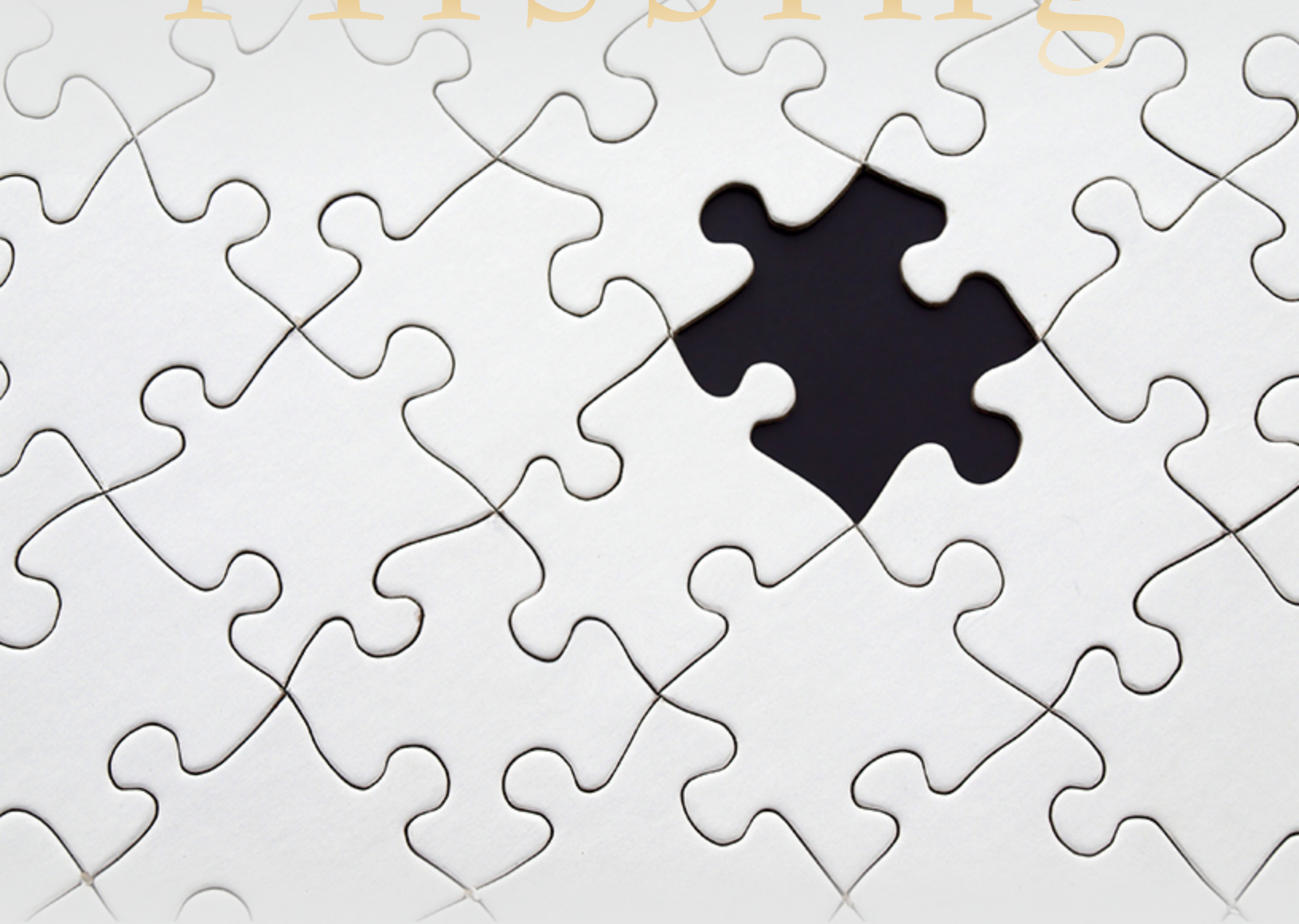
Is Something Vital Missing



From *Your* Bible Education?

Is Something Vital Missing from *Your* Bible Education?

Reasoning Apart from Listening to God And the Implications for Christian Colleges

Thesis: Knowledge that is received or transmitted through reason without listening to God brings one under a curse, while knowledge that is received or transmitted through revelation brings one under a blessing.

God's Original Design for Man – To live out of revelation knowledge

God designed man to be a daily recipient of revelation knowledge. In the Garden of Eden, man walked and talked with God. Adam and Eve were receiving revelation knowledge daily from Almighty God. Jesus also demonstrated this lifestyle of doing nothing out of His own initiative, but only what He heard and saw the Father doing (Jn. 5:19,20,30).

Satan's Temptation – That man descend to reason without listening to God

Satan entered God's perfect plan with a temptation: Man could become like God, and man could know right from wrong. Man would no longer need to receive revelation from God, but he could turn to his own mind and he himself could know – separate and apart from God (Gen. 3:5).

In suggesting to man that he could become like God and he could know, satan was suggesting to man two things: self consciousness, and reliance upon his reason alone or rationalism as a way of establishing truth.

Mankind accepted this lie and fell from revelation to reasoning alone. As a result, he was cursed. Part of that curse was that God cut man off from the Tree of Life (Gen. 3:22), where Jesus was the vine and man was a branch and there was a flow of revelation through man on a daily ongoing basis (Jn. 15).

Moreover, man soon learned that by living out of reason without listening to God he is not able to fulfill God's purposes for his life, because man's thoughts are not God's thoughts, nor are man's ways God's ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's thoughts higher than man's thoughts (Isa. 55:9). Man was told not to depend upon his own thoughts (Prov. 3:5)

Mankind accepted this lie and fell from revelation to reasoning alone. As a result, he was cursed.

Serving God using reasoning apart from listening to God results in catastrophe

Try as hard as man would to cooperate with the visions that God would give to him, it only brought a curse rather than a blessing.

