

## Loving and Learning How to Study the Word of God<sup>1</sup>

(collected from several resources and prepared by Kit Marye)

These sessions are intended to provide help in studying the Word of God.

Our Objectives:

1. **To learn to accurately handle the Word of God.**
2. **To teach you the process of “*expository*” (“*word for word*”, “*verse by verse*”) study of God’s Word, in “*context*” according to the revealed truth of the Bible.**
3. **To give you some tools to use to help you in your study.**

Guidelines and things to consider:

- Please understand that while this process will help you in your daily quiet time, this seminar focuses on understanding what the Bible says and what it means using the available tools to understand the revealed truth of the Bible.
- Use the information as a guide and adapt it to your particular style as you have time. It will be well worth whatever time you spend learning and applying the Lord’s message.
- Studying and understanding God’s Word is a journey, not a destination.
- The treasure and majesty of His Word is found “in how the Holy Spirit illuminates and gives us perfect insight to the Mind of Christ.”
- “Practice makes perfect;”

*2 Timothy 2:15 <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to <sup>(A)</sup>present yourself approved to God as a worker who <sup>[a]</sup>does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling <sup>(B)</sup>the word of truth.***

*1 Corinthians 2:14-16 <sup>14</sup> But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> But the one who is spiritual discerns all*

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<sup>1</sup> Some material in this document is adapted from Dr. John MacArthur’s article on: How to Study the Bible taken from his resources on his IOS App.”

*things, yet he himself is <sup>[k]</sup>discerned by no one. <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? (Isa 40:13) But we have the mind of Christ.*

Join me on a journey of joy as we unlock the treasure that is God's perfect Word!

## Four Common Methods of Studying the Bible<sup>2</sup>

1. **Inductive Bible Study:** Uses three basic steps that move from a **focus on specific details to a more general, universal principle**. It is defined as the attempt to use information about a specific situation to conclude.
  - The steps are **observation** (what does it say?), **interpretation** (what does it mean?), and **application** (what does it mean for my life?).
  - Inductive Bible study is a valuable tool for understanding and applying the principles of God's Word.
  - It can be done on many different levels. The shorter version is good for a brief devotional.
  - Using an inductive method, students take a verse or a passage, break it down, and examine its details to draw out the meaning.
    - A sample verse to illustrate the method is **2 Samuel 9:1**: **Step 1 Observation** "David asked, 'Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?'" As we observe this verse and ask ourselves "what does it say?", we see that David simply wants to know if there are any living relatives of Saul's that he may be kind to for Jonathan's sake.
    - **The second step—interpretation** (what does it mean?)—requires a more in-depth examination than the first step. At this step, we want to be careful to find the meaning of the verse in its context. For our sample verse, as we look into the background of the incident we find that the relationship between David, God's anointed future king of Israel, and Jonathan, son of King Saul, was very close. Jonathan saved David's life when Saul was pursuing him (1 Samuel 20). David had described their relationship as "extraordinary" and he mourned Jonathan's death greatly (**2 Samuel 1:25-27**). In this context, we see David wanting to do something nice for any of his relatives who might still be alive. His love and loyalty were still strong even though Jonathan had been out of his life for some time. David did not sit passively and wonder about this; he took action and searched for

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/What-is-Inductive-Bible-Study;-four-methods-of-bible-study>.

these people.

The third step in inductive Bible study is the practical application of the principles (what does it mean to me?). Among the ways we can apply our sample verse to our own lives is to see David's action as one of love and loyalty. We might ask ourselves: How loyal am I to my earthly friends and my heavenly Friend?

