



"The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.  
- Wayne Grudem (*Making Sense of the Bible*, pg 91)

"The [clarity] of Scripture upholds the notion that ordinary people using ordinary means can accurately understand enough of what must be known, believed, and observed for them to be faithful Christians." - Kevin DeYoung (*Taking God At His Word*, pg 59)

Do you have confidence in the clarity of God's Word in this way? Why or why not? Are there any specific areas of the Bible that you struggle to understand?

Martin Luther wrote about the external and internal clarity of Scripture:

- External clarity is the idea that if we can read and understand language, we can read and understand the Bible, although it may take some work.

That's a very simple concept, but do you find it helpful?

Put another way, God chose to reveal Himself to humanity using human language and words. Why should that give us confidence that we can understand the Bible (God's Word)?

- Internal clarity is the idea that the Holy Spirit works in us to help us understand God's Word, recognize that it is God's Word, and receive (or apply) God's Word to our lives.

Is there a difference between understanding the language of the Bible and having the Holy Spirit help you understand the message of the Bible?

What does Matthew 13:10-17 have to say about this? How can you see but not see and hear but not hear?

What are the four soils in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13? How does each of them show a different response to God's word? What is the relationship between hearing and understanding and receiving and responding to God's Word in each of the soils?

Which of these soils do you see in yourself? We work toward the good soil, but do you struggle with being any of the others?

How can you move more towards being the good soil? Or how can you move towards being even better soil (producing an even greater harvest)?