

# **Listen to the Holy Spirit**

**by Stephen Thould**

When I read the Bible I like to listen to what the Holy Spirit says to me rather than read a commentary or use a study Bible. This may sound like something that not everyone does or even feels comfortable for others to try, but let me show you how it works for me. Why not start with the first three verses in scripture, Genesis 1:1-3. What I do is automatic to me so let me try to explain how you might be able to follow my way of thinking (we are all different and this may not make sense at first but bare with me).

You know how some people go straight to the back of a book to see how it ends; well this can actually help you when reading the Bible and especially when trying to extract what scripture is saying through the Holy Spirit. Before we start lets wipe away all preconceived notions and previous teachings from our heads, imagine that you are reading Gods word for the first time with no outside opinions or influences. Also there two ways of viewing the Bible, first it is one book by one author or second it is sixty six books by forty authors. I personally see scripture as one book that is the inspired word of God. Not sixty six separate books.

Let's begin, turn to Revelation 22:18-19, here is the first important thing to remember.....you can't add to or subtract anything from Gods word. The very last thing that God tells us is not to read between the lines and add our own meaning or not to remove any of Gods teaching that we don't like. A good reason to start at the back of the book, this will help you with understanding and meditating on God's word. Also, in this same chapter, if you turn to verse five you will see that God the Father is light.

Now go forward to 2Peter 3:8, this is also an important passage that will help with your study. We tend to be obsessed with time and have to put all that we read into a time line, well time is not important to God so don't let it distract you in your studies. Time puts our life in to some sort of order, God is outside of our dimension and time is of little importance to His message to us.

Turn forward to John 1:1-2, here we have the description of Jesus Christ. There is no doubt that He is the word, He is God and was at the beginning of creation with God the father. Go forward to Mark 6:48-50, I'm just stopping at this passage because you need to have this vision of Jesus walking on water as you read the Genesis verses.

Next we can stop at Mark 1:9-11, this is an important passage for a couple of reasons. We have the Holy Spirit described as a Dove and this is an indisputable description of the Holy Trinity together at one moment and place.

Ok, so now we are ready to read the first three verses of Genesis.

Verse one, In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. A persons whole world view hinges of this fact, you either don`t believe this or, like me, you do believe that God created everything.

Verse two, The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. What does hovering mean? Unless you have read the Mark passage describing the Holy Spirit as a dove.

Verse three, And God said, “Let there be light, and there was light.” Now we know from John that Jesus is the word.....”God said”. And God the father is light as we have also discovered.

Now to let the Holy Spirit guide you through these three verses in Genesis.

Close your eyes, think about Genesis1:2-3. Keep your eyes closed and see what the Spirit shows you. There is a vast expanse of dark water, imagine you are at the ocean or lake at night staring out over the dark water. Then a shadowy figure comes walking across the water towards you in the dark but you can`t make him out. Above his head you hear the gentle flapping of a birds wings. The figure speaks and there is a flash and the whole area is illuminated by a bright light. There you are at the instant of creation in the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What a magnificent scene.

You have started reading the Bible as if for the first time, enjoy the wonder.

God bless,

Stephen Thould