God revealed Himself to mankind with the obvious purpose of man understanding and learning. As it is written: “No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me.” (John 6:4-5)

In the above passage, note the highlighted points. The Father draws people to Jesus. How so? By what is written in the prophets, this is how God teaches. Those who hear His teaching and learn from it, come to Jesus. Since people come to Jesus by being taught, would it make sense that God would make it impossible to understand His will? Is God’s revelation just a huge cosmic joke, which no one can ever understand by God?

COMMANDS, EXAMPLES AND NECESSARY INFERENCES

God, by His very nature, has all authority. This has been manifested in the Divine Person incarnated - Jesus (Matt. 28:18). How can we properly understand the words of Jesus?

Turn again to Matthew 28. After declaring that He has all authority, Jesus directed His apostles to make disciples of all by baptizing them into His authority. He then adds in verse 20: “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you...” Very simply, Jesus here admits in plain language that He expressed His will in commands.

A command is a direct statement or order to do something. For example, in verse 19 he told his apostles to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...” This was not a suggestion. This was not just some “good idea”. This was a directive, a command, an order.

A second way that Jesus taught was by approved example. He demonstrated things which were approved and acceptable for us to imitate and learn from. In John 13 he washed the feet of the apostles. After doing this He asked, “Know ye what I have done to you?” (John 13:12) Of course the apostles knew that
He washed their feet – but He was not talking about that. This example was an illustration of the principle of humility and service.

In like manner, the apostles used examples to teach (1 Tim. 4:12; James 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:21). Just like the parent who shows his son how to tie his shoes, God’s word shows us things to do and to imitate.

A third way that Jesus taught was by necessary inference. A necessary inference is a necessary deduction or conclusion. A necessary conclusion is not just a “possible” conclusion, it is the only proper and reasonable conclusion demanded by the evidence. Let us look at an example of how Jesus used necessary inference.

In Matthew 22:23-33, the Sadducees came to Jesus and tested Him. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. Their challenge to Jesus, therefore, was rooted in their unbelief. They gave an illustration of how a man married and later died, leaving no children.

Jesus continued, “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven” (v. 30). The resurrection will not result in a continuation of earthly relationships. Instead, the resurrection is preparation for dwelling in heaven, like the angels of God.

Now watch how Jesus uses necessary inference: “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (v. 31-32)

Jesus quotes from Exodus 3:6. Way back there, God was speaking to Moses. Note carefully that Moses lived some 400 years after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob died physically. Yet, God speaks of being (present tense) their God still. God thereby asserts definitively that they still existed even after leaving their mortal bodies behind. And from this draws the necessary conclusion that if they still exist apart from the body, then God is going to also raise them up again. God is indeed the “God of the living”, not the dead.

While these three ways of expressing authority may seem “new”; they are actually quite common and normal. In fact, we all use them every day of our lives. When you deposit your check in your bank account by writing your account number on the back, that is a direct statement or command to the teller. The only thing that authorizes them to do is to deposit it in your account. And we frequently give examples to others on how to do some task or work. And we draw necessary inferences from many occasions in life. If someone asks an aged grandmother how many children she has, she may reply, “I had four.” The past tense unavoidably means that she no longer has four. We understand such statements in everyday life, so we should really not find it strange that God expresses His word and will in ways that we can understand it. After all, if God is able to communicate successfully with a sea animal (Jonah 2:10), surely He can properly communicate with mankind, who is made in His image (Gen. 1:27).
Maintain your Salvation

"Faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire that thou affirm confidently to the end that they who have believed God may be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men"
Titus 3:8

Introduction:

Maintenance is important to keep machinery running smoothly. An automobile's oil must be changed regularly, tire air pressure checked for proper wear and gas mileage, windshield wiper blades maintained, air filter cleaned, and so on. The automobile will function well if maintained. The Christian, in some ways, is like an automobile that must be maintained. The Christian must maintain faith, zeal, and hope else the engines of our mind will be polluted by this world. Let us examine some points regarding maintaining salvation.

I. The Command to Maintain one's Salvation:
   A. Be faithful till death (1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:19-23; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 3:5-6; Revelation 2:10).
   B. Possibility of apostasy (Galatians 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 4:1-4).

II. Things that have the power to cause a Christian to give up their Faith:
   A. Bitterness over life's trials (Hebrews 12:15).
   B. Worldliness / Temptation [James 1:12ff] (pleasures associated with riches {1 Timothy 6:10}, sexual immorality {1 Corinthians 6:9-11}, and being socially accepted {John 12:36-43}).
   C. False teachers (Galatians 1:6; )

III. Things that will help us maintain our Salvation:
   A. Prayer: Prayers of thanksgiving / prayers of humility
   B. Bible Study: the more we study the greater our knowledge / faith / understanding / zeal / and longing for heaven (2 Timothy 2:15).

Conclusion:

God has promised man eternal salvation in heaven. There are many tools the devil has to draw us away from that glorious objective (see 2 Corinthians 2:11). The Christian is commanded to maintain that salvation throughout life. We are to walk by faith rather than sight.