

# THE APOSTOLIC LENS

One Hundred Principles  
for Studying Gods Word



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Studying God's Word*

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## Preface

Beloved, to behold the Scriptures rightly we must approach them as a redeemed people—born again of water and the Spirit, baptized in Jesus’ name, and baptized with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:38; Acts 2). This booklet sets forth an Apostolic Pentecostal hermeneutic: a humble, Christ-centered, Oneness reading that honors the Jewish roots of Scripture, respects the languages of revelation, and awaits illumination by the Holy Ghost. The Word of God has no private interpretation (cf. 2 Peter 1:20); yet, in the unity of the Spirit and under the authority of Scripture, we may receive wisdom, knowledge, and revelation.

### How to Use This Booklet

Read prayerfully. Ask for the Holy Ghost to open your eyes. Study the Hebrew and Greek when possible. Test every interpretation by the whole counsel of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and the manifest work of his spirit in your life and in the Church.

### Foundational Presuppositions (brief)

- Scripture is God’s inspired, inerrant revelation.
- Jesus Christ is the revealed Name of God (Oneness

of God).

- Baptism in Jesus' name and the baptism of the Holy Ghost-evidence of speaking in tongues are normative for the New Testament Church.
- True interpretation honors historical context, language, literary form, and the Jewish background of the Old Testament.
- Revelation comes through Spirit-illumination, not private imagination.

## One Hundred Apostolic Pentecostal Principles of Hermeneutics and Bible Study

### 1. Christocentric Orientation

Always read the Old and New Testaments as pointing to Jesus Christ—the promised Messiah, the fulfillment of types and shadows.

### 2. Acts 2:38 as a Hermeneutical Key

Interpret the New Testament with the centrality of repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues is normative for salvation.

### 3. Spirit-Illumination Principle

Seek the Holy Ghost first—courses, commentaries, and languages aid, but revelation comes by the Spirit.

### 4. Presupposition of God

Interpret texts with the understanding that God is one spirit who is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must reject trinitarian doctrine at all costs, it is pagan. This text affirms Jesus' divine spirit and the oneness of God. The undivided Jehovah is Jesus. There is no trinity in all the Bible.

#### 5. No Private Interpretation

Test every insight by the whole counsel of God and the corporate testimony of Scripture; avoid idiosyncratic readings.

#### 6. Historical-Context Rule

Determine what the original author meant to the original audience before applying it to today.

#### 7. Literary Genre Discipline

Respect the genre—poetry, prophecy, narrative, epistle, apocalyptic—and read accordingly.

#### 8. Hebrew and Greek Priority

Where possible, consult the original languages for nuance, root meaning, and syntax that English may obscure.

#### 9. Word Root Sensitivity

Explore Hebrew and Greek roots and cognates; words carry theological weight and typological echoes.

## 10. Septuagint Awareness

Use the Septuagint when studying the New Testament's use of the Old; it often reveals early Christian interpretation.

## 11. Jewish Background Respect

Engage Rashi, Midrash, Targumim, and the sages to appreciate how the Old Testament was read in its own covenantal milieu.

## 12. Typology, Not Allegory

Recognize legitimate typology (e.g., Passover, Tabernacle, sacrifices) as God-ordained foreshadowing fulfilled in Christ.

## 13. Progressive Revelation

God unfolds truth progressively; later revelation clarifies earlier shadows.

## 14. Contextual Harmony

Let unclear passages be interpreted in light of clear teaching elsewhere in Scripture.

## 15. Law–Grace Continuity

Understand the apostles' teaching: law and covenantal types point to The Lord Jesus Christ; the New Covenant fulfills and transforms them.

## 16. Covenant Thinking

Read Scripture with an eye for covenants—Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, New—and their fulfillment.

#### 17. Sensus Literalis (Literal Sense)

Seek the plain sense of the text unless context clearly indicates figurative language.

#### 18. Unity of Scripture

Scripture interprets Scripture. Let the Bible be its own best commentary.

