

Bible Definitions:

These are fundamental questions that must be answered thoroughly and biblically; rightly discerning/dividing the Word of truth. If our definitions are different, we will come out at different positions concerning what we believe. **More**

Sometimes our definitions have no real consistency, and we haven't considered what they are in comparison to what scripture teaches. When our definitions are vague and varied; when they are inconsistent and compromised; our understanding will be flawed, confused, and misguided. We can't build upon shifting sands that are including many unbiblical notions for defining faith, grace, belief, the curse, our part, and God's sovereignty, etc...

God has given us standards, understandings, and relationships in this world that we do comprehend, in order to help us take in the Spiritual truths they represent. In other words, God is using our world, definitions of things, to communicate eternal truth. As Jesus put it to Nicodemus:

John 3:12 "If I have told you of earthly things, and you do not believe me, how will you believe if I tell you of heavenly things?"

Like a foundation to a house, so is the building of spiritual definitions like bricks, to our believing the things of God. We can't build on something that is constantly evolving, changing, or rearranging, in order to make things fit our theologies. Once we make these things certain in our heart, we can build on them, for then, they will be established in us.

We can build when things are stable, single minded, certain, and established, and once that happens, we begin to connect the dots so to speak. Things begin to make sense in our spirit and find a place in our renewed mind. This is a place of strength, knowledge, knowing, and revelation, insight, which positions us to receive and be taught. When we let go of these basic building blocks of faith, we remain in darkness, wondering and wandering, in a sea of unknowns. We may call it faith, but in truth, it is doubt, unbelief, and vague Christianity.

There is, of course, another major area in regards to foundations and definitions that has to do with biblical interpretation. We often find disagreement from others who also base what they believe on scripture. What do we do when both sides are founded upon the Bible? One essential effort to employ is to realize that God has placed in scripture tension. I've called it "Tension Theology"

because it is created by apparent contradictions, or passages that seem to conflict with each other. If we remove the tension, we'll go off to the right or left of the matter. This is often the case, when we choose to regard or emphasize passages of scripture, over others. Our carnal mind can't comprehend spiritual things, but revelation knowledge comes when we remain in the tension. I've included a presentation on "Tension Theology" in the list of booklets below, and it would do well for all of us to realize that there is safety in keeping our theology within God's tension.