

# Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 – First Baptist Church Buda  
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

**ALL ABOUT THE BIBLE**  
**How We Got the Bible – Illumination**  
*2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21*

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*“<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)*

## **2 Peter 1:19-21**

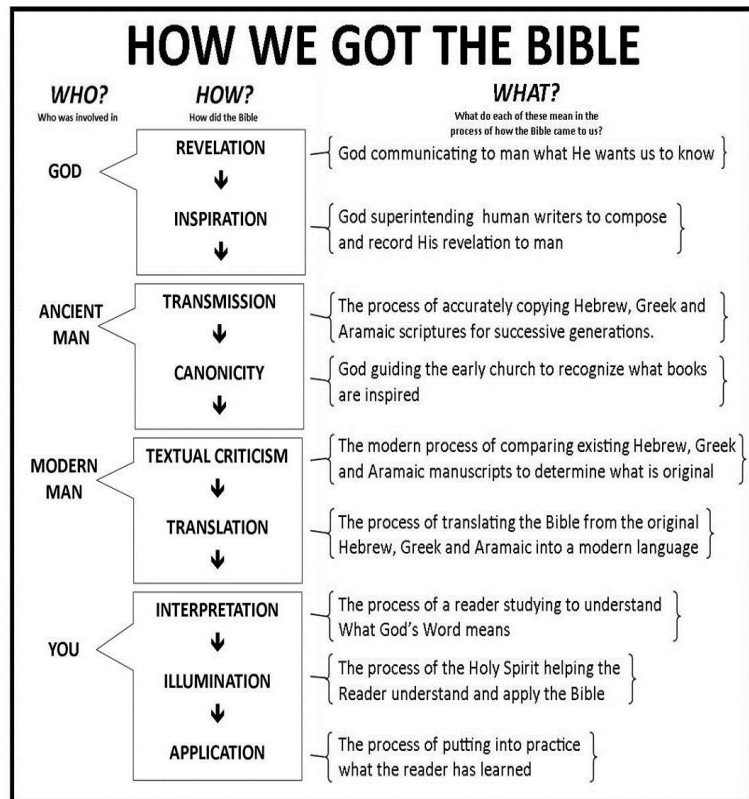
*“<sup>19</sup>We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” – 2 Peter 1:19-21 (NIV)*

Our key text for our study has been 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *“<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)* The first part of our study really concerned itself with the first phase of our key text... that time span between *“All Scripture”* being *“God-breathed”* and it becoming *“useful”* or *“profitable”* for us. In other words, how did it get from God to us so that it can impact our life. We discussed such things as revelation, inspiration, transmission, canonicity, textual criticism and even translation all in regard to God Word getting from God to us (man) so that it might become “useful” or “profitable” for our lives. Our last three topics of study in the process of how God’s Word came to us deal with the second half of our key text and *“All Scripture... (being) useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* When we begin to talk about interpretation, illumination and even application and us beginning to really understand and apply God’s Word in our personal lives we are now beginning to trek into that *“Scripture”* that is *“God-breathed”* actually becoming *“useful”* or *“profitable”* for *“teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant (man or woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* It is not enough for us to know the mechanics of how we got God’s Word if it does not translate into us realizing, internalizing, and living out what God’s Word, that He gave us, says.

## FOR REVIEW

So up to this point in our study we have looked at God's **revelation** and **inspiration**, and we have examined how ancient man **transmitted** what God revealed and inspired him to write down for us, and then we took a look at how those writing were compiled and collected and determined to be the Word of God, and were recognized as the **canon** of scripture, the Bible. We have also examined the science of **textual criticism** and **translation** and the process by which we are able to determine what the original manuscripts of the Bible said and get them translated into our language... one that we can read and understand. Then our study of took something of a turn toward the more practical aspect of how the Bible came to us as we discussed the matter of

**interpretation**... the process of the reader, you and I, studying to understand what God's Word actually mean. We looked at some important principles of interpretation and then discussed some important helps and tools to use. We discovered how important it is that we rightly handle and interpret God's Word, and what happens when we don't carefully follow the principles of interpretation and pull Scripture out of context and try to make the Bible say things it doesn't say. While interpretation is our part in rightly handling God's Word and getting at the meaning of Scripture, it is difficult to separate proper interpretation of God's Word from role the Holy Spirit plays in our understanding Scripture. That is the subject of **illumination**, and while interpretation and even inspiration may sound very similar to Biblical illumination they three are very distinct in understanding how God's Word come to us. This study will take us a step further in our journey to understand how God's Word comes to us especially through the roll illumination plays in the process.



