

Step by Step Bible Study Process

1. Preparation for Bible Study
 - a. Good Bible Translation
 - b. Pen & Paper
 - c. Bible Study Tools
 - i. Primary – Strongs, Bible Dictionary
 - ii. Secondary – Computer, Phone
 - d. Attitude of a humble student
 - e. Prayer for Holy Spirit's presence

2. Hermeneutics
 - a. Rule #1 – Bible is the inspired, authoritative, trustworthy, infallible word of God
 - b. Rule #2 – Scripture is its own interpreter
 - c. Rule #3 – A passage of scripture has one intended interpretation
 - d. Rule #4 – Principle of corroboration
 - e. Rule #5 – Never force a meaning into the text (*eisogesis*)
 - f. Rule #6 – Interpret a passage literally unless the text indicates otherwise
 - g. Rule #7 – Define words before jumping to interpretation
 - h. Rule #8 – All scripture must be interpreted within its literary context
 - i. Rule #9 – Interpret a passage in light of its historical context
 - j. Rule #10 – All passages on a topic must be studied and carefully considered.
 - k. Rule #11 – Start with that which is clear and move toward what is unclear
 - l. Rule #12 – Scripture is a harmonious whole
 - m. Rule #13 – Do not build an entire doctrine on one passage of scripture
 - n. Rule #14 – Be cautious about new light, novel ideas, and unusual ideas.
 - o. Rule #15 – Pay careful attention to the intent, and not simply the word.
 - p. Rule #16 – Bible study is a process and not simply linear
 - q. Rule #17 – Be humble enough to change your mind when given better evidence

3. Bible Study Tools
 - a. Primary
 - i. Strongs Concordance
 - ii. Bible Dictionary
 - b. Secondary
 - i. Computer Program
 - ii. Cell Phone

4. Inductive Study
 - a. Study the historical context
 - b. Read the passage
 - i. Slowly – Read the passage slowly, focusing on each word
 - ii. Repeatedly – read it through at least 3,4 times
 - iii. Audibly – Read aloud, and emphasize each words
 - iv. Imaginatively – Let your mind imagine the story. Put yourself in the text.
 - v. Contextually – Read the Context, both before and after the given passage
 - vi. Broadly – Read the passage in multiple different versions of the bible.

- c. Break passage into small words and word phrases
- d. Compose a question based on the text
 - i. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- e. *Inductive Formula: Question + Answer = Discovery*
- f. Reinterpret in your own words without changing the meaning.

5. Word Study

- a. Identify key words within your passage
- b. Definitions (what)
 - i. Using a Bible Dictionary, look up words (names, places, objects, people)
 - ii. Using Strong's Concordance look up definition in original language
 - iii. Using Lexicon – Look up deeper interpretive meanings
- c. Usage (How many times used, and where)
 - i. Hard Copy (Young's Concordance)
 - 1. Identify how many time and where the word occurs
 - ii. Electronic Copy Strong's (Cell Phone, Computer)
 - 1. Tap on the hyperlink number beside the word
 - 2. Identify how many times and where the word occurs
- d. *Key Point: Use Word study work sheet.*

6. Topical Study

- a. Select a topic for study
- b. List variants and thematically related words
- c. Using a Strong's Concordance write down all bible texts for all words
- d. Write an observation or statement for each passage
- e. Regroup scriptures under subtopics
- f. Summarize Discoveries
- g. Write down applications
- h. *Key Point: Use the Topical Study Sheet*

7. Cross Reference

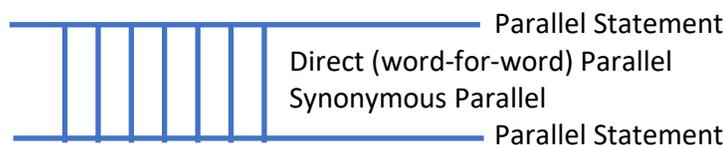
- a. Look up center column cross references
- b. Use Treasury of Scripture Knowledge cross reference (computer, phone, paper)

8. Parallel Study

- a. Put all parallel passages in side-by-side columns
- b. Add all details up to build a composite "big picture"

9. Literary Study

- a. Train Track Method
- b. Identifying a Train Track
 - i. Definition - Two parallel steel rails connected by wooden ties



- c. Types of Parallel Structures

- i. AB, AABB, ABAB, ABCABC,
 - ii. Chiasmic Structures – ABBA, ABCCBA, etc.
- d. Key – Identify small, medium, and large scale literary structures

10. Right Brain (Visual-Spatial) Bible Study

- a. Read the bible carefully paying attention to (objects, verbs & prepositions)
- b. Use correct spatial orientation
- c. Use symbols
- d. Use correct orientation
- e. Write in short labels
- f. Go back to verify and confirm
- g. If necessary draw out the diagram again.

11. Use Commentaries Judiciously

- a. After completion of bible study, search commentaries and Spirit of Prophecy.

12. Application

- a. Direct application
 - i. When interpreting words, plug the interpretation back in the text.
 - ii. Put yourself in the text

Application Questions

- b. What does this passage tell me about:
 - i. God - Who God is, and my relationship to Him?
 - ii. World – What is the world, and what is my relationship to it? How should I should treat others?
 - iii. Church – What is the church, and how it should function and operate?
 - iv. Myself – Who am I? What kind of person is God calling me to be?
- c. What is the good news (or gospel) in this passage?
- d. What is the Holy Spirit saying or impressing me to do in response to this passage?
- e. What lessons can I learn from this bible character's:
 - i. Victory?
 - ii. Failure?
- f. Is there a sin or shortcoming I need to confess and repent of to God?
- g. Is there a promise I can claim in this scripture?
- h. Is there a duty to perform?
- i. What does it look like for me to believe and obey this Scripture in a genuine, non-superficial way