



# PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

### NOTES

January 2022

#### Revised Overview

As we begin our trek thru the Bible this year, we want to utilize tools that will help us apply what we read. Because the Bible is ...

*Biblical ... Instructions ... Before ... Leaving ... Earth*

We want to study the Bible in order to:

1. **Grow spiritually** (1 Peter 2:2) — *<sup>2</sup>As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:* (2 Peter 1:2) — *<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*
2. **Develop spiritual maturity** (Hebrews 5:11–14)
3. **Be equipped and trained for God's purpose** (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Now, the Seven Spiritual Principles will help us as we read and study the Bible because every passage of scripture we read in the Bible will fall under one or more of these principles.

Also, we want to employ three tools that Dr. Howard Hendricks talks about in *Living by the Book\**. They are as follows:

1. Observation — What Do I See?
2. Interpretation — What Does It Mean?
3. Application — How Does It Work?

#### OBSERVATION

We should become biblical detectives—what do I see in the passage ... developing the ability to see (sight and insight).

So, you want to be aware of ...

1. Terms being used — what do they mean
2. Structure — especially the grammatical—subject, verb, etc.
3. Literary form — poetry, narrative, historical writing, etc.
4. Atmosphere — see the sunset, the dawn, smell odor of prison in the Book of Philippians that Paul was in.

NEXT, we want to learn what to look for as biblical detectives. There are six things that will help us in this process. They are as follows:

What is ...

1. **Emphasized** — stated purpose, order of material (significant) Genesis 1–11 (Creation story and genealogy); 12–50 FAMILY.
2. **Repeated** — terms, phrases, like Psalm 136 — “*His love endures forever*”; Hebrews 11 ... “*by faith*”.
3. **Related** — relationship of general information to specific ... sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives specific information about giving, praying and fasting.
4. **Alike** — comparison (as, like) — John 3, Jesus talks about “*being born again*” — natural birth compared to spiritual birth.
5. **Unlike** — contrast (opposite) the word “but” (what’s the contrast) Galatians 5 contrasts the works of the flesh with fruit of spirit.
6. **True to life** — basic principles — biblical characters are human beings like us, who are not perfect. Examples (Moses, David and Peter).

NOTE: WHEN I READ A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE, WHAT IS TRUE TO MY LIFE THAT RESONATES WITH ME?

WHAT DO I OBSERVE ... WHAT DO I SEE (SIGHT OR INSIGHT)?

The more time in observation, the less time in interpretation. However, most people want to start with interpretation and end with interpretation ... MISTAKE!

## **INTERPRETATION — What does it mean?**

Rely on the Holy Spirit to reveal unto you what you have observed ... sight and insight; and give you the interpretation.

Five key things to help us understand the Bible:

1. **Content** — want to apply the results of our observation points (who, what, where, when) ... observation the “data base” for interpretation.
2. **Context** — that which goes before or follows. Don't take things out of context by pulling out a scripture without looking at the scriptures that preceded that passage and the scriptures that follow.
3. **Comparison** — compare scripture with scripture—cross reference — there are 40 different minor authors of the Bible, but one main author, the Holy Spirit.
4. **Culture** — historical background ... be aware of the culture of that time period ... example the Book of Ruth.
5. **Consultation** — resource tools like a good concordance to help especially, with the original language Hebrew or Greek ... remember first the Word then use a concordance as a second source to help. Examples ... Strong's, Young's or *W. E. Vine's Expository Dictionary*.

**One has to understand, we will never know everything; but we can understand the essential things. The following scriptures verifies this and encourages us:**

*Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*

*2 Peter 3:15–16 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. <sup>16</sup> He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

## **APPLICATION---How does it Work?**

Truth leads to godliness as we apply what we know. Therefore, as Christians we must allow the Bible to change us through the process of **APPLICATION**.

Four main keys to help us with the process of Application:

1. **Know** — must have accurate interpretation to make the proper application — need to understand myself; what are my assets and liabilities. (Revelation Chapters 2 & 3)  
Knowing our assets help develop our confidence.  
Knowing our liability will help develop our faith.  
Assets tell what God has done for you.  
Liability tells what God needs to develop in you.
2. **Relate** — relationships ... how do you relate to God, self, others and the enemy; to sins, promise, command and biblical characters.
3. **Meditate** — absolutely essential; Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 23:7, “*as a man thinketh so is he*” ... you become what you think; Psalms 1:1–2; 19:14. Meditation and memory are linked together.
4. **Practice** — **ULTIMATE GOAL!!** Equip soldiers for reality of life. Some area of your life you can apply this truth and scripture; for eg. Philippians 2:14 ... *do everything without complaining and murmuring*.

