

Quick Starter Bible Interpretation Guide

1. Content – *What does the text say?*

- Read the passage carefully, multiple times.
- Observe keywords, repeated phrases, commands, promises, or warnings.
- Identify the main subject and verbs (who is doing what).

2. Craft – *How is the text written?*

- Look for the **genre** (narrative, poetry, prophecy, letter, etc.).
- Notice literary devices—metaphors, parables, contrasts, parallelism.
- Pay attention to structure: How do sentences and paragraphs build the message?

3. Context – *What is around the text?*

- **Immediate Context:** What comes before and after this passage?
- **Book Context:** How does this passage fit into the book's theme?
- **Biblical Context:** How does this fit into the whole Bible's story of redemption?

4. Comparison – *What does Scripture say elsewhere?*

- Compare similar passages or cross-references.
- Use Scripture to interpret Scripture (clearer verses help explain harder ones).
- See how New Testament writers use Old Testament texts.

5. Culture – *What was life like when this was written?*

- Consider historical, social, and religious background.
- Ask: How would the original audience have understood this?
- Tools: Bible dictionaries, handbooks, or study notes for cultural insight.

6. Consultation – *What do trusted guides say?*

- Use commentaries, study Bibles, and pastors for deeper understanding.
- Test everything by Scripture itself (Acts 17:11 – Bereans searched the Word).

7. Construction – *How does it apply today?*

- Ask: What eternal truth is here?
- How does this point to Christ? (Luke 24:27)
- What action, attitude, or belief is God calling me to embrace?

Tip:

Interpretation bridges **meaning** (what the text originally meant) and **application** (how it speaks to us today). Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom to understand and obey.