

The Secret of the Last Super



When Jesus commanded us to eat his body and drink his blood, he was providing us the secret of eternal life. This secret is not what you have been told! Many Christians are not experiencing all that Jesus promised because this secret has been kept from them. Learn the true secret of the Last Super and receive all that Jesus has planned for your life.

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Unless otherwise noted, All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. The Greek text of the KJV New Testament are translated from the Received Text (also called Textus Receptus, Byzantine Text or the Majority Text). Modern versions of the Bible do not use the same Greek text as the KJV. The Greek text of the modern versions has nearly 6,000 changes. In some cases whole passages have been eliminated.

Some Little Known Facts About Modern Versions of the Bible

Modern versions of the Bible come from the Greek text of the 1881 Revised Version of the Bible. The Greek text of the Revised Version was a completely new text that had never existed before. It was compiled by Westcott and Hort beginning in 1870 from many different ancient texts. Westcott and Hort were authorized by the Catholic Church to form a Revised Revision Committee to update the English of the King James Version of the Bible. Rather than using the accepted Greek text of the KJV, they decided to use the Alexandrian Text (also known as Minority Text or Critical Text). The Alexandrian Text is known by this name because it is believed to have originated in Alexandria Egypt. They used several different versions none of which agreed with one and other. Their stated intent was

The Alexandrian Greek texts used by Westcott and Hort are often older than existing copies of the Received Text. Many experts believe these Alexandrian texts to have survived because they were not accepted and used by the Christian Church. On the other hand the Received Text was heavily used and copied and as a result the oldest manuscripts didn't survive. Today there are many people who have to replace their Bible because they wore it out. Now imagine hundreds or thousands of people using the same Bible, it just wouldn't survive.

The Letters of Westcott and Hort were published by their sons. They reveal them to be men of very questionable integrity. In fact, I wouldn't consider them Christians at all. Neither Westcott or Hort believed in the infallibility of scripture. The evidence suggest they believed they knew better than God.

Westcott said that he was a skeptic; he said his faith was weak; and he was plagued with "unbelief". Westcott also didn't believe the creation account in Genesis and said there was no literal heaven.

Hort rejected Jesus' blood atoned for our sins; he called it a "fictitious substitution." He scripture was "perverted" and it was his goal to correct those perversions. He also believed the New Age teaching that man is "divine." He also believed that his changes to scripture would change the Christian Church.¹

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¹ John Durr, *The True and The Corrupt Word of God*, 2006 & 2013, AmericasComingJudgment.com

The Secret of the Last Supper

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.... He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.... he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. (John 6:51, 53, 54, 56, 57 & 58)

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; (Matthew 26:26-27)

Jesus spoke in parables. The exact meaning of the parable was usually kept secret from the masses of people. Jesus explained the secret to his disciples so they could teach it after his death. Jesus declared he is the bread of life. Jesus states: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever". At the last supper "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." Today we celebrate communion with the bread and wine in accordance with Jesus' instructions and in memory of his sacrifice. It is good to celebrate communion together and we should. But is it possible that Jesus was speaking a parable and that the hidden truth of this parable is much more powerful than communion alone? There definitely is a very powerful hidden truth in Jesus' words! A careful study of the word of God reveals that Jesus was commanding us to do something much more powerful, something more life transforming, something which truly is the key to eternal life!

At the last supper, Jesus was speaking both literally and allegorically (in a parable). When we celebrate communion, we are following Jesus' word literally. While communion is important, this study concerns the hidden secret that was concealed in Jesus parable of the bread and the wine.

In order to live, we must eat. God has provided a great variety of foods to nourish the body. Bread is used to symbolize all that God has provided for us. Bread is meant to nourish us. When we eat bread it enters our body; it gives us energy and it gives us nutrition that the cells require to function and reproduce. The bread we consume becomes part of us. It changes us and allows us to grow. It gives us life! This is exactly what Jesus wants for us. He wants us to have everlasting life; a life that never ends.

Are you saved? Do you know anyone who is saved? How does salvation come about? To live eternally requires instruction, wisdom and knowledge. First, you need to know that you need salvation. Second, you need to know that salvation is available through Jesus Christ.

Finally, you need to know what you must do in order to receive salvation through Jesus Christ. This instruction, wisdom and knowledge comes from the word of God.

The first time Jesus instructed us to eat his body and drink his blood was not at the last supper. The first occurrence is recorded in the Gospel of John, Chapter 6. Jesus states:

32...my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.... 35 ...I am the bread of life: he that **cometh to me shall never hunger**; and **he that believeth on me shall never thirst**.... 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life**. 48 I am that bread of life.... 50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world. 53 ...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. (John 6:32, 33, 35, 47, 50, 51, 53-57)

These are shocking statements particularly if you were there to hear them from Jesus himself. Most were confused and went away. The secret is, Jesus is speaking both literally and in parable. Following are the literal key points:

1. Jesus came down from heaven.
2. Jesus is the bread of life.
3. Through Jesus we have eternal life.
4. We must come to Jesus.
5. We must believe on Jesus.
6. Jesus gave his flesh (body and blood) for us.
7. Those who come to Jesus shall never hunger or thirst.

Following are key points from the Parable portion:

1. Jesus is the bread of life
2. In order to live forever, we must eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus.
3. Those who come to Jesus shall never hunger or thirst.

Jesus reveals the key that unlocks the parable (secret) in verse 63:

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak

unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)

Jesus has just revealed that it is his words that bring eternal life. The word “quickeneth” means to bring back to life or raise from the dead. And “It is the spirit that quickeneth”. Jesus words “are spirit, and they are life”. It is the words of Jesus which are his spiritual flesh and blood and it is his word which we must consume.

Therefore, Jesus is saying that the command to eat his body and drink his blood is in a spiritual sense because it is the spirit that brings the dead back to life and his words are spirit. Eating the physical body of Jesus has no value because Jesus says: “the flesh profiteth nothing.”