Abram and Sarai thought and reasoned together, without listening to God as to how they could bring forth the completion of the vision that God

had given to them of blessing the earth through their seed. However, the result of their thoughts was Ishmael. Ishmael was rejected by God, and brought a curse for thousands of years to come (Gen. 16, 17).

Moses knew in his heart that God had called him to be a deliverer of his people from Egyptian bondage. Using his own thoughts and efforts without listening to God, he killed the first Egyptian he saw hurting an Israelite. God rejected this offering of reason and self-effort from Moses, and took him to the backside of the wilderness for 40 years, where He taught him to see vision and to hear His voice. Then God brought Moses back out of the wilderness as a Spirit-anointed leader who moved by revelation knowledge.

Paul was a man who had the best-reasoned religious education of his day. It was built squarely around sound theology – about who God is and what God wanted of His people. However, this training missed the element of revelation knowledge. Then God entered into Paul's life with revelation knowledge on the Damascus road, and Paul followed up this initial experience with an additional three years of private tutoring by the Holy Spirit, alone in the Arabian Wilderness – most likely at Mount Sinai (Gal. 1:17,18).

Paul then compared the two kinds of knowledge he had received – first with reasoned, theological biblical understanding apart from listening to God, and then with knowledge that came from revelation and intimacy and from the Spirit of God. He said that he counted his first education as dung (Phil. 3:1-10) when compared with the value of knowing (*ginosko*) God (having intimacy and revelation knowledge from God).

Peter used reasoned knowledge and self-effort to defend Jesus by force when the soldiers came to take Jesus from Gethsemane. Jesus rebuked Peter, telling him to put the sword away and undoing the results of his efforts. Peter subsequently learned how to receive revelation knowledge and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible does not endorse reasoning apart from listening to God

Man's use of reasoning alone is never endorsed in Scripture. Reason is only mentioned on two occasions in the Gospels. Each time Jesus rebuked the individuals for their faulty way of thinking.

Man's use of reason apart from listening to God is never endorsed in Scripture. Reason is only mentioned on two occasions in the Gospels. Each time Jesus rebuked the individuals for their faulty way of thinking.

- The Disciples (Matt. 16:5-12; Mk. 8:15-18) "Perceive ye not, neither understand? Have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? And having ears, hear ye not?"
- The Pharisees (Mark 2:5-12; Lk. 5:21-24) "Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"

They were reasoning apart from listening to God.

People who apply reason apart from listening to God generally come against the moves of God

Stephen said, "You are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which of the prophets did your fathers not kill?" (Acts 7:51,52). To prove his point, the religious people stoned him on the spot. When I looked at the Toronto-type renewal, my reasoning said, "Everything is to be done decently and in order." However, when I tuned to my spirit, God spoke to me and said, "How do you get drunk decently and in order." Had I been trained to live out of reason alone, I would have rejected the Toronto renewal. Since I was trained to live out of my heart and out of revelation, I have embraced it.

Two Kinds of Knowledge

Man's/satan's knowledge

1. Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
2. Through reason – mind alone
3. Through study
4. Called "Knowledge"
5. Wisdom from below – producing pride
6. Greek (detached knowledge)

God's knowledge

1. Tree of Life
2. Through revelation – heart
3. Through meditation
4. Called "True Knowledge"
5. Wisdom from above – producing humility
6. Hebrew (*Lamad* training)

Summary

- Any training that centers on man, the mind alone and study will be man's knowledge.
- Man's thoughts are not God's thoughts; man's ways are not God's ways (Isa 55:9). Even man's religious thoughts are not God's thoughts and man's religious ways are not God's ways (Which of the prophets did your fathers not kill? Acts 7:51,52).
- Any training that centers on God, the heart, divine revelation and Spirit-led reason will be God's knowledge.

Supporting Scriptural Foundation for the Above Comparative List

1 The Tree of Knowledge versus the Tree of Life

Satan tempted Eve to doubt God's words and love toward her and to become like god **herself, knowing good and evil**. She could live out of her own mind, without communion with God. She chose reason alone, and began to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thus being cut off from the Tree of Life (i.e. the divine flow of God within her). See Genesis 3.

2 God chooses revelation and Spirit-led reason rather than reason alone

"But just as it is written, 'THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.' For to us ***God revealed them through the Spirit****; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God." (1 Cor. 2: 9-10 NASU)*

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart And **do not lean on your own understanding**. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil." (Prov. 3:5-7 NASU)*

The **only** command in the Bible to reason is found in Isaiah 1:18. You will note two things about this command. Reason is only encouraged if done together with God, and when done together with God, it involves the use of imagery, which is a right brain function, and not normally considered as part of the reasoning process in the western culture.

"'Come now, and let us reason together,' Says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.'" (Isa. 1:18 NKJV)

3 God chooses meditation rather than study

The Greek in II Timothy 2:15 does not say, "**Study** to show yourself approved, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed…." This is a mistranslation.

In the Greek, and in the NASB it says,

***"Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15 NASU)*

Thus there is no verse in the Bible recommending study. Instead, the Bible recommends, some 20 times, meditation. Joshua 1:8 is an example of this. Biblical meditation is very different from study, as the following pages on "Study Versus Meditation" illustrate.

There is no verse in the Bible recommending study.

4 Revelation knowledge is called "true knowledge." It is actually knowledge coming from the Spirit and thus is called the Spirit of knowledge

*"Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the **true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (II Peter 1:3 NASU)*

*"And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The **spirit of knowledge** and the fear of the LORD." (Isa.11:2 NAS)*

Rationalism is the use of unanointed reason. True knowledge includes the heart, involving meditation and revelation by the Holy Spirit. Webster defines religion as "reliance upon reason for the establishing of religious truth." Thus religion and Christianity are totally different, as nowhere in the Bible does it recommend the reliance upon reason alone to establish your Christian beliefs. Any exhaustive study of the word "reason" in the Bible will convince one of this.

5 Wisdom from above versus wisdom from below

James differentiates between **two sources** of wisdom: It is either from above or from below. It's interesting that he only lists two. Many of us would want to list three - above, below and self.

