

You Can't Teach the Bible

Every discipline can be taught: that's how it works. Baking a pie, tuning a carburetor, flying a plane, or learning mathematics are all teachable skills. You attend a class, take notes, read, study, practice, and before long, you have a degree of confidence and expertise in whatever your pursuit.

The Bible doesn't work that way. You will not find spiritual growth by attending church services or Bible studies, listening to religious tapes, reading Christian books, attending seminary, or even reading the Bible.

Religion today cannot understand the Bible as it does not have the Spirit of God and is therefore void of truth. Sitting in a church pew, passively listening to the sermon of the week will be of no advantage - you are wasting your time. You will not gain the spiritual depth of knowledge, wisdom, and growth you seek listening to someone who does not understand the Bible. In fact, attending religious services is a sure and certain way to stunt your spiritual growth. Neither can you grow and excel spiritually gathering with people who do not have God's Spirit. The many on the broad road will hold you back and prevent the Spirit's leading you to spiritual maturity. "Play along and get along" is not a formula for success.

Fun Fact: Involvement in the retail religion called Christianity will hurt you spiritually, and could very well compromise your eternity.

They Don't Know

Do not make the mistake of thinking that individuals have the answers: THEY DO NOT! TV personalities, ministers, priests, pastors, preachers, Sunday school teachers cannot help you. Many seminaries with liberal agendas have lost their way long ago: they are the blind leading the blind. Thinking themselves wise they have become fools and have fallen into heresy while leading many astray. They have sent their graduates out into the world to populate the pulpits and missionary fields with a false religion. Think termite bait traps.

Christian books do not have the answers: they are the words of flawed man. These trite, one-dimensional works of self-help and social justice do not even scratch the surface of Biblical truth, offering little more than religious pulp fiction compared to the riches that await you in the Bible. Many authors are decidedly anti-bible, having swallowed whole the error of Reformed Theology, Replacement Theology, Covenant Theology, Amillennialism, Evangelicalism, the Emergent religion, and science-so-called. They are hucksters looking to make a buck, using a collection of out of context Bible verses to give them and their works a thin veneer of credibility, and dupe you into thinking they know anything. This applies double to many commentaries written by reformed theologians who pretend wisdom in explaining Gods Word.

Neither can a person gain true wisdom, understanding, or spiritual growth by reading the words printed in the Bible. And that's the way God designed it.

Like a puzzle, the Bible requires a key: the Spirit of God in you. God Himself, through His Spirit, is the author of the Bible and He will enlighten your mind using your unique attributes, talents,

personality, and experiences, even created nature. God will unveil the mystery of His word as you pursue Him.

Fun Fact: When seeking spiritual growth, the first and most important step is finding your relationship with God. God places in your mind your need for Him. Choosing God is a deliberate decision. You can say yes or no; the proverbial fork in the road. Everything in your life follows that decision. As a child of God, He will give you His Spirit and place into your mind the desire to know and grow spiritually. Again, it is a yes or no decision. If you choose to pursue God, He will satisfy that desire. It is a true statement, that apart from God you can do nothing. God offers, you accept, God satisfies. Simple!

God alone can, and wants nothing more than to completely satisfy you with more than you can ask or think. God wants to give to you abundantly more than you can dream or imagine. What do you need? All you will ever need is a relationship with God, the Bible, and the indwelling Spirit of God.

Pursuit

How do you go about finding God's truth and growing to a Spiritual depth that you cannot now imagine? Desire. Growing in the knowledge of God requires a passionate pursuit: a longing and a yearning to know and understand. As you study and ponder the Word, the Spirit will lead you through the labyrinth of Scripture, opening your eyes and mind, revealing an ever-expanding network of information you could not have otherwise found. As you are drawn deeper into the text, and begin to uncover its secrets, an excitement builds within you that fans a passion to know more.

Let's look at the Bible to see what it says about wanting, searching, and receiving knowledge and wisdom from the hand of God.

Ask, Seek, Knock

Consider Christ's Words:

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it shall be given you;

Seek, and ye shall find;

Knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

When studying Bible text, there are many questions you can ask a passage of scripture to uncover its depth and clarity. In this case, there are four questions that jump out:

1. What do the verses say?
2. What do the verses say when amplified and magnified?

3. What is the **re**-verse?
4. What don't the verses say?

What the Verses Say

In the text you can clearly see there are three requirements: you must ASK, SEEK, KNOCK.