Jesus said that those who come to him shall never hunger or thirst. This is literal in the sense that we shall not hunger or thirst in heaven but is also spiritual. The spiritual meaning is part of the secret. So, what is it that we don't hunger or thirst for? It is not literal bread and wine! What we don't hunger or thirst for is the truth because we have it in the word of God and we have it in Jesus. Jesus revealed: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

The Gospel of John reveals that Jesus literally is the word made flesh. John writes:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-4 & 14)

Referring back to John 6, Jesus instructed that if we believe on him, we have everlasting life for he is the “bread of life”. Therefore, since Jesus is the word made flesh, in order to believe in him, we must believe his words. In order to believe the words of Jesus, we must know them and in order to know them, we must study them. When we study his word and believe it, we are spiritually eating his body and drinking his blood.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.** I am that bread of life. (John 6:47-48)

Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: **if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:** and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. (John 6:49-51) Jesus states:

...Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life;** and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. **He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me,** and I in him. As the living Father hath sent

me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. (John 6:53-57)

I hope you can see that Jesus is speaking in parable, symbolically or in other words a coded message, a secret. It is the secret to everlasting life. Jesus is hiding the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven from unbelievers. He told his disciples that the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are for the believer to know and not to the unbeliever and that is why he spoke in parables. (See Matthew 13:10-16)

Jesus says bread came down from heaven to give us eternal life and we are to eat this bread. What was this bread that came down from heaven? The word of God reveals what the bread was. God sent the word down from heaven. The word became flesh. Jesus is the word made flesh; Jesus is the word! The Apostle John reveals:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3 & 14)

We eat Jesus flesh and drink his blood by hearing or studying the word of God and allowing it to change us. No one can be saved without first hearing or reading the word of God (consuming it). The word states: "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) Faith as defined by God's word is a belief and trust in what God has revealed through his word.

Hebrews 11 is the faith chapter. Verse 1 states: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." What is the evidence we can't see? We can't see Jesus, we can't see the miracles Jesus did and we can't see the promises which are to come. "For we walk by faith, not by sight:" (2 Corinthians 5:7) Hebrews 11 details many men of God who walked by faith. Their faith was in what God had revealed through his written or spoken word.

When we receive the word of God either by hearing the word or through personal study; it is as if you were eating it. The prophet Jeremiah spoke of eating God's word, he writes: "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." (Jeremiah 15:16) The Psalmist says the word taste sweeter than honey:

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.
Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:103-105)

The Apostle Paul also speaks of those who have tasted the "good word of God, and the powers of the world to come ." (Hebrews 6:5) The Psalmist bids us to "taste and see that the Lord is good"(Psalm 34:8) The Apostle Peter asked if we have tasted that the Lord is gracious." (1 Peter 2:3) We taste that the Lord Jesus Christ is good through his word.

As we accept the word, it becomes part of us. Just as Jesus stated: "He that eateth my flesh,

and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.... so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.... he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.” (John 6:56-58)

The bread Jesus spoke of was himself. Jesus, the word made flesh, who came down from heaven. To be saved and to be a member of the kingdom of God, you must hear God's words which were the words of Jesus because he is God. Jesus stated: “He that is of God heareth God’s words...” (John 8:47) Jesus further stated:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (John 10:27)

Interestingly, John 6, uses two different Greek words to describe eating Jesus flesh. First in verses 50 and 51, the Greek word “phago” is used, which literally means to eat. Then in verses 54, 56, 57 and 58, the Greek word “trógó” is used, which literally means to gnaw or chew. In English we use the idiom “I’ll chew on it” which means to meditate, ponder or think about something. The word instructs us over and over to meditate on God's law, statutes and precepts, on God's works, and on his word.²

In John 6 and Matthew 26, the same Greek word is used for drinketh and drink; the word is “pino” which literally means drink. But according to the Strong's Greek dictionary, the word doesn't have to be literal it can also be used figuratively. “Pino” is used figuratively many times throughout the New Testament. Below are some examples:

But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to **drink** of the cup that I shall **drink** of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?... (Mathew:20:22)

Ye cannot **drink** the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. (1 Corinthians 10:21)

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations **drink** of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. (Revelation 14:8)

The same shall **drink** of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (Revelation 14:10)

When one becomes a Christian, the end goal is to remain faithful until death or when Christ returns. Eternal salvation is not possible if you depart from the faith.³ Jesus stated: “He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.” (John 6:56) “Dwelleth” comes from the Greek word “menó”. Other possible translations include: “to stay, abide,

² Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2, 63:6, 77:12, 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 148, 143:5, 1 Timothy 4:15

³ See 1 Timothy 4; Hebrews 3:6-14 and 1 John 2:17-19

remain, or continue.” These provide additional clarity in my opinion. Those who regularly partake of the word of God shall *dwell* in Jesus and he in them and they shall *remain* as they *continue* to partake of the word. This has been my observation over the last 50 years, many partake of the bread and wine but those that partake of the word are the ones who remain and continue to dwell or abide in Christ. Jesus states this clearly:

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (John 8:31)

The word, like bread nourishes us. It nourishes us spiritually rather than physically. And as we receive spiritual nourishment from the word, we grow spiritually. Without the word of God salvation is not possible because it is the word of God that brings us the message of salvation and teaches us what we must do and how to grow closer to God.

When we hear the word and realize how great it is and how great God is, we have not yet actually tasted it. We have seen that it looks good. When we have experienced the effects of the word by putting it into practice, we have actually tasted that it is good. We can begin to be nourished and to grow.

Speaking of Jesus, John said he had heard, looked upon and touched the word, meaning Jesus:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (1 John 1-2)

Jesus is the “Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8) Jesus lives and abides forever and we see that what is true about Jesus is also true about the word. The Apostle Peter teaches us that the word of God lives and abides forever just as Jesus does:

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:22-23)

Jesus was full of the power of God. He could discern the thoughts and intents of men. The Apostle Paul tells us that “word of God is quick, and powerful... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Revelation 19 describes Jesus returning from heaven on a white horse and he is called the

“Word of God” and he is “Faithful and True”.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (Revelation 19:11-14)

We see above that when Jesus returns on his white horse, he will have a sword. Jesus pulls the sword out his mouth symbolizing that his words are his sword. Paul instructs us in Ephesians that we are to put on the Armour of God. In this Armour we have only one offensive weapon and that is a sword. Our sword is the word of God (Jesus).

