

Becoming an Independent Thinker

The Word of God is like a recipe. You have to follow the steps. Then understanding comes. You learn from experience what tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, whole tomatoes, or crushed tomatoes will do to lasagna, and you can apply the principle to other recipes. The same is true with God's Word. You have to follow/obey the steps first. Then understanding comes and then you can take the principles you have acquired from God's Word and apply it to a multitude of life scenarios, and increase in knowledge, but it starts with obeying the first steps.

In my early spiritual development, I did not regard the Word of God merely as rules, but as solutions. When I recognized its power, I started to engraft it (Jas. 1:21). The word "engraft" in the Scripture means to "implant," which comes from a word which means "to germinate or grow," literally to "spring up." Thus, as I applied Biblical solutions to the crucibles that were often present, the good they promised came to pass, along with the purging of everything that blocked it (Heb. 4:12).

Engrafting God's Word builds moral character, and it will make you an independent thinker. Understanding and intent follows as you draw strength from the engrafted Word. *"When wisdom entereth into thine heart... understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness... Whose ways are crooked..."* (Pro. 2:10-13, 15). Over time, you begin to see how important it is to your spiritual well-being to form independent judgments that are based on the truths of God's Word. We can be easily led astray by doing what somebody else is saying is right, without thinking it through or understanding that what we are inclined to do or think, based on someone else's perceptions or course of study alone, may not be morally or ethically sound in God's eyes. It may be based largely on secular conclusions with little thought given to truth. But the engrafted Word of God unlocks the mysteries of truth.

This is why we must learn to be critical thinkers in this day. The engrafted Word lays a foundation to stand on in days of adversity. When contrary political winds blow to move you off course, the engrafted Word will help you process the maze of information so you remain steadfast, principled, and unshakeable (Matt. 7:24-27). You apply what you hear and see against moral principles you have engrafted and make your decision on them rather than on the popular consensus. This makes you a friend of God, and potentially a leader with a moral conscience. The Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth (Jn. 16:13), and knowing it and following it will make you free (Jn. 8:32).

If you have never engrafted God's Word, you can start today by just reading it, out loud preferably, because faith comes by hearing God's Word (Rom. 10:17), and if you can, committing portions of it to memory. The Holy Spirit will do the rest. You might also find my book, *"The Transforming Power of Engrafting God's Word,"* a helpful resource. [Click here to order.](#)

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