



We've explored what authority is and why it matters. We've focused in on some Old Testament examples and New Testament teachings, but how does the Bible direct us? How do God-breathed words on the printed pages of our Bibles lead us to God-approved lives? How can I take his communication to mankind that was delivered thousands of years ago and faithfully apply it to my own life? How does God speak to me and direct me at this point in history? Let's consider six "connective paths" between the word of God and our human hearts.

1. Straightforward _____ of truth: direct, to-the-point statements.
 In the beginning, God _____ the heavens and the earth. (**Gen 1:1**)
 For God will bring every deed into _____, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (**Ecc 12:14**)
2. Overarching _____: foundational building blocks of truth.
 "No one can serve _____ masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (**Matt 6:24**)
3. _____: expressed expectations of our Creator that we would do something.
 "_____ and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (**Acts 2:38**)
4. _____: when our Father in heaven says, "Don't do that!"
 "Do _____ be slothful in zeal... do not curse [those who persecute you]... Do not be haughty... _____ be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil... never avenge yourselves... Do not be overcome by evil..." (**Rom 12:11-21**)
5. Positive & negative _____: recorded for our instruction (**Rom 15:4**), prompting us to ask...
 - What did they _____?
 - _____ did they do it?
 - How were they corrected when they got off track?
 - In what ways were they commended when they followed God's will?
6. Necessary _____: exercising our God-given ability to ask, "What's the logical conclusion to be drawn based on what I've been told?"

As we connect the dots between the Scriptures and our everyday lives, we would do well to listen to Paul's encouragement in **2 Timothy 2:15**: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, _____ handling the word of truth." Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Can you list two or three examples of straightforward declarations of truth in the Bible?
- Can you think of an overarching principle you interact with (and maybe take for granted) from everyday life?
- Can you list two or three examples of overarching principles in the Bible?
- What right does God have to give us commands?
- Can you list two or three examples of commands in the Bible?
- Knowing what we know about his heart, why would our Father in heaven give prohibitions to us?
- Can you list two or three examples of prohibitions in the Bible?
- Do we learn from positive and negative examples in everyday life? If so, how?
- Can you list two or three instances of positive examples in the Bible? And negative examples?
- Can you list two or three examples of necessary inferences at work in the Bible?
- What do we need to understand about the way our Creator connects his will with our hearts?