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (Ephesians 6:17)

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus used the word of God as his sword. When Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus used the truth from the word of God to expose Satan's deceit and lies. With the word of God, Jesus overcame Satan's temptations. (See Luke 4)

Jesus calmed the storm with his words. He spoke and the sick were healed. Jesus commanded the demons and they obeyed. He created the universe by his spoken word. His words are true and powerful and they do not fail.

The Apostle Paul instructs us that it is God's desire for “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4) This knowledge is found in God's word. “For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy:” (Ecclesiastics 2:26) The Apostle Peter says we are to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

The knowledge of God is infinite and we must search his word to get this knowledge. Paul writes: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33) “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

I want to be wise and have wisdom and therefore I seek knowledge because wisdom comes from knowledge and knowledge come from the word of God. The word tells us: “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10-11) And “The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.” (Proverbs 18:15)

Jesus stated: “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall

know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32) “Continue in my word” is a statement that infers that the word has shaped how you live your life. Jesus is saying that his disciples live according to his teaching. And when you live according to his teaching, the truth that he teaches sets you free. The truth cannot set you free unless you believe it and allow it to change your life.

If one only needed belief in Jesus, then Satan and his evil angels would be saved. But they are not saved. The Apostle James writes: “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:19-20)

What does faith look like? It is putting the word into action. Here is an example of a friend putting knowledge from science into action: When I was young I heard many times that if you stand still, a bee will not sting you. I did not believe this. But my friend believed it. How do I know he believed it? Because he put his belief (faith) into action. There was a bees nest in a tree in his yard. He wanted to get rid of it. So he got a hose, and a sprayer, he stood still and he sprayed the bees nest down. That is putting faith into action. But our faith is in the word of God.

The Apostle John tells us that the word of God can dwell in us. He writes: “I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.” (1 John 2:14) While the KJV says “abideth”, The Strong's Lexicon says another possible translation is “dwell”. Those that are strong in the Lord have the word of God dwelling in them.

The word dwells in us as we daily consume the word by studying it. When something dwells in you, it can make either positive or negative changes in your life. When the word of God dwells in you, the results are very positive. As John states, when the word of God abides in us, it enables us to overcome Satan. The word of God (Jesus Christ) makes positive changes in us and gives us eternal life.

God is not just making a casual offer to us, he is diligently working to bring salvation to every man and woman on earth by giving them knowledge of the truth through the word of God. (1 Timothy 2:3-4) We do not seek God,⁴ God seeks us and draws us to him.⁵ God sent the Holy Spirit that dwells inside us.⁶ The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.⁷ Jesus himself is interceding day and night on each of our behalf's.⁸

Satan is just the opposite of God. Jesus said of the Devil (Satan): “He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44)

⁴ Romans 3:11

⁵ John 6:37, 44 and 65

⁶ John 14:17

⁷ John 16:13

⁸ Hebrews 7:25

Satan seeks our destruction. He seeks to keep us from receiving salvation through Jesus Christ. Satan's most lethal weapon is keeping people from knowing the truth. He will use his servants to twist the truth and turn it into a lie. Satan and his servants use lies and deception. Satan seeks to corrupt the word of God and the teachings of Jesus. He will use any method or person possible to achieve his goals. He will stop at nothing, absolutely nothing.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Satan asked Jesus to turn stones into bread to prove he was God. Jesus stated to him: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:3 & 4) Satan continued to tempt Jesus and each time Jesus used the word to point out that Satan was trying to cause him to sin. Finally, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. Jesus responded: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Then Satan left and Angels came and ministered to Jesus. (Matthew 4:8-10) Jesus used the word of truth as his sword to defeat Satan.

The word can help keep us from sinning. The Psalmist writes: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

Most Christians will likely agree with what I have stated about the word but they will most likely reject that the word represents the body and blood of Christ. Tradition is a very powerful instrument of the adversary of God. The word reveals that Jesus and the Apostle Paul warned about keeping the Traditions of men over the commandments of God:

And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. (Mark 7:9; see also 10-13)

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

In Leviticus, God actually commanded that his people shall abstain from eating or drinking blood. The penalty was severe. Anyone who ate or drank blood was to be cut off from among their people. To be "cut off" was to no longer be a Jew. The implication was further that they would be cast out of the country. This meant that salvation was lost. Jesus stated: "...for salvation is of the Jews." (John 4:22) Paul taught that the gentiles are grafted into the Olive Tree which represented Israel.⁹ The law in Leviticus states:

And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. (Leviticus 17:10-12)

⁹ Romans 11:17, see whole chapter.

Throughout Jesus ministry he taught that eternal life comes from the word. It was customary for Jesus to speak in parables and allegory. When Jesus commanded us to drink his blood and eat his flesh, he was speaking symbolically. Yet, it was also literal since he is the word made flesh. When people are captivated or enthralled by what they are reading they often describe themselves as having devoured a book. Devour is a synonym of eating or consuming.

If Jesus was changing the commandment on eating or drinking blood, he would have made that clear. When Jesus commanded us to love one another, he made it clear and said, I'm giving you a new commandment: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34)

Rather than change the commandment, the Apostles confirmed the commandment of not eating or drinking blood. There was some disagreement on whether the Gentiles were subject to Israel's ceremonial law. So the leaders of the church had a meeting in Jerusalem. Through the Holy Spirit they were led to the conclusion that the Gentiles were not subject to the ceremonial laws except they were to "abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication." We read in Acts:

For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. (Acts 15:28-29)

God appoints Apostles, Prophets, Teachers and Pastors to care for and instruct his loving followers. The Bible often refers to them as Shepherds. Yet, it is the responsibility of each believer to study and know the word of God for themselves in order to determine if these Shepherds are true men of God or deceivers. There were deceivers in the church in Jesus day and in the times of the Apostles and there are deceivers within the church today. The word of God is very clear on this. These deceivers will deceive, lie, and teach doctrines of devils.