## 2. Deductive Bible Study: simply **taking a general statement and then going to Scripture to find details that support (or disprove) it.**

- An example of deductive Bible study might be to start with the general statement, "Sin leads to death."
- The student of the Bible must then go to Scripture to find passages that support that statement. He might cite [Romans 5:12](#), <sup>12</sup> *Therefore, just as through (A)one man sin entered into the world, and (B)death through sin, and (C)so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned—*

[Romans 6:23](#), <sup>23</sup> *For the wages of (A)sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is (B)eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

[Ezekiel 18:20](#), <sup>20</sup> *The person who (A)sins will die. A (B)son will not suffer the punishment for the father's guilt, nor will a father suffer the punishment for the son's guilt; the (C)righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.*

and [Jeremiah 31:30](#). <sup>30</sup> *But (A)everyone will die for his own wrongdoing; each person who eats the sour grapes, his own teeth will become blunt.*

If he finds that Scripture does indeed support his premise that sin leads to death, he can then make a more specific application: **we are all in danger of death because we are all sinners (Romans 3:23).**

- A weakness of the deductive method is if we start with a false premise, then we will not arrive at a proper conclusion. For example, we might start with the general statement, "All angels have wings." We might even find a passage or two in Scripture that mentions angels' wings, such as [Isaiah 6:2](#). **But if our conclusion is "Michael has wings because Michael is an angel," then we are on shaky ground.**

**3. Topical Study**, is similar to a deductive Bible study in that it begins with a general topic like marriage and then finds specific scriptures to find out what the Bible teaches about Marriage and to draw conclusions from them.

**4. Expository Bible Study-** from "to expose". This is the one I prefer as it starts with a passage of Scripture and then studies the **grammar**, the **context**, both "near and far" and the **historical setting** of that passage in order to understand the author's intent.

- In other words, the expositor analyzes the text carefully and objectively understands the meaning of the passage and applies it.

Our seminar will focus on this method.

## **Background:**

I started studying God's Word back in 1981 as soon as I became a Christian. God gave me the burning desire to study and find out what was in His Word so that I could navigate life according to His instructions. He has been faithful even when I have not. His Word, as I have learned, is the most accurate map that will guide us along the road to the end of life's journey, and the beginning of being in Christ's presence forever.

## **Objective 1: To learn to accurately handle the Word of God:**

## **Discovery**

**Let's start as though we are doing a study on the Book of Acts-**

## **Background Investigation<sup>3</sup>**

1. To understand the Bible one must first know its author. An unsaved person cannot understand God's Word. Are you a believer in Christ alone for your salvation? If not, take care of that first. Here is a very clear article to help you if you have questions: <https://www.gotquestions.org/know-sure-Heaven.html>notebook
2. Assemble your tools: A good study bible in which you can mark, and a notebook in which to journal and make notes;

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<sup>3</sup> From Dr. John Barnett's Personal Bible Study Method.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6Qm8QnqwZk&list=PLSP1IO9h3J7vaPEt28uOpOCGCnDxahyNJ&index=2>

3. Start by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to empower you, to feed you as you a) read, b) study, c) meditate, and d) apply His Word into the very fabric of your life so that you can be transformed by it.

