

Word Study

I. Choose a word (or short phrase) to study

- A. Look up the definition in an English dictionary.
- B. Additional (optional) research: Bible dictionaries, etymology dictionaries.

II. Discover where the word is used in the Bible

A. Using a Concordance, a Bible Index or a website (biblegateway.com) look up all the Scripture in which the word is found. A concordance will refine your search because it uses the original languages. Nevertheless, studies of a word using an English translation can reap the same rewards.

B. Survey the use of the word in the Bible

1. How often does it occur?
2. In which books is it found?
3. In which book is it used most?
4. Where does the word first appear?
5. Which writers used the word?

C. Depending on the amount of the usage of the word you may need to break your study into a series. For example, you can study the word in the Pentateuch one week then: Psalms & Proverbs, the prophetic books, the Gospels, the Epistles.

III. Study the significance of the word in its context

A. Look at the surrounding text in each occurrence of the word.

B. Analyze how the word is used.

1. Describe the use of the word in each context.
2. Try to determine how it would be understood by original audience.
3. How does a specific writer tend to use the word?
4. Does the meaning of the word expand from Old Testament to the New?

IV. Application to your life today

A. How has your understanding of this word been expanded through this study?

B. What did you learn about God and yourself?