Many people become lost through deception and because they don't have a knowledge of the truth from the word. If they knew the truth, they would not be deceived. The prophet Jeremiah writes: "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace." (Jeremiah 50:6)

The shepherds lead the people of the earth astray both knowingly and unknowingly. Some are willing accomplices of Satan who seek to lead people to destruction. Most are deceived themselves because they don't know the truth or have not wholly submitted themselves to God and received the Holy Spirit to guide them. Today, these shepherds are known by many different names including: pastor, bishop, priest, prophet, apostle, monk, etc. Following is a compilation of texts from the word that warns us of these last day deceiving shepherds:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their

conscience seared with a hot iron.”¹⁰ “And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”¹¹ At this time men “will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”¹² These “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”¹³ “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”¹⁴ If we identify these deceivers we shall “henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”¹⁵ These deceivers “profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”¹⁶

Jesus saith: “Take heed that ye be not deceived.”¹⁷ “For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many... And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.”¹⁸ “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”¹⁹ At the Son's return, they shall see “the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.”²⁰

In my life time, I have heard of many religious leaders claiming to be the Christ. Wikipedia has a list of messiah claimants and there have been 27 in my life time. I am sure there are a great many that aren't on the list. If we believe the word to be true, we must distance ourselves from anyone claiming to be Christ. When Christ returns, he will be coming to take us to heaven. Every eye will see him. He will be coming in the clouds. He will be on a white horse and his eyes will be as flames of fire. No one will have to tell anyone because EVERYONE will know! The word reveals:

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same

¹⁰ 1 Timothy 4:1-2

¹¹ 2 Peter 2:2

¹² 2 Timothy 4:3-4

¹³ 2 Timothy 3:13

¹⁴ Romans 16:17-19

¹⁵ Ephesians 4:14

¹⁶ Titus 1:16

¹⁷ Luke 21:8

¹⁸ Mark 13:6 & 21-23

¹⁹ Matthew 24:27

²⁰ Mark 13:26-27

Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:7)

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords. (Revelation 19:11-16)

If Christ were to return in any other way than the word has revealed, it would make Jesus a liar and the word untrue. Jesus came to earth for a very specif purpose and a very specific time period. He came to die for your sins and mine.²¹ After Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, he finished his ministry on earth. Then he returned to heaven.

Jesus is the eternal God with no beginning or ending.²² Jesus was born into this world to save us.²³ Jesus came to be our sacrificial lamb.²⁴ He willingly gave up his life, it was not taken from him.²⁵ He died once for all.²⁶ At the Last Supper, Jesus explained that he had to return to heaven so the Holy Spirit could come.²⁷ Jesus promised that when he returned to heaven, he would prepare a place for us. When Jesus returns to earth, it will be to gather us and take us to the place he has prepared.²⁸ Jesus now ministers from heaven as head of the church²⁹ and he is now interceding on behalf of all believers.³⁰

The word of God is very clear, deceivers include those within the church, these will include church leaders and pastors. These deceivers will deceive, lie, and teach doctrines of devils. Our sword in this spiritual battle over truth is the word of God. Isaiah 8:20 states: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Notice: there is “no light” in those who teach contrary to the word of God. We must use

²¹ Mathew 18:11; Luke 19:10

²² John 1:1-4 & 14; Revelation 1:8 & 22:13

²³ Mathew 18:11; Luke 19:10

²⁴ John 1:29 & 36; Revelation 5:12 & 13:8

²⁵ John 10:15 & 17-18

²⁶ Hebrews 10:10

²⁷ John 16:7-15

²⁸ John 14:2-3

²⁹ Ephesians 1:20:22; & Colossians 1:12-18

³⁰ Hebrews 7:25 & 9:24

the word of God as our sword to root-out these deceivers whether they be deceiving knowingly or unknowingly.

In order to use the word as a sword, we must be diligently seeking and studying the scripture on our own. We should study with others as well but we should always study and verify each teaching and doctrine on our own always seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God.

Many things in the word are straight, forward and easy to understand. But while they may be easy to understand, beginners don't always know where to find them. So study tools can be helpful. I have a 29 lesson study that teaches the foundation of the Christian faith. It asks the questions most people have, and then provides the biblical texts with the answers. It is free online.³¹

There are other teachings in the word, such as this one, that are much more difficult to understand and take much more study. The word teaches we must advance from the easier things which it refers to as mothers milk and advance to the more difficult subjects. The prophet Isaiah writes:

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: (Isaiah 28:9-10)

To truly understand the word, you must do word studies and topic studies and always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As the word states, you must compare one scripture with another, one line with another and one truth with another. All must be in harmony. As you advance, you will want to look at the original Greek and Hebrew when necessary. The Holy Spirit will guide you.

Study aids are advisable. My constant aids are: Strong's Concordance, Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary, Strong's Lexicon and an Interlinear Bible. In years past these study aids were expensive. Now you can find interactive versions online for free. I use BibleGateway.com to do quick word searches on a very frequent basis. You can read more about study aids in the appendix.

It is perfectly acceptable and even advisable to ask for help when you have difficulty understanding something. This is why God gave the gift of wisdom, knowledge and teaching. But God did not give teachers as a substitute for our own study. We are to check the teaching of the teachers to make sure it is consistent with the word of God just as God instructed through Isaiah the prophet as mentioned above.

So if God's word brings wisdom, knowledge, joy and eternal salvation to those who study it, accept it and put it's teachings into practice, what happens to those who do not have the word of God? Those who do not have the word of God have a far different reality. The nation of

³¹ *Finding, Peace, Hope, Truth and Life Through the Study of God's Word*, John Durr,
<http://www.americascomingjudgment.com/Bible-Studies.html>

Israel is a perfect example.

