

## How the Bible Teaches a Thing

*by John Isaac Edwards*

Many fail to understand how the Scriptures direct us. There are four ways the Bible teaches a thing. Thus, we study:

**1) By a Statement of Fact.** The Bible teaches a thing by stating a thing to be true. Some examples:

*The creation.* Moses stated, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).

*Salvation.* Jesus stated, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:16).

**2) By a Direct Command.** The Bible teaches a thing by commanding a thing to be done. Some examples:

*The Lord’s supper observance.* Christ commanded, “...this do in remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:24-25).

*The Great Commission.* The Lord commanded, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Mt. 28:19).

**3) By an Approved Example.** The Bible teaches a thing by showing an example of how a thing is to be done. Some examples:

*The appointment of elders.* “And when they had ordained them elders in every church...” (Acts 14:23).

*The day of the Lord’s supper observance.* “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7).

**4) By a Necessary Inference.** The Bible teaches a thing by necessary inference. Necessary inference is when a thing is not specifically stated or exemplified, but necessarily

implied by the clear language of the text. Some examples:

*The baptism of Jesus.* “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...” (Mt. 3:16). It is necessarily implied that Jesus went down into the water. He must have first gone down into the water in order to have come up out of the water.

*The frequency of the Lord’s supper observance.* “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7). It is necessarily implied that the Lord’s supper is a weekly observance as every week has a first day.

May we appreciate how the Bible teaches a thing, be faithful in doing what the Scriptures direct us to do, and leave off everything else.

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# The Need for Authority

by John Isaac Edwards

Many fail to recognize the need for authority in religion. Man's need for divine authority is as old as man himself. Let's take a look.

## 1) Adam and Eve Needed It.

God commanded, "...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it..." (Gen. 2:17). When they ate of the forbidden fruit, they acted without authority and were driven out of the garden (Gen. 3:23-24).

## 2) Cain and Abel Needed It.

Genesis 4:1-7 finds Cain and Abel bringing offerings unto the Lord. Abel offered by faith and was accepted by God (Heb. 11:4). Cain's works were evil and he was rejected by God (1 Jn. 3:12).

## 3) Nadab and Abihu Needed It.

The Lord specified "...fire from off the altar..." (Lev. 16:12). Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire for which there was no commandment from the Lord and died before the Lord (Lev. 10:1-2).

## 4) Saul Needed It.

King Saul was commissioned to go to Amalek and destroy all. When he spared the king and the best of the livestock, he disobeyed God and was rejected from being king (1 Sam. 15:1-23).

## 5) Uzziah Needed It.

King Uzziah went into the Lord's temple to burn incense. Only the priests were authorized to do this (Ex. 30:7-8; Num. 16:40). Uzziah became a leper and

was cut off from the house of the Lord (2 Chr. 26:16-23).

## 6) We Need It Too.

Just as these folks in the Old Testament needed divine authority, the Scriptures show we need authority from God for all that we do today. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:21-23). To work iniquity is to act without authority!

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

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