



## Outline for Study

### Pray

Use the following as a guide as you observe the text. Determine what you can just from the text. If the text does not speak about something, don't speculate. Do not use outside resources, commentaries, footnotes, etc., until after you have observed on your own. You can organize your observations in a way that makes sense to you. When you do write an observation, mark down the reference, (chapter and verse).

The following items are to be in the back of your mind as you observe any passage, (you don't have to write down every single thing, just the most significant or unusual):

- \*the five "W's" and an "H", who, what, when, where, why and how
- \*the tone or mood, is there an emotional element (joy, despair, urgency)
- \*look for clues as to what is going on historically, culturally, politically, religiously

The next items definitely write down your observations:

1. Repeated words and phrases
2. Words that you need to define/clarify (you can use dictionaries now for this)
3. What is the main theme? Is there a key verse?
4. If there are any OT passages quoted, go to the OT, read it in its original context
5. If there are any commands write them down, note who they are to
6. If there are any promises write them down, noting who is promising to whom, and are there any conditions
7. Write down what the passage says about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit
8. Is there anything you believe you need to apply to yourself from the passage, act on?
9. Was there anything new to you in this passage?
10. Are there things that interested you, that stood out to you, that you have questions about, or challenged you in the passage, that you need to search out more fully?
11. Using 7 to 10 words, write a title for the chapter

Having observed the passage/chapter on your own, using nothing but your Bible and possibly dictionaries, now you can use other reference works to dig deeper. When writing anything down from these sources, somehow mark these notes to distinguish them as to where they came from, that they are not your own observations.

Be careful to always keep things in their right context, look before and after, look at the word/passage in its relationship to the whole book/letter. Keep to what the original author intended for his audience, what was meant to the hearers of that time, not "what does it mean to me?". (There is a place for personal application, but it should be in right context also. Applications will be wrong if the word/passage is given a wrong meaning, out of context.) Keep looking at the main theme of the book/letter/passage, that will help you stay in the right context.

Scripture never contradicts Scripture

LORD,

I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept Thy will for my life.

I give myself, my life, my all, utterly to Thee, to be Thine forever.

Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit,

use me as Thou wilt, send me where Thou wilt, work out Thy whole will in my life,

at any cost, now and forever.

Attributed to Jimmy Graham <sup>II</sup> 1863-1947