

Discipleship Course

The Illumination of the Truth (John 1:1–18)

God has done everything to help us receive and understand what He wants us to know. He has *unveiled the truth* of Himself in many ways, primarily through His Son and the record of His Word. He has *communicated the truth* by breathing out His words to certain men, who in turn wrote down every word that Jesus Christ relayed to them through the Holy Spirit. Now we will learn How God helps us *understand the truth*, by illuminating our understanding, that we may know Him, His redemption, and his perfect will for our lives.

Illumination—comes from the Greek word *photizo*, meaning, “To give light to, to enlighten, shine light upon” (Ephesians 1:17–18)

I. The Natural Man

- A. They have no understanding or _____ for the things of God (Rom. 3:10–12; I Cor. 2:14).
- B. The darkness is due to being alienated from the _____ of God (Eph. 4:17–18).
 - 1. Ignorance—lack of _____
 - 2. Blindness of their hearts—to _____, petrify, render insensitive
- C. It is the _____ of unrighteousness that keeps a man in his lost condemned state (John 3:16–21; II Thess. 2:12).
- D. _____ further blinds those that will not believe the Gospel (II Cor. 4:4; I Tim. 4:1–2).

- E. Even a natural man has been given enough _____ to choose Jesus Christ (John 1:6–9; Titus 2:11).
1. The Father in Heaven _____ a lost person to Christ (John 6:44; Matt. 16:17).
 2. The Holy Spirit _____ the world of sin (John 16:7–11).
 3. The conscience provides a _____ consciousness (John 8:9; Rom. 2:15).
 4. Jesus Christ provides the _____ needed to be saved (John 1:6; 12:32; 14:6).
 5. Christians _____ the Scripture for the lost to understand (Acts 8:30–31; II Tim. 3:15–16).

II. The Regenerated Man

- A. We are regenerated by the _____ (Matt. 19:28 John 3:3; Titus 3:5).
- Regeneration—rebirth, renovation
- B. Eternal life enters man's _____ and brings light to the _____ (John 1:4; Prov 20:27).
- C. A spiritual man will allow _____ to enter his heart (Psalm 119:130).
- D. The Holy Spirit teaches us to live a protected, _____ life (1 John 2:27; Titus 2:12).
- E. A carnal Christian

1. _____ became hard hearted and blind through their unbelief (Matt. 13:14, 15; John 12:37–41; Acts 28:26, 27; Rom. 11:25).
2. A believer can become _____ and quench God's Spirit (Heb. 5:11–14; I Cor. 3:1–3; Eph 4:27, 30; I Thess. 5:19).

III. How to Stay Spiritual

A. Continue in the _____ (II Tim. 3:14).

1. _____ (I Cor. 1:17–19 Eph. 4:11 II Tim.4:2)
2. _____ (Eph. 4:11; II Tim. 2:2,14; Matt. 28:19, 20)
3. Personal _____ (II Kings 22:8–20; II Tim. 2:15; 4:13)

B. Confess _____ immediately (I John 1:9; Eph. 4:27).

C. Clean your conscience by renouncing _____ (Acts 24:16; I Tim. 1:19; II Cor. 4:2).

D. Choose _____ rather than _____ (I Peter 2:18–24; Phil 4:4–8).