

Bible Interpretation

The Acts through the
Revelation

I AM NOW in the presence of pure Being, and immersed in the Holy Spirit of life, love and wisdom.

I acknowledge Thy presence and Thy power, O blessed Spirit; in thy divine wisdom I now erase my mortal limitations and from Thy pure substance of love bring into manifestation my world, according to Thy perfect law.

Charles Fillmore

Four-Step Process of Metaphysical Bible Interpretation

**Step One: Select, Read and
Study the Scripture**

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- Select the passage to be studied
- Read the passage several times
- Consult a Bible dictionary for general information on distinctive or unfamiliar words

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- Consult Bible commentaries and handbooks for historical and scholastic information on the biblical book, chapter, and verse

Step One: Select, Read and Study the Scripture

- Consult a Bible atlas to determine the location of the Biblical event
- Gain a basic understanding of the story line

Step Two: Identify the Key Words and Phrases

- Scan the passage for those verses and words that you feel are most important to the meaning of the story line or are unique in character
- Nouns: proper names, people, places, objects, animals

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- Verbs: actions, movement, thought, feeling
- Other words or phrases that are descriptive of the scene

Step Three: Develop Interpretations for the Words

- Consult the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary for suggested interpretations of proper names, name places, and special words (i.e. Adam, Jesus, Egypt, Nazareth, Logos, serpent, etc.)

Step Three: Develop Interpretations for the Words

- Consult an English dictionary (such as Webster's Dictionary) and a thesaurus for the meaning of and synonyms for common words (i.e. assurance, good, judgment, lyre, righteousness, treasure, etc.)

Step Three: Develop Interpretations for the Words

- Use *Strong's Concordance's* Hebrew and Greek dictionaries to obtain exegetical information on selected words
- Consider how the words represent states of consciousness (i.e. doubt, faith, love, praise, temptation, etc.)

Step Four: Allow the Metaphysical Meaning to Emerge

- Study, pray, and meditate on the overall story and the individual words interpreted in Step Three
- Consult metaphysical interpretation books that interpret the selected passage

Step Four: Allow the Metaphysical Meaning to Emerge

- Think about how these states of consciousness might correspond to events in your own life (i.e., healing of illness, conquering financial problems, dealing with persecution, feeling an overwhelming sense of joy, etc.

Step Four: Allow the Metaphysical Meaning to Emerge

- Utilize the many interpretive lenses (i.e. factual, historical, dramatic, comedic, etc.)
- Explore common metaphysical themes (i.e. illumination, healing, prosperity, etc.) as they might apply

Step Four: Allow the Metaphysical Meaning to Emerge

- Apply your own innate creative intelligence look at the story from many vantage points and perspectives
- Remember, the metaphysical interpretive lens has an allegorical, psychological and spiritual dimension

Step Four: Allow the Metaphysical Meaning to Emerge

- Finally, ask yourself, what jumps out at you about the passage? What clicks in you when you read it? Look for the personal, spiritual dimension that rises to the surface of your mind
- Write down your interpretation as soon as it is revealed to you

ASK YOURSELF

- How am I like one of the characters?
- What feeling does the passage evoke?
- How does the passage bring me closer to God?

ASK YOURSELF

- What is the lesson?
- Is there growth?
- What quality like love, faith, or hope is represented?

IDEAS

- Do an interpretation that is set in today's world
- Make it comical
- Make it dramatic
- Use a theme like faith, love, tithing and put more than one story together
- Be creative!

What is Maeutics?

- From: *Awakening the Fire Within*
- 3 Step Story Interpretation Process
- Maieutic
- Pronunciation: mA-‘yu-tik
- Adjective

What is Maeutics?

- **Etymology:** Greet maieutikos of midwifery; relating to or resembling the Socratic method of eliciting new ideas from another

How Do I Start?

- **Pray, meditate, contemplate**
- **Read the Scripture Passage**
- **Pray, meditate, contemplate**

1. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE STORY?

- This step is about exploration.
- Know the culture and context of the passage.

1. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE STORY?

- What is happening in the Scripture before and after the passage?
- What are the cultural implications of the main elements of the story?

What were the customs of the day regarding:

- Women and children
- Samaritans and Pharisees
- Weddings and feasts
- Housing and the way people lived

What were the customs of the day regarding:

- Common objects: mustard weed, leaven, water, wine, etc.
- Who are the characters? How are they related?
- Significance of places

Perspective

- Think and feel the passage with different lenses.
- Is there one lens that is more important than another?

Perspective

- Use different perspectives to determine what is happening for each of the characters.

Perspective

- If reading the New Testament, explore Aramaic terms or idioms
- Use *The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary* and *The Revealing Word* to help define people, places and symbols.

Perspective

- Use quiet contemplation to open the space for a deeper meaning to emerge
- Instead of asking, “What does it mean?” ask “How does it feel?” or “What do I think?” “Do I feel it in a certain part of my body?” “What does it bring up in me?”

2. HOW IS THIS STORY HAPPENING IN THE WORLD AROUND ME?

- This step is a bridge between the subjective and spiritual interpretation that reveals the collective and cultural expression of the issue.

2. HOW IS THIS STORY HAPPENING IN THE WORLD AROUND ME?

- Encouraging the student to respond with a wide variety of interpretations will draw out a richness of consciousness in each individual

“How is this pertinent to us today?”

- Use intuition rather than logical analysis
- If this were a current news story, what would it mean to me?
- How would it change my life?

“How is this pertinent to us today?”

- How can the truth it teaches be put into practice?
- What are the political, social, economic, cultural and religious stresses that come into play both in the Bible passage and in life today?

3. HOW IS THE STORY AN EVENT IN MY LIFE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

- Use prayer, meditation and contemplation.
- Consider the story as an ongoing event in his/her life.

3. HOW IS THE STORY AN EVENT IN MY LIFE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

- Identify the characters and determine if one speaks more to your heart than the others.

Ask yourself:

- How does it relate to me?
- How is the story an event in my life?
- What changes does it call forth within me?

Ask yourself:

- What do I need to release in order for this Truth to be actualized in me?
- How will it transform my life?