

**STUDENT HANDOUT**

**SHEFFEY BIBLE COLLEGE**

Course: Hermeneutics 101

Chapter 12 Student Handout

**THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHAT YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM TODAY’S LECTURE**

- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in interpretation
- Define inspiration and illumination
- Know the limits of the Spirit’s role in interpretation
- Understand what unbelievers can and cannot grasp
- Learn how the Spirit works in the believer
- Recognize the importance of prayer and devotional reading

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**I. INTRODUCTION: THE ROLE OF THE SPIRIT**

Bible study involves both method and relationship.

Key Principle:

Interpretation requires both proper method and the Holy Spirit

Notes:

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**II. THE SPIRIT AS THE DIVINE AUTHOR**

The Holy Spirit inspired Scripture.

Key Principle:

The Spirit authored Scripture and works in harmony with it

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (KJV)

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

John 16:13 (KJV)

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...”

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### **III. INSPIRATION AND ILLUMINATION**

Two key works of the Spirit.

Key Principle:

The Spirit reveals meaning—He does not create new meaning

Inspiration — God giving Scripture through human authors

Illumination — The Spirit helping believers understand Scripture

Notes:

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### **IV. CAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE WITHOUT THE SPIRIT?**

Three levels of understanding.

Key Principle:

Without the Spirit, truth may be understood but not accepted

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him...”

Notes:

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## **V. THE SPIRIT AND THE CHRISTIAN INTERPRETER**

The Spirit does not replace study.

Key Principle:

The Spirit works through study—not instead of it

Notes:

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## **VI. THE SPIRIT AND INTERPRETIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

Believers must actively study.

Key Principle:

We are responsible to think, study, and interpret carefully

Notes:

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## **VII. THE SPIRIT AND MEANING**

The Spirit's role has limits.

Key Principle:

The Spirit does not change the text—He changes the reader

The Spirit DOES NOT:

- Create new meaning
- Add new revelation
- Change Scripture

The Spirit DOES:

- Help understanding
- Enable acceptance
- Apply truth

Notes:

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## **VIII. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE BELIEVER**

The Spirit transforms the interpreter.

Key Principle:

The Spirit moves truth from mind to life

Romans 12:1–2 (KJV)

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice...

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Notes:

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## **IX. PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL READING**

Interpretation must be spiritual as well as intellectual.

Key Principle:

Prayer is essential for understanding and applying Scripture

Ephesians 1:17–18 (KJV)

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ... may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation...

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...”

Notes:

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### **CLOSING SUMMARY**

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in helping believers understand and apply Scripture. While He does not replace study or add new meaning, He enables us to grasp truth, accept it, and live it out. True interpretation requires both careful study and dependence on the Spirit through prayer.

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### **THINGS TO KNOW (EXAM ANCHORS)**

- The Spirit is the divine Author of Scripture
- Inspiration defined
- Illumination defined
- The Spirit and Word work together
- The Spirit does not give new meaning
- Unbelievers can understand Scripture cognitively
- Unbelievers do not accept spiritual truth
- The Spirit does not replace study
- The Spirit enables understanding and application
- The Spirit does not change the text
- The Spirit changes the reader
- Prayer is essential in interpretation
- Spiritual maturity affects interpretation

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### **ASSIGNMENT**

Read Chapter 13 in *Grasping God’s Word* in preparation for the next lecture.