"This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." (James 3:15-17 NASU)

Knowledge (apart from listening to God) makes arrogant (1 Cor 8:1 NASU).

Paul's reliance upon the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2)

"And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.
2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,
4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.
6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;
7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;
8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;
9 but just as it is written,
"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."
10 FOR TO US GOD REVEALED THEM THROUGH THE SPIRIT; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.
11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.
12 NOW WE HAVE RECEIVED, not the spirit of the world, but THE SPIRIT WHO IS FROM GOD, SO THAT WE MAY KNOW THE THINGS FREELY GIVEN TO US BY GOD,
13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, BUT IN THOSE TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT, COMBINING SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS WITH SPIRITUAL WORDS.
14 But a NATURAL MAN DOES NOT ACCEPT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.
16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ."
NASU

Aren't things like algebra, physics, history and learning a skill just natural, and not necessarily godly or demonic?

Is there a third kind of knowledge – Natural knowledge from self?

Aren't things like algebra, physics, history and learning a skill just natural, and not necessarily godly or demonic? What does the Bible teach? Can knowledge come from self, and be transmitted from yourself to another person? Yes, it can. The question is, "Is this knowledge God's, satan's or self's?

To answer this question, we will recall what the Bible teaches self is, and what the Bible teaches about the function of man when God first created him, and then when He redeemed him.

The four pictures of man in the New Testament are a vessel, a temple, a branch grafted into a vine and a body of which Jesus is the head. In all four of these pictures, you will note that man has not been designed to operate alone, but out of another, out of an indwelling Spirit.

That is consistent with God's intent at creation. Man was designed to live in and out of communion with Almighty God. He drew from the Tree of Life. Man communed daily with God, even as Jesus did. "I can do nothing on my own initiative. As I hear I judge" (Jn. 5:19,20,30). Jesus chose not to live out of His own reasoning, but out of divine flow of words, pictures, and anointing. Jesus did not choose natural knowledge, but divinely imparted revelation knowledge.

At the new birth, the Christian reconnects with the indwelling Spirit of God, (1 Cor. 6:17), and learns to live out of this inner union (Gal. 5:25 - walk and live by the Spirit).

We live now as a branch grafted into a vine, drawing from the river of God within our spirits. We have discovered the river, we tune to the river, we experience the river and we live out of the river (Ezek.47:1 ff)

All knowledge has a spiritual base (Isa. 11:2). That base will either be God, satan or self. Self is quickly ground for satan, for there are no spiritual vacuums in the universe. What God does not fill, satan quickly usurps.

6 Greek versus Hebrew learning

The Hebrew language uses one root (*lamad*) for the two words "to teach" and "to learn". In the Hebrew culture, the teacher has not taught unless the student has learned. All learning and teaching are ultimately to be found in the fear of the Lord. The goal of teaching is not the impartation of facts but the changing of lives. For the Hebrews, knowledge (*yadah*) involves personal encounter and response to God's revelation.
In the lamad method of learning, we are returning to the Hebraic concept of education, including this personal encounter and revelation. The classroom becomes a place of impassioned discussion and the sharing of real-life experience. It is a place where we meet God and share in the life experiences of others. The classroom becomes a place where we experience and practice revelation knowledge. The classroom is not separated from life but is actually part of our lives.

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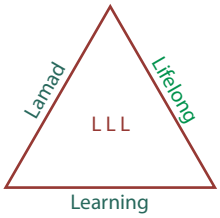
The lamad educational format offers the following unique emphases

1. We value the principle of hiding the Word in our hearts (Ps. 119:11) so highly that Lamad education requires participants to memorize a life-changing verse from the Bible in nearly every lesson of every course.
2. We value the principle of acting only according to the Father's initiative (Jn. 5:30; 8: 26; 14:10) so highly that Lamad education requires participants to hear from God personally in every lesson, and to record what He is saying to them.
3. We value the principle of writing for ourselves a copy of Scripture (Deut. 17:18,19) so highly that Lamad education requires participants to write out Scriptures in nearly every lesson.

Memorization of the Bible, hearing from the Holy Spirit, and writing out Scriptures are central to the Lamad educational format.

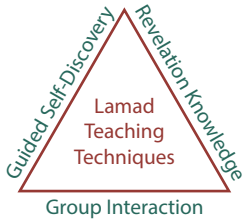
Greek vs. Hebrew: The Lamad Method of Learning

Lamad Lifelong Learning



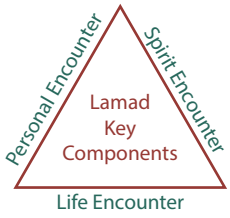
Learning is to be lifelong. It is impossible to cram education into the early years of our lives. Learning, transformation, assimilation, and creativity are lifelong matters, with extended periods of time being given to first one topic and then another, until one's giftedness has been multiplied many fold (Matt. 25: 20).

Lamad Teaching Techniques



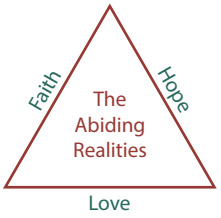
Personal encounter demands a teaching style of guided self-discovery, where the student is guided in his own uncovering of the truth. Lamad learning encourages the flow of revelation within the hearts of the students. Discovery often happens best in a lively interchange within the classroom. Therefore, effective group interaction must be promoted and guided by the Lamad teacher.

Lamad Key Components



The Greeks emphasized "detached information," while the Hebrews stressed "personal encounter." It was important to the Hebrews that each learner personally encounter and be transformed by what was before them. Spiritual encounter and response to the revelation of God is the central dynamic of Scripture. The classroom is life. If we offer classes, we must make sure they are life encounters in which we practice truth.

The Abiding Realities



"Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13: 13). Certain things are central to life and eternity; others are not. Anger, fear, and doubt are temporary and will be swallowed up by the realities that abide forever: faith, hope, and love. The Lamad curriculum constantly emphasizes the abiding realities, instilling them in the lives of its students.

