



HOAW Newsletter

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

October 2020

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Getting A Grip #2

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

To get a better grip on the Bible we will explore a process that will give you the tools needed to properly observe, interpret, and apply the word in your life.

This newsletter will discuss the first stage called OBSERVATION. Too often we open up scripture and immediately jump to application not knowing if we are accurately applying the word to our lives.

I introduced the analogy of becoming Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) as we explore biblical texts.

CSI agents first investigate a crime site and gather evidence. They often see more than a casual observer because they have been trained with methods to gather pertinent pieces left at the crime scene.

Like CSIs, we need to train ourselves to answer one simple question

without jumping to interpretation or application.

When looking at a verse, or a passage the question we need to ask ourselves is...

What does the passage tell us...what does it actually say?

In this first step of Bible study you are a detective. You are simply making and unemotional observation. Resist the temptation to 'jump' to application.

The basic idea of observation is awareness – it is training the eye to see and the mind to grasp what is there. (Emery, 1985)

You are seeking to answer the following questions.

What do I see? What are the clues? What are the facts?

Before proceeding I would suggest you begin with prayer...

"Heavenly Father, as I delve into Your word, please help me see what is actually there. Give me eyes to see what is being said."

Have a notepad handy to record your findings. Use a word-for-word translation such as the NASB, ESV, or NRSV. Avoid paraphrase bible such as The Living Bible or The Message when doing this kind of study.

One helpful resource explains the difference.

Languages of the Bible

"Obviously, the Bible was not originally written in English, Italian or any modern language. The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew with small parts in Aramaic. However, while Jesus most likely spoke Aramaic, most of the New Testament was originally written in Greek. Thus, all modern Bibles are translations of these original languages."

Methods of Translation

“Literal translation. Attempts to keep the exact words and phrases of the original. It is faithful to the original text, but sometimes hard to understand. Keeps a constant historical distance. Examples: King James Version (KJV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), or the English Standard Version (ESV).”

“Dynamic equivalent (thought for thought) translation. Attempts to keep a constant historical distance with regard to history and facts but updates the writing style and grammar. Examples: New International Version (NIV), Revised English Bible (REB).”

“Free translation (paraphrase). Translates the ideas from the original text but without being constrained by the original words or language. Seeks to eliminate historical distance. Readable, but possibly not precise. Examples: The Living Bible (TLB), The Message.”

Types of Bibles

“Most translations are available in several different types of Bible. Here are just a few of the many different kinds of Bibles.

1. **Traditional.** Text only. Minimal footnotes.
2. **Study Bible.** Such Bibles usually have extensive footnotes and explanatory notes next to the columns of text. They may also have extensive cross references, a narrative commentary, and maps. (Some also have a cyclopedic index and/or a concordance—see Reference Bible.)
3. **Reference Bible.** Usually has a cyclopedic index (like an

encyclopedia with a reference to the verse where the word or thought is used), a concordance (like a dictionary of common words with examples of their usage and verse references for each example), and maps.

4. **“Place in Life” Bible.** Has meditations and thoughts about issues of concern to people at a particular stage in life. There are versions of these Bibles aimed at men, women, sports players, recovering addicts, new believers, converted Jews, small group members, and many others.
5. **One-Year Bibles.** Divided into 365 readings for each day of the year, usually with each having a portion of the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs.
6. **Pastor’s Bible.** Includes protocol outlines and recommended verses for hospital visits, weddings, funerals, and other events. Often has answers to frequently asked questions.
7. **Children’s Bible.** Usually includes color drawings, maps, and simplified stories.
8. **Parallel Bible.** Has from two to eight translations side by side.
9. **Chronological Bible.** Entire Bible in one continuous story with narration to cover gaps and make everything flow. The four gospels are harmonized into one, for example, and the writings of the prophets are placed in the proper historical place in the books of history.
10. **Other Specialty Bibles.** The Serendipity Bible, The Quest, Key Word Bible, Leadership Bible, Hebrew-Greek Keyword Bible, “Here’s Hope” Bible, Serenity Bible, and many others.”

My personal preference is the ESV for in depth bible study. It is a word-for-word translation.

Bible Observation Techniques

The following techniques will help you answer the questions, **“What does it say?”**

Technique #1: Five W’s & and H

Who is involved?

- Author
- Major People
- Who are the key people involved?
- Who was the book (chapter, passage) written to?

What is (are) the event(s)?

- Summary Sentence
- Key Words
- What are the key events?
- What are the key ideas?
- What particular problems are addressed?

When did it happen?

- Times
- Historical Background
- When was it written?
- What is the historical setting?

Where does it take place?

- Major Places
- Locations

Why did it happen?

- General Significance

How did it transpire?

- Personal Significance

Technique #2: What to Look For

Things that are emphasized ...

- Things that are repeated ...
- Things that are related ...
- Things that are alike ...
- Things that are unlike ...
- Things that are true to life ...

Technique #3: Look for Relationships

- Comparisons and contrasts (i.e., but, like, etc.)
- Repetition (i.e., John 15:1-8)
- Connectives (i.e., therefore, if, because, and, or, then, etc.)
- Progression (i.e., progression of an idea – Eph 4:17-24; 2 Pet 1:5-7)
- Major Ideas (i.e., themes, etc.)
- Minor Ideas (i.e., sub-themes, etc.)
- Cause and Effect (i.e., if ... then)

The following passages are offered to help you practice this crucial first step. Select one passage and follow it through when you advance to interpretation and application.

Or you can select a different passage of your choosing.

OBSERVATION PASSAGES:

1. Genesis 3:1-7
2. Psalm 1:1-6
3. Psalm 15:1-5
4. Psalm 139:1-18
5. Matthew 4:1-11
6. Matthew 5:1-12
7. John 4:46-54
8. John 14:23-27; 16:5-15
9. John 15:1-8
10. Romans 1:1-18
11. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
12. Galatians 5:16-26
13. Ephesians 4:1-16
14. Ephesians 4:17-24
15. Philippians 2:5-11
16. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
17. Titus 2:11-14
18. Hebrews 4:12
19. James 2:14-26
20. 1 John 2:15-17

The idea is to gather all the evidence you can. Some of the questions

suggested might not apply to the passage. Others will.

I encourage you to use these techniques in this first step of OBSERVATION.

I believe using these techniques will help you see things you have never seen before.

The next newsletter will address the second step of INTERPRETATION and answer the question "What does the passage mean?"

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

Foundations of a Warrior (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.
www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at HOAWMinistries.com.

Speaking Engagements

- **October 2-4** – Man Camp, Westboro, WI
- **October 24** – Men's Breakfast, Alexandria, MN



Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org. Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out **The Store** on our website (www.heartofawarrior.org). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org

Legacy Minded Men
www.legacymindedmen.org

Church for Men
<http://churchformen.com/>

Resolute
<https://beresolute.org/>

Life Way Men
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

Men's Fraternity
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

Man in the Mirror
<http://maninthemirror.org/>

Men with No Regrets
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

National Collision of Men's Ministries
<http://ncmm.org/>

Every Man's Battle
<https://newlife.com/emb/>

Iron Sharpens Iron
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

Ransomed Heart Ministries
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

Band of Brothers
www.bandofbrothers.org/

Man Up God's Way
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

Iron Works
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>