

HOW TO STUDY FOR YOURSELF

A Beginner's Guide to Seeking Truth Without a Middleman

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide exists to help you:

- Learn how to study, not just what to believe
- Verify truth for yourself
- Break dependence on personalities, platforms, and opinions
- Build confidence in reading, testing, and understanding Scripture and history

Truth does not require hype.

Truth can stand alone.

STEP 1: CHANGE YOUR MINDSET FIRST

Before opening any book, you must reset how you approach learning.

What studying is NOT:

- Memorizing someone else's conclusions
- Defending what you already believe
- Repeating phrases you heard online

What studying IS:

- Asking honest questions
- Slowing down
- Letting the text speak before opinions do

Rule #1:

Do not try to prove a belief. Try to discover what is true.

STEP 2: START WITH THE SOURCE, NOT THE EXPLANATION

Always begin with primary sources.

Primary sources include:

- The Torah / Hebrew Scriptures

- Historical records
- Lexicons (word definitions)
- Maps and timelines

Secondary sources include:

- Sermons
- Videos
- Commentaries
- Social media posts

Rule #2:

If someone explains something to you, go find what they are explaining and read it yourself.

Never trust an explanation without a reference.

STEP 3: READ SLOWER THAN YOU WERE TAUGHT TO

Most people were trained to read:

- Fast
- Emotionally
- Selectively

Instead, read:

- Line by line
- Word by word
- Without inserting meaning

Ask these questions while reading:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is being spoken to?
- When is this happening?
- What is actually commanded, not assumed?

Rule #3:

If you rush, you will miss instructions.

STEP 4: CHECK WORDS, NOT JUST VERSES

Many misunderstandings come from translated words.

How to check a word:

- Identify a key word in the verse
- Look up the original Hebrew meaning
- Note:
- Definition
- Action vs description
- Concrete vs abstract meaning

Example:

- “Hear” often means obey, not just listen
- “Heart” often means mind or will, not emotion

Rule #4:

Do not build beliefs on English words alone.

STEP 5: SEPARATE INSTRUCTION FROM TRADITION

Ask this every time:

Is this written... or was this added later?

Instructions come from:

- Torah
- Written law
- Direct commandments

Traditions come from:

- Culture
- Religion
- Denominations
- Historical power systems

Rule #5:

Tradition explains behavior. Instruction requires obedience.

STEP 6: STUDY IN CONTEXT ALWAYS

Context includes:

- The chapter before

- The chapter after
- The covenant being addressed
- The audience

Never isolate a verse to support a point.

If a teaching requires:

- ignoring context
- emotional pressure
- fear tactics

It is not sound.

Rule #6:

Context protects truth from manipulation.

STEP 7: WRITE WHAT YOU FIND NOT WHAT YOU FEEL

Keep a study notebook.

Write:

- The verse
- The word definitions
- What is actually stated
- Questions you still have

Avoid writing conclusions too quickly.

Rule #7:

Truth reveals itself over time, not in one sitting.

STEP 8: TEST EVERYTHING EVEN THIS GUIDE

A real student:

- Questions respectfully
- Verifies independently
- Does not fear correction

If something is true, it will remain true under examination.

Rule #8:

Truth does not need protection — only exposure.

STEP 9: APPLY BEFORE YOU TEACH

Do not rush to speak.

Ask:

- Am I living this?
- Have I tested this?
- Can I explain this without emotion or ego?

Teaching without application creates confusion.

Rule #9:

Live it quietly before you speak it loudly.

STEP 10: TEACH BY SHOWING, NOT TELLING

When you help others:

- Show the verse
- Show the definition
- Show the history
- Let them read

Do not argue.

Do not pressure.

Do not perform.

Rule #10:

If truth is real, it will speak for itself.

FINAL REMINDER

You are not required to:

- agree immediately
- know everything
- have all the answers

You ARE required to:

- be honest
- be patient
- be willing to learn

Truth is not hidden from the sincere.

It is hidden from the proud.