

## 2 Peter 1:20-21

***knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

I am going to start today's devotional with a simple, one sentence, statement.

*"I'm eating a yellow banana."*

A very simple statement, which if I were eating a banana right now would be true. But let's say for the sake of today's devotional that I was eating a banana when I wrote it. But you could take that same statement and have 100 people read it and most would take it at face value that I was eating a yellow banana, yet some of them will "interpret" it differently, such as:

- *"Well, I think it's more of a yellow, brownish, light tan banana, because bananas are not truly 100% yellow"*
- *"Not all bananas are yellow, some are green, and is it one of those ones that you have to cook first before you can eat it, you know a plantain, which is not a banana but a plantain, so I don't think you know what you are talking about, and you are probably going to die because you didn't cook it."*
- *"Steve only likes bananas and hates every other kind of fruit."*
- *"Apples are not good for you."*
- *"Steve eats such disgusting things, because I don't like bananas."*
- *"Man came from monkeys, because monkeys eat bananas."*

Some of you may be thinking, Wow, and may be laughing at some of the comments, because you know how ridiculous they sound. But if you read my statement, it's rather simple, *"I am eating a yellow banana"*, period, no interpretation needed or required.

Yet when you quote a verse from the bible, how many say things like, *"Well, that's your interpretation."* Really, if you quote a verse, or post a bible verse on social media, there is no interpretation, and usually the reason you quote or post it, is that it speaks for itself, with no interpretation required. But even though you do post scripture, some people will still respond with things that sound down right crazy, and usually it's because they try to make it say what they want it to say, and not what God truly said.

Also, there are those who over complicate the scripture. An example would be like taking my comment, *"I'm eating a yellow banana"* and getting this out of it.

*"Not all bananas are yellow, some are green, and is it one of those ones that you have to cook first before you can eat it, you know a plantain, which is not a banana but a plantain, so I don't*

*think you know what you are talking about, and you are probably going to die because you didn't cook it."*

and that's when cults are created or how cults will try to confuse you.

Now you can also quote a verse incorrectly, because you are not quoting it in its context. Let's say you have a friend who likes your car a lot and they ask if you think it would be a right for them to buy the same car. And let's say you are trying to be super spiritual and you respond with, *"Well Jesus said in the book of Luke to **"Go and do likewise"** so, yes I think you should buy a car just like mine based upon what Jesus said."*

That is a misinterpretation, and you are taking Jesus' statement out of context. So, looking at when Jesus said **"Go and do likewise"** the right context is:

† **Luke 10:36-37** ***"So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*** (underlined for emphasis)

And when Jesus said this, it had nothing to do with buying a car, or a chariot or buying anything, but He was explaining who our neighbor is, and you can see this by reading Luke 10:25-37.

So looking at today's verse again that says, *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* So if the Bible was written by *"holy men"* who *"were moved by the Holy Spirit"* then don't try and explain it to be what you want it to say, or what you think it means, and take it at face value for what it says. Like if Jesus says **"Sin no more"** (Ref John 5:14 & 8:11), it means **"sin no more"**, not do it five more times then sin no more, or if everyone else is doing it, it doesn't apply to you so it's okay for you to do it. No, just **"Sin no more"**

Also, don't waste your time trying to deal with others who like to take God's word out of context, or pretend to be wise, yet sound so foolish, simply because they don't like bananas, and they want you to dislike them too.

† **Titus 3:9** ***But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.***

† **1 Corinthians 3:18-20** ***Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."***