Goal of Instruction

Lamad learning recognizes the GOAL of our instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith (I Tim. 1:5). You will notice that all of these are HEART realities. The mind is made to serve the heart. All training is to be heart-focused. Mankind has been FORBIDDEN to eat from the "tree of knowledge of good and evil." Instead, he is to eat from the "tree of Life," Jesus Christ!

The Trinity

Man is to live caught in the flow of God. This is accomplished by lifting up our eyes in worship to the King, becoming consumed by His presence. While we are in the Lord's presence, we acknowledge that we no longer live, but that Christ is our life, and the life we now live is by faith (Gal. 2:20). We live out of daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit, recognizing that everything done outside of Divine Flow is a dead work.

Paul called his religious teachers **dogs** and the education he received from them **dung.** Is it possible that **you** are duplicating his experience?

The apostle Paul was trained in one of the best Bible schools of his day, using the Bible, reason apart from listening to God and theology. Then he had to be totally retrained by God, using revelation knowledge, which came to him initially on the Damascus road, and then through three years in the Arabian wilderness (Gal. 1:16.18). Paul describes his first Bible school training as being from dogs and from evil workers. He equates it with manure.

Philippians 3:1-11
KJV

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.
2 ***Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the circumcision.***
3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:
5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; ***as touching the law, a Pharisee;***
6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.
8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, ***and do count them but dung,*** *that I may win Christ,*
9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:
10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

Isn't that enough? If we had a Bible school requiring Bible study, obedience to the Word, repentance, and zeal; and a student dutifully fulfilled all these requirements, would that not be great?

Paul's first Bible School training endorsed a belief that reasoning apart from listening to God was acceptable

Paul was completely trained two distinctly different ways: first using reason, rationalism and theology (Phil. 3:1-7), and second through revelation knowledge (Acts 9:22, Gal. 1:17). During his first Bible school learning experience, his situation represented the following:

- His heart hungered for God.
- His zeal was fervent.

- His trainers were the best Jewish educational academy the world had to offer.
- The training did not come from revelation knowledge or revelation experience. It did not demand interaction with God on a spiritual level (direct inner encounter with God).
- The training did require a mental commitment to thoroughly study, memorize and obey the Bible, an emotional commitment (a heart of repentance), and a commitment of one's will to zealously follow after God.
- Paul offered up his mind, emotions and will unto God in his seminary training. He was a model student, performing at an "A level" in each and every aspect of his learning (Phil. 3: 1-10).

Isn't that enough? If we had a Bible school requiring all of the above (Bible study, obedience to the Word, repentance, and zeal) and a student dutifully fulfilled all these requirements, would that not be great? Not according to Paul. He called it all "dung." That's a pretty strong word for such a wonderful Bible school training experience.
Why did Paul call it dung? What was it missing? What did it need to make it a true Christian training experience of value and not just a pile of manure?

Paul's retraining by the Spirit: total reliance upon the Holy Spirit's revelation

It needed spiritual encounter. It needed to make room for God to meet Paul directly with dreams, visions, revelation, Spirit-led reasoning and anointing. That is what Paul received on the Damascus Road and in his three years in the Arabian desert (Gal. 1:17). That is also what Moses learned during his 40 years in the backside of the wilderness (i.e. at the burning bush), and what Jesus received during his 40 days of temptation by satan in the wilderness.

Paul's first education (as a Pharisee) missed actual spiritual encounter. He learned about God rather than experiencing God. His class times did not lead him into the experience of God, but rather the study of God. Thus he ended up in religion rather than in Christianity. Religion is the stirring up of the soul of man (man's use of the mind, will and emotions) to follow God. The mind is stirred so one sets it to study and believe. The will is stirred so that one sets it toward seeking God, and the emotions are stirred so that one chooses to love God.

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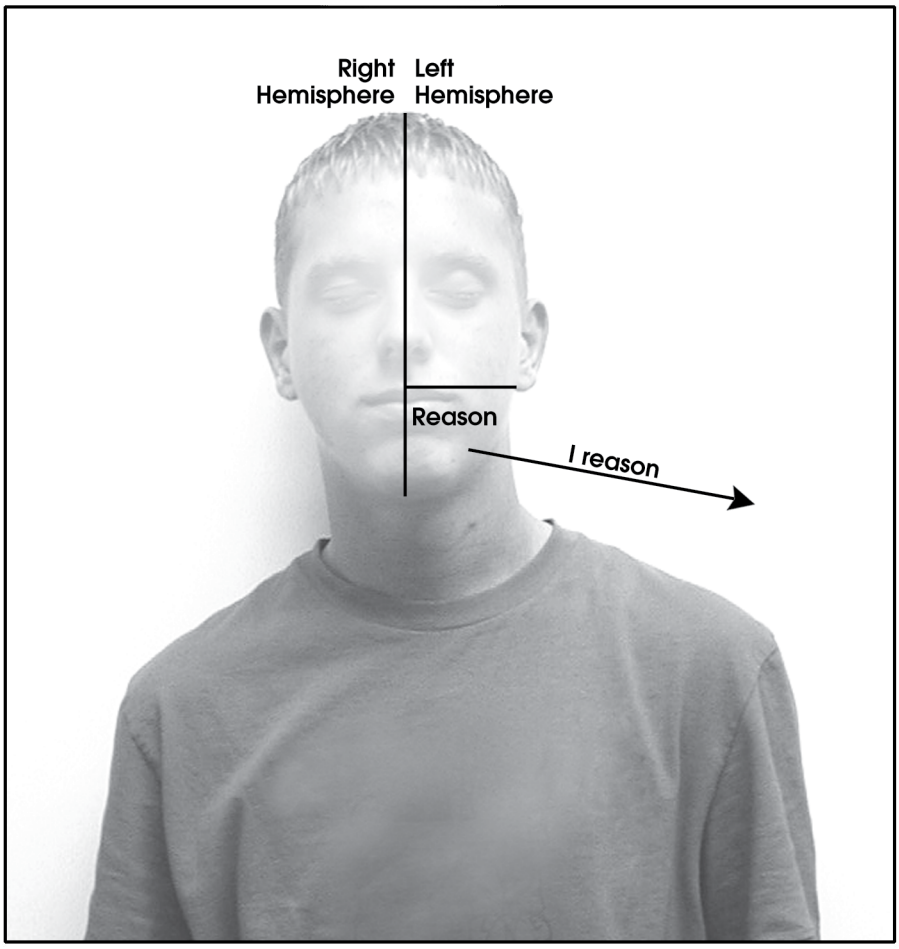
Growth in Christianity, on the other hand, is the encounter of the spirit of man with the indwelling Spirit of God. It is the ***experience*** of revelation and anointing of God, through receiving the dream, vision, voice, Spirit-led reasoning and power of Almighty God. Christianity is the restoration of the ongoing divine communion God had with Adam in the Garden of Eden and the second Adam, Jesus, who did nothing out of His own initiative – which I suppose one would assume meant that He did not reason on His own, without the Holy Spirit being part of the process. Christianity is God coming to man. Religion encourages man to stir his soul up to obey and follow after God.

