



Faith

1 Corinthians 2:14 *“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”*

To read the Bible takes faith. Do you think that just anyone can sit down and read it? The verse above says it all. Those with the Spirit can understand the things of God. That includes his word. Christians who say they do not get the Bible or understand it probably need the Spirit to guide them or else it will seem like foolishness to them. There are things in the Bible that we cannot understand as Christians. Who is the Nephilim? How exactly did God split the Red Sea? Where exactly is the Red Sea? Yet, these things and more are found in God’s word. It does take a certain amount of faith while reading the Bible.

However, Ephesians 2:8-9 says *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* This verse is saying that God gives us things like His word. We do not earn the favor of God. In His love and mercy, He gives freely to us. As Christ followers, we do not naturally understand the word of God. Instead, God gives us the Spirit of understanding. By faith we read this word as if God will reveal understanding and hard lessons in His time and not ours. Zechariah 4:6 *“So he*

said to me, *“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”*

Romans 12:3 *“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”*

What I am trying to say is that you are handpicked by God to understand him. God has a plan for you. You do not have a plan for Him. Read your Bible and listen for the prompts of the Spirit. The word will talk to you if you are listening. How does God increase your faith? By understanding Gods kingdom through His word. Questions will be answered in Gods timing like what Jesus means; what the Bible means; and your role in it all. By faith we read because we know God has our best interest in mind. He wants to see us grow and flourish. Again, what I am saying is that reading the Bible has a lot at stake in it. Your role in the kingdom will grow or diminish by your attention to the word.

This is why I say that reading the Bible is by faith. Many say “I want to know it all now!” Yet, God needs time to set you up. Life’s events will give you experience and knowledge. (I hate this) We need to mature in our faith. 1 Peter 2:2 *“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”* At first, we are babes in Christ. Learning to walk and then run as Christians. It takes time. 1 Corinthians 3:2 *“I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.”* Paul knew! We need to allow God time to grow us in understanding, so we read day by day.

Hebrews 5:13-14 *“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

God will make his word clear in three ways. The first is through the past. In the Christian world this is called seed planting. At a doctor’s office you might have read a passage of scripture and not even know it. Movies love to quote the Bible. Many of us have seen John 3:16 signs at sports games. did you know that God was planting seeds of His word in you all through your life. You became a Christian because God called you slowly. Take a moment to write down all the times you can remember encountering Gods word. God has indeed been working on you for a very long time.

Secondly, we read His word. There will be moments where we at struck by a verse. It means more today than yesterday. Some of those verses we saw in the past will show up. Then we remember! There are no dry spells while reading the word. God is always planting seeds of the word even if you do not feel anything about your reading that day.

Thirdly, God will plant seeds that must lay in wait. There will be a future day when they will sprout truth, wisdom, and knowledge. You might say “why didn’t I see that before?” You are an individual. God designed you differently than any other. In “your” time you will see what God wants for you. Some passages will become clear later. Yet, when they do it is a great day! We step out in faith every day that God has been working in our lives. We step out in faith that God’s word is being planted in us daily as we read. Just read and believe in faith that God will use His word. We step out in faith that God will reveal some of His word in the future. We do not need it all today. Concentrate on today. In faith, leave future knowledge to Gods timing.

Reading the bible should be fun, important, and necessary to have faith in a Spirit filled life.

Next week let us talk about having fun while reading the Bible.