



Trusting in God's Word

"First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." 2 Peter 1:20-21 (RSV)

God gave us the Bible to teach us who he is and what his will is for us; to train us to be righteous, to be humble, and to do his work. God wants us to respond to his word in obedience so he gave us a book that we can understand. It is written with clarity and on a level that even the least educated of us can understand. But understanding the Bible is not just a mental exercise but a spiritual one depending on the condition of the reader's heart. It is not just our minds but also our hearts that determine how we understand and respond to the Bible. A stubborn heart refuses to listen to the word, Hebrews 3:10; a good heart delights in God's word, meditates on it, craves it, and obeys it, Psalms 119.

The apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 1:11-12 (RSV), *"For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ."* In Hebrews 4:12 (RSV) we read, *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

Therefore, we can have complete trust and confidence in God's word, knowing that in obedience to its instruction and command we will be God's people, growing spiritually and becoming more like Jesus.

- Bailey Howell