

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?  
Part 1 – Foundation and Grammar

**First**, there are times when we are hurting, in pain, in sorrow, or in deep anguish, where God uses His word to comfort, encourage or challenge us when we need it.

**Second**, the Bible is not a buffet!

**Third**, there four foundational principles we need to discuss.

Foundation:

A) We do not worship the Bible! We worship the One who wrote the Bible.

B) 3 important words:

a) *Observation* (what the text says) – this is looking at a text and reading it.

b) *Interpretation* (our focus) – what the text meant when it was written to whom it was written. This is how we learn to understand what the Bible says.

c) *Application* – what I can learn from the text for my life.

Example: Deuteronomy 8:11-20.

C) We must be a Christian seeking the Lord or the Holy Spirit must be working in us.

D) We must want to grow.

*G.L.I.T.C.H.*

**G** – Grammar

**L** – Literal

**I** – Inspired, Inerrant and Infallible

**T** – Time and Prayer

**C** – Context

**H** – History and Culture

Everything is about the context.

**G – rammar.**

1) Words and Sentence Structure. Context determines meaning of words, which can

2) Written Languages – The Bible was written in 3 languages: A) Hebrew (OT), B) Aramaic (OT), C) Greek (NT). You don't have to be an expert in them to understand the

3) Styles of Languages – Genre. Example: There are various genres or styles of films – styles of writing.

A) Historic Narrative – events in history - Genesis-Esther, Gospels,

B) Poetry – words used to paint a picture, using figures of speech to convey a truth, thought or emotion - *Job-Song of Solomon*.

C) Prophetic (Prophecy) – tells Gods truth and foretells the future from when the writer wrote - Isaiah-Malachi, Revelation (Apocalyptic).

D) General Letters – the Epistles, misc. doctrine, commands, exhortation, application, prophecy, etc. - Romans-Jude. There are others and they can be mixed.