Some in Israel forgot the word of God, some were led astray by false teachers and others rejected the word and even hated it. They lived a life of error and rebellion against God. They lived a life of sin. As a result many were destroyed by their enemy and became eternally lost. Other survived and were led into captivity in foreign lands. Look at the following texts which are a very small example of what happened to Israel when the word of God was not dwelling in them:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (Hosea 4:6)

My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace. All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the Lord, the habitation of justice, even the Lord, the hope of their fathers. (Jeremiah 6:6-7)

Therefore **my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge:** (Isaiah 5:17)

When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer;** they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: **For that they hated knowledge,** and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. (Proverbs 1:27-30)

And Jesus answering said unto them, **Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures,** neither the power of God? (Mark 12:24)

Nothing has changed. God still holds people accountable to the truth of the word of God. The book of Revelation is full of God's judgments that will come upon those who reject God's word and the truth God reveals in his word. Paul explains that because people have rejected God's truth, "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie". Paul writes:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)

Everyone is being influenced across the world each day. The world is smothering us everyday with their lies and deceptions. It is in our schools, music, TV shows, movies, the nightly news, books and magazines and social media. The influence of the world is almost

impossible to escape. It is all the more important to get a daily dose of God's word. But it is our choice whether we choose to be influenced by the world or by God.

The world knows very well that what we listen to and watch can have profound influences on us. Corporations spend billions of dollars on advertising each year because they know that they can influence what you want, what you eat, what you drink and how you think. When we hear something over and over, it changes us and they know it.

Hollywood also knows that what you see and hear can change you. Film Critic Michael Medvid has noted that Hollywood knows family films are the biggest money earners, yet they make only a few family films each year. Why is this? Money isn't their main agenda; their main agenda is to change you, change America and change the world. Through words and pictures they can change how you think, they can change your values and they can change your eternal destination. The servants of Satan are very diligent and very committed. They want you!

Satan doesn't want you to be influenced and changed by the word of God and to receive all the blessings God has to offer. Satan wants you dead! Therefore, he wants to keep you from reading God's word. But the choice is yours!

The Bible is banned in many places around the world. But the Bible is still available here in the USA for now. Satan has many followers in positions of power in the United States and God's word may not always be available. In 1963 Satan's advocates on the Supreme Court took the Bible out of Schools. In 1980 the Supreme Court took the Ten Commandments out of school. They knew if children saw the Ten Commandments over and over, it could cause a very positive change in a child's life. They found this unacceptable. They stated: "if copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey the Commandments and [This]...is not a permissible...objective."

Conclusion

The word of God is the body and blood of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh. Jeremiah tells us that the word taste good. The psalmist bids us to taste the Lord and it says the word taste like honey. Paul speaks of those who have tasted the "good word of God, and the powers of the world to come ." The word dwells in us and continues to dwell in us as we continually study the word of God. The word of God is the secret to eternal life; it reveals Jesus is our savior and that he died for our sins and rose from the dead. It give us the instructions we need to obtain eternal life.

Where do you stand? Do you stand with Jesus Christ? Do you want all the good things God has planned for you? I invite you to get your daily portion of the body and blood of Christ. I invite you to partake of daily communion with God. I invite you to daily consume the body of Christ by studying the word of God, building your faith, receiving daily doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Further, I invite you to daily give an invitation to Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit to live in you and guide you according to his Holy, Good and

Perfect will for your life. May God richly bless you as you study his word, taste that he is good and receive the wonderful life transforming power that is only possible when God dwells within you. Amen!

Appendix

Principles Of Bible Interpretation

Isaiah states: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:” (Isaiah 28:10) The truths of the Bible all build upon themselves. Some texts can be understood alone and others depend upon many other texts in order to be understood.

When you are laying tile or brick, if each tile or brick is laid properly with a consistent and proper amount of mortar and consistent and straight joint spacing, you will get a good looking floor or wall. But when there are inconsistencies, each variation compounds upon the previous variation and you end up with a floor or wall that looks awful and may actually be dangerous.

The same is true with the Bible, one misinterpreted or mistranslated text can build upon another misinterpreted or mistranslated text compounding the error and making it even greater. These mistakes can make it almost impossible to properly understand some of the most difficult texts of the Bible. This can be overcome by remembering that the Bible is understood through prayer, God is Love and God doesn't change. If a persons understanding of a Bible text doesn't line up with these three foundational truths, then there is an error somewhere in there understanding. Any error must be overcome by prayer and further study.

The Principals below are the basics of all Bible study.

God Is Love

The Bible contains history, laws, instruction and prophecy. Much of the history and prophecy of the Bible is both graphic and violent. It is important to always remember that “**God is love.**” (1 John 4:8) It is sometimes hard to see God's love in events in the Bible. We must remember to look at the bigger picture. A loving father disciplines his children; he also protects them. As our loving Father, God disciplines us and protects us. Jesus states: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Revelation 3:19)

In order to protect us, God must sometimes destroy those who seek to destroy us. God also brings judgment on people and nations because of His love. His judgment is intended as an example so that others might repent and be saved.

God Doesn't Change

The God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament; He hasn't changed. God states: “For I am the LORD, I change not;” (Malachi 3:6). Since God does not change, He will not contradict Himself. Therefore, the Bible will not contradict itself.

The prophet Isaiah writes: “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God

shall stand for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8) The psalmist writes: “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.” (Psalms 119:160) The Apostle Peter writes: “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” (1 Peter 1:25) And in the book of Revelation, Jesus states: “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” (Revelation 22:13)

Use The Whole Bible

The Apostle Paul instructs us: “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:15-17) Paul was a scholar of the Old Testament and he frequently quotes it. He is telling us to use the all the Bible for our “ instruction in righteousness.”

Jesus used all the scripture to teach His disciples about Himself. Luke writes: “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:25-27)

Further, the Bible was written in such a way that it must be studied if you want to know the truth. You don't need to be a scholar because the author will lead you through His Holy Spirit but you must be willing to search and study. The prophet Isaiah writes: “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” (Isaiah 28:9-10). Bible study requires searching the scriptures and building one text upon another. No text in an Island; every text and every textual interpretation must be in harmony with the rest of scripture. Jesus said: “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” (Matthew 18:16; see also 2 Corinthians 13:1) This equally applies to God's word; by two or three verses shall a doctrine be established.

Context

The Bible was written over thousands of years and was finished approximately 1,900 years ago. When studying and interpreting the Bible we must take into consideration the context. During the historical period in which the Bible was written the customs were much different than today. When appropriate, it is important to look at texts in their historical context.

When reading we can ask ourselves who, what why, when and where. Asking these questions will help us keep what we are reading in proper prospective and in proper context.