Study
(Greek/Western)

"Application of the mental faculties
to the acquisition of knowledge"
(***Webster***)



Study (My use of one part of one hemisphere of my brain)

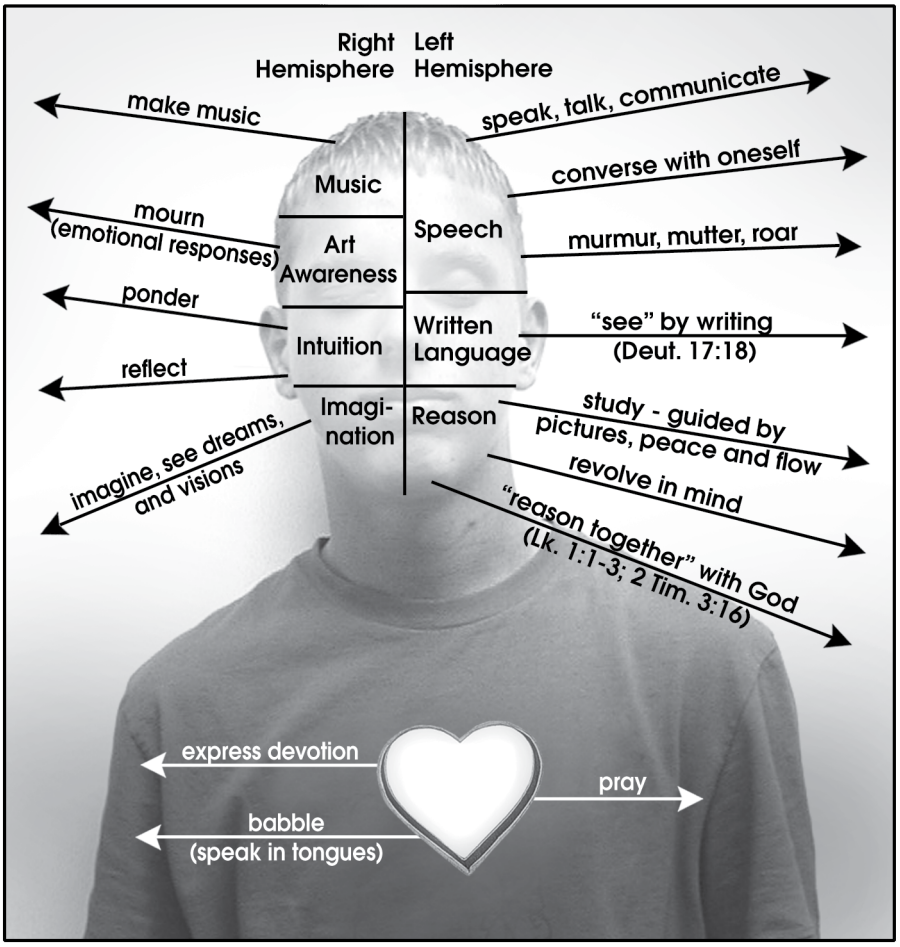
1. Is nowhere endorsed in Scripture (2 Tim. 2:15 is a mis-translation in the KJV Bible).
2. Is self in action (Humanism – a false god).
3. Is self using reason apart from listening to God (Rationalism – a false god).
4. Results in wisdom from below – earthly, natural, demonic (Jas. 3:15). For example, unanointed reason caused Peter to be at odds with the purposes of God (Jn. 18:10,11).

Study violates the following biblical principles:

1. Gal. 2:20 – I resurrect self, which no longer lives.
2. Rom. 12:1 – I am using my faculties rather than presenting them before God to use.
3. Is. 1:18 – I'm reasoning alone, rather than reasoning together with God.
4. Gen. 3:5 – I've fallen prey to the temptation of the Garden of Eden that "I can know good and evil," apart from listening to God.

Meditation
(Hebrew/Lamad)

"To murmur; to converse with oneself, and hence aloud; speak; talk; babbling; communication; mutter; roar; mourn; a murmuring sound; i.e. a musical notation; to study; to ponder; revolve in the mind; imagine; pray; prayer; reflection; devotion"
(***Strong's Exhaustive Concordance****)



Meditation (God's use of every part of both hemispheres of my brain as He fills and flows out through my heart by His Spirit)

1. Is endorsed 18 times in the KJV Bible.
2. Is God in action within the individual.
3. Is God granting revelation through the heart and mind which has been yielded to Him.
4. Results in wisdom from above – pure, peaceable, gentle (Jas. 3:17).

Meditation applies the following biblical principles:

1. Gal. 2:20 – I let Christ live through me.
2. Rom. 12:1 – I am yielding my outer faculties to the indwelling Spirit (i.e. to "flow" – Jn. 7:38).
3. Is. 11:2 – When reasoning together with God, I receive a **spirit** of wisdom, understanding and knowledge. I experience Spirit-led reasoning.
4. Jn. 5:19,20,30 – I'm living as Jesus did, out of divine initiative, doing what I see and hear my Father doing.

