

## ML101 Tools of the Trade

Every craftsman needs specialized tools. The Mechanic must have a torque wrench; the Barber, a set of clippers, and the Chef needs the best cookware money can buy. Likewise, Bible Scholars must have the tools to divide and interpret the scriptures.

Your tools are in the scriptures. You can dig them out for yourself or accept help from your elders. You should open your heart and mind and renounce all personal opinions. Had the Jews done this, more of them would have received their Messiah.

Yet there's more digging to do. I'm still finding tools after 57 years of digging. God hid them to prevent unbelievers from altering the scriptures. Another reason — digging brings greater faith than having them all handed to you. God ordained that Israel work six days and rest on the seventh day. Thus, we study the scriptures for the figurative six days, then God reveals His secrets while we rest.

The LORD said this to Moses: "... Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever..." [Ex 19:9]. This "thick cloud" represents symbols, parables, figures and shadows.

So where should new students begin? Peter said this: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" [1Pe 2:2]. God teaches His word by revealing its meanings. If you don't know the Word, you won't receive its revelations.

After growing in knowledge, your next step is to gather your tools. Without them, you can't know how to apply your knowledge. A load of lumber and a bucket of nails are useless without a square, saw and hammer. And, even these are useless without something to build.

And if you're a veteran, study The Table of Contents [ML002]. You might know of some other tools that belong

on the list. In every occupation, workmen who love and value good tools do the best jobs.

The second tool in the Table of Contents is "The Love of the Truth." The title is not "The Love of Truth," it's "The Love of the Truth." Without this special love, you will be content with handed-down, traditional doctrines. And even if you are an elder, you may be unaware that some doctrines that you believe are only partially true.

After getting a few tools in your figurative tool box, you are ready for the next step — understanding. That is, you must understand the knowledge you've acquired. Before doing this, however, you often need to certify that your knowledge is correct.

Some words don't mean what they say. If you don't know Greek and Hebrew, you must rely on references like "Strong's Concordance" and NT and OT Interlinears.

Following this, you should pray for God to give you [the] "*spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*" [Eph 1:17]. I added the brackets around adjective "the" because the Greek shows the adjective "a."

"The" is singular; "a" is infinite. "The" allows for only one spirit of wisdom; "a" allows you to have your own spirit of wisdom. I don't recall the date, but I remember when "a spirit of wisdom" entered my life and ministry.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. This "a" includes you. You can ask in faith and receive "a spirit of wisdom" for your life and ministry. I don't know His name, or even if He has one; but He's been the most helpful tool in my toolbox. Here's another scripture that should help:

Heb 1:14: *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*