The Bible contains history, laws, instruction and prophecy. The history and laws are usually literal but the instruction and prophecy can be either literal or allegorical. An allegory is a symbolic fictional expression. God uses allegory in parables and in dreams and visions. Allegory is used to illustrate a point. The point being illustrated is to be taken literally but the fictional expression used to illustrate the point is not. Not all dreams and visions are allegorical; some are literal.

The parables and allegorical dreams and visions in the Bible are usually obvious. When we read these parable, we must remember that the illustrations used were significant to the people at the time they were written. Also, when prophets describe dreams concerning the last-days, we must consider the possibility that they saw technological advances but had difficulty describing them. Their language had no words for the technology of today. For this reason, sometimes it is difficult to tell whether a prophecy is literal or allegorical.

Concerning the source of Bible prophecy, the Apostle Peter wrote: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.” (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Since prophetic dreams and visions are from God, only God can interpret them. Therefore, the guidance of the Holy Spirit is essential in interpreting not only Bible prophecy but all scripture. Because we need the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth, prayer is probably the most important element in interpreting the Bible.

Intent

What is your intent in studying the Bible, the word of God? The Lord says: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13) If you are searching for God and for truth, you will find it! If you are reading or studying for some other reason, it is quite possible you won't find truth. The Apostle Paul writes: “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Prayer

Concerning the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed His disciples: “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.... But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:” (John 14:26 and 15:26) In John 16:13, Jesus says:

“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.” (John 16:13)

Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth and to give you understanding. All you have to do is ask. Jesus made the following promise to His disciple which applies to us as well: “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:9-13)

Here is some additional scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit:

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-11)

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:12-16)

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:16-17 & 26)

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:6)

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear

witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. (1 John 5:6-9)

The following is an example of a prayer that you might say: *Holy, loving and merciful Father, I come to You in faith that You will fulfill your promise in me. You promised to send Your Holy Spirit to guide me to all truth, if I asked. I now ask that You send Your Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth and I thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Test of the Spirit

If a person is truly seeking God and his truth, how does he become deceived?

1. If a person does not know the word of God, or they have not thoroughly searched out a subject on their own, they can be deceived by the teachings of others.
2. A person can use texts out of context.
3. A person can accept a text as literal when it is symbolic.
4. A person can use use allegory or parables as literal.
5. If person does not seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they may interpret the word according to their own understanding and not in accordance with the “Spirit of Truth”.
6. If a person does not test the spirit, they can be deceived by the spirit of antichrist.

The Apostle John teaches us the Test of the Spirit. This is a test every believer should know. Praise God that someone shared it with me. Other than the person who shared it with me, I have yet to meet someone who both knew of it and practiced it correctly. John writes:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (1 John 4:1-3)

John is telling us that false prophets go about deceiving because they themselves have been deceived by the spirit of antichrist who they perceived to be the Holy Spirit. This includes false teachers of all sorts. This is not a test of a prophet. The prophet or teacher may themselves believe that Jesus is the risen savior. On the contrary, the prophet or teacher may not be a believer but a deceiving prophet or teacher can lie about what they believe.

The test John is giving applies only to spirits. When you perceive the Holy Spirit speaking to you, you ask: “Is Jesus Christ come in the flesh”? This applies equally if you have an a visit

by an angel because Satan will masquerade as an angel of light. When you ask: “is Jesus Christ come in the flesh”, the Holy Spirit will answer YES! And the spirit of antichrist will answer NO!

The word translated “is come” is from the Greek word “ērchōmai”. Strong's Geek dictionary says the word “ērchōmai” is a verb used only in it's present tense. It testifies that Jesus is alive and has risen from the dead.

Nearly every religion in the world recognizes that Jesus was a prophet. But they believe he is dead. They don't believe he rose from the grave. I have met Christians who were former satanists, I've read books by former satanists, I've watched many video testimonials by Christians who are former satanists. They attest that demon spirits will confess that Jesus came to earth but they will not confess that he rose from the dead.

This test is absolutely worthless if you use it improperly. If you ask an evil spirit if “Jesus Christ has come”? They will answer Yes. The only English Bible I have found that translates this test correctly is the King James version. I call all the modern versions of the Bible “the Antichrist's Bible” because they give a test that leads you to accept antichrist spirits.

I have taught this test in Bible study classes I have participated in. In one class I asked if the members of the class would use the test during the week and respond back at our next class. Many agreed. The next week, everyone who tried using the test throughout the week said there were times when they thought the Holy Spirit was speaking to them and when they asked: “is Jesus Christ come in the flesh”, they got the answer “no”.

This experience did not discourage them, it emboldened them! Now they had a test to know for sure if God was speaking to them through the Holy Spirit.

When you use this test, if you get the answer “no”. You use spiritual warfare to bind the spirit and cast it away. Such as: “I bind all lying spirits to silence in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I command you to have no influence over me and I command you to flee from me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and go to the pit, NOW!”.

If you haven't received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost, see my Bible study *The Secret of Paul's Spiritual Insight*.³²

³² *The Secret of Paul's Spiritual Insight*, John Durr, <http://www.americascomingjudgment.com/Bible-Studies.html>

Word Studies

The Bible is perfect in its original language. English is not the original language of the Bible. The Bible was written in Aramaic, Hebrew and Greek. Generally, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. The King James Version of the Bible is the most accurate English translation. It can sometimes be hard to understand but the more you read it, the easier it is to understand. The modern English versions may be easier to understand but their translations are far less accurate. They are less accurate because they have been edited by their translators. Thousands of words have been removed. You certainly can't understand something that isn't there. For this reason I highly recommend the King James Bible. All you need is a dictionary to look up words you don't understand. None the less, you can get all the basic teachings in the modern versions. But some of the advanced teachings you will not find.

When a person gets into advanced studies, a Hebrew and Greek dictionary are very helpful. Within Hebrew and Greek are words for which English has no direct equivalent. Further, Hebrew and Greek words can have different meanings depending on the context in which they are used. Therefore, it is often possible to gain additional insight into what God is saying by looking at the original language and using a Hebrew or Greek dictionary.

