it on His terms. While the flesh, the world, Satan, and most Bible students ignore or despise these points, they are more important than any rules of hermeneutics. Crush your impatience, and wait upon the Lord for the liberal wisdom and understanding that only He can give.

Father, Lord of heaven and earth, help us babes.

# Personal Qualifications #1

## You must be born again.

1. Men are first born dead to God and truth (Gen 2:17; Eph 2:1-3).
2. Naturally intelligent, man never thinks about God (Rom 3:11).
3. A man without faith from God is unreasonable (II Thess 3:2).
4. He will choose lies over truth in spiritual matters (John 8:45).
5. God powerfully blinds such men to believe lies (II Thes 2:9-12).
6. The natural man cannot know the things of God (I Cor 2:14).
7. The gospel – good news – is foolishness to such (I Cor 1:18).
8. God must give ability to see, hear, and understand (John 8:47).
9. Before regeneration, he cannot see God's kingdom (John 3:3).
10. The mind of Christ belongs to the regenerate (I Cor 2:15-16).
11. Regeneration gives such men internal knowledge (John 6:45).
12. Presentation of truth is for the regenerate elect (II Tim 2:10).
13. Many are not born again, so they are ignorant (II Cor 4:3-4).
14. The Bible, the spiritual book of God's Spirit, is closed to natural men, regardless of ability, intelligence, rules, or efforts.

# Personal Qualifications #2

## You must be enlightened by the Spirit.

1. Though born again, a man has flesh (Rom 8:7-8; Gal 5:17).
2. The apostles, born again, needed the Spirit (Luke 24:45).
3. Paul prayed for the Spirit for understanding (Eph 1:17-18).
4. Full knowledge of Jesus is by the Spirit's might (Ep 3:14-19).
5. A grieved Spirit can remove understanding (Isaiah 63:10).
6. God may assist learning by special means (Job 33:14-16).
7. The Spirit of God can provide an unction (I John 2:20,27).
8. God must open minds for you to understand (Is 29:10-12).

# Personal Qualifications #3

## You must fear God to even start learning.

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Pr 1:7; 9:10).
2. Proper reasoning begins with God as First Cause (II Thess 3:2).
3. Circular reasoning or not, it must begin with God (Heb 11:6).
4. Fearing God is to love and please Him reverently (Deut 10:12).
5. Fearing God is to hate and leave off evil (Job 28:28; Pr 8:13).
6. A man must come to God trembling before Him (Is 66:1-2).
7. The fear of man brings a snare for compromise (Prov 29:25).
8. Great men are not always wise, as Elihu learned (Job 32:9).
9. Loving anyone over Christ is to fail as a disciple (Jo 12:42-43).
10. God Himself will instruct the man fearing Him (Ps 25:12-14).
11. He will confuse those who with mere lip service (Is 29:13-14).
12. Carnal Christians cannot learn available truth (I Cor 3:1-2).

# Personal Qualifications #4

## You must delight in God to obtain His favor.

1. Delighting in God is important enough for listing (Acts 13:22).
2. God's blessing is on those who delight in Him (Psalm 37:4).
3. Note the worship of God before great understanding (Neh 8:6).
4. The value of God's favor is important (II Sam 12:24; Dan 9:23).
5. God seeks men who will glory in Him over all else (Je 9:23-24).
6. Is your meditation on God a glad and sweet thing (Ps 104:34)?
7. Acquaint yourself with God for the good it brings (Job 22:21).



# Personal Qualifications #5

## You must obey and apply all learning.

1. David knew more than ancients by obedience (Ps 119:100).
2. Daniel knew the need to turn from sin for truth (Dan 9:13).
3. Doing God's will is the condition for knowing doctrine (Jn 7:17).
4. Disobedience will bring a loss of understanding (Luke 8:18).
5. God hates hypocrites and will judge them (Job 20:4-29).
6. God hates scorners and will judge them (Isaiah 29:20-21).
7. Disregard of instruction will bring blindness (II Thess 2:9-12).
8. Greater knowledge requires greater obedience (Lu 12:47-48).
9. More light requires a just man moving forward (Prov 4:18).
10. Taking the yoke of Christ and learning go together (Mat 11:29).

