

A Light in the Darkness

THE DOCTRINE OF THE WORD OF GOD

What is the Object of Illumination?

– Four Kinds of Blindness

- Natural Blindness

- Eph 4:17-18 | “darkened in their understanding”
- 1 Jn. 1:6 | darkness of self-deception and personal opacity
- Rom. 1:21 | “foolish hearts were darkened”
- 1 Cor 2:14

- Satanic Blindness

- 2 Cor 4:4 | “God of this age has blinded the minds of *unbelievers*”

- Carnal Blindness

- 1 Cor. 3:1-3 | Christians addressed as “people of the flesh”
 - The Corinthians “fleshiness” limited what Paul could communicate to them.
- Heb. 5:11-14 | “dull of hearing” and “unskilled” in the word

- Judicial Blindness

- Rom. 11:25 “blindness” (KJV) of Israel

Understanding What, Exactly? The Consensus View

- Illumination *of Scripture*, commonly understood, refers to something like the following: A work of the Holy Spirit, whereby the hearer or reader of Scripture is aided in understanding the meaning of Scripture's content and/or led to embrace its implications.
 - Ps. 119:12, 18, 33, 108
 - John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:12-15
 - Eph. 1:17-19
 - 1 Cor. 2:12-15
 - Lk. 24:13-32; 44-45

Summary

- Scripture is excellent, divine communication. Scriptural support for the idea that the Spirit's *primary* role in illumination is helping Christians properly understand the content of that communication is lacking. Support for the idea that the Spirit aids in conviction and application in personal obedience as the Scripture pierces to the division of our soul's and spirit's is much, much stronger. Of course, this very closely overlaps with the sanctification process in general. If we don't care about "categories," however, this doesn't matter.

Summary

- Nevertheless, the Spirit is not “limited” to only doing certain kinds of illuminating works as we read the Scripture—he may very well aid us in “putting the pieces together” and in proper interpretation itself. This is particularly the case as the Spirit works to overcome carnal blindness, in which Christians think and act like unbelievers, affecting their ability to understand spiritual truths.
 - And so, properly speaking, it is our hearts and minds, not the Scripture, that need supernatural illumination, and illumination primarily toward the end of conviction and personal application in obedience, not learning new information and reading comprehension.