God is an awesome and dynamic communicator. His words are alive and multidimensional. You can study them over and over and continue to get deeper and deeper understanding. Let the author of the word guide you through His Holy Spirit. He will not fail you nor disappoint you!

Literal or Figurative or Allegorical

It is often self evident as to whether a biblical passage is either literal, figurative or allegorical but that is not always the case. Sometimes it is very difficult to tell, particularly when it comes to Bible prophecy.

“God is love,” is an example of a literal passage that is self evident. “Ye are the salt of the earth,” is an example of a figurative passage that is self evident. But Jesus spoke about plucking out ones own eye. For some this has been a very difficult text. Jesus stated:

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Many unbelievers use this passage to criticize the Bible. Let's examine it. Jesus is stating a literal fact. It is better to loose ones eye than to loose eternal life. But Jesus is making an absurd statement and using it figuratively. A sane person would not pluck out their eye but neither does any sane person want to go to hell. So the person is led to the conclusion that it is much easier to change their behavior than to pluck out an eye.

Jesus parables are not literal. The overall point or lesson being illustrated is literal but the individual items in the parable are not literal. Let's look at the parable of the wheat and tares:

24 The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: **25** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. **26** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. **27** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? **28** He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? **29** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 13:24-30)

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; **39** The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. **40** As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. **41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Matthew 13:38-43)

Jesus explained the parable and it's meaning. The tares are a type of weed that looks like wheat until the wheat and tares are mature. At the time of maturity, the differences between the two are easily visible. I have never heard of anyone using this parable to claim that no one should pull weeds. Yet details in another parable are commonly used to describe the afterlife. Jesus stated:

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: **20** And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, **21** And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; **23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. **24** And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. **26** And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. **27** Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: **28** For I have five brethren; that

he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. **30** And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. **31** And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. (Luke 16:19-31)

What is Jesus illustrating here? There are three main points. 1) A person's wealth status does not determine his eternal destiny. 2) Hell is not a place you want to go. 3) Jesus was prophesying that those who did not follow Moses teachings would not be persuaded by his own resurrection.

What is not being taught here? Jesus was not teaching that those who die immediately go to heaven or hell. That would be in contradiction of the rest of scripture.³³ Jesus was not teaching that people in hell can see and communicate with people in heaven. This would also be a contradiction of the word. Jesus was not illustrating that the dead can preach to the living. This contradicts the rest rest of the word. Yet many use this parable as a literal description of hell. They use this parable to support a false teaching that God torments the lost for all of eternity. Many reject the Gospel because of this teaching; they rightly say it does not reflect a loving God. These people are lost through deception.

Sometimes it is not clear whether a text is literal or figurative such as in the case of prophecy. A year can be literal or symbolic (figurative). A day could be literal or it represent either a year or a thousand years. In Ezekiel we read: "I have appointed thee each day for a year." (Ezekiel 4:6) "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8) Likewise a year can represent 360 years, each day for a year.

Sometimes we may not know the interpretation until the prophecy is fulfilled and sometimes Christians argue about which event fulfilled the prophecy. My advice is don't put limits on God. I believe that God's word can be multidimensional and that prophecy can have multiple fulfillments. One fulfillment could be in literal days and another in years.

The Original Hebrew and Greek

Using the original Hebrew and Greek in your study can sometimes be very helpful. There are 8,674 Hebrew words in the Bible although modern day Hebrew is estimated to have 75,000 to 80,000 words. There are 5,624 Greek words in the Bible. English has over 470,000 words. Hebrew and Greek words can have much more broader meaning than an English equivalent. Although there are many more English words, sometimes there is no equivalent word in English. I have found that some Hebrew words are best translated with a sentence than any single word.

³³ See lessons 26 (What Happens After You Die?) and 27 (Hell - What Is It?) in *Finding, Peace, Hope, Truth and Life Through the Study of God's Word*, John Durr, <http://www.americascomingjudgment.com/Bible-Studies.html>

Hebrew and Greek words often have many possible different English translations. The exact meaning is often determined by context. Additionally, sometimes the translators added words to conform the text to the English language. The translators did the best job they could. But sometimes these added words changed the meaning of the text. Don't let this lead you to fear, the majority of the Bible was translated accurately.

It is reasonable to expect that the translators of the King James Version had the expectation of the King in the back of their minds. They couldn't help being influenced by their personal beliefs and the accepted beliefs of the time. Additionally, the prophets saw many things in visions concerning our day for which they had no words. Therefore, it was difficult for the translators to know what they saw and how to translate it accurately. Today we can look at the original language and see things in our world that they were trying to describe.

I rely heavily on the Holy Spirit to guide me and reveal to me when I should examine the original language. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I have uncovered many important mistranslations. Let's look at some examples.

One day I was studying the following text: "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58) I knew Jesus was revealing he was God in this verse because if he existed before Abraham, he must be God. But the Holy Spirit revealed even more, Jesus was not just saying he existed before Abraham, he was saying he is the "I AM." When God came to Moses in the burning bush and made him a prophet, Moses asked who should I tell them sent me? "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:14)

I wondered how many times Jesus used the words "I Am". Note: the phrase "I Am" is not always significant. If Jesus was answering a question, "I am" is most likely not a declaration of "I am God". Or when "I am" is used as a personal subject pronoun such as: "I am the bread of life." But if you read the text and your left asking: "I am what? Jesus is saying I AM THAT I AM", "I am God", "I am Yahweh" (Yahweh literally means I am).

Referring to the original Greek, I found three significant texts where Jesus said "I Am". In each of these texts, the translators had added "he" which totally changed the meaning. Below are the three texts:

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins. (John 8:24)

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. (John 8:28)

Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am *he*. (John 13:19)

Revelation 18:11-13 shows the types of merchandise that Babylon buys from the merchants of the earth. Of particular interest is a small portion of this text which states: "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise

any more: The merchandise of... slaves, and souls of men.” “Slaves” is translated from the Greek word “soma”. Soma literally means body. It appears in the New Testament 146 times and is translated as “body” 144 times, “bodily” once and “slaves” only once.

