

### *√3 Understanding the Bible*

infallible and divine. He is the only ultimate Teacher, and the only authoritative interpreter of Scripture. He never makes a mistake, and He never misleads believers in their understanding. No human teacher had the right to claim to be the final authoritative interpreter of truth. Believers have no need of such a human teacher, for they have the anointing of the indwelling Holy Spirit. They stand directly before God, and are responsible to learn God's truth from the Holy Spirit speaking in Scripture. Since the Holy Spirit is both the infallible Author of Scripture and the infallible Interpreter of Scripture, He is the one to whom believers should ultimately look for spiritual enlightenment and understanding of the Bible.

These considerations suggest four summary principles:

- (1) All believers have an infallible divine Teacher, the Holy Spirit.
- (2) Thus, no believer has need of an infallible human teacher to provide him or her with a final authoritative interpretation of the truth of Scripture.
- (3) The Holy Spirit has given all believers the gift of spiritual understanding.
- (4) Believers exercise the gift of spiritual understanding through a prayerful study of and meditation upon the truths of Scripture, the meanwhile looking to the Holy Spirit as their infallible Teacher and Interpreter.

This fourth principle may be undergirded with three references from Psalm 119:

Verse 99 -- "I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation."

Verse 18 -- "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law."

Verse 130 -- "The unfolding of Thy words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."