

Rules for Bible Study

1. Pray for understanding
2. Pray for God to show you what He wants you to do
We are not to be merely hearers of the word, but doers. James 1:22
3. Do not take verses in isolation—use the context
The context is very important to understand a verse. Without the context you can make the Bible say almost anything you want.
The context includes:
 - The context around the verse
 - The context of the book it is in
 - The context of the entire Bible
4. Use scripture to interpret scripture—clear portions of scripture should be used to explain unclear portions.
5. Understand scripture in light of progressive revelation—God reveals more of His plan as time goes on.
6. Understand scripture in light of God's programs throughout the ages. God's plan for the nation of Israel and the gentiles is different. Romans 11
7. Understand that the scripture is the only authority. It is God's word to us. We are not to base doctrine on men's teachings or on visions or revelations. Colossians 2:18
8. Consider who the author of the book of the Bible is, to whom the book is written, the purpose of the book, the intended meaning and the culture that would need to be understood to gain the meaning from the scripture.
9. Interpret the scriptures literally unless the Bible indicates that it is figurative.
10. Believe what God says in His word.