



# GRASPING GOD'S WORD

A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible

# Grasping God's Word

- **The Role of the Holy Spirit**
  - **John 16:13 – guide you into all the truth...**
  - **The Spirit as the Divine Author**
    - **Inspiration – Holy Spirits work in the lives of the human authors of Scripture with the result that they wrote what God wanted to communicate**
      - **God-Breathed**
    - **Illumination – refer to this ongoing work of the Spirit**
    - **Inspiration and illumination must never be set against one another**

# Grasping God's Word

- **Can we Grasp God's Word apart from the Spirit?**
  - **Yes – if unbelievers use valid interpretive methods, they are able to comprehend much of the Bible**
    - **At a level of cognitive understanding, the Spirit appears to play a minimal role**
  - **Yes, but Only to a Degree**
    - **Sin has had an effect on the whole person, including the human mind**
    - **Unbelievers' ability to understand the meaning is limited by the effects of the unbelieving preunderstanding that they bring to the text**
      - **2 Corinthians 4:4**
    - **Without the Spirit only to degree, understanding involves mind, emotions, body, and etc....**

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- **Can we Grasp God's Word apart from the Spirit?**
  - **NO**
    - **Without the Spirit people can't accept and apply the truths**
      - **1 Corinthians 2:14**

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- **Can we Grasp God's Word apart from the Spirit?**
  - **The Spirit and the Christian Interpreter**
    1. **a. When it comes to biblical interpretation, having the Holy Spirit does not mean that Spirit is all we need. The Spirit does not make valid interpretation automatic.**
      - b. **The Spirit does expect us to use our minds, proper interpretive methods, and good study helps to interpret the Bible accurately.**
    2. **a. The Spirit does not create new meaning or provide new information**
      - b. **We can rely on the Spirit to help us grasp the meaning of God's Word**
    3. **a. The Spirit does not change the Bible to suit our purposes or to match our circumstances**
      - b. **The Spirit brings the meaning of the Bible to bear on the reader**
        - i. **The Spirit convicts us that the Bible is divinely inspired**

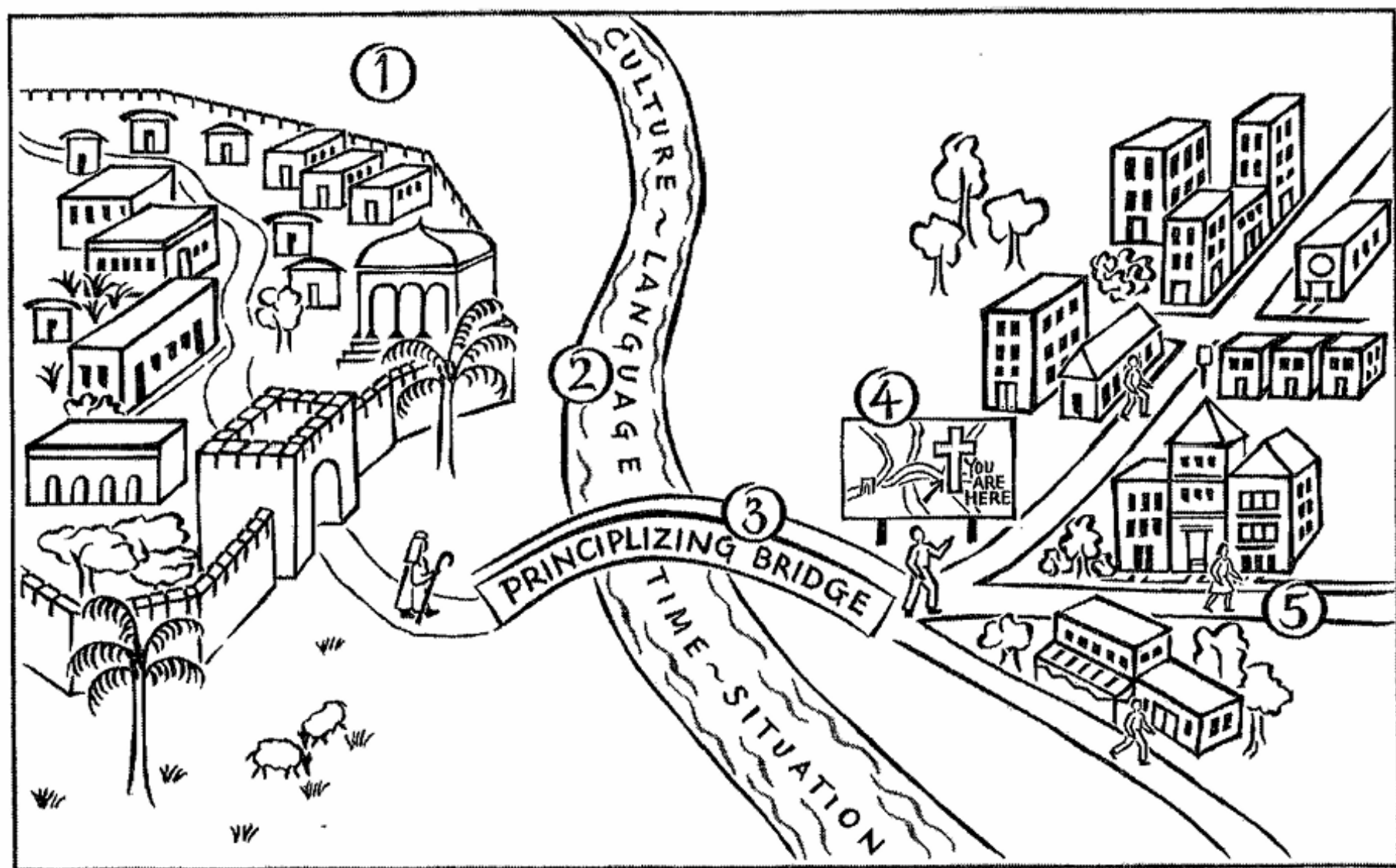
# Grasping God's Word

- **Can we Grasp God's Word apart from the Spirit?**
  - **The Spirit and the Christian Interpreter**
    3. **a. The Spirit does not change the Bible to suit our purposes or to match our circumstances**
    - b. The Spirit brings the meaning of the Bible to bear on the reader**
      - i. **The Spirit convicts us that the Bible is divinely inspired**
      - ii. **The Spirit works in our minds to impress on us the full meaning of the Scriptures**
      - iii. **The Spirit works in our hearts so that we are able to receive the Word of God (application)**

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- **Can we Grasp God's Word apart from the Spirit?**
  - **The Spirit often uses devotional reading and prayer to encourage spiritual growth**
    - **Silencio - Silence**
    - **Lectio - Reading**
    - **Meditatio - Meditation**
    - **Oratio – Speech, Oration**
    - **Contemplatio – State of being with God, prayer**

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**NEXT WEEK  
THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

