

HAVING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened -

What the eye is to the body, the understanding is to the soul; and that as the eye is not light in itself, and can discern nothing but by the means of light shining, not only on the objects to be viewed, but into the eye itself; so the understanding of man can discern no sacred thing of or by itself, but sees by the influence of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation; for without the influence of God's Holy Spirit no man ever became wise unto salvation,

Joh 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.

Hunger for the Word:

Act 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Act 8:30 And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

Act 8:31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Satan Objective is to blind people to the truth:

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The Ministry of the Church:

Act 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**HOW TO QUALIFY TO BE TRUE INTERPERTER OF THE
WORD OF GOD**

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Luk 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Luk 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

Luk 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luk 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

Luk 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Interpreters are spoken of in the scripture under three categories:

(1) Legal interpreters, (2) False interpreters (3) True Interpreters.

1. **Legal interpreters:** Knowledge of the Word without a revelation of the Word.

Act 13:27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*. These were the priests, scribes and Pharisees in the days of Christ. The Scribes were the official interpreters of the O. T.

2. False Interpreters:

- a. Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:2 refers to those who are guilty of “Handling the Word of God deceitfully).
- b. Paul also speaks in Ephesians 4:14 about those who, in relation to doctrine use “***the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.***”
- c. (2 Peter 3:16); Paul refers to these men who are “***unlearned and unstable and wrest (take out of context, or the setting of the scripture) the scriptures unto their own destruction.***”
- d. Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:7 that there would be those who are “***ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.***”

3. **True Interpreters:** In Luke 24, Jesus is revealed to us as the perfect Interpreter, in Verse 27, He said, “***He expounded*** (Greek – Interpreted) ***unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.***” ***He is the revelation of the Word made flesh. He is the way the truth and the life.***

- a. **A true interpreter of the Word of God must have a clear cut understanding of who Jesus is.** Paul said “***I know in whom I believe***”

Mat 13:16 **But blessed are your eyes, for they see:** and your ears, for they hear.

Mat 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

2Ti 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: ***for I know whom I have believed***, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. **The Interpreter must be Born of the water and of the Spirit begotten by the Word of God.** (You must be begotten of truth to be able to interpret truth)
(John 3:1-12; 1 Peter 1:23)

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

- a. Although Nicodemus was a teacher in Israel, he still needed to be born again.
- b. As interpreters of the Word we must be guided in our interpretation by the same Spirit that inspired those who wrote it.

2. **The Interpreter must have a passionate Hunger for the Word of God.**

- a. If one has been truly born again, the first evidence of that birth is hunger. This refers to an intense desire for that which is highly valued. Knowing God through His Word must be of primary importance.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

3. **The Interpreter Must Possess an Attitude of Humility.**

- a. The attitude of humility is a quality essential to spiritual insight. Pride and arrogance bring spiritual blindness, making the discovery of the true meaning of God's Word impossible. The religious leaders at the time of Christ were haughty and proud.

1. Philip 2:3: "Lowliness of mind"
2. Acts 20:19: "Humility of mind"
3. I Peter 5:5: "Humility"
4. James 1:21: "Receive with meekness the engrafted word"

4. **The Interpreter must possess an Attitude of Reverence and Respect for the Word of God.**

- a. A proper respect for the Word of God will act as a restraint against using the Word to project his own views and ideas.

Psa 119:6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Psa 119:7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

Psa 119:8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

5. **The Interpreter must Accept the Total Inspiration of the Scripture:**

- a. Paul wrote: (2 Timothy 3:16) “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*”
- b. The Word of God was God-breathed. The Holy Spirit breathed into human vessels the very thoughts and words He wanted written. The Word of God flowed through those human channels involving, but not violating, their emotions, education, experience and personalities. Yet the Spirit of God guarded and preserved each phase, thought, and word from error, omission, or inaccuracy.

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

- c. If the interpreter does not accept the total inspiration of the Scriptures, it will be impossible for him to properly interpret them.

6. **The Interpreter must Approach the Word of God in True Faith:**

- a. Hebrews 11:1; tells us “Through faith we understand....” Reason alone cannot perceive and grasp the Divine communication. It is unfortunately, and possible to have eyes and see not; ears and not hear; a heart and yet not perceive (Matt 13:10-17; Isaiah 6:9,10).
- b. Faith brings understanding to the heart which cannot reason alone could not acquire. Faith is not contrary to reason, but rather above it.

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7. **The Interpreter Needs a Renewed Mind:**

- a. In Romans 12:1 the command is given; “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” The Natural and carnal mind is at enmity with God and is not subject to His law. It cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:14-16; Romans 8:5-7; Philippians 2:2,3).
- b. **Only the regenerated mind can feel at home in the Scripture>**

8. **The Interpreter Needs to Depend upon the Spirit of God for Illumination:**

- a. It is necessary that the interpreter receive illumination from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit inspired the Word and it is He who must interpret that Word. This occurs through illumination. The Bible is primarily a spiritual book, and spiritual things must be spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:7-16).
- b. The interpreter must recognize the difference between (1) Revelation (2) Inspiration (3) Illumination.
 1. **Revelation:** (Truth Given) The Bible is the written revelation of God. In it God has revealed Himself; that His nature, character, and being. All that may be know of God is this life is founded upon Scripture. They are the only inspired and infallible authority for all Christian’s faith and practice.
 2. **Inspiration:** (Truth Recorded; the Bible) Is the process by which the revelation was recorded. The Scriptures are in infallible revelation because of inspiration. Revelation is the substance and inspiration is the process by which that substance is Divinely communicated.
 3. **Illumination:** (Truth Received); Is the perception of truth brought about by influence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows what He meant when He inspired the Word; we, therefore need His illumination.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

9. **The Interpreter Needs to Maintain a Spirit and Attitude of Prayer**

- a. Those who wrote the Word of God were all men of prayer. Much of the Word was communicated to them by the Spirit of God while they were in an attitude of prayer.

10. **The Interpreter Needs to Meditate on the Word.**

11. **The Interpreter Needs to Recognize the Unity and Harmony of the Progressive Revelation of the Scripture.**

12. **The Interpreter must understand the Relationship Between the Old and New Testament.**

13. **The Interpreter needs to possess a Sound Mind**

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- a. **Well-balanced**: Not highly far-fetched, not hasty in judgment, Not given to extreme or vain and foolish notions.
- b. **Quick and clean in perception**; Acute in intellect; Good judgment and reasoning ability; Able to communicate clearly.