*Old Testament numbers: 1897, 1900, 1901, 1902, 7878, 7879, 7881; New Testament numbers: 3191, 4304

How to Receive Revelation Knowledge

An example of revelation knowledge is when you are reading the Bible and a verse leaps off the page, hits you between the eyes, and God says, "This is for you right now." These are precious experiences for the believer. However, for many, they do not happen often enough. There are seven things I do which allow me the privilege of receiving revelation knowledge every time I read the Bible. Truth and insights leap off the page and an understanding of how they are to adjust my life permeates my spirit and soul. I love this experience and hunger for it every time I read the Scriptures. That is why I prepare myself by doing the following seven things. Prayerfully reflect on these steps and determine which ones you do and don't use.

Biblical Meditation

Resulting in illumination, revelation knowledge, Spirit-led reasoning

Do Not Do This: Left-brain Study/Rational Humanism	But Do This: Whole-brain/Heart Meditation/Divine Revelation
1. Have unconfessed sin	1. Be washed by Jesus' blood
2. Have a pre-conceived attitude	2. Have a teachable attitude
3. Be independent: "I can..."	3. Pray: "Lord, show me"
4. Read quickly	4. Slow down, ponder, muse
5. Rely on reason & analysis only	5. Combine Spirit-led reason, flowing pictures, music & speech
6. Read without specific purpose	6. Read with focused purpose
7. Take credit for insights	7. Glorify God for insights

The Seven Steps of Biblical Meditation Explained:

1 **Lord, cleanse me by Your blood:** Since receiving divine revelation is at the heart of biblical meditation, you must prepare yourself to receive from the Holy Spirit by repenting and being cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. You must be obedient to previous revelations from God (Matt. 7:6), and confess any sin in your life, so you are not cut off from ongoing revelation (Is. 59:1,2; I Jn. 1:9).

2 **Lord, grant me a teachable attitude:** Revelation is given to those who maintain an attitude of humility, and it is withheld from the proud and the arrogant. So keep an open, humble attitude before God, allowing Him the freedom to shed greater light on any ideas you currently hold and to alter them as He sees fit (Jas. 4:6; II Pet. 1:19).

3 **Lord, I will not use my faculties myself:** You can do nothing of your own initiative but only what you hear and see by the Spirit (Jn. 5:19,20,30). You do not have a mind to use, but a mind to present to God so He can use it and fill it with Spirit-led reason and divine vision (Prov. 3:5-7; Rom. 12:1,2). If you use your mind yourself apart from listening to God, it is a dead work (Heb. 6:1,2).

4 **Lord, I pray that the eyes of my heart might be enlightened:** Slow down as you read, mulling the text over and over in your heart and mind, praying constantly for God to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph. 1:17,18; Ps. 119:18).*

5 **Lord, I present the abilities to reason and to imagine to You to fill and flow through by Your Spirit:** Meditation involves presenting your faculties to God for Him to fill and use. These include your left-brain reasoning capacities as well as your right-brain visual capacities. Look for the river of God (i.e., "Spirit flow") to guide and fill both hemispheres, granting you anointed reasoning and dream and vision (Jn. 7:37-39). Music can assist you, as can muttering, speaking, and writing as you go through the discovery process (2 Kings 3:15).

6 **Lord, show me the solution to the problem I am facing:** Focused attention brings additional energies of concentration of heart and mind, which help release revelation. For example, note the difference between a ray of sunlight hitting a piece of paper, and sunlight going through a magnifying glass to hit a piece of paper. The focused energy creates a ray so concentrated that the paper bursts into flames. When you have a hunger to master a new understanding and discipline, that hungry and searching heart will cause you to see things you would not normally see (Matt. 5:6).

7 **Thank You, Lord, for what You have shown me:** Realizing that the revelation came from the indwelling Holy Spirit, give all the glory to God for what has been revealed (Eph. 3:21).

Another Great Aid to "Seeing": Writing Out Scripture

When you write or type out a verse, you discover words which you otherwise might have missed.

The following is the law which God gave for new kings who had just been crowned and were coming to sit upon their throne for the first time:

