

D. God's Gospel Vocabulary.

The Spirit of God has carefully chosen specific words to declare and describe His great salvation (Psalm 12:6). God's words are powerful, living and life-giving (Hebrews 4:10; John 5:24; 6:23; 8:30-32 cp. Job 23:12; Psalm 119:103; Jeremiah 15:16).

God's vocabulary includes some difficult and unfamiliar words. However, we cannot just skip over them or substitute them with other words that are not accurate. As with our look at the "Selected Scriptures for Example," care and attention (i.e. hard work) is required to understand the meanings of words in the context of the Scripture in which they appear – and then to compare Scripture with Scripture (Isaiah 28:9-10; II Timothy 2:14-17; II Peter 3:15-16). Good Bible dictionaries, that give definitions of the words in their original language, and give the Scripture locations, are needed to acquire proper understanding.

To get started, here is a list of recommended sources: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary, Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies, Unger's Bible Dictionary, Baker's Dictionary of Theology, The Interlinear Bible (J. P. Green, Sr.), and The MacArthur Study Bible. Two other challenging books are by J. I. Packer: God's Words and God Has Spoken.

Here is a list of important words to study and understand how God uses them:

Names of God (The Lord, The LORD, Jehovah)

Scripture, Revelation, Inspiration, Law

The World

Sin, Sins Remission

Satan, The Devil

Salvation, Judgment

Grace, Mercy, Propitiation

Faith, Believe

Justification, Justify, Righteous

Redemption, Redeem

Reconciliation, Reconcile

Regeneration

Sanctification, Sanctify

Holy, Holiness

Mortification, Mortify

Fellowship, Communion

Death, Hell, Lake of Fire

More Scripture to encourage you: Psalm 56:4,10 cp. 138:2; Proverbs 1:5 cp. Psalm 1:1-3; Isaiah 50:4; Proverbs 2:1-22; Isaiah 55:6-11; Amos 8:11.