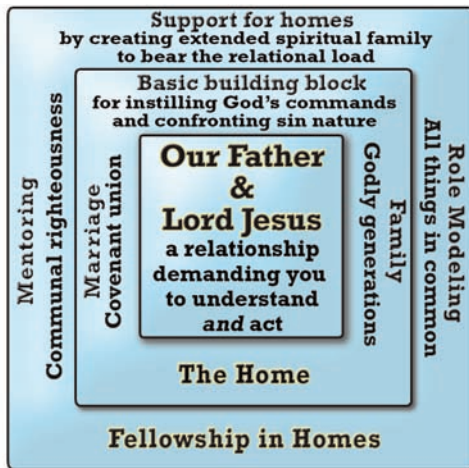


Prophetic Insights

Do You Understand and Then Take Action?

March 14, 2014



Hebraically, To Understand Is To Act!

Understand: To grasp the intended meaning, recognize the significance of, or identify a specific conclusion.

Act: To take action to accomplish something, to serve a particular purpose, or to have an effect on someone or something.

Biblical *understanding* encompasses far more than just knowledge about God's Word. Understanding proceeds from the Holy Spirit at work within you in a sequential pattern. He:

- (1). Gives you the Lord's view on a matter;
- (2). Then convicts you that you need to act;
- (3). Then give you the grace to obey.

You've most likely been strongly influenced in the past by **Hellenized public education** and the **Hellenized religious establishment**. And it's through the *method* in which you were instructed by both of these entities that you've been hindered from understanding and taking action.

How? Hellenistic instruction has trained you to add to your knowledge without any responsibility to take action. Therefore, if you have a heart that's intent on doing your Father's will, you'll need to be de-programmed and re-programmed.

If both Hellenized education and religious systems have been part of your life, you probably don't recognize how crippled in your *responsiveness* to our Lord you may be by those systems. We purpose in this Prophetic Insight to help you *respond to Him* out of love-grounded, obedient trust. Just realize that the biblical pattern of *understanding God's Word* and *acting on it* have not been the approach of your past Hellenized instruction.

Remember how it was in many of your school courses? You didn't need to *understand* what was taught as much as memorize the facts to pass a test. This practice is even more widespread today as public school teachers are compelled to "teach to the test."

We noted in **Hebraic Home Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generations** that public education isn't designed to produce understanding. Rather, the Hellenist **indoctrination method** causes students to take in information without being encouraged to question for understanding. But there's more to this process than meets the eye. A strong Federal Government relies on public education and government-paid teachers to minimize a child's inclination to question.

The Federal Government (as well as many religious leaders) are threatened when people ask questions! Over the course of history, whether a nation faces social upheaval or when ecclesiastical hierarchies are challenged, any groups of individuals who voice concern are imprisoned, killed, exiled or excommunicated.

You may think you're someone who does ask questions. But in spiritual matters and faith enactment, do you ask questions to understand so you may respond *to do your*

Father's will? In 31 years of ministry we've met so few within Christendom who inquire how our Lord would have them take action on what they've learned. Some may ask questions to fill their mind with more facts, but they don't intend to use that knowledge to bring our Father praise and glory. That's why *deprogramming* and *reprogramming* are so needful today among those who are intentional about following Jesus in every aspect of their lives and training their children to follow Him in obedient trust as well.

In the military this pattern was the norm for Mike: questioning for clarity, and understanding which led to action. But how little this process is found within Christendom, where we are engaged in intense spiritual warfare! The same Hellenist, demonic principalities that control public education also deceive and dominate contemporary methods of teaching God's Word.

If you've been part of the religious system for any length of time, you're most likely in a particular denomination or congregation through **mental assent**. In other words, all you needed to do to belong or participate is mentally agree to a particular creed or latch onto an "attractional hook" the religious leaders used to draw you through their doors.

An "attractional" ministry feeds your desire to be entertained or accepted by using "attractions" like lively worship, fun youth groups, or an abundance of programs to make you feel good about your spirituality. You don't need to commit to anything; just show up at scheduled religious activities and help pay the bills. Like Hellenized school teachers, Hellenized clergy seduce churchgoers into passivity based on their mental assent.

