

# Giving Instruction

**The Gospel Institute – Biblical Counseling & Discipleship**

**THE GOSPEL  
INSTITUTE**

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12/12/16

# Giving Instruction

- Biblical instruction refers to skillfully applying biblical principles to specific needs of individuals and compassionately showing how to apply the “whole counsel” of God to specific life circumstances.
- Biblical instruction relies on the Holy Spirit to transform the heart thru the endurance and encouragement of Scriptures (Rom. 15:4-5) to enable God-glorifying responses.

# The Need for Instruction

- Man cannot rightly understand himself apart from Biblical Instruction (Special Revelation).
- What the Bible contains we all desperately need.
- What is obvious to you may not be to others.
- Others see things you cannot see.
- We are finite, fallen and forgetful; the “noetic effect of sin” causes us to be blind to our blindness .
- Freud’s answer was to “Make the unconscious conscious, actualize potential”
- Skinner’s answer was to “Restructure our environment”
- Rogers’s answer was “no instruction at all, the solution is within, feelings, not facts
- Pop-psychology – Jesus meets your needs, “fills your cup”, builds your self-esteem, heals damaged emotions

# All We Need

- The Bible does more than lay out the “Creation-Fall-Redemption-Glorification” story-line
- The Bible does more than define worldview
- The Bible does more than give answers
- The Bible (Special Revelation) comes to us, where we live, to meet our deepest needs (in the person of Jesus Christ) as they emerge in history (humanity’s and OURS).
- I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad. (Ps. 119:96)
- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

# Instruction and the Holy Spirit

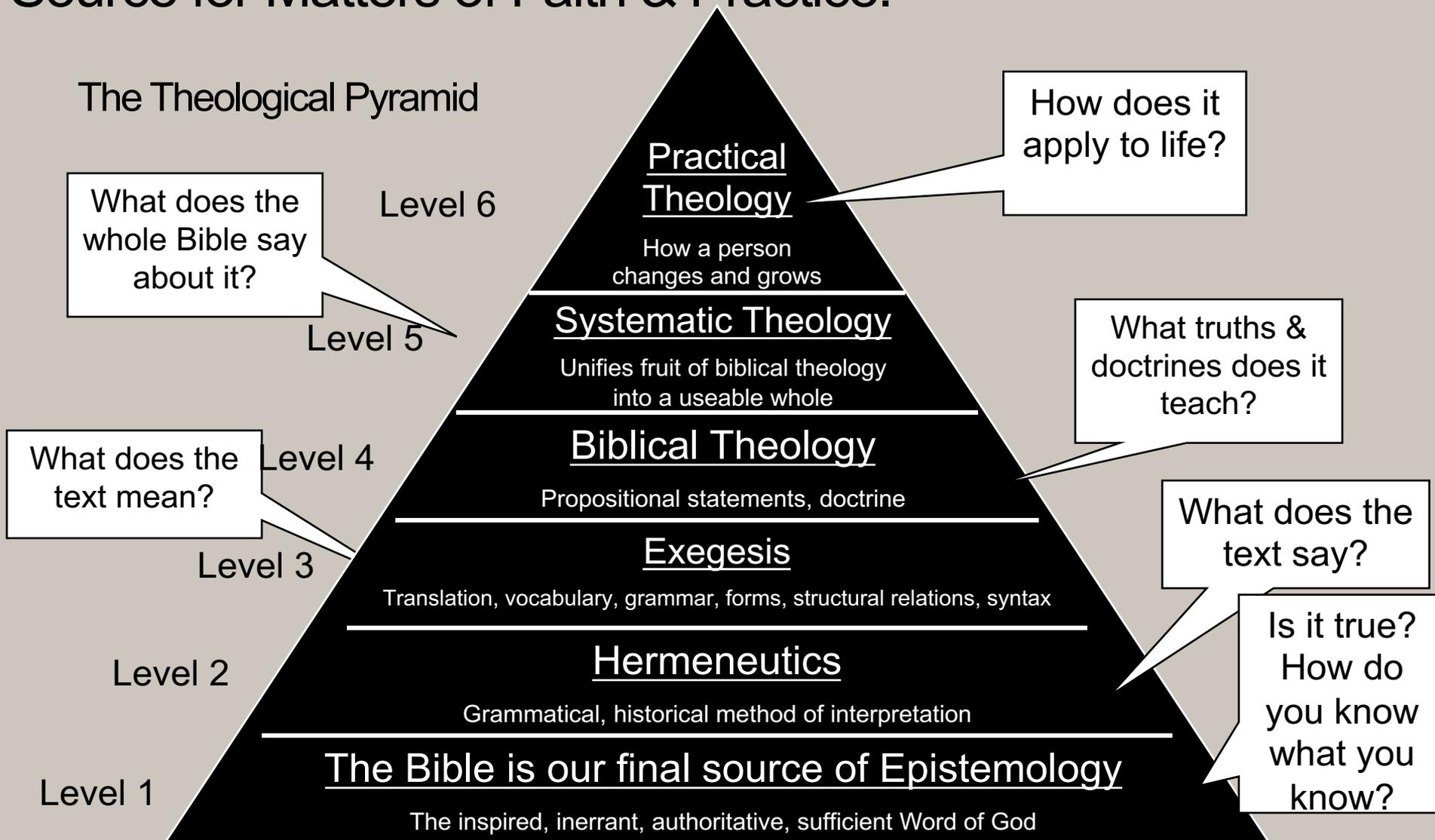
- Instruction without the Holy Spirit's conviction and transforming power, is merely information.  
(1 Cor. 1:19-25; 2:14; 3:19)
- However, you must not assume that He will do what He expects you to do.
- Walk worthy, strengthened, endure, be patient  
(Col. 1:9-11)
- Heart-change is a work of God alone, you are not a practitioner, you are an ambassador!  
(2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-21)
- Him [Christ] we proclaim, warning [noutheteo] everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Col. 1:28)

