

Observation

Observation – What does it say? What do I see?

When we study the Bible, we are constantly zooming out and zooming in.

Zoom out

Context – Mark 8:27 “Who do men say that I am?”

Culture – Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Historical considerations – Food offered to idols. The Bible was written “for us” not “to us.”

Author – A doctor, a commercial fisherman and an IRS agent walked into church one day. If you were to ask each of them what they experienced, do you think their answers would be influenced by their profession?

Zoom in

Word studies – the Lamb (Gen. 22, Ex. 12, Is. 53, John the Baptist, Rev. 21-22).

Grammar – “In everything give thanks.” Not “for everything.” Jesus said, “I have been *with* you but the Holy Spirit will be *in* you.”

Cross reference – how do other authors use this word? Parakaleo.

Ask questions – Who, what, when, why, where (Messianic secret) and how?

Look for things that are:

Emphasized – Gen. 1 “God said” and “God called.”

Repeated – 2 Cor. 1

Like terms – Kingdom of God/Heaven.

Comparison using “like” or “as”. “As the deer panteth...”

Unlike terms (contrast)

“You have heard it said but I say to you.” “Old man, new man.”

“The kingdom of Heaven is like...”

Observation never ends. Ps. 22, “My God, my God...”

One last thing – feel free to mark up your Bible. Circle, underline, color, notes...

Prof. Hendricks - 25 observations of Acts 1:8. We must constantly develop the powers of observation.