

How to develop

INSIGHTS

Commonly expressed problems:

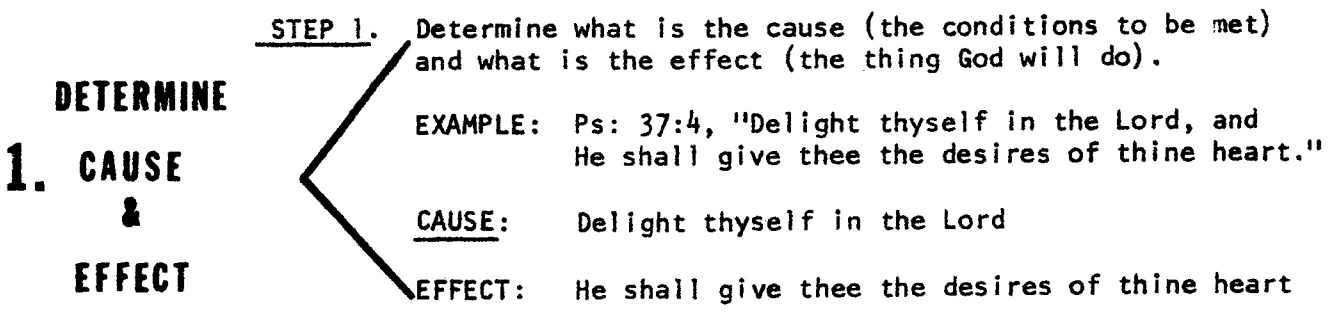
- I have trouble applying Scripture to my daily living.
- I can't seem to relate my personal experiences to Scripture.
- I would like to teach more effectively, but I have trouble making Scripture relevant to my class.
- I try to memorize Scripture, but I have trouble remembering the verses.
- I don't know how to have God's greatest promises (peace, success, wisdom, joy in sorrow, courage, etc.) come true in my own life.

These and other problems can be easily cleared up by learning to draw insights from Scripture. Seeing insights in Scripture will allow God's Word to sink more deeply into our minds, make it easier to memorize, more effectively apply, and more successfully teach. It will "liven up" personal quiet times as you begin to see just how relevant Scripture really is.

HOW TO DRAW INSIGHTS FROM SCRIPTURE

- A. Definition---an INSIGHT is a Biblical fact with practical application.
- B. What to look for---
 - 1. Probably the most common verses lending themselves to insights are the verses containing CAUSE & EFFECT SEQUENCES ("If...then..."). These verses are "conditional"; that is, the result or effect depends on meeting the conditions in the cause. Psalm 37:4 is a CAUSE & EFFECT SEQUENCE.
 - 2. Another type of verse that insights may be drawn from contains PROMISES or COMMANDS. John 15:17 is an example of a command.

C. STEPS IN SEEING INSIGHTS IN SCRIPTURE:



2. LIFE-ORIENTED QUESTION

STEP 2. Take the effect (thing God will do) and turn it into a LIFE-ORIENTED QUESTION.

It would be easy to skip over any one of these steps, and this step is probably the easiest to skip over. But the more you do all four steps, the more you will see the significance of STEP 2. It is a very simple step but does several things. Most especially, it begins the psychological process of "internalizing" (seeing how important it is to me) the Scripture into our lives.

EXAMPLE: Ps. 37:4

EFFECT: He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

LIFE-ORIENTED QUESTION:

"How can I have the desires of my heart?"

3. KEY WORD & DEFINITION

STEP 3. Determine the KEY WORD in the CAUSE (conditions to be met) and DEFINE it.

Note: Many verses will have more than one condition. In that case, choose the key word in each condition.

This is "visualizing what to do" by expanding the meaning of the key words---even if the word is commonly used.

EXAMPLE: Ps. 37:4

KEY WORD & DEFINITION:

"DELIGHT"---ALLOWING THE LORD (Lord means boss) TO BE THE FOCUS OF OUR GREATEST PLEASURE & EXTREME SATISFACTION & JOY, AND GIVING HIM THANKS FOR ALL THINGS.

4. DESIGN STEPS

STEP 4. DESIGN STEPS TO MAKE IT TRUE FOR YOU.

Checking cross references for the word "delight", you will find that Isaiah 58:13,14 reveals a key way to "delight thyself in the Lord":

EXAMPLE: STEPS TO HELP ME DELIGHT MYSELF IN THE LORD:

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable, and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; THEN SHALT THOU DELIGHT THYSELF IN THE LORD. . .THE LORD HATH SPOKEN IT." Isa.58:13,14.

1. Plan out my Sunday activities during the week before and write them down on paper.
 - personal Bible study
 - prayer
 - read missionary biographies
 - etc.

2. Purpose to KEEP FROM DOING The following on Sunday:
 - having my own fun (this is focusing activities on ourselves, rather than on the Lord).

 - carrying on business(buying or selling)
 - following my own desires and pleasure.
 - talking idly

3. Purpose to DO the following on Sunday:
 - enjoy the day (even though we deny ourselves our own pleasures on Sunday, the day will be very enjoyable if we focus it on Jesus Christ).

 - rather than complain, find things about what I am doing in which I can take delight, and then tell someone about it.

 - have every activity be an honor to the Lord.

4. After such a day, write out the true desires of your heart before God.

You will be surprised at how different this list of true desires will be from a list you might have prepared before spending the day in study and meditation and prayer.

SUMMARY

Many problems of relating Scripture to life experiences and vice versa will clear up when a purposeful study is made to draw insights from Scripture. By clearly seeing what God has actually intended our lives to be and the conditions for living that kind of life, we can more readily apply steps to conform our lives to God's plan. And after successfully applying the steps and experiencing the results we will have a vital message to give others.