# Ambassadors are Equipped to Instruct

- For Ezra had set his heart [fixed determination]
- to study [dig out facts]
- the Law of the LORD, [the whole counsel of God]  
(Acts 20:20-27; Mt. 4:4-10; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet.1:3-8)
- and to do it [obey]
- and to teach [Mt.28:19-20] his statutes and rules in Israel.  
(Ezra 7:10)
- All believers are called to “Give Instruction” at some level
- Wisdom, knowledge, instruction in wise dealing, prudence, discretion, hearing and learning, understanding...found in the “fear of the LORD”  
(Pr. 1:1-7)

# When the Bible is the Ultimate & Final Epistemological Source for Matters of Faith & Practice.

## The Theological Pyramid



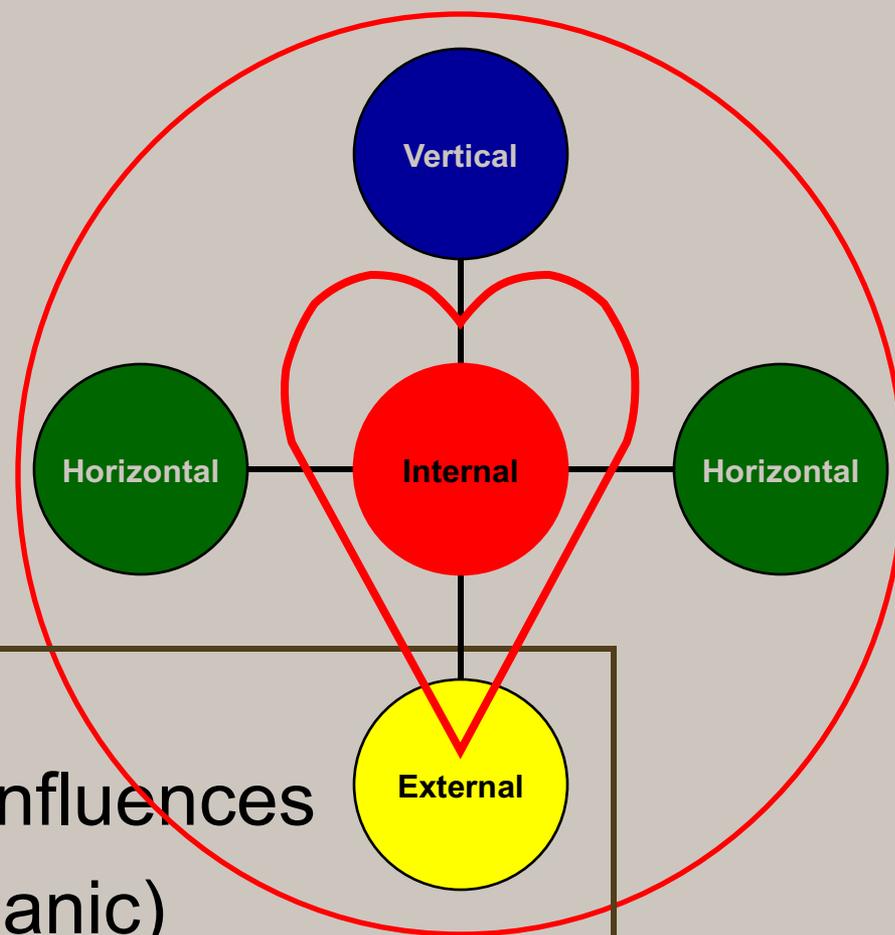
## Comprehensive Instruction – Biblical Counseling or Soul Care Is Simply Applying Theology to Life

*“Evangelical Systematic Theology is the comprehensive study and coherent organization of what can be known (primarily from scripture, i.e. theology’s only final and ultimate authoritative source and secondarily from any and all other relevant sources) about God and his relation to the created universe in a manner that is understandable and applicable to contemporary audiences to the end that God’s people are strengthened and satisfied in him to the praise and Glory of His name.”*

Bruce Ware

# The Bible is Comprehensive Instruction for All Four Dimensions of Human Experience

- Spiritual
- Emotional
- Relational
- Intellectual
- Volitional/Responsible
- Desires of the Heart
- Biblical counselors also must consider 'external' influences (DNA, family, culture, organic)



# Comprehensive Instruction to Understand How to Respond to all of Life's Issues

- The Person
- The Problems
- The Patterns of problems, thoughts and behaviors
- Their Perspectives (world-view) about...
  - himself
  - his problems
  - God
  - The solutions to his problems
- The Motives/idols of the heart; Defines Purposes
- Understand biblical descriptions of today's maladies

# Biblical Instruction

- Relevant biblical principles
- Practical biblical application
- Skillful application to specific
  - Intentions, goals, motivations
  - Thinking, attitudes, perspectives
  - Actions, behaviors, responses, patterns
  - Speech, words, communication-styles

“The only person who can really operate at a level of depth is the person who knows how to go to the heart of a man’s problem. And the only way to go to the heart of a man’s problem is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit, who transforms the heart of man and thus transforms his life patterns.” Jay Adams

# Biblical Instruction

- Identifies (warns of sin) put-offs (Eph.4:17-22)
- Renews thinking (Eph.4:23)
- Makes much of the power & presence of Christ (Jn.15:1-9)
- Identifies & explains biblical goals (put-ons - Eph.4:1-16; 24-6:20)
- Explains how (giving specific directions)
- Encourages and motivates
- Clarifies between
  - Precepts (“Thou shalt” and “thou shalt not”)
  - Principles (honesty, integrity, compassion, one-anothering)
  - Preferences (Bible versions, # of elders, eating meat)
- Interprets in CONTEXT, the person and the text

