

## Part 4: How to Study the Bible for All It's Worth

### Transformation by The Word—a testimony by Tempe Brown

#### How do you study the Bible for All It's Worth?

##### REVIEW

##### **Priority #1: Discover the Original Intended Meaning of the Text**

- Step 1: PRAY
- Step 2: REVIEW the Basics
- Step 3: READ the text (& context) over & over
- Step 4: RECORD Your Observations
- Step 5: RESEARCH Your Observations
- Step 6: REFLECT on Your Findings & write down God's original intended meaning in one paragraph

Please Note:

- There's Only One Original Intended Meaning
- Steps 1-6 = compiling the evidence
- After all the FACTS are in THEN Discover the Original Meaning
- Bible Study is not a matter of personal opinion
- Application ALWAYS Comes out of the original intended meaning

##### **Priority #2: Discover the meaning of the text for today**

What is God saying to Christians today?

What is God saying to me today?

##### **RULES to discovering the meaning of the text for today**

- **Rule #1: a text cannot mean what it never could have meant originally**
- **Rule #2: today's meaning comes directly from the original meaning**
- **Rule #3: Use Common Sense**
- **Rule #4: One passage/verse cannot contradict the rest of the bible**

##### **Priority #2: Discover the meaning of the text for today**

Step #7: Review the original intended meaning and DISCOVER the meaning of the text for today.

EXAMPLE: Philippians 1:9-11

Step #8: MEDITATE upon the Text and your findings

Psalm 1:2 & Joshua 1:8

Meditate: *muttering*-saying or thinking about something over and over again  
Meditate: focusing in on a studied text from the bible & pondering it, thinking about it, considering it, talking to God about it

Step #9: DISCOVER the Personal Life Application of the text

- How am I to respond to this text?
- What is the message to me personally? Our church? Our Family?
- What action does God desire of me?

#### Application Substitutes to Avoid

Don't substitute

- Interpretation for Application (knowledge versus experience)
- Rationalization for Repentance
- Emotional Experience for a Decision
- Good Intentions for an Action Plan
- Communication for Transformation (talk v. walk)

#### Application Suggestions

1. Relate the text to your current circumstances
2. Personalize the application (what is God personally & specifically asking me to do?)
3. Write out your response
4. Go For It! Live It Out!

#### Application Methods (All 6 Taught in Sunday School)

PRONOUNCE IT

PICTURE IT

PROBE IT

PARAPHRASE IT

PERSONALIZE IT

PRAY IT

EXAMPLE: Philippians 1:9-11

Conclusion: Matthew 7:24-27

Challenge: Study Philippians 2:1-11 THIS WEEK using steps 1-9

**The Bible: Born to Be Battered**  
**(A bible that is falling apart is usually owned by someone who isn't)**