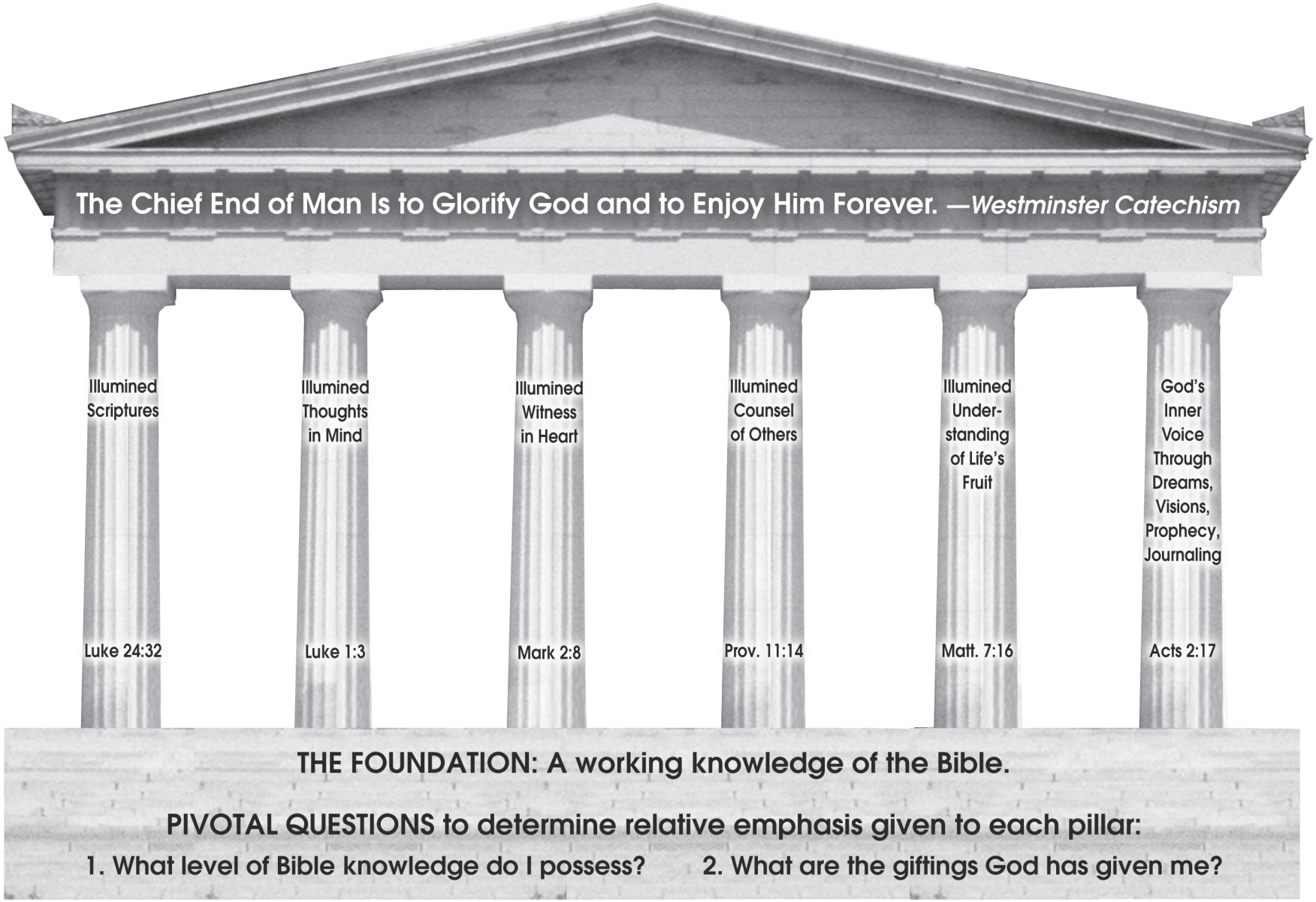
> *"Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests" (Deut. 17:18).*

Since we are kings and priests, are we to do any less (1 Pet. 2:9)? Let us make the writing out of Scriptures an important part of our lives.

*Review "Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice," available free at www.cwgministries.org/4keys

The Leader's Paradigm for Discovering Truth

- For creative decision-making
- Built upon the skillful interaction of the six pillars
- For discovering truth



The Leader's Paradigm for Discovering Truth

Pillar #	Key Verse	How Experienced	How Compared
Pillar One Illumined Scriptures	And they said one to another, "Did not our hearts burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32)	This pillar is experienced as the Holy Spirit illumines Scriptures to you — you sense them leaping off the page or just coming to your attention spontaneously.	This pillar could be viewed as enhanced Biblicism; however, we go beyond studying the Bible with our intellects only, asking for the Holy Spirit to illumine Scriptures to our hearts and minds.
Pillar Two Illumined Thoughts in One's Mind	It seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus. (Luke 1:3 NASB)	This pillar is experienced as the Holy Spirit guiding your reasoning process through spontaneous impressions. It is obvious that Luke's gospel was more than simply investigative research of his own mind, as what he wrote has stood as the Word of God for 2000 years.	This pillar could be viewed as enhanced rationalism; however, we go beyond simple rationalism to allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our thinking process (through combining intuition and reason) rather than guiding it ourselves.
Pillar Three Illumined Witness in One's Heart	And immediately when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, He said unto them, "Why reason ye these things in your hearts?" (Mark 2:8)	This pillar is experienced as an impression perceived in your spirit. Deep inner peace or unrest is often part of this experience.	This pillar could be viewed as enhanced hedonism in that we are doing what "feels" good; however, in our case, we are going with the "feel" within our hearts, rather than the "feelings" of the flesh.
Pillar Four Illumined Counsel of Others	Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14)	This pillar is experienced as you ask your spiritual advisors to seek God for confirmation, additions, or adjustments in the guidance you sense God has given you.	This pillar could be viewed as enhanced humanism, as we are receiving counsel through others; however, we go beyond people's wisdom and ask them to listen to God with us.
Pillar Five Illumined Understanding of Life's Experiences	Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (Matthew 7:16)	This pillar is experienced as you ask God to give you insight and understanding concerning the fruit life is demonstrating. God gives you revelation as to what has caused the fruit.	This pillar could be viewed as enhanced empiricism, in that we are examining life carefully; however, we go beyond our own limited understanding of life and ask God to give us His understanding of what we are seeing.
Pillar Six Illumined Revelation from God Through Dreams, Visions, Prophecy, and Journaling	"And it shall come to pass in the last days," saith God, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17)	This pillar is experienced as you receive direct revelation from God through dreams, visions, and journaling. Journaling is the writing out of your prayers and God's answers.	This pillar could be viewed as enhanced mysticism; however, we go beyond just "any" spirit-encounter as we pursue Holy Spirit-encounter.
THE OBJECTIVE: To have all six pillars in agreement before making a major decision.			

What I Am *Not* Saying

We cannot gather knowledge.

Embracing this philosophy does not require you to abandon all avenues of the acquisition of knowledge. Reading of Scripture, examination of the original Greek and Hebrew, collection of data regarding history, culture, people, places, etc., all are very important and godly activities. The question is, is it "me" that is in control as I do these things, or am I wholly surrendered to the Lord, and allowing Him to flow through me and guide me every step of the way?

All products of man's independent reason are evil.

Just because Henry Ford did not receive the design for the automobile through direct divine revelation (and who is to say he didn't?), does this mean that the automobile is evil, and therefore I must not use it? Of course not! To assert that the best posture to take in any endeavor, including biblical/theological inquiry, is that of complete and total reliance on your Heavenly Father, is not to say that we must strip the world clean of all products of non-Christian human study, reason, invention, and creativity. The question is, are we taking the quickest, best, most biblical and divinely ordained path when we leave God completely out of the process and rely exclusively on our own natural abilities to accomplish any task? Can we honestly answer "Yes" to that question?