# Modes of Instruction

- Lecture
- Drama-role-playing, DVD, observation
- Hands-on experience-real-life application
- Study-reading, DVD, audio
- Dialog, discussion
- Interviews – asking others
- Assignments
  - Make a list of \_\_\_\_\_
  - every time you're sinned against...
  - Read 1 Cor. 10:13 out loud to yourself 3 time's a day, write out the meaning of the passage, be ready to discuss next time
  - Make a "T-chart", God's vs. your kingdom,

# Modes of Instruction

- QUESTIONS – promote personal evaluation...“in a *perfect world*, how WOULD that have looked?” (a “do-over”)
- Modeling (from you, others)
- Your personal experiences
- Church-related venues, services, sermon-archives, small groups, getting involved in ministries, etc.
- “Tutoring-discipleship”; e.g. Titus II-woman

## Developing Caution

- Avoid inappropriate approaches (venue, tone of voice, types of materials, your appearance; too much too soon)
- Truly Irrelevant – don't share knowledge for knowledge's sake
- Talking too much – “I have to interrupt my counselor”
- Perceived irrelevance – addressing something they don't believe is pertinent
- Bad timing (juxtaposition of other dynamics, too quick of responses, going after the wrong spouse)

## Developing Caution

- Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. (1 Cor. 8:1)  
Kill pride, cultivate humility
- Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.  
(Pr. 11:14) Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed. (Pr. 15:22) Involve others; develop team-counseling.
- In a multitude of counseling philosophies, there is confusion, use caution and wisdom, pursue balance.

## Instruct Like the KING

- For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. (Jn. 12:49)
- *“Where God has chosen to close his holy mouth, it behooves us not to open ours”<sup>1</sup>*
- Where we’ve not grasped what God has said, it behooves us to study before we speak”

## Examples of Biblical Instruction

- For the sufferer – (Matt. 11:1-6; 2 Cor. 1)
- For the self-righteous legalist – (Lu.15)
- For the grumbler/complainer – (Lu. 17:1-10; Deut.1)
- For the depressed – (Lam. 3:1-26; Ps. 73)
- For the wife of an unbeliever – (1 Pet. 3:1-7)
- For the overwhelmed – (Is. 61:1-3; Lu.4:18-19)
- For the fearful, worrier – (Phil.4:4-9; 2 Cor.4)
- For eating disorders – (Gen. 3)
- Note, from Old Testament and New Testament

# Tools to Develop Biblical Knowledge

- Concordances; Topical Bibles
- ESV Study Bible
- Chain-reference Study Bible
- Color-coding, highlighting
- Use the same book, vs. different Bibles
- Memorize locations; think “Pictorially”
- Know Bible chapters topically
- On-the-fly note-taking

# Tools to Develop Biblical Knowledge

- *Christian Counselor's Commentary*, Jay E. Adams
- *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling*, John G. Kruis
- *A Christian Growth and Discipleship Manual*, W. Mack
- *A Homework Manual for Biblical Living*, vol. 1&2, Mack
- *Journal of Modern Ministry*, Timeless Texts
- *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, CCE
- *Christian's Guide to Psychological Terms*, Marshall & Mary Asher
- *What to Do On Thursday*, Jay E. Adams
- *Christian Counselor's Commentary*, Jay E. Adams
- *Logos Bible Software*
- *Our Sufficiency in Christ*, John MacArthur
- *Think Biblically*, John MacArthur

# Merry Christmas!!

- Our next semester starts **January 9<sup>th</sup>**! If you are reading this, you are registered! 😊
- If you are pursuing certification, any make up work from this semester, please have turned in by January 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.
- Invite people to next semester!! It will not necessarily feel like a continuation as we will be teaching on specific topics.
- Register at [peoriagospelinstitute.org](http://peoriagospelinstitute.org)
- Any questions, please contact Heather – [heather@bethanycommunitychurch.org](mailto:heather@bethanycommunitychurch.org)