

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Don't Take My Word for It

Studying scripture for yourself though the power of the Spirit

John 14:22-26 He manifests Himself through us and that by what He tells us through The Word and through Holy Spirit. So by extension we should learn what He has said.

How to Study Scripture

- *Ask God to reveal it to you. (1 Cor 2:6-16) Spiritual meaning transcends the words that are used
- *Read it. Don't live vicariously through what others have said. (Heb 4:12)
- *Meditate on it
 - **Read a passage and then quiet your mind and wait for God
 - **Read a passage and then ask what does this reveal about God? What should my response be?
- *Consider context
 - **Type of literature (not exhaustive)
 - ***Wisdom -basic rules for life, but not guarantees (Job, Uriah, Martyrs)
 - ***Parables -fiction with guidance
 - ***Doctrine -technical rules for righteousness
 - ***History -what happened, with commentary
 - **Surrounding verses. What theme(s) is/are being built upon?
 - **Cultural context. What is the landscape?
- **Run Shallow (large overview)
 - **What does this chapter talk about?
 - **Does it remind you of anything? (The Bible is a unified story)
- **Run Deep (small section)
 - **What does this phrase mean?
 - **What does this word mean? (translations are not one for one word replacement)

An Example:

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) — **16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

His Word does things. (Is 55:8-11)

Final thoughts:

*Even if you don't know the cultural context or idiom Holy Spirit still helps us.

*Understand that the Spirit guides us, but our intuition and desires can mislead us

*The Word is deep. Be humble. The Word is true. Be vigilant.

*God brings instruction and correction from all sorts of places.