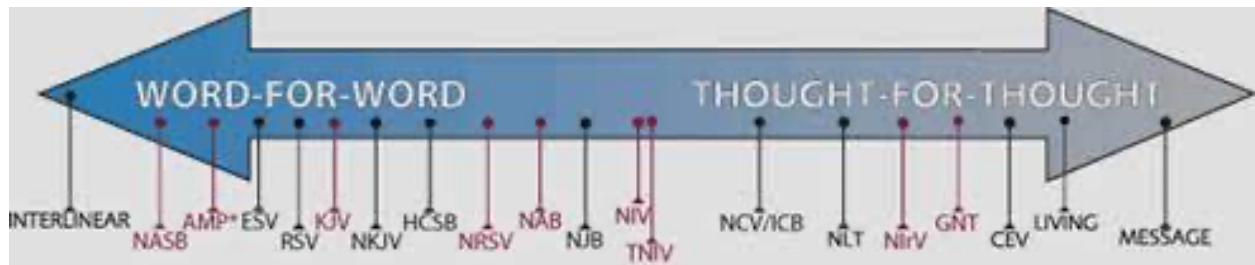


## My Bible Study Tool Bag #1 Observation

**Introduction-** “Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law” (Ps. 119:8)

- A. It is a Unique Book
  - 1. It is God’s revelation: II Pet. 1:21
  - 2. It is inspired (God breathed): II Tim. 3:16-17
  - 3. It is inerrant (the original manuscripts were without error): Matt. 4:4, Titus 1:2
- B. It is Essential for Our Lives  
For personal growth (I Pet. 2:2), for spiritual maturity (Heb. 5:11-14) and for spiritual effectiveness (II Tim. 3:16-17).

**Which Bible should I study?**



### The Process of Studying the Bible

Hermeneutics: The science of textual (verse by verse) interpretation of the scriptures. The goal is to know the author’s intended meaning...to his original audience.

A three-step process:

1. Observation: What do I see? What are the facts?
2. Interpretation: What does it mean?
3. Application: What does it mean to me? How do I apply it to my life?

### Observation: What do I see?

What are the facts? Determine who, what, where, when and how of the text.

Don't start with a commentary. Engage in a tutorial with the Holy Spirit as the teacher. Start with your own observations.

Let's practice on John 2:1-11

Mark 4:35-41

Who:

What:

Where:

When:

How:

### Some other things to look for...

#### 1. Repeated Terms

Examples: Mark loves the term \_\_\_\_\_. Look at Mark 1:10, 12, 18, 20,21,23 and 28.

John uses "believe" 79 times in his gospel and always as a verb.

Paul uses "rejoice" twenty times in the book of Philippians.

#### 2. Structure

Look for cause and effect and question and answers: "Therefore," "And," "But," "When."

Examples: "Therefore"- Romans 8:1, Hebrews 12:1, I Peter 2:1

"But"-II Pet. 3:10

#### 3. Literary Forms

Narratives (The Gospels), poetry (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes), letters (Paul's letters, James' letter, John's three letters).

#### 4. Atmosphere

Put yourself in the author's shoes. These are real people in real situations.

Examples:

- What would it have been like to be in prison with Paul and write Phil. 4:4?
- What was Peter thinking as he wrote I Pet. 2:24-25?
- What memories might have flashed through Jude's mind as he wrote Jude 24-25?

**Strategies to help us become first-rate OBSERVORS.** We need to read:

Thoughtfully...with a focus

Repeatedly...use different translations, listen to it, read it aloud

Patiently...consider staying in the same book for a month, or a few verses every day for a week

Prayerfully...look at Psalm 23 and turn it into a prayer (use personal pronouns)

Purposefully...look at the sentence structure (nouns, verbs, modifiers). Is there a geography point to be made? Where does this passage fit in history? What are the ideas and concepts being shared?

Meditatively...interact with the passage. Do you identify with any of the characters? Is there a command to obey? Anything to confess? Anything to start/stop? Do you need to express gratitude?

Let's do some observing on Acts 1:8. Let's OBSERVE: Who....  
what... when.... where...how.

But you shall receive power

When the Holy Spirit has come upon you

And you shall be my witnesses

Both in Jerusalem

And in all Judea

And Samaria

And even to the remotest part of the earth

## So What? Consider II Tim. 2:15

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Some suggestions for your own Bible study tools:

1. Howard Hendrick's *Living by the Book*
  2. A one volume Bible commentary like: *New Bible Commentary*, *Bible Commentary (F.F. Bruce)*, *Zondervan's Bible Commentary*, or *MacArthur's Bible Commentary*
  3. A good Bible Atlas/Map like: *Baker's Bible Atlas*, *Holman Book of biblical Charts, Maps, Reconstruction*, *Rose Publisher's Then and Now Maps*
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**Discussion Exercises for the Group and / or Personal Exploration:**

**Do some observations (with notes) on the following verses:**

1. Matthew 3:13-17
2. John 4:1-10
3. Acts 3:1-5
4. Joshua 1:8

# Books of the Bible

## Old Testament

## New Testament

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

Law

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts

Gospels

Church History

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

History

Romans  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians

Letters

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

Poetry

Major Prophets

1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

Letters

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

Minor Prophets

Hebrews  
James  
1 Peter  
2 Peter  
1 John  
2 John  
3 John  
Jude  
Revelation

Letters

Prophecy