#### 19. Redemptive Historical Method

Trace the unfolding story of redemption: creation, fall, promise, covenant, fulfillment, consummation.

#### 20. Apostolic Pentecostal Testimony Rule

Give special weight to Apostolic Pentecostal teaching and practice (Acts and Epistles) as the governing norm for the Church.

#### 21. Practicality of Apostles Doctrine

Doctrine must produce spiritual fruit—holiness, worship, love, and the power of the Holy Ghost.

#### 22. Kingdom-Now and Not-Yet Balance

Recognize present spiritual realities and future consummation in eschatology.

23. Apostolic Pentecostal Church Practice Alignment  
Allow Scripture to shape worship, baptismal formula only in Jesus Name , and church order rather than importing denominational customs.

24. Rejection of Denominational Filters  
Guard against reading Scripture through sectarian traditions that contradict apostolic pentecostal Teaching

25. The Name of Jesus Principle  
Give priority to the Name revelation—Jesus is the revelation of Yahweh—when interpreting baptism and soteriology.

26. Tongues as Normative Evidence  
Interpret Acts and Corinthians with openness to tongues-is the evidence and normative sign of Spirit baptism.

27. Unity of Word and Spirit  
Balance intellectual study with devotional dependence; both are necessary for mature understanding.

28. Simplicity of the Gospel  
Preserve the simple gospel for evangelism: repentance, baptism in the Name of Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking



in tongues.

## 29. Oral Tradition Value

Respect early Christian oral practice as reflected in Acts and the early Church Fathers, mindful of apostolic authority.

## 30. Caution with Systematics

Systematic theologies are tools, not masters; biblical nuance can transcend systems.

## 31. Typological Consistency

Verify typological claims with Scripture, not merely imagination.

## 32. Respect for Jewish Names and Places

Preserve Hebrew names and Jewish cultural settings to maintain prophetic and covenantal continuity.

## 33. Intertextual Reading

Trace themes and phrases across Scripture to see how later authors cite earlier revelation.

## 34. Prophecy and Fulfillment Alignment

Read prophetic texts in light of their partial and ultimate fulfillments in Christ and the Church.

## 35. Kingdom Ethics Priority

Let the Sermon on the Mount, Pauline ethics,

and apostolic teaching form the moral compass of application.

### 36. Pastoral Hermeneutic

Interpretation should minister—bring conviction, correction, consolation, and direction.

### 37. Ecclesial Orientation

Interpretation must build the Church as the bride—holy, united, and testimony-bearing.

### 38. Moral Coherence Test

Read a passage for its ethical implications; revelation transforms conduct.

### 39. Faith and Works Integration

Understand salvation as faith-formed and manifested in obedience (James' balance under apostolic oversight).

### 40. Prayerful Reading Rhythm

Begin each study with prayer, fasting when needed, and an expectant heart.

### 41. Scriptural Primacy over Tradition

Tradition must be evaluated by Scripture and reformed when it contradicts apostolic pentecostal teaching.

#### 42. Use of Lexicons and Concordances

Employ lexicons (Brown-Driver-Briggs, Liddell-Scott) and concordances (Strong's) to probe word meanings.

#### 43. Caution with Translators' Bias

Recognize theological presuppositions in translations; compare multiple versions.

#### 44. Grammatical-Historical Method

Analyze grammar and history to discern authorial intent.

#### 45. Respect for Prophetic Language

Allow prophecy to be poetic, symbolic, and progressive; interpret with care and corporate discernment.

#### 46. Communion of Saints Consultation

Consult sober, Spirit-filled ministers and saints for counsel, avoiding prideful self-interpretation.

#### 47. Balance Mystery and Clarity

Accept mystery where Scripture is intentionally opaque; do not force clarity where God has left room for faith.

#### 48. Reward of Obedient Study

God often reveals deeper meaning to those who live what they learn.

#### 49. Historical Church Witness

Study the early apostles' practice and early Oneness testimony where available, while critiquing later doctrines that depart from apostolic witness.

#### 50. Simultaneous Local and Universal Reading

See how local contexts in epistles apply to the universal Church.

