

Tips for studying your Bible

2017

Interpreting the Bible:

Context: (most important aspect of Bible study); the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.

Determine the **Fallen Condition Focus (FCF)** – is the human condition we currently share with those for or by whom the Bible text was written that requires the grace of the passage to manifest God's glory in His people. Not all fallen conditions are sin, such as: Grief, illness, longing for the Lord's return, the need to know how to share the gospel, and the desire to be a better parent are not sins, but they are needs that our fallen condition imposes and that Scripture addresses. [Bryan Chapell] (need Laymen's terms here-break it down)

Read the bible with these three terms in mind:

- **Authority** – comes from God; it has the right to communicate and instruct us; we must submit and bring our thinking in line with what God says.
- **Inspiration** – God is the source of bible; it is God breathed and God approved.
- **Revelation** – God reveals Himself; what He is like and how we are to relate to His divine revelation of Himself. Whenever God reveals Himself, it is always an act of grace.

Need a title for the table

	Word	Meaning	Biblical Example
1	Indicative	A statement of fact - states what is.	John 10:30 ³⁰ <i>I and my Father are one.</i>
2	Imperative	A command- attempts to control what will be.	2 Timothy 2:22 (NET) ²² <i>But keep away from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace, in company with others who call on the Lord from a pure heart.</i>
3	Indicative/Imperative (Combination within a particular text).	“Indicative/Imperative” relationship can be expressed like this: “God has done this, therefore you should do that.”	1 Corinthians 5:6-7 (NET) ⁶ <i>Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast affects the whole batch of dough?</i> ⁷ <i>Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch of dough, just as you are, in fact, without yeast. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.</i>
4	Interrogative	A question asked by anyone. God ask questions but they are always rhetorical, meaning He does not ask looking for an answer or information; He is omniscient. God uses questions to inform or instruct us with the intent to lead us to repentance.	Job 3:11 ¹¹ <i>Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?</i> Rhetorical question by God: Genesis 3:9 ⁹ <i>And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?</i> God’s Rhetorical Question with the intent of leading to Repentance: Genesis 4:6-7 ⁶ <i>And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?</i> ⁷ <i>If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.</i>
5	Conditional Statements	Usually a statement which supplies and “If...then” scenario.	2 Chronicles 7:14 ¹⁴ <i>If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.</i>