

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF GOD

**“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.” (Eph 5:17)**

As a young man in Christian College I was told that the secret of understanding the Word of God was in studying it in the language in which it was originally written. I no longer believe this is true. Think about this, the Scribes and Pharisees were more familiar with Greek and Hebrew than anyone I know, yet they still did not understand the Word of God. By contrast, the disciples of Jesus who lacked their scholarship, did understand. (Matt. 13:14 - 17). There is obviously something more to understanding the Word of God than scholarship. The Bible is emphatic, the world through its wisdom does not know God (1 Cor. 1:21).

Please consider:

- There are over 6.3 billion people on the earth and over 6,500 spoken languages.
- The Scriptures have been translated into only about 2,500 languages.
- Is it necessary for all these people to be Hebrew and Greek scholars in order to really understand the Word of God?
- Many, as you know, are illiterate and cannot read the Bible in any language.
- Many more do not even have a written language.
- Even in America 23% of adults (40 - 44 million) are said to be functionally illiterate.
- Also consider that Bible students who are familiar with Hebrew and Greek frequently disagree. For example, scholars have debated the meaning of the Greek word “psallo” for 150 years and still do not agree on its meaning.

There is obviously another dimension to this subject. Please consider the possibility that understanding the Word of God does not come from human wisdom and education, but rather from God Himself. The Bible provides many examples of God giving wisdom and understanding.

- God gave understanding to Joseph (Gen. 39:21; 41:16; etc.)
- God gave understanding to Bezaleel (Ex. 31:3; 35:31; 36:1; etc.)
- God gave understanding to Solomon (1 Ki. 3:9, 11, 12; 4:29; etc.)
- God can also give understanding to you: **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Prov 3:5-6)**
- The Lord, however, does not reveal Himself to everyone, but only to those who seek Him with their whole heart. Please consider: **“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer 29:13)**

However helpful the study of Hebrew and Greek may be, the primary source of understanding the Word of God is God Himself. This is the reason inspired men prayed for spiritual wisdom and understanding.

**“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” (Eph 1:17)**

**“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” (Col 1:9)**

**“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-- just as it has taught you, remain in him.” (1 Jn 2:27)**

**“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:” (1 Cor 2:14-15)**

**“Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” (2 Tim 2:7)**