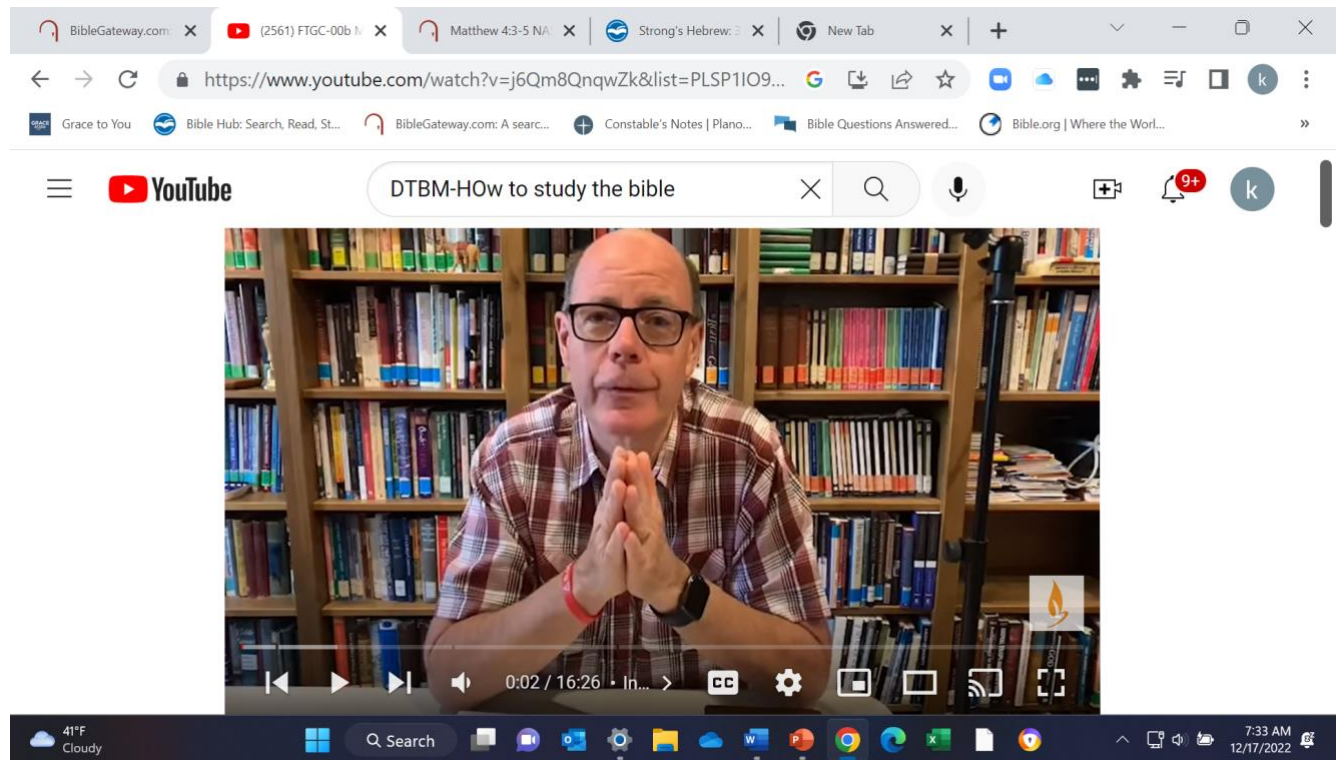
*Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your Law.*

4. To begin a study of a book of the Bible, read through the book several times. Make notes in your notebook for each chapter as the Lord leads you, writing down your observations of the passages within each chapter as you study.
  - a. Take your time as this is not a race but an exploration.
  - b. Break it down into bite-size pieces.
  - c. There are 28 chapters in the book of Acts, so look at an outline in your study bible and break it down into divisions.
  - d. Next, meditate on what you have read and what you recorded in your journal. Summarize what you have learned.
  - e. Write down some applications of what the Lord is teaching you from the content.

**Jeremiah 15:16:** <sup>16</sup> Your words were found and I <sup>(A)</sup>ate (gk. Devoured) them, And Your <sup>(B)</sup>words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; For I have been <sup>(C)</sup>called by Your name, Lord God of armies.

Here is a great youtube video of Dr. John Barnett, Discover the Book Ministries- how to do a personal bible study.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6Qm8QnqwZk&list=PLSP1IO9h3J7vaPEt28uOpOCGCnDxahyNJ&index=2>



**f. Become a detective.** Discover the following:

**Who-** was the author of the book.?

- i. To whom is it written?
- ii. Are there any specific individuals described in the passage? If so make a note.

(sources: Introduction in your Study Bible, Introduction to the book in commentaries- i.e. The Bible Knowledge Commentary, by Walvoord and Zuck; Dr. Constable's Notes; John MacArthur's Introduction the book of the Bible, - MacArthur Study Bible in print or online; online sources like <https://www.gotquestions.org>

**When-** was it written?- Understand that there may be differences in dates, depending on the source, so ranges of dates will work.

(Sources: Introduction to your Study Bible. Bible Hub,- Bible timelines; Life Application Chronological Study Bible, as examples.)

**Where-** Where did the message take place?

- i. Where was the author when it was written?
- ii. Where did the audience live?
- iii. Did the author have helped in his ministry? If so who were they and what was their relationship?

(**Sources-** Introductions to the book from your Study Bible, other commentaries in print or online- Dr. Constable's Notes, John MacArthur's Introductions to the book from his I phone app.)

