

Discerning Truth in a Post Christian Culture

How to Do a Word Study in the Bible

Lesson 6, May 20, 2018

One of the most useful tools of Bible study is performing a word study for the purpose of discovering how a word is used in the Bible, and therefore what it means in a Biblical context. While it may help to look up a word in a modern dictionary, the real key to understanding is how that word was used in Biblical literature. All words have a contextual meaning. For our sample study we will look at words used in Galatians 5:22-23 which are called the fruit of the Spirit; they are words which describe attitudes and behaviors of a Spirit-filled believer.

I. Dictionary Meanings

- A. Contemporary: Webster's Dictionary of the English Language
- B. Bible Dictionaries:
 - 1. Unger's Bible Dictionary
 - 2. New Bible Dictionary
 - 3. Various study Bible dictionaries
- C. Original Language Dictionaries: Strong's numbering system for Greek and Hebrew words in the original—designed for English language readers. If the numbers occur in context they indicate Which Greek or Hebrew word occurs in the original.

II. Concordance Studies

- A. Print books:
 - 1. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
 - 2. Young's Exhaustive Concordance
- B. Electronic concordance
 - 1. Uses the search feature of electronic Bibles on computer, pads, phones
 - 2. May be set for a specific range: whole Bible, OT or NT, Gospels, Letters, etc.
- C. Copy and paste functions can be used in some electronic Bibles to transfer relevant Verses to a word processor (such as Pages or MS Word)

III. Sample Studies from Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, **faithfulness**,
23 **gentleness**, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- A. Dictionary Meaning:

- B. Sample Verses from Concordance Studies:
