

## Making Observations

### Grammatical Structure

**Verbs:** What tense is it? Is it active or passive?

“Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly **calling**, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess”  
(Heb. 3:1)

“Be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Eph. 5:18)

### Grammatical Structure

**Subject and Object:** The subject does the acting upon and the object is acted upon.

“But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.” (Gal. 6:4)

### Grammatical Structure

**Modifiers:** These are descriptive words such as adjectives and adverbs.

“In this you **greatly** rejoice, though now for a **little** while you may have had to suffer grief in **all kinds** of trials.” (1 Pet. 1:6)

### Grammatical Structure

**Prepositional Phrases:** These tell you where the action is happening: in, on, upon, through, by, to, and so on.

“In Christ,” “by the Spirit,” “in the flesh,” “under the law,” “through faith.”

### Grammatical Structure

**Connectives:** These are very important. And, but, therefore will tell you so much about how things are related.

**And:** “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (Ps. 37:4)

**But:** “In the spring of the year, at the time when kings normally conduct wars, David sent out Joab with his officers and the entire Israelite army. They defeated the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed behind in Jerusalem.” (2 Sam. 11:1)

## Laws of Structure

**Cause and Effect:** An event, concept, or action that causes another (therefore, so, then, as a result).

“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, **so that** we do not drift away.” (Heb. 2:1)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, **so that** whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16)

## Laws of Structure

**Means:** How a cause and effect relationship is accomplished (through, by).

“In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope **through** the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Pet. 1:3)

“For it is God's will that **by** doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.” (1 Pet. 2:15)

## Laws of Structure

**Comparison:** Two or more ideas that are alike or similar (like, as, too, also).

“He is **like** a tree planted by flowing streams; it yields its fruit at the proper time, and its leaves never fall off. He succeeds in everything he attempts. Not so with the wicked! Instead they are **like** wind-driven chaff.” (Ps. 1:3-4)

## Laws of Structure

**Contrast:** Two or more ideas that are unlike or dissimilar (but, yet).

“You know that from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors you were ransomed – not by perishable things like silver or gold, **but** by precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, namely Christ.” (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

## Laws of Structure

**Explanation or Reason:** The presentation of an idea or event followed by its interpretation (for, because).

“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, **so that** we do not drift away.

**For** if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?” (Heb. 2:1-3)

## Laws of Structure

**Repetition:** Terms or phrases used two or more times.

“In those days Israel had no king” (Judg. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

“By faith” (Heb. 11)

“For his loyal love endures” (Ps. 136)

## Laws of Structure

**Proportion:** An emphasis indicated by the amount of space the writer devotes to a subject relative to other subjects covered.

### Gospel of John

3 1/2 Year Ministry	1 night Upper Room	Death and Resurrection
1:1-12:50	13:1-17:26	18:1-21:25
12 Chs.	5 Chs.	4 Chs.
66%	18%	16%

1277.5 days equals .05% per day

## Asking Questions

1. Who
2. What
3. Where
4. When
5. Why
6. How

- Ask the text question that only it can answer
- Ask questions that you do not know the answers

## Putting it all Together

- Read the text several times
- Make observations both grammatical and structural
- Write questions that I do not know the answer
- Ask the text questions it can answer.

Context  
↑  
Contrast

## Acts 1:8

But you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses  
both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea  
and Samaria,  
and to the farthest parts of the earth.

## Acts 1:1-8

"1 I wrote the former account, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after he had given orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 To the same apostles also, after his suffering, he presented himself alive with many convincing proofs. He was seen by them over a forty-day period and spoke about matters concerning the kingdom of God. 4 While he was with them, he declared, 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait there for what my Father promised, which you heard about from me.

## Acts 1:1-8

5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' 6 So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, 'Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?' 7 He told them, 'You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth."

Context: Dialogue / Question & Answer → Negative verse 7  
Positive verse 8

Contrast Who?  
But you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses

both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea  
and Samaria,  
and to the farthest parts of the earth.

(9-11) Last words of Jesus followed by ascension

Context: Dialogue / Question & Answer → Negative verse 7  
Positive verse 8

Contrast Who? Future Ability: Supernatural  
But you will receive power

Time C&E when the (Holy Spirit) has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses

both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea  
and Samaria,  
and to the farthest parts of the earth.

(9-11) Last words of Jesus followed by ascension

Context: Dialogue / Question & Answer → Negative verse 7  
Positive verse 8

Contrast Who? Future Ability: Supernatural  
But you will receive power

Time C&E when the (Holy Spirit) has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses

Not within them but from outside

both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea  
and Samaria,  
and to the farthest parts of the earth.

(9-11) Last words of Jesus followed by ascension

Context: Dialogue / Question & Answer → Negative verse 7  
Positive verse 8

Contrast Who? Future Ability: Supernatural  
But you will receive power

Time C&E when the (Holy Spirit) has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses

Not within them but from outside

List of places  
Outline? Yes

both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea  
and Samaria, John 4:9  
and to the farthest parts of the earth. Inhabited

(9-11) Last words of Jesus followed by ascension

### Acts 1:8 Asking Questions

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth.

- **Who:** Spirit, disciples, people of earth
- **What:** receiving, Spirit, power, witness
- **Where:** Jerusalem to earth
- **When:** future and on
- **Why:** to be witnesses
- **How:** Spirit

### Studying a Section

- Read the entire book completely two or three times.
- Make structural and contextual observations.
- Ask the questions who, what, when, why, where, and how.
- Identify the paragraphs and put a label or title on each paragraph.
- Evaluate each paragraph in light of the other paragraphs.

## **Studying a Section**

- Outline the book.
- Keep a list of your observations and unanswered questions.
- Ask yourself, “What have I seen in this section that changes the way I live?”