- iv. What is the geography of the area where the audience resides?  
(sources- Bible Maps and Charts- BibleHub.com; Plowboy.org; Life Application Study Bible, etc.)

**What:** is going on in the text and behind the scenes **[context]\*?**

*\*To better understand the importance of studying the Bible in Context see:*

<https://www.gotquestions.org/context-Bible.html>

***I have attached the document describing "context" below:***

## **Why is it important to study the Bible in context?<sup>4</sup>**

It is important to study Bible passages and stories within their context. Taking verses out of context leads to all kinds of errors and misunderstandings.

The understanding context begins with four principles: **literal meaning** (what it says), **historical setting** (the events of the story, to whom is it addressed, and how it was understood at that time); **grammar** (the immediate sentence and paragraph within which a word or phrase is found) and **synthesis** (comparing it with other parts of Scripture for a fuller meaning).

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.GotQuestions.org>



Context is crucial to biblical **"exegesis"**

(According to the Anchor Bible Dictionary, exegesis is **the process of careful, analytical study of biblical passages undertaken to produce useful interpretations of those passages**. Ideally, exegesis involves the analysis of the biblical text in the language of its original or earliest available form.) in that, it is one of its most important fundamentals.

(See <https://www.biblehub.com/interlinear%20bible>) km

After we account for the literal, historical, and grammatical nature of a passage, we must then focus on the outline and structure of the book, then the chapter, then the paragraph. All of these things refer to "context." To illustrate, it is like looking at Google Maps and zooming in on one house.

Taking phrases and verses out of context always leads to misunderstanding. For instance, taking the phrase "God is love" ([1 John 4:7-16](#)) out of its context, we might come away thinking that our God loves everything and everyone at all times with a gushing, romantic love.

But in its literal and grammatical context, "love" here refers to *agape* love, the essence of which is a sacrifice for the benefit of another, not a sentimental, romantic love. The historical context is also crucial because John was addressing believers in the first-century church and instructing them not on God's love per se, but on how to identify true believers from false professors. True love—the sacrificial, beneficial kind—is the mark of the true believer (v. 7), those who do not love do not belong to God (v. 8), God loved us before we loved Him (vv. 9-10), and all of this is why we should love one another and thereby prove that we are His (v. 11-12).

Furthermore, considering the phrase "God is love" in the context of all of Scripture (synthesis) will keep us from coming to the false, and all-too-common, conclusion that God is *only* love or that His love is greater than all His other attributes, which is simply not the case. We know from many other passages that God is also holy and righteous, faithful and trustworthy, graceful and



merciful, kind and compassionate, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, and many, many other things. We also know from other passages that God not only loves, [but He also hates](#).

The Bible is the Word of God, literally "God-breathed" ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)), and we are commanded to read, study, and understand it through the use of good Bible study methods and always with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide us ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)). Our study is greatly enhanced by maintaining diligence in the use of context because it is quite easy to come to wrong conclusions by taking phrases and verses out of context. It is not difficult to point out places that seemingly contradict other portions of Scripture, but if we carefully look at their context and use the entirety of Scripture as a reference, we can understand the meaning of a passage. "Context is king" means that the context often drives the meaning of a phrase. To ignore context is to put ourselves at a tremendous disadvantage.

#### **Next in determining context:**

- i. What was the culture of the audience and the government of the land? Learn as much as you can about the Jewish culture, and the factions of people within the culture, including the Greek and Roman influences.
- ii. What is the history of the area?
- iii. What challenges do the author and his audience face
- iv. Try to discern the theme of the section through your study.  
(sources- Intro of the book in commentaries: Life Application Chronological Bible, Intro to the book in your favorite study bible);

#### **5. Interpretation and Evaluation: What does the Bible Say And What Does It Mean? Follow the four principles below:**

Here is where your interpretive tools can be utilized. Take a passage, explore the notes in your study bible, seek out the meaning of the words in the context of the verse-

- a. The literal principle-** *the Bible should be understood in its literal normal and natural sense- MacArthur<sup>5</sup>.* The Bible will interpret itself through the near context- what it means for this audience and the far context- in light of the overarching theme of God's Word.
- b. The Historical Principle-** What did the passage mean to the people to whom it was first written?
- c. The Grammatical Principle:** Following the sentence structure, pronouns, tense of the main verb, etc. will help things become clear.
- d. The Synthesis Principle:** The Bible will not contradict itself. If something seems contradictory, compare it to other scriptures on the topic.