#### 51. Prophetic Pattern Recognition

Identify patterns of sin, judgment, repentance, and restoration as instructive for current application.

#### 52. Christ as Fulfillment of Types

Priest, King, Prophet archetypes find their completion in Christ and the Church.

#### 53. Grace-Enabled Obedience

Obedience flows from grace, not law-keeping as a means to earn salvation.

#### 54. Reject Eisegesis

Avoid reading one's own ideas into the text; practice exegesis instead.

#### 55. Cultural Distance Awareness

Bridge the cultural gap between ancient revelation and modern readers with sensitivity to original meaning.

## 56. The Name and the Nature Connection

The revealed Name (Jesus) communicates nature—Jesus is God manifest in flesh—and shapes how we address salvation.

## 57. Gospel Centrality in All Interpretation

Whether reading Leviticus or Revelation, ask: how does this affect the gospel?

## 58. Use of Jewish Exegesis as a Tool

When appropriate, learn how Jewish exegetes read Scripture—but filter through the lens of Apostolic Pentecostal Christ's fulfillment.

## 59. Respect for Typological Chronology

See types in their ordained sequence: promise institution fulfillment.

## 60. Canonical Orientation

Let the canon shape Apostolic Pentecostal Doctrine read books in their canonical relationships (Pentateuch, Prophets, Writings, Gospels, Epistles).

## 61. Eschatological Expectation

Interpret prophetic and apocalyptic passages with both imminence and ultimate consummation in mind.

## 62. Pastoral Application Emphasis

Turn doctrine into discipleship: what does this text

call me and my congregation to do?

### 63. Worship-Centered Reading

Let Scripture direct worship patterns—praise, baptism, prayer, and the work of the Spirit.

### 64. Authority of Apostolic Pentecostal Example

Where the apostles modeled practice in Acts, weigh that practice as normative for the Church.

### 65. Typological Reading of Feasts and Festivals

See how feasts like Passover and Pentecost reveal redemptive events and Church experiences.

### 66. Christ's Fulfillment of the Law

Read the law as leading to Christ, not as supplanting the transformative power of the Gospel.

### 67. Use of Concordant Phrases

Note repeated phrases and motifs (e.g., “in Christ,” “born again”) for theological emphasis.

### 68. Clarify Ambiguities by Majority Rule of Scripture

If a passage is ambiguous, prefer interpretations consistent with the majority teaching of Scripture.

### 69. Evaluate Traditions by Apostolic Practice

Longstanding practices should be retained only if consonant with apostolic example and teaching.

## 70. Reliance on Revelation over Rationalism

Reason aids interpretation but must bow to revealed truth.

## 71. Holiness as Hermeneutic Outcome

A correct reading should sanctify—produce holiness, repentance, and power.

## 72. Balance Word and Spirit

Do not emphasize the Spirit at the expense of Scripture, nor Scripture at the expense of the Spirit.

## 73. Baptismal Formula Integrity

Observe Biblical baptismal language and practice as a sign of covenantal entrance.

## 74. Discernment in Spiritual Gifts

Interpret spiritual gifts in light of edification, order, and apostolic pentecostal precedent.

## 75. Accountability to Congregation

Interpretations should be teachable, testable, and accountable in the church body.

## 76. Evangelistic Clarity

Read and teach Scripture with evangelism in view—clear gospel steps that lead to conversion.

## 77. Holistic Salvation View

Understand salvation's aspects: forgiveness, regeneration, sanctification, reception of the Spirit, and final glorification.

78. Respect for Typological Foreshadowing in Names  
Names in Scripture often carry prophetic meaning—study them for symbolic insight.

79. Bible-Centered Preaching

Let sermons flow directly from text and context, not from topical agendas.

80. Resist Syncretism

Avoid blending Scripture with secular or foreign religious ideas that distort revelation.

81. Textual-Critical Prudence

Where textual variants exist, use critical apparatus but not at the expense of the text's clarity for doctrine.

82. Righteous Use of Tradition

Good tradition can guide but never override Scripture's plain teaching.

