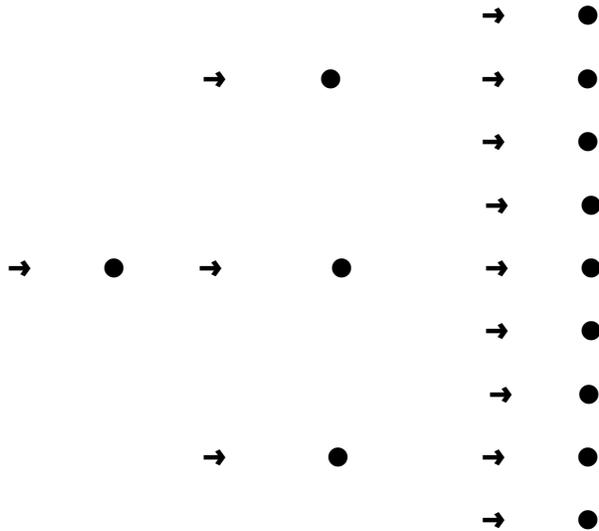


INTERPRETATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS

The previous article in this series dealt with the unity of the meaning of Scripture. Each passage has one and only one correct interpretation, rooted in its grammatical and historical context. To avoid abuses of the Bible and to make wise application of its truth, it's helpful to understand the difference between interpretation, principles and applications.

A passage has **ONE interpretation**—what the Holy Spirit inspired the original author to write to the original readers. Rooted in the interpretation may be **ONE OR MORE principles**—timeless truths which can be applied by anyone. Those principles may have **SEVERAL applications**—specific guidance for your life.



Bible Passage	Interpretation	Principle(s)	Application(s)
God's Revelation	One	One or More	Many

Example: *"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil" (Matthew 5:37).* Interpretation in context: Avoid making casual vows and looking for loopholes to avoid keeping them (contrary to the practice of the Pharisees). Principles: God blesses truthfulness; say what you mean and mean what you say; don't spice up your conversation with big promises; avoid pretense; don't try to look spiritual by taking special vows. Possible applications: Always think before you speak; be sure you can deliver before you make a promise; don't sign anything you aren't sure you all willing to live up to.