

# Why is the Bible so Difficult for Some to Understand?

The major issue many people have with understanding the Bible is that they rely on intellectual knowledge to understand matters that are inspired - God-breathed - and too simple for their mental capacity to grasp! This is not meant in an insulting way, because there was a time in my life when the Bible was difficult for me to understand as well. I read it in a storybook/novel fashion. I tried to understand it and quite frankly found much of it hard to believe far less to understand!

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and even though I was unsaved, I believed that. I also believed that what God spoke through the Bible was true because He is God and He does not lie. I mentally accepted all those facts just as I mentally accepted a colloquial saying like "What sweet fuh de mout does bun de belly!" The Biblical equivalent of which is "There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 (AMP)) Many of us believe that because we attend church every week (and perhaps even teach in the church), that we understand the Bible. Many have doctorates in theology and yet do not understand the Bible. Some can quote chapter and verse from Genesis to Revelation and still do not understand the Bible. Yet, a five year old can read a part of the Word of God and totally confound the greatest theologian with one question!

An example of this is the experience of Jesus at twelve years old in the Temple (Luke 2:40-50 CEV) *"<sup>40</sup>The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him.*

## *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

*<sup>41</sup>Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when Jesus was twelve years old, they all went there as usual for the celebration. <sup>43</sup>After Passover his parents left, but they did not know that Jesus had stayed on in the city. <sup>44</sup>They thought he was traveling with some other people and they went a whole day before they started looking for him. <sup>45</sup>When they could not find him with their relatives and friends, they went back to Jerusalem and started looking for him there. <sup>46</sup>Three days later they found Jesus sitting in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was surprised at how much he knew and at the answers he gave. <sup>48</sup>When his parents found him, they were amazed. His mother said, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried, and we have been searching for you!" <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he meant."*

Jesus was in the temple just astounding the doctors of the Law with his question and answer session! Why was this? He was born of the Spirit. He had spiritual insight from the indwelling Holy Spirit therefore the spiritual secrets of the Old Covenant Law were revealed to Him. Later, during His ministry, He dealt with Nicodemus, the teacher of the Law – John 3:9-10 (AMP) *"Nicodemus answered by asking, How can all this be possible? <sup>10</sup>Jesus replied, Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet do not know nor understand these things? [Are they strange to you?]* Notice, Nicodemus was **the** teacher of the Law. This means he was well learned and highly respected. Here was Jesus, the "son of a carpenter" giving him a revelation that he could not comprehend!

The Scribes and Pharisees believed Jesus was a teacher sent from God, but they decided not to accept Him as the Messiah, the Son of God. (John 3:2). They found every reason to argue against His being the Messiah.

People who do not understand the Bible fall into several categories – if you can think of any more, just let me know!

- 1) The lost individuals who are ignorant of the Bible. Some of these live in such remote places that they have never even seen or heard of a Bible.
- 2) The lost individuals who have heard the Gospel message but refuse to read the Bible because they do not wish to alter their lifestyle.
- 3) Those who do not believe in the God of the Bible.
- 4) The religious crowd who have been taught lies and doctrines of devils. They have built up a wall of antagonism against its truths. They refuse to believe what the Bible says because they are caught up in a web of theories and interpretations handed down from generation to generation. Each one more confused than the generation before! (John 8:42-47, Matthew 15:7-14)
- 5) Some people have actually been told that the Bible is a difficult book; therefore they are mentally conditioned to that lie. In some denominations, the vast majority of the congregations leave it for the priest to explain the scriptures. The priests themselves are unregenerate therefore they do not have any revelation of the Biblical truths. They therefore teach what is regurgitated to them at seminary. Much of it is doctrinal error from centuries ago.
- 6) Those who ask the question “Does God really mean what He says?” They ask this because they have heard so many negative remarks about God that they do not understand who God is. They regard Him as an angry, judgmental, and ready- to- punish God who brings death, sickness, and catastrophes of all sorts to teach mankind life-lessons. It is difficult for them to push past that negative portrayal of God therefore they cannot stand on the integrity of God’s Word.
- 7) The intellectual who is so puffed up with pride that they refuse to accept anything their minds cannot comprehend. God is a faith-God therefore the intellectual would never understand simple things like “give it away in order to receive,” “die in order to live” or “be humble so you can be exalted”. Like Nicodemus, they cannot grasp the principle of a spiritual re-birth or a God who can create everything by His Word. They must be able to prove and figure out everything! If they cannot do so then it is unacceptable!
- 8) Those who feel they know it all and have heard it all before. Instead of checking the teaching with the Word of God, they refuse to accept any other teaching that goes against the grain of their beliefs. Those beliefs are often erroneous doctrine created by a man or woman claiming to have received different or additional revelation from that taught by the early Apostles and written in the Bible. These people often cannot understand the Word of God unless it is “explained” or “expanded upon” by the twisted excerpts from another book written by these “apostles” or “prophets”.

In Matthew 9:17-17 (AMP) Jesus said *“And no one puts a piece of cloth that has not been shrunk on an old garment, for such a patch tears away from the garment and a worse rent (tear) is made. <sup>17</sup>Neither is new wine put in old wineskins; for if it is, the skins burst and are torn in pieces, and the wine is spilled and the skins are ruined. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”*

Jesus is telling His listeners that the old way of doing things under an Old Covenant was about to go. He had come to cut a New Covenant with a new way of doing things. He had come to usher in God’s Kingdom. The days of man’s subservience to evil were over. If we try to marry the old with the new it just won’t work! The move of the Spirit and the observance Old Covenant Law and regulations cannot mesh together!

To understand the Bible, we must come with a new approach. We must wipe our minds clean of our old teachings and doctrines and once we are born again, the indwelling Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth!

Learning is by the brain, revelation is from the Spirit of God. The Bible is an inspired Book – it is God-breathed. It was written by the hand of man from the heart of God. The revelation of Jesus Christ is not just the last book in the Bible. It is the entire Bible. We must grasp the scarlet thread of the redeeming Blood from Genesis to Revelation. As we take hold of that thread, we begin to comprehend what God is saying to us. We begin to see all that He has given to us and all He has done for us.

If you are reading this and find difficulty understanding the Bible, you may not be saved. Please visit our [Salvation Page](#) to see how to accept Jesus as Lord and receive the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to help you understand God's letter to you.