

**Women of the Word: Chapter 6 Study with Process**

~ The 5 P's of Bible Study: Purpose, Perspective, Patience, Process, Prayer ~

This process asks you, the **student**, to carry the burden of not just reading, but owning the text, and then of attempting **interpretation** and **application** on your own.

**1. Comprehension****2. Interpretation****3. Application****Stage 1: Comprehension – “What Does It Say?”**

- The comprehension stage is probably the most **neglected** and misunderstood by students of the Bible, mainly because we assume that reading a text and absorbing a sense of its message equates to comprehending it.
- Comprehension requires us to **slow down** when we read and seeks to purposefully discover what the original author intended me to notice or ask.
- Tools: A printed copy of the text, repetitive reading, annotation, an English dictionary, other translations of the Bible, and outlining.

**Stage 2: Interpretation – “What Does It Mean?”**

- While sermons, study Bibles, and commentaries are helpful with interpretation, we must always keep in view that each of us **individually** is called to love God with our minds.
- It is good for us to earnestly attempt interpretation on our own **before** we read the interpretations of others.
- Doing the personal work of comprehension and interpretation helps us discern which commentaries are reliable and align with what the text says.
- Tools: Cross-references and paraphrasing.

**Stage 3: Application – “How Should It Change Me?”**

- There is no true knowledge of self apart from the knowledge of God.
- “How should the text change me?” is answered by asking three sub-questions:
  - What does this passage teach me about **God**?
  - How does this aspect of **God’s** character change my view of **self**?
  - What should I **do** in response?

## Women of the Word: Chapter 7 Study with Prayer

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5*

*~ The 5 P's of Bible Study: Purpose, Perspective, Patience, Process, Prayer ~*

Prayer is how we implore the Holy Spirit to take up residence in our study time.

- Without prayer, our study is nothing but an **intellectual** pursuit
- With prayer, it is a means of **communicating** with the Lord
- Prayer is what changes our study from the pursuit of **knowledge** to the pursuit of **God** Himself

A pattern for prayer:

- **Praise:** glorify God for who He is and what He has done
- **Admit:** confess to God where you have fallen short
- **Request:** ask God to forgive your sin and to meet your needs
- **Thank:** give thanks to God for who He is and what He has done

Pray **before** you study

- Praise God for giving you the revelation of His will and character in His Word
- Admit your own insecurities and weaknesses as you study
- Request/ask God for ears to hear and eyes to see Him in His Word
- Thank God that He's given you the ability to know Him

Pray **during** your study

- Praise God when you make a new connection about His character
- Admit/confess when you get frustrated, distracted, or bored
- Request/ask the Lord for help to understand and to stay focused
- Thank the Lord when he brings other Scripture to your mind to confirm and reinforce what you are learning in your study.

Pray **after** you study

- Praise God for revealing His character to you through His Word
- Admit/confess any personal sin that He has brought to light
- Request/ask God to help you apply what you have learned
- Thank the Lord that He is teaching you

Learning the Bible does not happen as a result of human effort alone. Like all other aspects of our sanctification, it is the result of the **Holy Spirit** working in and through our efforts.

*Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. Psalm 119:18*

## **Chapters 6 and 7: Questions for Reflection**

1. What type of approach do you usually take to a project – a willy-nilly creative approach or a process-driven builder approach? How does your typical approach to a project shape the way you think about Bible study?
2. Which of the comprehension tools suggested (a printed copy of the text, repetitive reading, annotation, a dictionary, other translations, and outlining) do you think will be most helpful to you? Which have you used before? Which are new to you?
3. What is the danger of trying to apply a text without first working to interpret it? What is the danger of trying to interpret a text without first working to comprehend it?
4. Why is it important to consult commentaries only after seeking to find the interpretation yourself? What motivates you to want to seek help from commentaries too quickly?
5. “Without prayer, our study is nothing but an intellectual pursuit. With prayer, it is a means of communing with the Lord. Prayer is what changes our study from the pursuit of knowledge to the pursuit of God himself” (p. 111). What does the absence of prayer in our study time reveal about our motives and methods for learning the Bible?
6. Which of the PARTs of prayer do you underutilize? Which of the prayer suggestions did you find most helpful?