Have you ever tried to convince someone who's been a habitual alcoholic or drug addict to stop? That's why we're

writing you this article. Your brain is habitually influenced by a demonic hindrance through which you've been programmed for years to take in facts without the need to understand and then act! For example, every time a clergy person teaches you Bible facts, you get your "fix" of accumulated knowledge but do nothing to make any change in your life! The very passivity of your life—the absence of doing our Father's will—makes you an addict to "mental assent" Christianity.

"If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own" (John 7:17).

Our Lord has told you how to verify spiritual truth: It's when you choose in obedience to the Spirit to *do God's will.* Repeatedly Scripture knits together loving our Lord and doing what He commands. Doing His will and applying His commands to your life as an expression of grateful love for Him and for other people is a theme repeated throughout both Testaments (e.g., Deuteronomy 7:9, 11:13, 30:16; Joshua 22:5; John 14:21, 15:10; 1John 5:3).

We've cited in previous materials that the Hebrew language focuses heavily on *verbs* rather than on the noun or subject like English does. Hebrew emphasizes the *action* that someone has been called to take. While the Newer Testament was written in the Greek language, we each need a Hebraic focus of active response, especially to the 1050 imperative-sense commands presented there. We've personally found that the *Complete Jewish Bible* translation by David Stern helps Gentile followers of Jesus grasp a Hebraic understanding especially in passages in which the ongoing action is stressed instead of the subject.

In His debrief of the parable of the seed and different kinds of soil, our Lord points to the action that comes when you truly understand what His Word is saying:

“The seed sown on good soil are those who

(1) hear the word,

(2) understand it,

(3) produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown” (Mark 4:20).

This sequential Hebraic pattern of *hearing, understanding, and doing* is the *re-programming* you need if you’re to love our Lord by doing our Father’s will and thereby be welcomed by Him. Keep in mind that from a Hebraic perspective the word “hear” in Scripture means more than just taking in sounds. When you *hear*, it’s with the *intent to obey*, to follow through with what’s being spoken.

In the Newer Testament the Hebraic pattern which leads to obedient action takes on even greater significance because we who follow our Lord Jesus have the *power* of His indwelling Spirit to act. The grace of His presence gives you both the desire and the power to do our Father’s will (Philippians 2:13). You’re not being held back by the Spirit from doing our Father’s will; it’s your Hellenist-induced passivity that’s stifling your response!

Other hindrances besides Hellenist influence produce so many “do nothing Christians.” Jesus cited some specifically:

*“Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the **worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things** come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful” (Mark 4:18,19).*

Worldly distractions and a tunnel-vision focus on achieving and maintaining a certain level of material comfort keep so many from repenting and making the

changes in their lives and priorities that would bring lasting fruit. They’re so used to the “do nothing” result of Hellenized teaching that they can’t shake their overwhelming “horizontal” concerns which blind them to “vertical” understanding and obedient trust. Day after day of dashed hope for more in this life is a prison in which change seems impossible.

“Why is My language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say” (John 8:43).

The Jews to whom Jesus was speaking could neither hear nor understand the truth He was telling them. How similar within Christendom today is the spiritual deafness that’s brought about by demolished strongholds or unhealed toxic motivations and reactions. If our Lord could stand in front of so many congregations any Sunday morning, He might repeat what He told the self-reliant, set-in-their-ways Jews after accusing them of belonging to the devil, the father of lies:

*“He who belongs to God **hears what God says**. The reason you **do not hear** is that you **do not belong to God**... I tell you the truth, if anyone **keeps My word**, he will never see death” (John 8:46,51).*

There are only two options: you either belong to the prince of this world, Satan, or you belong to the Creator of the world, God (1John 5:19). According to Jesus, belonging to His Father means *hearing* Him—which connotes *keeping His Word*. But our enemy counts on the deceitful rationalization in “Christian” minds to convince them that **knowing truth without understanding or doing it** is okay with God. How essential it is that we take seriously God’s warning on the matter, which His Spirit gave James to

write (James 2:14-26)!

Rationalization is one of the most debilitating symptoms of deceit, a key stronghold of the master deceiver. The voice of rationalization in your mind can talk you out of taking *any* action (Proverbs 19:24; 26:16). You become paralyzed in apathy, unwilling to jettison spiritual sloth and actually *walk* the talk.

When you're facing a decision which calls for spiritual input and you choose instead to rely on rationalization, you'll not only fail to act. You'll also try to explain or defend your inaction with *plausible self-deceiving excuses* so others will agree with your disobedience.

