



## THE PROCESS OF BEING TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH

### Comprehension → Convictions → Conduct

- **Comprehension:** the knowledge we learn
- **Convictions:** the values we hold
- **Conduct:** the lifestyle we live

## COMPREHENSION: THE KNOWLEDGE WE LEARN

The transformation process starts with the comprehension phase, which involves prayerfully observing the biblical text being studied and correctly interpreting the passage.

- **Observation**                      “What do I see?”

Take a detective-like approach. Go beyond a casual reading of the passage to a more in-depth, inquisitive consideration of the details, letting the text answer these questions:

What is the passage saying?

What words did God select to communicate this thought?

What do you see from this passage about God, Christ, His Kingdom, life, humanity, sin, the gospel, trials, and faith?

Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

- **Interpretation**                      “What does it mean?”

Interpretation helps us discover God’s intended meaning. What is the “authorial intent” that God intended the original recipients to understand? The focus is not “What does this passage mean to me?” but “What does the passage mean as intended by the original author?”

Understanding the Bible depends on both the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit and the reader’s interpretive work, which utilizes sound hermeneutic principles to arrive at the meaning God intended.

"LIGHTS" is an acronym to recall the fundamental hermeneutical principles for correctly interpreting Scripture. These are not steps or procedures but the mindset of the interpreter.

**Principle #1: "L"** Look for the natural, normal meaning

**Principle #2: "I"** Identify the meaning in context

**Principle #3: "G"** Gain an understanding of the original words and flow of thought

**Principle #4: "H"** Historical context gives insight into meaning

**Principle #5: "T"** Take into account types of literary styles

**Principle #6: "S"** Scripture interprets Scripture

Always begin with prayer.

Read the passage and write down your observations, questions, and insights you discover about the text you are studying.

Note keywords and their meaning found in the passage.

Try to create an outline or overview of the passage.

Note the main theme that you observe in the passage.

Take time to study and pray about the passage before consulting other resources.

Our observations and interpretation of the text inform our comprehension of the passage. Our application of truth is revealed by the convictions we hold and the conduct we display.

- **Application: "What should I do?"**

Application is the crowning step in personal Bible study! Christ-centered believers study the Bible to apply the timeless Scriptures to their daily lives, as seen in their beliefs, attitudes, values, and behavior. Practical application of the Bible will transform our lives, our relationship with God, the church's health, and our relationship with others. Apply the passage by considering "**PACES.**"

Principles to remember

Action steps to take

Convictions to develop

Examples to follow

Sins to confess

Prayerfully ask questions such as:

- Why did God have this recorded?
- What have I learned about God, Christ, His kingdom, life, humanity, sin, the gospel, trials, and faith?
- What does this reveal about my life that requires the work of Christ?
- How does this passage point me to Christ for wisdom, perspective, love, healing, forgiveness, strength, and grace?
- What am I learning about the everlasting love of God and His perfect character?
- What are the principles and “timeless truths” emphasized in this passage?
- How should I apply this as a Spirit-filled believer in my personal life, relationships, responsibilities, and circumstances?

## CONVICTIONS: THE VALUES WE HOLD

Based on your study of this passage, what convictions are you developing that are now settled values or beliefs you hold?

## CONDUCT: THE LIFESTYLE WE LIVE

Write down some examples of behavior that you can ask God to develop and continue based on what you have learned and the convictions you have developed as a result of studying this passage.

Close your study time in prayer.