Apply Your Mind

1. **LOVE THE TRUTH**
   Those who do not love the truth will believe the lie (2Th 2:10).

2. **ASK GOD'S HELP**
   It is right to pray for understanding of God's revelation (Eph 1:15-18, Php 1:9-11). In God's providence we are blessed with the ministry of teachers to help us understand (Eph 4:11-15).

3. **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES**
   People become believers in the truth because they are ready to search the scriptures with open minds (Acts 17:10-12). Some only pretend to search the scriptures, so fail to find the truth (Jhn 5:39,46-47).

4. **COMPARE THE SCRIPTURES**
   Spiritual things can be correctly discerned only by spiritual means. The Holy Spirit's teaching is understood by more of the Holy Spirit's teaching (1Co 2:6-13 KJV & Greek). The New Testament itself uses this process. (For example see Hebrews 1, which compares various scriptures to conclude that Jesus is superior to the angels.) All scripture, not just parts of it, should be taken into account (2Tm 3:15-17).

5. **ABIDE IN THE SCRIPTURES**
   We must learn not to go beyond what is written (1Co 4:6) but to abide in God's word alone (2Jn 1:7-9).

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Influence of Intellect

Lesson 3 in the Seven Influences series

By Ron Graham

The third influence that motivates us to obey God is intellect.

God says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are... my thoughts higher than your thoughts” (Isa 55:8-9).

Yet we also read, "Come, let us reason together says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa 1:18).

God has given us intellect. We are capable of considering his thoughts, so our faith and obedience to him is an intelligent choice.

God does not want mindless faith and obedience. He expects us to reason with him, to think things through, to apply our intellect to his word, that we might reach the personal conviction that his ways are right.