The Hebraic response to making a spirit-based decision means asking whatever is necessary so you gain understanding in order to take action. From the beginning of the process to the end, the intent is to *act!*

If you don't ask vital questions, you don't intend to take responsibility to act.

We Are NOT A Hellenized Ministry!

We don't intend for our materials to be merely informative, although many use them this way. We rely on you to turn to the Holy Spirit indwelling you, and to use the Hebraic methods of discerning and doing your Father's will as an expression of your grateful love for our Lord Jesus.

Many of our materials contain spiritually practical questions for you to discuss and apply with others who are close to you in the faith. We trust in our Lord's assurance that when His own do this, His Spirit will give them understanding and *grace*—the desire and power to act.

"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment"

(John 7:24).

Please stop evaluating your religious participation from the deceived rationale that forestalls any responsibility to *know* and to *take action*. What was understood by early rabbis and has been substantiated by educational research is that people tend to connect *what they've learned* with *how they learned it*. If you learned something in a formal structured environment such as a classroom or pew, your likelihood of acting on that information in a different setting is next to nothing.

Most Hellenist-influenced seminary instruction takes place in a formal classroom setting, often from behind a podium. This impersonal, non-participatory context is the environment in which clergy have been trained to convey the Bible as *information without the need to take action*—the Hellenist model.

Conversely, the biblically Hebraic essence of instruction is personal discipleship—*apprenticeship*. This requires personal contact and entails instruction and questioning as well as demonstrating and observing the disciple doing the same. You're *showing* a disciple how to *make* a disciple—an essential Kingdom directive.

On the next page is a Hebraic/Hellenist comparison to help you discern for yourself how indoctrinated you are and why so little of your Bible knowledge has been put into action.

Be Doers Of God's Word: A Hebraic-Hellenist Comparison

[Checkmark the characteristics that identify you. Discuss them afterward with others.]

Hebraic Active—Appeals to the heart

Motive

- Love for God and for others
- Life viewed as a pilgrimage leading to salvation
- Suffering seen as necessary to develop Christ-like character
- Repentance and righteousness cherished

Process Oriented

- Stresses direct participation
- Emphasizes age and wisdom
- Role modeling, mentoring, and discipleship are indispensable
- Leadership by personal example
- Character of leader is essential
- Personal relationships imperative

Biblical Application

- Doers of the Word
- Bible: reality that must be confronted
- Goal: to develop Christlikeness

Ministry Activity

- Small interactive groups
- Leader as facilitator
- Cooperative, participatory planning
- Spiritual gifts identified and used
- Frequent scheduled and unscheduled gatherings
- Disciplers reproduce disciplers

Fruit

- Love, acceptance, forgiveness
- Transparency encouraged
- Active participation
- “How you serve” is vital
- Each believer trained to serve and disciple
- Produces mature believers

Hellenist Cognitive—appeals to the intellect

Motive

- Pursuing self-interest and knowledge
- Life on earth viewed a far higher priority than eternity in heaven
- Suffering is to be avoided; people and activities are evaluated by: “How does this person/event benefit *me*?”
- Repentance and righteousness are unnecessary

Program Oriented

- Heavy reliance on scheduled programs
- Emphasizes education and knowledge
- Relies on speaking skills, oratory, programmed materials, and conveying information
- Impersonal leadership; little or no contact with learners
- Leader’s personal life and character are immaterial
- Personal relationships optional

Biblical Application

- Cognitive belief without personal cost
- Bible: data to be taught
- Emphasizes mental assent to biblical facts

Ministry Activity

- Large impersonal groups
- Leader-directed and controlled
- Organizational roles important
- Acquisition of knowledge emphasized
- Reliance on scheduled gatherings
- Perpetual learners unprepared to disciple others

Fruit

- Mutual toleration for sin
- Transparency discouraged
- Passivity and spiritual lethargy
- “What you know” is vital
- Relies on trained professionals
- Produces spectators and spiritual infants

- When you talk with others in the faith, are your discussions primarily focused on the responsive actions the Spirit wants you to carry out to fulfill our Father’s will?
- Do your conversations contain questions that lead to deeper understanding and resultant action?
- Or, are you like most Hellenized Christians who talk about what you’ve learned or know but don’t put it into practice through obedient trust?
- Would our Lord Jesus delight in being part of your conversations?