The Psalmist, affirming the Old Testament as God's Word, wrote, **"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path"** (Psalm 119:105). Later in this same Psalm he wrote, **"The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple"** (Psalm 119:130). Solomon wrote in Proverbs 6:23, **"For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life."** So David wrote, "The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Obviously God has revealed Himself to us in His inspired Word that it might give light to our innate blindness. However, for the Scripture to give us light, it must be understood properly, then believed and applied in faith. But for man to understand the Bible properly, he must have two things.

## **2 Things Man Must Have to Understand the Bible Properly:**

1. **Man needs the proper method of interpretation** - Without the right method of interpretation one is left on a sea of uncertainty.
2. **Man needs the illuminating work of the Spirit of God** -

### **THE NEED FOR ILLUMINATION**

Though the Bible is a pure light that can direct our paths and bring us into an understanding of God and His salvation in Christ, let's face it... it is hard sometimes to understand Scripture (the Bible), to get it, for it to make sense to our lives, for us to really understand it on the deepest levels of our lives so that it truly become life transforming. Even sometimes, when following "proper" methods of interpretation" we still can miss it. We see what it says, but fail to see how it says it in our lives. Man needs special enablement from God due to the Bible's spiritual dimension that raises it above man's natural abilities.

## **3 Important Elements in Man's Problem and God's Remedy**

### **In Understand His Word to Us:**

1. **The incomprehensible mind of God** - As "God's" Word no one can know God's thoughts except God. Listen to what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:11, *"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God"*
2. **The iniquitous (sinful) heart of man** - As sinful man, marred by the fall, we are incapable of comprehending the truth of Scripture on our own... Adam's fall into sin and his consequent spiritual death rendered man incapable of comprehending the truth of Scripture. As Paul put it in 1 Corinthians 2:14, *"<sup>14</sup>The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."*
3. **The illuminating word of God** - This means a special work of God is needed to make the Scripture understandable to both the natural man (unsaved) and to the saved. As seen in the way Jesus opened the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the work of *illumination* is necessary to enable us to comprehend the Word of God. Luke 24:44-45, *"<sup>44</sup>He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."*

### **THE DEFINITION OF ILLUMINATION**

Anyone who reads the Scripture can see the words and study the facts like any other literature. But the Bible is unique in that God inspired it to teach us and change our life. Remember, again, our key text in 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *"<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."* God was at work in producing the texts of scripture and He is also at work in the mind of the believer who reads it and desires God to use it to affect his life. The Holy Spirit who indwells all believers (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13) is active in this process which is sometimes called illumination. Illumination is necessary for the Bible to change lives.

**A Definition of Biblical Illumination:** *"The ministry of the Holy Spirit helping the believer to understand and apply the truth of the Bible."* –Dr. Charles Ryrie

To state it another way illumination can be defined as “the special ministry of the Holy Spirit whereby He enlightens men so they can comprehend the written Word of God.”

### **A Description of Biblical Illumination:**

#### **1. Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:10; 1 John 2:27) –**

- John 16:12-15, <sup>12</sup> “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”
- 1 Corinthians 2:10, <sup>10</sup> “These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”
- 1 John 2:27, <sup>27</sup> “As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”

#### **2. Illumination is the Holy Spirit’s work in believers and not in some mystical power of the words of Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:10-15; Ephesians 1:18) -**

- 1 Corinthians 2:10-15, <sup>10</sup> “These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments”
- Ephesians 1:18, <sup>18</sup> “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.”

#### **3. In illumination, the Holy Spirit will use our study and meditation, not only to help us understand scripture, but to apply it to our lives -**

#### **4. The Bible reader’s accuracy, honesty and spiritual life can all affect the Spirit’s ministry of illumination (1 Corinthians 3:1-3) –**

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, “Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup> You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”

#### **5. The Spirit uses those with the gift of teaching/exhortation to help in the process of illumination (Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:7) –**

- Ephesians 4:11-13, <sup>11</sup> “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the

*knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*

- **Romans 12:7, “If it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach...”**

So when we read and study Scripture... the Bible, it is important to consciously remember the Holy Spirit’s “illuminating” ministry in our life and to ask God to teach us. Illumination does not guarantee that we will always interpret/understand God’s Word accurately. God uses our skill, knowledge and integrity as well.

### **AN EXPLANATION OF ILLUMINATION<sup>76</sup>**

To begin with, in understanding illumination, we must not confuse “illumination” with *revelation* and *inspiration*. The following differences need to be understood.

#### **The Differences Between Revelation, Inspiration, Canonization, and Illumination:**

**(1) *Revelation* - refers to the content of God’s truth as it was revealed to the Old Testament and New Testament authors of Scripture.**

**(2) *Inspiration* - refers to the accurate transmission of that content to men, first verbally (as with the prophets) and then in written form.**

**(3) *Canonization* - refers to the recognition and collection of those inspired books into a canon, the Bible.**

**(4) *Illumination* - refers to understanding of the Bible’s message to believers.** Unbelievers can only experience this work as it pertains to His convicting ministry in relation to the gospel message. As John 16:8-11 explains, **“<sup>8</sup> When he (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”**

As the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit is the believer’s means of spiritual illumination. Four New Testament passages focus on this ministry of the Spirit.