(Sources: Bible Hub- Interlinear Bible by verse- look up the word and discern its meaning from the original language; Topics in Got Questions.org; Strong's concordance -Bible definitions of words in context; <https://www.gracetoyou.org/library/topical-series-library/82/how-to-study-the-bible>; BibleGateway.com- verse look up and explore cross-references at bottom of the verse; notes from your study bible.)

## 6. Application and Correlation:

- *How can I use what I have learned to improve my "walk with the Lord"?*
- *What must I do or what must I change to walk more closely with the Lord?*
- *Make sure that what I've learned correlates and aligns with the unwavering truth that is taught over and over through the 66 books of God's revealed Word.*
- *Share with others!*

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gracetoyou.org/library/topical-series-library/82/how-to-study-the-bible>

## Objective II:

**How to use the process of “expository” (“word for word”, “verse by verse”) study of God’s Word, in “context” according to the revealed truth of the Bible.**

### Examining a Specific Passage of God’s Word

**Step 1. Access the Passage in Study Bible or On Gateway Bible.org or BibleHub.org**

#### Acts 2: verses: 36-42 – Peter’s Sermon continued?<sup>6</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Therefore let all the <sup>(AU)</sup>house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both <sup>(AV)</sup>Lord and <sup>[an]</sup>Christ—this Jesus <sup>(AW)</sup>whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were <sup>[ao]</sup>pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “<sup>[ap]</sup>Brothers, <sup>(AX)</sup>what are we to do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “<sup>(AY)</sup>Repent, and each of you be <sup>(AZ)</sup>baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” <sup>7</sup>

<sup>39</sup> For <sup>(BA)</sup>the promise is for you and your children and for all who are <sup>(BB)</sup>far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he solemnly <sup>(BC)</sup>testified and kept on urging them, saying, “<sup>[aq]</sup>Be saved from this <sup>(BD)</sup>perverse generation!”

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<sup>6</sup> From BibleGateway.com – copied from the passage including the footnotes and cross references below as an example. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A36-42&version=NASB>

<sup>7</sup> For a detailed explanation of “baptizo- in Jewish culture from old testament ritual purification Leviticus 14-16 and cleansing up to and including New Testament Baptism see: <https://biblehub.com/topical/b/baptism.htm#sub>

<sup>41</sup> *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand <sup>[ar]</sup><sup>(BE)</sup> souls.*

<sup>42</sup> *They were <sup>(BF)</sup> continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to <sup>(BG)</sup> the breaking of bread, and <sup>(BH)</sup> to <sup>[as]</sup> prayer.*

**(Sources): Study Bible; Gateway Bible; Bible Hub; <https://www.GotQuestions.org>; Dr. Constable's Notes; Commentaries: Other Printed Commentaries, Online Commentaries: i.e. Notes from MacArthur Study Bible -I phone app.**

## **Step 2. Try a "deeper dive" into the passage**

*(This will be practiced in class. Bring your laptop and or your phone)*

### **How would you go about the process of understanding the passage?**

- **Pray for guidance**
  - Follow the "who, what, when, and where" of the passage.
  - Read the chapters preceding and following the passage for a sense of the immediate context, vis "what is going on before and after the verse or passage.
  - Make notes as you read, underline the subjects of the text.
  - Analyze the meaning of important words with your tools: i.e., concordances, Greek/ English Interlinear Bibles, Englishman's Concordance for other examples, and usage of the Word for context and understanding.
  - Apply the 4 Principles, Literal, Historical, Grammatical, Synthesis-" Alignment without contradiction?
  - Application:

## **Step 3. Putting Concepts into Practice**

- Accessing your Tools:
- Study Bible

- Printed or Online Commentaries, histories, Concordances, Dictionaries
- Online Resources:- each has a wealth of information
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/> - verses, Greek/English Interlinear, Englishman's Concordance,
- <https://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- Other online resources: google, etc.