83. Ascend from Exegesis to Application

After careful exegesis, move to relevant, Spirit-led application for daily living.



#### 84. Use of Parallel Passages

Compare parallel accounts (e.g., Gospels, Paul's letters) to clarify and broaden understanding.

#### 85. Beware of Proof-Texting

Avoid building doctrine on isolated verses; build theology on the sweep of Scripture.

#### 86. Continuity of God's Name

Trace the revelation of God's Name(s) across Scripture to understand identity and mission.

#### 87. Prophetic Expectation for the Church

Hear prophecy as exhortation and edification, not mere prediction.

#### 88. Personal Holiness as Interpretive Lens

A life of holiness sharpens spiritual insight and credibility in teaching.

#### 89. Intercessory Study Practice

Intercede for those you study for—ask that revelation serve the Church and the lost.

#### 90. Community Study Regularity

Establish small groups for corporate Bible study where revelation is tested and shared.

#### 91. Celebrate Jewish Roots in Worship

Honor the Hebraic roots of faith in liturgy, preaching, and teaching without reverting to shadow as substitute.

## 92. Use of Commentaries Judiciously

Consult Spirit-filled commentaries but compare them to Scripture and apostolic praxis.

## 93. Ethics of Scholarship

Study with humility, integrity, and reverence; attribute sources and correct errors openly.

## 94. Missionary Hermeneutic

Interpret Scripture with the missionary impulse—how does this passage compel us to reach the lost?

## 95. Balance Mystery and Doctrine

Hold firm to revealed doctrine while embracing the mystery of God not yet fully revealed.

## 96. Read with Expectant Worship

Let your study become an act of praise; Scripture read in worship becomes living water.

## 97. Endurance in Study

Great insight often comes through persistent, disciplined reading and meditation.

## 98. Test Revealed Interpretation by Fruits

A correct interpretation bears fruit: revival, repentance, unity, and holiness in the Body.

### 99. Humble Confidence

Study confidently in God's truth while humbly acknowledging the finite human grasp of infinite truth.

### 100. Eschatological Hope

Read the Bible with eyes fixed on the consummation—Christ's return, the Bride made ready, the New Jerusalem—so study not for mere knowledge but for readiness.

## Practical Steps for Daily Study (A Plan)

- Begin with prayer, asking for the Holy Ghost.
- Read a passage slowly aloud; let Scripture speak for itself.
- Observe: who, what, when, where, why?
- Interpret: check grammar, genre, culture, and cross-references.
- Correlate: compare with parallel passages and apostolic teaching.
- Apply: write practical steps the Holy Ghost convicts you to take.
- Share: discuss with a trusted, spirit-filled brother or sister.
- Memorize key verses; meditate and let them shape

your speech and life.

## Tools and Resources

- Hebrew and Greek lexicons (BDAG; Brown-Driver-Briggs)
- Concordances (Strong's)
- Interlinear Bibles and literal translations for comparison
- Septuagint and Peshitta for Old Testament study
- Rashi, selected Midrashim, and Jewish historical resources for background
- Spirit-filled commentaries and apostolic sermon archives
- Community—pastors, elders, and an accountable study group

## A Short Prayer to Close

Heavenly Father, send now Your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Your Law. Teach us, Lord Jesus, to see Your Name and Your work in every line. Give us a hermeneutic that honors You, that builds Your Church, and that wins lost souls. Amen.

## Conclusion

Studying the Bible as an Apostolic Pentecostal is

an act of worship that combines intellectual care, linguistic attention, Jewish contextual appreciation, and above all dependence upon the Holy Ghost. Let these one hundred principles guide your study, shape your ministry, and sanctify your life. May the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in every page you read and every soul you touch.

### Appendix: Suggested Reading List

- The Bible (with interlinear tools)
- Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon
- BDAG Greek Lexicon
- A good interlinear Septuagint
- Selected Rashi and Midrash collections
- Spirit-filled Apostolic sermons and commentaries

Blessings in Christ,  
Elder Keith Joel Walker