#### **4 New Testament Passages that Focus on the Holy Spirits’ Illuminating of Believers:**

**1. John 16:12-15 – <sup>12</sup> “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”**

**2. 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:3 – <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’— the things God has prepared for those who love him— <sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. <sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only**



through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup> for, ‘Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ. *[Chapter 3]* <sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup> You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”

3. **Ephesians 3:16-19** – “<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
4. **1 John 2:20& 27** - “<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth... <sup>27</sup> As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”

The essence of these passages is as follows:

#### **6 Biblical Principles of Illumination Based on The Four New Testament Passages Above:**

1. **As the Spirit of truth and God’s special anointing, He is our Teacher** - This is not a privilege for a select few, but is available to all “believers” since He indwells all believers. The teaching ministry of the Spirit is thus guaranteed to all believers.
2. **Since indwelling is limited to believers, unbelievers can only experience the illuminating ministry of the Spirit in the matter of convicting and convincing them of the truth of the gospel message (salvation)** - Remember **John 16:8-11** says, “<sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” Note: this does not mean they cannot achieve a high level of understanding of the Bible, but its truth remains foolishness and they do not welcome it.
3. **As the extent of the Spirit’s illumination, it encompasses the whole council of the Bible, Genesis to Revelation and salvation to things to come.**
4. **Several things can hamper the Spirit’s ministry of illumination –**

#### **Some things that can hampers the illumination of the Spirit in the life of a believer:**

- (1) **Carnality (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)** – “*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*”
- (2) **Immaturity (Hebrews 5:12-14 and 1 Peter 2:2)** – “<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to

discern both good and evil.” and in 1 Peter 2:2, *“<sup>2</sup>As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”*

- (3) **Tradition and Preconceived Ideas (Mark 7:7-13)** – *“<sup>7</sup>” And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. <sup>8</sup> For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.’ <sup>9</sup> He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ <sup>11</sup> But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban’—’ (that is, a gift to God), <sup>12</sup> then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, <sup>13</sup> making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”*
- (4) **Ignorance (Mark 12:24; Luke 24:25-27; “foolish” in vs. 25 is the Greek, anohtos, “not understanding”)** – Mark 12:24, *“<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?”* and Luke 24:25-27, *“<sup>25</sup> Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”*
- (5) **Poor Methods of Bible Study or Interpretation (cf. Paul’s exhortation in 2 Timothy 2:15)** – *“<sup>1</sup>Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly** dividing the word of truth.”*

5. **The purpose of the Spirit’s ministry is not to focus on Himself, but to disclose to us the glories and sufficiency of Christ and, as a result, to glorify Him** - Remember John 16:12-15 says about the Holy Spirit... this is Jesus, Himself, speaking about the Holy Spirit, *“<sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”*
6. **The Spirit uses those whom He has gifted with the gift of teaching in His ministry of illuminating others** - Romans 12:7 reminds us that He (the Spirit) has given us gifts... spiritual gifts, and some have the gift of teaching. God uses that to help illuminate us and others. But 1 John 2:27 comes along and reminds us, *“<sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”* 1 John 2:27 does not mean we do not need teachers. Otherwise, why would the Spirit give this gift? In the context, John was speaking of discerning truth from error.

### SOME HELPFUL TOOLS IN THE ILLUMINATION OF THE SPIRIT

Remember that illumination is the work or ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian/believer, helping that believer to understand and apply the truth of the Bible. Given that definition of illumination we would have to conclude that the single most important thing (tool if you will) in the process of the illumination of God Word in the life of a believer would have to be the Holy Spirit. After all, it is the Holy Spirit who illumines. As we have progressed

through this study we have emphasized over and over again the role of faith and belief, the role of God's hand, and His Spirit in the giving of God's Word, the preservation of God's Word through the ages, and the work of God through His Spirit in really understanding God's Word. You cannot come to a full and complete understanding of God's Word without God... the Holy Spirit making it make sense to us. However just as there were tools that can be helpful in interpretation (a study Bible, concordance, Bible dictionary and commentary, etc), there are likewise tools that may be helpful in getting us to a place where as a believer we can really hear from God through His Holy Spirit. The following will serve both as a reminder of some of those things and will give you some basics tools that may aid you in really hearing from God's Spirit through illumination.

We mentioned some of the basics of how to approach the Word of God a couple of weeks again and reemphasized them last week as well. Let's rehash them one more time because these things are paramount for putting our heart, soul and spirit into the proper frame to really hear from God.

