The Renewed Mind: Renewing your mind through the Word

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. - Romans 12:2

Our minds are like computers.

We believe fallacies and errors **through repetition of misinformation.**

That's when we hear something repeated often enough, that we believe it.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Tim 3:16-17

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "**If you abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." - John 8:31-32 ESV*

Getting to know God through His word, helps us to know **TRUTH** and God's nature.

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."
Hebrews 4:12 NLT

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,[b] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. – 2 Tim 2:15

If handled properly, the word of God brings healing and instruction and Freedom. If misused, it can injure, imprison, and confuse.

two ways Scripture communicates:

1. **<u>Descriptive</u> Scripture (Narrative) –** The author is describing or chronicling what happened.
    a. **JUST BECAUSE A BEHAVIOR OR EVENT IS IN THE BIBLE DOESN'T MEAN GOD IS ENDORSING IT.**
2. **Prescriptive Scripture (Instruction) –** The author is telling us what we should <u>believe</u>, how we should live, or what God expects of us.

Tools to use to help comprehend Scripture

Dictionary
Strong's Concordance
Study Bibles & Commentaries
Consistently listening to good, grace-filled teaching

Some Criteria to help understand the Bible.

a. Covenant

Old Covenant, New Covenant -We need to read everything in the Old Testament through New Testament glasses.

> *After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the* ***<u>new</u>*** *covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you. (Luke 22:20 NLT)*
>
> *For the Law was given through Moses, but grace [the unearned, undeserved favor of God] and truth came through Jesus Christ*. (Jn 1:17 amp)
>
> *'But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.* ***We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.*** *And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.*' - Romans 3:21-22

As believers in Christ, we read the Old Testament from the standpoint of a <u>righteous</u> person.

b. Context

The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.

5*Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple* ***6*** *and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"* ***7*** *Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test*." - Matt 4:5-7

c. Culture

In different times or different communities there have been different customs.

'For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head , since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.' - 1 Corinthians 11:6-7

d. Comparison

To determine a scriptural truth, it needs to be verified by the whole counsel of scripture.

But understand this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of or comes from one's own [personal or special] interpretation 2 Peter 1:20 AMP:

e. **Communion**,

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

John 16:13 ESV - *When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

f. Character- God is GOOD. There is no inconsistency in God's character.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. - Heb 13:8

*1. When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them?" **55** But He turned and rebuked them [a][and He said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are; **56** for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."] And they journeyed on to another village.* – Luke 9:54-56

g. Community- the audience the author is addressing.

*If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **no sacrifice for sins is left**, 27but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? - Hebrews 10:26-29 NIV*