ASK. Asking is a prerequisite to receiving. If you want, you must ask.

God wants you to ask,

- to know what you want
- to form the question in your heart and mind;
- to have a **desire** that prompts the asking,
- to ask with the **faith** that you know you will receive what you ask
- to have the assurance in your heart: **knowing** that God will reward you with what you ask.

SEEK. You must want it enough to go looking for it.

- Like gold:
 - It is worth the seeking
 - It is not in plain sight: it is hidden
 - you must dig for it.
 - If you don't dig, you will not find it.
 - It is treasure of the greatest value that can set the soul free
- When you dig for the treasure you seek, you will find so much more than you ever thought to ask.
- When you find those nuggets of truth that satisfy your thirsty, longing soul, you catch the fever. You can't stop looking. You spend night and day in search of an ever-expansive understanding that you can no longer live without.

Knock. You, knocking, is a step of faith: just stepping up to the door behind which is the possessor and giver of all truth, you calling upon Him to open the door to you. That step of faith is you saying

- It is possible to find what you are looking for
- Knocking is approaching with confidence
- When you knock you expect an answer – the door will open
- When you knock there is a response – God will answer

There is a reward for your effort. To all who ask, seek, and knock: they find, they receive, and God opens the door of truth to them.

The passage uses a familiar father and son theme anyone can understand.

Matthew

7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

TO THEM THAT ASK. God gives good gifts to His children. There are some gifts that require the child of God to **ASK**. If a father loves his son, he will give. But a wise father knows that giving to his son who has neither want nor desire, there is no sense of worth to what is given and the gift is squandered. The father holds back until there is a maturity and a desire and a wanting and a yearning heart and mind that values and appreciates the gift. With maturity and growth comes more and better gifts.

God withholds from His children. Being a child of God means a reconciliation has occurred that joins a person to God. God gives to you His Spirit. The gift of God's Spirit is the beginning of many gifts you receive as you grow and mature.

- God knows what gifts to give to His children
- God knows how to give good gifts to His children
- God knows when to give gifts to his children

If you are indeed a child of God, **ASK, Seek, Knock**: You will receive. It is more than a promise. It is a **guarantee**.

If you are not a child of God, turn to God. He will receive you, give to you His Spirit, and that is the best gift you could ever receive because it is the threshold to everything else, including eternity.

Amplified and Magnified

The second question is looking at the verse magnified; blown up to emphasize the text.

YOU seek and YOU will find

YOU ask and it will be given to YOU

YOU knock and the door will be opened to YOU

What you want and need is intensely personal to you and you alone. No one can do it for you. It is all you. You go after it and what you will find is a treasure chest far greater than you can imagine and worth far more than anything you have, have ever had, or ever will have. It is worth forsaking all else to possess this gift from God.

This magnified read assures you that **YOU WILL** find and receive, and **God WILL** open the door. It is up to you to step forward in faith. God wants you to respond to Him, asking, seeking, knocking. It is no different than any other father and his son.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Reverse

The verse “reverse” is simple:

- If you **do not ask**, ***you will not receive***
- If you **do not seek**, ***you will not find***
- If you **do not knock** ***God will not open the door***

If you are a passive phew sitter at the local church, apathetic and unconcerned, uncaring, spiritually unconscious and content in what you don't know; if you think more of the world than the God who created you, or His Word, or if the trappings of this life have so distracted you from what is truly important and valuable; if you walk around all day with your eyes sucked into a tiny little video screen: then you are truly blind and do not care about your spirit, God, or eternity. It is an absolute certainty you will not grow and mature spiritually. Know that all these things of life, including the local religion, are distractions to draw your attention away from God, to anesthetize you into complacency, and make you settle for the rice cake diet of empty words that will never satisfy, rather than the buffet that God sets before you, if only.

Are you a child of God? If so, are you a babe, immature, satanically tricked and deceived, led astray to the broad road and away from the narrow path of which few find because of cheap, worthless trinkets and shiny stuff of no eternal value. To such as these God shall not bestow His wisdom any more than one would throw pearls to swine. Time to get our priorities straight before it is too late.

What it does not say

These verses speak specifically of want and desire; faith and trust, expectation and reward. It is God imploring you to seek Him; to want more than the nothing that satisfies the multitudes.

These verses do not say you are OK as you are and you will grow spiritually without application. It says the exact opposite.

Ask, Seek, Knock.

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