All knowledge and ability obtained in the absence of divine revelation must be discarded.

If you have acquired specific knowledge or skill through the application of your will and mere use of your natural faculties, is this knowledge/ability now worthless and carnal? It all depends on how you use it. The highest possible use would be to give it over to God, and ask Him exactly how, when, where and why to use it, and ask Him to fill you and flow through you every time you use it. Anything less would be a dead work, and should not be considered worthy of your time.

You should never study.

You will note that on the pages comparing Study vs. Meditation, study is included as a subset of the activities involved in meditation. When done in the context of a process that involves the heart, spirit, and both hemispheres of the brain, all being yielded as vessels to the flow of the Holy Spirit, study can be a blessed and anointed act.

You must never use reason.

God can anoint your reasoning just as surely as He anoints any other ability He has given to you. The question is will you ask Him to? When yielded to the Holy Spirit, your mental abilities can be an indispensable asset to the Kingdom of God.

The underlying issue:

The real question is, why would you *want* to do any of this on your own? Why would you *prefer* the dry, vain striving of your flesh to the immeasurable power, ability and spiritual intimacy you experience when surrendering control of every area of your life, including your supposed ability to know truth, to God? Why fight for your right to live apart from the indwelling and outworking of the Holy Spirit? What possible superior benefit could this "independence" offer?

Bible College Weighed in the Balance: Reasoning Apart from the Voice of God

Each class offered by a Bible school will either present Christianity or religion to the student. If what is presented is birthed from revelation knowledge, and the process in which it is imparted is through revelation knowledge (i.e. the *Lamad* Method) then Christianity, revelatory truth and the blessing have been imparted. If what is shared is from a reasoned knowledge base without listening to God, and if it is imparted using reason, without hearing from God, then religion, rationalism, man's traditions and the curse have been presented. Religion detracts from revival, renewal, and the move of God. Christianity spurs renewal onward.

- **Knowledge that is received or transmitted through reason without hearing from God brings one under a curse.**
- **Knowledge that is received or transmitted while listening to God brings one under a blessing.**

If you choose to teach theology in a Bible school, I believe it must meet two criteria:

1. It must be theology that came through biblical meditation; else it will be "the traditions of men."
2. It must be transmitted in a revelatory way (i.e. *Lamad* style education); else it will train the student to live out of and rely upon unanointed reason, which is the opposite of the way he must live if he is to succeed in renewal. In renewal one must live out of and rely upon the voice of God.

One Christian Leadership University student journaled:

Me: Lord, I do so love to hear your voice. But once I hear it, I never want to leave and although I have the full support of my boss (pastor) I don't think she'll understand when I am late for work every morning. So do you mind if we move these meetings to evening?

God: I'll be here anytime you are.

Me: Wow. I wish I could be here anytime you are!

God: So do I, my daughter. That *was* my original plan, you know. I so enjoyed walking with Adam and Eve, *until they started thinking more than listening*. (emphasis added)

Derek Prince's comments on education

Derek Prince, a well known Pentecostal theologian, whose radio broadcasts cover half the world's population, who wrote his doctoral thesis on logic, and who is able to teach Greek and Hebrew on the graduate level in England, puts it this way:

"To put human ability in the place of divine grace is to exalt the carnal above the spiritual. The effect will be manifested in many different areas. For example:

Theology will be exalted above revelation;

Intellectual education above character building;

Psychology above discernment;

Program above the leading of the Holy Spirit;

Eloquence above supernatural power;

Reasoning above the walk of faith;

Laws above love.

All of these errors are different manifestations of one great basic error; putting man in a place God has reserved solely for the Lord Jesus Christ."

(Page 90,91 of ***Blessings Or Curse*** by Derek Prince)

Additional resources on this topic by Mark and Patti Virkler

Available at www.cwgministries.org

- For 5500 verses which support the above concepts, please read ***How Do You Know?*** or the abbreviated version, ***Sound Doctrine Through Revelation Knowledge*** which is also available as a free download.
- For a summary of how one would teach using the anointing and drawing students into spiritual encounter within the class, read "LEARN Spirit Anointed Teaching" (with the CDs)
- For a greatly expanded teaching on the Lamad method of learning, read ***Lamad Biblical Education Association*** (also available as a free download)
- ***Dialogue With God*** – "Opening the door to two-way prayer"
- ***Experiencing God Together***
  This book teaches how to make small group meetings into times of dynamic sharing of Spirit-anointed real life issues
- ***4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice***
  This book will help you move from rationalism to Holy Spirit encounter
- ***Lamad Faculty Handbook***
  This book presents lamad standards for teachers and curriculum writers
- ***Wading Deeper into the River of God***
  My journey from rationalism to revelation knowledge which was precipitated by communion with God

Working Definitions

The Holy Spirit is sensed as a ***flow*** within:

> Out of his belly shall ***flow*** rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit (Jn. 7:38-39 KJV).

What does God's voice sound like?

> Like flowing/spontaneous thoughts which light upon you, especially when your heart is fixed on Jesus.

How is God's vision sensed?

> As flowing/spontaneous pictures which light upon you, especially when your heart is fixed on Jesus.

Spirit-led reasoning

> Reason guided by flowing thoughts and flowing pictures.

Spirit-anointed teacher

> The teacher must have a living relationship with the subject at hand (i.e. a love and passion), and invite his students into that relationship, as full partners, to experience their own living relationship with the subject.

Spirit-anointed teaching

> To teach is to create a space where revelation knowledge is experienced and practiced.

Are you tired of learning *about* God, and ready to start learning *from* Him?
At Christian Leadership University, that's what it's all about. Find out more today:
www.cluonline.com 1-800-466-6961 clu@cluonline.com