# Personal Qualifications #6

## You must ask in prayer for knowledge.

1. God has purposed to operate in areas by prayer (James 4:2).
2. God specifically tells us that wisdom is by asking (James 1:5).
3. We must ask in faith, or plan on receiving nothing (Jas 1:6-7).
4. God gave wisdom to Solomon, so let us also ask (I Kgs 3:5-14).
5. Daniel prayed for wisdom and got it (Da 2:18; 9:13; 10:10-14).
6. Observe proper motives for wisdom (Ps 119:26-27,34,73,125).
7. Emulate David's request for God to open his eyes (Ps 119:18).
8. Recall Paul's prayer for Ephesus to learn things (Eph 1:17-18).

# Personal Qualifications #7

## You must seek for understanding to obtain it.

1. You must apply yourself as Solomon clearly taught (Pr 2:1-9).
2. You must “receive” God’s word – do not reject it (Hosea 4:6).
3. You must “hide” God’s word – retain learning (Hebrews 2:1-3).
4. You must “incline” your ear – listen submissively (Prov 1:5).
5. You must “apply thine heart” – give it your all (Proverbs 18:1).
6. You must “cry” for it loudly – beg God for truth (Psalm 119:18).
7. You must “search” diligently – let nothing deter you (Je 29:13).
8. By these rules, you will find knowledge and every good path.
9. Approach it like a minister (I Timothy 4:13-16; II Timothy 2:15).
10. You must love and seek it (Prov 8:17; 15:14; Acts 17:11-12).
11. Solomon and Jesus exhorted treasure hunting (Mat 13:44-46).

# Personal Qualifications #8

## You must accept correction and instruction.

1. Scripture is to teach, reprove, correct, instruct (II Timothy 3:16).
2. Receiving reproof is key (Pr 6:23; 9:7-9; 12:1; 14:6; 15:31-32).
3. God will resist the proud and cause them to fall (James 4:6).
4. Progress requires change, and change requires correction.
5. You must accept strongholds being ripped down (II Cor 10:4-6).
6. Do not ever despise prophesying – or preaching (I Thess 5:20).
7. God rewards the humble, like Solomon (Matt 11:25; Jas 4:6).
8. God despises human arrogance and wisdom (I Cor 1:17-29).
9. If you think yourself wise, you are in trouble (I Cor 3:18-19).
10. God will find and bless the poor in spirit (Is 66:1-2; Matt 5:3).
11. David humbly told the Lord about high matters (Psalm 131:1).

# Personal Qualifications #9

## You must have godly and noble motives.

1. You want to learn about God to glory in Him (Jer 9:23-24).
2. You want to learn about Jesus to glorify Him (Luke 10:38-42).
3. You want to learn and lay hold of eternal life (Jn 5:39; 20:31).
4. You want to learn God's law to observe (De 29:29; Ps 119:34).
5. You want to be able to teach others the truth (Prov 22:17-21).
6. You want to be able to try teachers and teachings (Ac 17:11).
7. You want to learn agreeable to charity (I Cor 8:1-2; 13:1-3).
8. You do not want to learn to justify your thoughts (Prov 18:2).
9. You must love the word of God in word and deed (Ps 19:7-11).
10. Does God know you highly prize His word (Ps 119:14,47)?

# Personal Qualifications #10

## You need to use your God-given teachers.

1. God gave gifts to men to teach others (Ps 68:18; Eph 4:8-13).
2. They must have some ability, or what is the gift (I Pe 4:10-11)?
3. They must have the Spirit, or he should quit (De 34:9; II Ti 1:7).
4. They apply the ability and Spirit in full-time labor (I Ti 4:13-16).
5. The Bible instructs men to seek to them (Jer 3:15; Mal 2:7).
6. With Scripture, the man of God can perfect you (II Ti 3:16-17).
7. Therefore, they should be valued for the work (I Thes 5:12-13).
8. God can bring the right man at the right time (Acts 8:26-31).
9. His sovereign providence works all such things for your profit.
10. Elihu was not with Job and his friends by accident (Job 33:1-6).
11. God is able to move your pastor for your every unspoken need.
12. You are to follow his faith, unless unscriptural (Heb 13:7,17).