

The five questions addressed in this Bible study are: **VIRTUE** [2 Pet. 1:3-8] & Phil 4:8

1. What is the author's main point in this passage? (MAIN POINT)

In another form: "What is the author saying about God?" It is easy to respond with what we would like for the author to have said. However, the target of the question is what the author actually said.

2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage of the text? (NEW LIGHT)

This question provides opportunity for the working of the Spirit in our silence. The focus here is on each member's new insight, observation, or understanding during this particular reading of this passage on this particular occasion.

3. Is this passage true to my experience? (TRUTH)

Our spiritual journeys are ``experimental" as we search toward fuller understanding. Recognition that our present understanding of the passage is not consistent with our experience may require reassessment of the meaning of our experience, deeper study of the meaning of the Bible passage, or recognition that our individual spiritual journeys are searches in the dark in which full clarity is not given at every moment.

4. What are the implications of this passage for my life? (IMPLICATIONS)

The center of the question is, "What difference, if any, does the passage make for my life?" There is a reaching from the text back to our lives in this question. It brings the role of ethics and daily living practices to our attention. This holding together of faith and action/works is central to our walking in the Spirit.

5. What problems do I have with this passage? (PROBLEMS)

Here we identify problems of language in the text, of interpretation, of meaning, or of applying the text to our lives. Problems can be identified without being solved. This question reminds us that study of a passage is a continuing process. Like life, understanding is never complete at any one time. It is a continuing dialogue between the text and life.