

The 4 R Process of Biblical Reasoning

The Principle Approach

*“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”
Proverbs 25:2*

When used diligently and seriously, this method will produce superior understanding of any subject or word from a Godly, Biblical perspective.

Tools needed: The Bible
Webster’s 1828 Dictionary
Thesaurus
Exhaustive Concordance
Optional: Bible Commentary, Bible Dictionary,

Procedure:

1. Choose a **word or term** that you would like to understand from a Biblical perspective. Write out the definition of the word using Webster’s 1828 Dictionary. If the word is not in the Webster 1828, choose a synonym. A thesaurus may be helpful.
2. Write out a few **Scripture references** that **illuminate** the meaning of the word. Don’t just pick a verse because the word is in it.
3. Underline the **key words** in the definition of the main word. Key words are words that are important in helping to explain the main word. Pick as many key words as you like. The more extensive your study the greater the Biblical perspective you will gain. (You can even go to the next level and define key words of the key words!)
4. Write out the definition of each underlined key word from Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.
5. Write out a few **Scripture references** for each key word underlined. Again, be sure that the references present the word (or a synonym) in the proper context. Don’t just find verses that use that word if they don’t fit your study.
6. **Reflect** on the definitions and Scriptures you’ve written down regarding the main word and its key words. **List the truths or principles** you can now identify as you reason from God’s perspective on the subject.
7. Based upon your research and reasoning in the above six steps, write **your own definition** of the main word. Be sure to say it so that you fully understand the definition and can use it! This is called an “operational definition.” It should demonstrate your **Biblical world view**.
8. Write a summary paragraph which demonstrates how you can **apply** the main word to your own study or life. This also will express your **Biblical world view**.