How can this truth transform my life?

Your hunger for the Word is directly in proportion to you obeying the Word.

The Word of God experienced is the Word of God enjoyed.

The Word of God must first change my life, then my sphere of influence, society and then the world.

The following questions and the Seven Spiritual Principles will help with the process of application.

PROCESS OF APPLICATION			PRINCIPLE
1.	What Example	To Follow (Joseph)	Stewardship
2.	What Sin	To Avoid	Unconditional Love
3.	What Promise	To Claim	Agreement
4.	What Prayer	To Repeat	Agreement
5.	What Command	To Obey (Book of James)	Obedience
6.	What Condition	To Meet (John 15:7)	Authority
7.	What Verse	To Memorize	Sow & Reap
8.	What Error	To Mark	Organization
9.	What Challenge	To Face	ALL 7 PRINCIPLES

Brother Hendricks says, and I wholeheartedly agree ... “It is not God’s Word because it works ... it works because it is God’s Word.”

## Genesis and Job

Since we are reading chronologically in the Bible, we stopped at Genesis 11 and begin reading in the Book of Job which is the oldest book of the Bible according to biblical scholars.

Before we talk about Job, I want us to look at Genesis 10—genealogy after the flood. Noah had 3 sons:

Japheth, Shem and Ham—one race—human race.

Everyone was speaking the same language and on one accord until God confounded their language in Genesis 11:6.

My application ... if we speak the language of love nothing will be impossible for us.

Let’s talk briefly about the Book of Job.

Now, when we look at the entire Book of Job, we can divide it into three parts:

1. Dilemma of Job, Chapters 1–2 — He loses his family, wealth and health
2. Debate or discourse of Job, Chapters 3–37
3. Deliverance of Job, Chapters 38–42

What we see in the Book of Job is the righteous suffering and a very long dialogue between Job and his friends on why Job, who is the righteous, is suffering. He can't understand why he is suffering.

Job makes three complaints:

1. God is punishing me (6:4; 7:20; 9:17)
2. God does not hear me (13:3, 24; 19:7; 23:3–5)
3. God allows the wicked to prosper (21:7)

### **“Why do the righteous suffer?”**

The righteous suffer because the devil, Satan, is the god of this world according to 2 Corinthians 4:4.

In the process of defending his innocence with his friends; Job becomes guilty of self-righteousness.

We see this in Job 40:8:

*“Will you also annul (set aside and render void) My judgment? Will you condemn Me [your God], that you may [appear] righteous and justified?”*

The Holy Spirit revealed this to me to share with you. He said, “Don't condemn God to justify yourself; for every good and perfect gift comes from God, our Father (James 1:17).

Lastly, What principle(s) — practical application can be extracted from the Book of Job? Let's look at Job 42:1–10.

But before we look at that passage of scripture, I want to talk about Elihu, (God is Lord) the young man I believe he created the environment (atmosphere) or prepared the way for God Almighty to show up in the whirlwind — by exalting God to Job and his friends. Elihu speaks of God's character and attributes. He assures Job that God is a just God who rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked.

Notice in the text God didn't rebuke or chastise Elihu like he did with Job's three friends — Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar.

There are three main principles operating in the Book of Job that I observed.

**The Principle of Agreement, which is God's plan to crown our lives with peace.**

As believers, we need to learn like Job to stop trying to reason things beyond us and stop babbling about things we know not of, but agree with God's Word and rest in Him. Because some things can't be comprehended with the natural mind (1 Corinthians 2:14); they must be spiritually discerned. Elihu had spiritual discernment. When we do this, we will achieve the peace that Jesus promised.

After making a decision to agree with God and His Word, we must take a step of faith and obey.

By operating in **the Principle of Obedience, which is God's plan to reward our lives**, we can be assured that God will restore to us what the devil stole. The principle of Obedience is a righteousness-building principle and when one is in right standing with God, one can live in the "blessed state".

Job was considered a righteous man and when he repented and got back in the right standing with God, God restored to him double.

**Also, one sees the underlying Principle of Unconditional love, which is God's plan to keep us from failing** (that we might have good success with God and man). This is a proper attitude-building principle. The overall purpose/goal is to overcome evil circumstances. Romans 8:37 tells us, "*We are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us.*"

It is important to remember that PRAYER is vital in the Christian life because it was after Job prayed that God restored Job and forgave his friends.

\* Hendricks, Howard G. and Hendricks, William D., *Living by the Book: The Art & Science of Reading the Bible*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1991, 2007