“Souls” comes from Greek word “psuche” and it appears 105 times in the New Testament. Fifty-five percent of the time “psuche” is translated as “soul” and thirty-eight percent of the time it is translated as “life.” “Life” has a wider application and I believe it is a more appropriate translation. It gives the text a multidimensional meaning. With these two changes the text becomes: And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of... bodies, and lives of men.

As I researched the evidence for this new translation around 2004, I found evidence that it had been fulfilled in the United States in many different ways. This included imports from nations with: sweatshops and slave labor force. Additionally, I found evidence of a slave market, of a market in bodies and body parts.

Revelation 18 also speaks of sorcery. In this case, the original Greek, again, provided much more insight into what God was revealing. The text states in English: “...by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.” (Revelation 18:23) I believe this text has dual meaning. The word “sorceries” is an appropriate translation; but the original Greek provides even deeper revelation.

Sorcery comes from the Greek word “pharmakeia,” which literally means pharmaceutical, medication or drugs. Therefore, a literal translation would state that Babylon is deceiving the nations through drugs. According to *World Book* encyclopedia, Pharmacologists consider all chemicals to be drugs. Therefore, Babylon not only deals in drugs but chemicals of all sorts. This includes: Illegal recreational drugs, over the counter and prescription drugs, vaccines, insecticides, herbicides (weedkillers), chemical weapons and chemicals of all sorts. Interestingly, my research shows that that sorcery ties right back into drugs, the first vaccines were made by witches.

The Bible uses leaven as an allegory for how a little sin and/or false doctrine can corrupt the entire person. We read: “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” (Galatians 5:9) In the historical context, leaven (yeast) was used by almost everyone to make bread and they all understood that a little leaven would affect the whole loaf of bread. Today the following might be more universally understood: “a few germs can infect the whole body.” But this wouldn't have worked in Jesus days because they didn't know about viruses and bacteria.

Bible Tools

Concordance

A Concordance assigns a number to every Hebrew and Greek word. When you look up an English word, you will see a list of every instance that that word occurs in the Bible. You are provided the book, chapter and verse. You will also see the number that corresponds to the

original Hebrew or Greek word. There may be many different Hebrew or Greek words that are translated to the same English word. Likewise, a single Hebrew or Greek word may be translated into many different English words.

I use *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. This version has a Hebrew and Greek dictionary. You can use the number from the Concordance to find the appropriate original Hebrew or Greek word and its many different potential definitions. You can use these dictionaries to help you understand the meaning of the word better. Sometimes a different word with a similar meaning makes the text easier to understand. Sometimes there are entirely different potential definitions that provide you potential new meanings for the text.

There are limitations to the Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary. The dictionary relies heavily on the Bible itself. Sometimes the dictionary doesn't provide all the potential meaning of a word and only shows how it was translated.

Lexicon

The Lexicon I use is the *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* published by Woodside Bible Fellowship. I have a version I use on my computer. This is a compilation of the Hebrew and Greek words used in the Bible along with their Strong's number used for reference. My version is based on the King James Authorized Version of the Bible. This enhanced version lists how many times each word appeared in the Bible. It also lists the English word(s) the translators used. If the original was translated into more than one English word, it lists how many times each English word was used.

This is a very insightful tool. For instance, the Greek word “Sabbaton” appears 68 times in the New Testament. It was translated “sabbath day” 37 times, “sabbath” 22 times and “week” 9 times. It was only translated week in relation to the resurrection. Using this tool reveals there is something very suspicious related to the translation of the resurrection account and needs further evaluation.

My research showed that the original Greek clearly states that the resurrection of Jesus occurred on the Sabbath. Without any education in Greek or Hebrew I have made amazing discoveries using original Hebrew and Greek research tools. I wrote a study on the resurrection revealing that it occurred on the Sabbath and posted it online. I had a Greek scholar contact me and tell me my analysis was excellent and totally correct.

Interlinear Bible

An Interlinear Bible has the original Hebrew and Greek as it was originally written. The English translation is written on the line below on a word for word basis. There are Interlinears based on the Authorized King James version of the Bible and one's based on the texts of the modern versions. Most Christians are unaware that most modern versions of the Bible use a different Greek text which did not exist until 1881. The new text was created by a committee

headed by Westcott and Hort and made over 6,000 changes to the Greek text.³⁴

Interlinear's provide English translation as follows:

gg Some use the translation of a particular Bible edition.

gl Some use a particular Hebrew or Greek scholar to give a generic translation.

gg Some provide the translation of a particular Bible edition and a generic translation.

Some Interlinears also provide the Hebrew and Greek transliteration along with the Strong's reference number for each word.

So if you use an Interlinear for reference, make sure you know what you are using. What is the source for the original Hebrew and Greek and What is the source for the English translation? Personally, I would only use an Interlinear based on the authorized version of the Bible?

Audio Bible

There are several different learning styles. Some people learn better by listening and some by reading. But everyone can benefit from listening to an audio Bible. I learn better by reading but sometimes something new jumps out when I am listening. An of course, Anyone can listen to the Bible when they are doing other things which would prevent them from reading: walking, jogging, driving and much more.

You can listen to the Bible online or you can download a copy to your computer, phone, tablet etc. There are many free downloads available just search and you will find them. The entire Bible is about 1 Gigabyte. Below are a few sources:

- › At BibleGateway.com you can listen to a chapter or selected verses from a chapter. Just search for the chapter you want and a tool bar will appear above the text. One of the options is to listen to an audio version. There are also several different narrators to chooses from. <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- › At Firefighters.org you can download an entire KJV audio Bible for free or select the chapter or chapters you would like to download. <http://firefighters.org/bible.html>
- › At Bible.com you can download a free KJV audio Bible for Free. You must text them to get the download link. <https://www.bible.com/audio-bible-app-versions/1-kjv-king-james-version>
- › You can listen to the audio Bible on YouTube. Search YouTube for KJV audio Bible. If you select a playlist of the entire Bible, Genesis will begin playing. From there you can select any book you want.

³⁴ *The True and Corrupt Word of God*, John Durr, <http://www.americascomingjudgment.com/Bible-Studies.html>