**Practice:** Analyze Acts 2:38- Examine the meaning of the verse: See Bible Hub.org/ Greek Interlinear of verse 38 of chapter 2.

Examination.

1. What is Acts 2:38 about?
2. What Does it say?
3. What does it mean?
4. What is the immediate/ “near” and the “far” context of the verse or passage?
5. When did the concept of Baptism/ Ceremonial cleansing begin in the O.T. for the Jews?
  - a. An easy way to research cleansing or baptism is <https://gotquestions.org>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is 'Search GotQuestions.org'. The address bar shows the URL: [https://www.gotquestions.org/search.php?zoom\\_sort=0&zoom\\_query=cerem...](https://www.gotquestions.org/search.php?zoom_sort=0&zoom_query=cerem...). The browser's bookmark bar includes 'Grace to You', 'Bible Hub: Search, Read, St...', 'BibleGateway.com: A searc...', 'Constable's Notes | Plano...', 'Bible Questions Answered...', and 'Bible.org | Where the Worl...'. The GotQuestions.org header features a search bar, the logo, and the tagline 'Your Questions. Biblical Answers.'. Below the header, a larger search bar is present. The main content area displays 'Search results for: ceremonial cleansing' and '16 results found containing all search terms. 210 results found containing some search terms.' It also indicates '23 pages of results.' and lists the first result: '1. [What does it mean to be ceremonially unclean? | GotQuestions.org](#)'. Below the result is the text 'What does it mean to be ceremonially unclean? What is ceremonial uncleanness in the Bible?'. On the right side, there is a vertical banner with the text 'Do YOU share a birthday with a CHILD in poverty?'. At the bottom of the page, there is a weather widget showing '52°F Sunny' and a taskbar with various application icons and a system clock showing '12:30 PM 12/17/2022'.

- b. What was the purpose of Baptism/ “cleansing” for the Jews in their faith? (Leviticus: 14-16)
- c. What is the context (historical- “near” and “far”) of the verse, in the culture of the people?
- d. Where was baptism performed?- in this case, and other incidents in the gospels?
- e. Who were those who needed to be baptized in the Jewish culture?
- f. Who baptized people in the Jewish religion? Contrast that with Baptism after the resurrection.
- g. Look up the verse in Bible Hub/ interlinear/ Acts 2:38
  - i. If so who were they and what was their relationship?

The screenshot shows a web browser with multiple tabs open, including BibleGateway.com, Acts 2:38 Interlinear, Matthew 4:3-5 NA, Strong's Hebrew, and New Tab. The address bar shows the URL <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/acts/2-38.htm>. The page displays the interlinear text of Acts 2:38. The text is organized into columns with Strong's numbers above each word. The English translation is in the middle row. A yellow highlight is placed over the word "baptized" in the English translation, which corresponds to Strong's number 907. The Greek text is in the top row, and the original text is in the bottom row. The text reads: "38 Πέτρος δὲ πρὸς αὐτοὺς, Μετανοήσατε, [φισίν], Καὶ βαπτισθήτω, ἕκαστος. ὑμῶν, ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς ἄφεσιν τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ὑμῶν, καὶ λήμψεσθε τὴν δωρεὰν τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος." The English translation is: "38 Peter then to them, Repent, and he declared and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of the sins of you, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

h. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/acts/2-38.htm>

- 38 Peter said to them, “<sup>(A)</sup> Repent, and each of you be <sup>(B)</sup> baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“baptized” 907 [e] baptisthētō βαπτισθήτω, be baptized V-AMP-3S-

6. Next, click on “Strong’s number 907 over the word “baptizo”



The screenshot shows the Bible Hub website interface. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links. The main content area is titled "907. baptizō". It features two columns: "Strong's Concordance" on the left and "Englishman's Concordance" on the right. The Strong's Concordance lists the word's original form (baptizō), part of speech (Verb), transliteration, phonetic spelling, definition, and usage. The Englishman's Concordance lists verses where the word is used, including Matthew 3:6 and Matthew 3:11, with parallel translations in Greek, NAS, KJV, and INT. At the bottom, there's a "HELPS Word-studies" section with a brief explanation of the word's meaning.

