What do you see?

When you study the Bible what do you look for when reading? Are there any questions that you ask yourself while reading? You may have heard about the interrogation words such as, who, what, where, when, why and how. The use of these words will help you dig out more information about the text than by just plain reading without any plan. So what do you look for? Police, FBI, CIA, Law enforcement in general are taught to be very observant. They are taught what to look for and how to conduct a thorough investigation. They know what to look for because they have keys to help them search and uncover the necessary information that will help them formulate there investigation. They will ask question at a crime scene like: what was the women wearing? Was the man smoking a pipe? Did she have a scare on her right arm? All of these are probing questions and when you know what you are looking for than you will be in great position for study, by knowing the keys. So I’m going to help you develop these keys. Correct Bible study takes effort and hard work….**2 Tim.2:15** But the results are a blessing. **Ps. 19:7-11.**

Have you ever noticed how some people can enjoy a baseball game more than others? Why is that? Well the people who enjoy it may perhaps know more about the sport, know the details of the game and some may even played that sport. Others may know nothing at all about baseball or perhaps very little and they don’t get as excited about certain plays as those who know what to look for. Knowing the game and what to look for makes the game that more interesting. The same can be said about football, and other sports. How about those who love Art? Why is that those who know art can see a lot more into a certain painting than those who aren’t that familiar with art? Knowing what to look for makes all the difference in the world. Chess players are a perfect example for this illustration. How can a great chess player look at a game in progress and know in a few seconds exactly what move to make? They have studied that game for years and have played it thousands and thousands of times, they know what to look for. Same can be said for the bible. Many Christians don’t know the bible good enough to even begin to know what to look for. Whenever I come up against a Christian who doesn’t know the bible it’s not me judging them, but the bible itself is judging them because of their lack of bible knowledge after claiming to be a Christian. To know the Bible is to know God, know His word, and have a changed life and an opportunity to help change someone else’s life. You are not going to call yourself a Doctor if you don’t know anything about it, nor an Electrical Engineer or a Lawyer, etc., etc. So why claim to be a Christian is you don’t know anything about it?

Now in order to be a musician, one has to play an instruments of some sort, like a guitar, piano, trumpet, and learn to read music, have an ear for music, practice, practice, learning tools such as books, teachers, friends. Same with learning the bible, In order to learn the bible there are certain requirements and tools needed. First one must be **“Born Again” John 3:3-6**, have an Authorized King James Bible, dictionary, bible dictionary, cross-references, and concordance, know what to look for and know the right questions to ask.

What if you don’t have anything but a Bible? That’s ok, I will show you the words you should ask. **“Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?”** Simple to remember and simple to use. With our Bible Chart, the **“What do you see chart”.** You have three columns, one for the **verse or verses** of scripture you are studying, **Observation** and **Interrogation or Interpretation.** What we are doing is building a solid foundation first**, Isa 28:16**, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a **foundation** a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.” And by studying you become an everlasting foundation**. Pro 10:25**, “As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but **the righteous is an everlasting foundation.”**

**Let’s deal with those 6 words. :**

**Who:** First we ask, WHO? So if you read: “In the beginning God created” You would ask, Who? Answer God.

Example: John 9: 1, “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.” Who passed? Answer: Jesus passed by. Who saw a man which was blind from birth. Answer: Jesus.

**What:** Using the same verse, what? What was Jesus doing? Passing by… What happened as Jesus passed by..? He saw a blind man which was blind from birth. You could also continue using “what”

What was the weather like? What time was it? You could overdo it…..

**When:** When did this take place? When Jesus was walking by…. From studying Chapters before this one you could add to this. But if you are just dealing with this verse than that’s all we can see, because that’s all we are LOOKING AT. **When** will this ever happen again?

**Where:**

Where did this take place? Where was the blind man sitting? Where was Jesus going? Where was Jesus’s Apostles? Where, Where ……

**Why:** Why did Jesus do that? Why was the blind man sitting there? Why did Jesus care? Why was the blind man blind?

**How:** How did Jesus perform this act? How did the blind man react? How did the people react? How do you react? How did our Lords critics react?

How you go about using this approach is a matter of taste I guess. As you can see it can get rather deep. I have spent a great deal of time on just a few passages.

Back to the Chart. Three Columns: write under the **“Scripture Column”** the verse or verse you want to study.

The Middle Column **“Observations” Seeing and Looking.** This is where you will use those 6 words. But they are used to help you see what’s going on in the passages you are studying. IS there a difference in how you use **“Observations”** compared to **“Interrogation** or **Interpretation?” YES!** While in the Observation mode you’ll come up with a question that you have no answer for, this is where you use the 3 column. This is where you’ll develop your interpretation skills and system. Later on I will give you an example work sheet for a guide. Remember the idea behind this study is to have you do this on your own and develop your own style. Over time that will change because your knowledge will increase and with that will come more questions and more study. You’ll find out in a few years looking back on your original work just how much you have learned over the years and how much you still need to grow.

For a test run go to John 3:1-6 and use this as your first test by using the Observation sheet. Don’t use any short cuts take the necessary time to do it correctly. This will be time well invested. Don’t worry about being right or wrong here just continue through the process until you begin to get a good feeling for it.

For your own test run you can use any Book to see how this works. Remember, practice, practice so you can learn the Bible like God intended. This will bring you the word of God and the Holy Spirit one on one in a real sense and not just some verbiage used by many some will wishers who continue to wish Christians would study the Bible ……yet,……… there are far too many blank faces still sitting in front of many a Pastor. As Bible teachers we need to equip our students, Church members, and others with the tools so that they can study the bible on their own and actually learn something and teach others. Far too many times Church members are preached at, yelled at, Sunday schooled to death, and still don’t have a clue about the bible or how to study the bible. Using this system will give you the tools to teach others, in turn they will have the same tools so they can teach others and learn the word of God. Amen and Amen

**Ok, let’s continue:**

The word **“interpretation”** often comes up when dealing with the bible, doctrine, prophecy, false religions, and on and on. Why do we have all these different religions and different doctrines out there? It all boils down to “interpretation.” How many different interpretations are out there and used will determine what and how you believe. Why so many varying interpretations? It’s the system they used, the bible they use, and what commentaries and bible teachers they listen to. Why not just use the bible alone? With this system you can……

In the first lesson, I gave you the old tired and used words, WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW as tools to help you study the Bible. But, what if you want to even get deeper into your study. Will what I’m going to teach you now will give you more tools to refine your study and……………………………. Proper system for INTERPRETATION. No two people will ever agree 100% let alone on the bible. But by using this system and these tools it will bring us a lot closer in our beliefs, doctrines, prophecy, and how to “Rightly Divide the Word of God.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

The next list of question are not new to anyone who has studied the Bible for years on their own. I have used this same system for years now so I want to tell you what these words and questions are.

This list of questions will bring your interpretation more into line with what the Holy Spirit had intended. Remember in order to see, and look into the Bible you must have the correct tools to use.

**What Types in scripture?**…. Type of those who line up with the Anti-Christ and types that resemble Jesus Christ. This is deep but can be addressed and filed away for later study. When you get into this deeper you may want to look at, types of rapture, gospels, churches, tribulations, Old Testament Individuals who foreshadow New Testament Individuals.

**What Things that are alike, similar? … good guys, bad guys,** there are many things you can put in this category.

**Are there any commands**?

**Are there things different?** Sometimes the word “not” is a help here. Also “but” and “however”. These are keys you should become aware of.

**Are there any Promises?** Old Testament, New Testament…

**Is the text speaking to the Jews, Gentiles or Christians?** In the Bible and the world there are only three kinds of people, Jews, Gentiles and Christians. Acts One to Five is where most scholars lose their minds….

**Are there things mentioned more than once?** Repeated verses, words..

**Is there an effect or cause for doing or not doing something?**

**Nation of Israel verses the world, ask this question, “Is this verse Chapter dealing with the Nation of Israel or other Nations?** Do you remember this? **“One Nation under God”** According to the word of God there is but only ONE NATION UNDER GOD and you have only one guess as to who that might be. It’s not the USA….

**Is this a contradiction?**

**Are there questions? Are there Answers?**

**Is the word or words you are reading in plain English?** In other words, do not add to nor take from the exact words or words found in a passage. Do not change them to say something else,….. It says what it says and means exactly what it says where it says it without you helping out the Holy Spirit having a word or words saying something it doesn’t. A Hebrew is not a Christian and Synagogue is not a Christian Church. Teaching the Bible has to have some kind of measured result so the teacher can see how their method is doing. Are your members getting it and are they learning to the point they too can teach what you are teaching?

**Is this what the Bible says or what it teaches?**

Ok, a little latter on I will give you examples to help you get started.

So far we have the **“Observation”** work sheet. And I have talked about the three columns on that sheet. I will go into more detail and examples as we go along.