**Some Basics in How To Approach the Word of God:** *(there may best be identified as the prerequisites for coming to God's Word and seeking to really hear from God in it... if you don't come like this you won't correctly or accurately get at what it is saying... these things may aid in illumination)*

1. **Approach God's Word with reverence** – Don't treat God's Word as you would just any book. Remember that this is the very word of Holy God, the only God, the God who created everything out of nothing by mere spoken word... and He desires to speak to you through His Word. Therefore we should always approach God's Word with a certain "fear and trembling," with awe, and reverence.
2. **Approach God's Word with care** – Don't treat God's Word callously, carelessly, or as if you have it all figured out. I can assure you, you don't! When we say approach it with care, come at God's Word as a clean slate, teachable, ready to learn and ready to diligently dig in and dig deeper, and undeterred... I'm going to keep digging, researching and digging some more until I get at God's Word.
3. **Approach God's Word with humility** – This may go with the last one a bit, but again don't treat God's Word flippantly as if you have it all figured out. Be humble and teachable when you come to God's Word. Let God's Word speak for itself, don't try to impose your own ideas and belief on it. Be teachable and a clean slate!
4. **Approach God's Word with reason** – God gave you your brain... use it! Think! Reason through Scripture. Be ready to think and think deeply about what you read. Don't be content to just skim and casually glance through God's Word think on it, reason it, meditate on it! Let it soak in. Chew on it. Ask questions of it and of yourself in relation to it.
5. **Approach God's Word with the Holy Spirit** - Additionally, we need, as best as can be had, the guidance of the Holy Spirit in interpreting God's Word. After all, the Bible is inspired by God and is addressed to His people. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand what God's word means and how to apply it.

**Some Important Tools That May Aid in Illumination:**

1. **Take some time to prepare your heart and mind before entering into the reading or studying of God's Word** - Don't rush into. Quiet your spirit. Take some time to just sit quietly... inhale and exhale, take some deep breaths and relax your own spirit a bit. We live



in such a hurried and hectic world that our minds are often preoccupied with a thousand other things. When you come to God's Word try to free your mind of distractions.

2. **Have a quiet place to read where you will be uninterrupted, and with as few distractions as possible** – Turn off the TV, radio and/or other electronic equipment that may interrupt your time. If possible try to be alone, or free on interruptions and interferences. Try to have a time and place where you regularly and routinely meet with God and read His Word.
3. **Always spend some time in prayer before reading/studying the Word of God** –
4. **Use music to prepare you heart** – If you are easily distracted by outside sounds and commotion, try getting a good set of headphones and an ipod or iphone/ipad that you can download some quiet and reflective worship or praise music. I use the same 2 worship tracks continuously (rotating them from time to time): (1) Dennis Jernigan's "Daddy's Songs", and (2) Brian Johnson's "Love Came Down." Both of these are worship albums, CD's with 11-13 soft worship songs that really speak to my heart and prepare my heart to hear from God.
5. **Read Scripture in small digestible bites, so you can chew on them a bit at a time** – In other words read like this... read a verse or phrase, stop, think on it, meditate on it, ask yourself questions on it, ask God questions on it... mull it over in your mind before you move on. Take your time with God's Word and give Him time to speak to you. Remember sometimes He has to get through our cloudiness!
6. **Meditate, meditate, meditate** – After you walk away from a time in God's Word don't walk away from what you just read and what God just showed you in His word. Deliberately fix your mind on it and make it a point to meditate on it throughout your day. Come back to it over, and over and over through the day. Many of the above techniques can aid in meditation.
7. **Have some tools with you when you read... a few small index card, a pen or pencil, a compact journal or notebook** – If a verse or a few words or phrases really resonate with you when you are reading Bible, write them on an index card. Carry it with you throughout the day to aid in meditating and memorization of God's Word. Also keep a journal of what God is saying to you, of your prayers, of key thoughts and ideas God may be revealing to you.
8. **Use devotionals and well written classic meditation books from those who have gone before us, that God spoke to and through** – I can't tell you how much this has meant to me personally. These great men and women of God learned how to hear from God and experience the illumination of the Holy Spirit in God's Word, so learn from them and their lives. Read what God showed them, He may be showing you the same thing. I love "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers.

Dr. Charles Ryrie adds an important note about illumination and revelation. The experience of illumination is not by "direct revelation." That is reserved for the canon and the canon is closed. The Spirit illumines the meaning of that closed canon, and He does so through study and meditation. Study employs all the proper tools for ascertaining the meaning of the text. Meditation thinks about the true facts of the text, putting them together into a harmonious whole and applying them to one's own life. The end result of the illumination ministry of the Spirit is to glorify Christ in the life, or to promote healthy doctrine—teaching that brings spiritual health and wholeness to the believer's life. Illumination is not concerned merely with understanding facts but with using those facts to promote Christlikeness.