- You will see the Strong's Greek concordance for the word on the left and the Englishman's Concordance on the right, showing all the listings in the N.T. for that Greek Word. Spend some time exploring that in detail. It Lists 23 occurrences in the Gospels. With parallel translations to review. By clicking on the verse, you can see the context in the chapter to gain insight into the meaning.
  - Click on the Greek word for baptism: Baptizo, #907, and examine the word.
- 907 baptizō** – properly, "submerge" (Souter); hence, *baptize*, to immerse (literally, "dip under"). **907** (*baptizō*) implies submersion ("immersion"), in contrast to **472** /*antéxomai* ("sprinkle").

c. Do the same thing for other pertinent words:

**"For"** 1519 eis (a preposition) – properly, into (unto) – literally, "motion into which" implies penetration ("unto," "union") to a particular purpose or result.

## 7. Review Commentaries:

a. Dr. Constable Acts 2:38

<https://planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/pdf/acts.pdf> Specific page for Acts.

- b. Go to Acts 2:38 page 77 for an explanation
- c. Check out other commentaries- on websites  
Dr. John MacArthur Study Bible notes from I phone app (not available on the website). Go to the app store on your iPhone. How to access the notes:
- d. Copy the notes from your I phone to an email to yourself.
- e. then copy the text of the email to a Word doc. (.wpd)

**What did the Holy Spirit teach you from your study of the Passage?  
How will you apply it to your walk in the Lord?**

**Review and Discuss the entire passage: Acts 2:37-42**

- How did your study of the passage go?
- What did the Lord teach you in your study of the passage?
- What tools or tips do you typically use when studying the Bible that might help someone else?
- What worked well in studying the passage?
- Discuss the resources you used?
- What did you learn about the passage?
- What questions do you have?

### **Objective 3 :**

**To give you some tools to use to help you in your study.**

#### **Some Study Resources Available to the Student:**

Here are some tools that have helped me learn and retain the things that the Word teaches. This is not an exhaustive list. The method of bible study used here is "**exposition**", "a word for word", "verse by verse" examination of the bible, understood literally, infallibly, allowing God's Word to interpret itself.

This information is intended to provide resources to help you as you study. It can be as complex or as simple as is comfortable for you.

1. **A Study Bible that you trust.** I use the Ryrie Study Bible;1977 edition; Moody Press; by Dr. Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Th.D., Ph.D. As the New American Standard Version is one of the most accurate translations, as it is translated “word for word” to the original text. I always use that as my starting point. The Ryrie study bible is complete with helpful notes, cross-references, maps, charts, lists, and articles on Bible Doctrine. written on an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade level and is closest to the original text. The Ryrie Study Bible was my first bible when I started my journey in 1981 and it is an integral part of my process. There have been several editions including the following: 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, and 2000.
2. Dr. Ryrie was an American Bible scholar and Christian theologian. He served as professor of systematic theology and dean of doctoral studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He also taught at other universities before and after his retirement.

### **A Crucial Note About Resources Available in Studying the Bible**

- We will look at some online resources next but let’s understand that long before there were online resources, the Lord was able to teach us through the Holy Spirit with His printed Word.
- We let the Holy Spirit guide us in our study.
- Study Bibles are a relatively new edition to the Bible inventory, and they make it easier to study. The first printed Bible was the Geneva Bible in 1560. **The first Study Bible was written in 1917** by Oxford University Press published **the Scofield Study Bible**.
- **Online resources are simply another tool in our study toolbox to help in our study. They are not for everyone.**
- Anything online is also in print. Our goal here is to understand how to use whatever medium we are most comfortable with!

- A comparison chart of Bible translations is attached to this document at the end, with a link to it and other resources below:
- