**Bible study methods- Podcast**

To study the Bible in an organized and systematic manner, we have access to several Bible study methods. We will classify them into two broad categories: ***Book Studies*** and ***Topical Studies.***

 Despite the different Bible study methods, certain hermeneutic principles must be followed to avoid misinterpreting the Bible: Consider both the immediate context of the chapter or book and the overall context of the Bible itself.

***First***, we should try to understand the passage's original meaning. How would the original audience have understood the human author's intended meaning? Using this principle, the Bible is recognized as a historical document written at a specific point in history to a particular audience for a specific purpose.

***Secondly***, Once the true meaning of the passage is understood, then we should seek to understand how it applies to us today.

**Book Studies:** This approach to Bible study examines a complete book of the Bible or a specific part of a book, such as a chapter, a group of verses, or a verse alone. As with chapter-by-chapter and verse-by-verse methods, the principles and objectives remain the same for studying an entire book. We must, for example, study the context of individual chapters and verses to conduct a comprehensive book review. To properly study a verse, we need to consider the overall message of the chapter and book in which it is found. Regardless of the level of study, whether it is a verse study or a book study, we must always consider the overall context of the Bible as well.

**Topical Studies:** We can conduct a variety of topical studies. We can study biographical studies, word studies, or geographic studies to learn all the Bible says about a particular town, country, or nation mentioned in the Bible. A topical study is essential to understanding all the Bible teaches on a specific topic. We must be careful that the conclusions drawn from a topical study do not come from taking verses out of their original context to imply a meaning that could not be supported by doing a verse study or book study. Topical studies are helpful in systematically organizing and understanding what the Bible teaches on specific subjects.

Using different Bible study methods at various times is beneficial in studying the Bible. At times, we might wish to devote significant time to a book study, while at other times, we can gain much from doing some type of topical study. No matter what kind of study we're doing, we must follow these three steps:

1. Observation-what does the Bible say?
2. Interpretation-What does the Bible mean?
3. Application- How does this biblical truth apply to my life, or is relevant today?