

## HOW TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE WORD OF GOD YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

2 Tim. 2:15-16, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness” (KJV).

I. The secret of Bible study is simply learning to ask the right kind of questions.

A. You can never mine the gold out of any particular text because the Bible is a supernatural book.

1. But if you learn the principles of how to study the Bible, you will see things in Scripture you've never seen before.

THERE ARE FOUR STEPS TO STUDYING A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE.

I. The first step in any Bible study is Observation.

A. Observation: The question you ask is, “What does it say?”

II. The second step of Bible study is Interpretation.

A. Interpretation: That's where you ask the question, “What does it mean?”

1. People say, “Doesn't the Bible mean what it says?” No.

2. The Bible means what it means.

3. How you know what it means is by looking at the context around it.

4. Words mean what they mean in the context.

III. The third step in Bible study is Correlation.

A. Correlation is looking at other verses that help explain the verse you are studying.

1. You compare and you correlate.

2. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself.

3. One of the principles of interpretation is you interpret an unclear passage with a clear one.

4. There are things that the Bible means. There are things it definitely doesn't mean.

5. The way you know that is by looking at what the whole Bible says.

IV. The fourth step in Bible study is Application.

A. That is, what am I going to do about it?

James 1:22-25, “And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don't fool yourselves. For if a person just listens and doesn't obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror; as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself anymore or remember what he looks like. But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does” (TLB).

We do not get blessed by what we know, but by what we do.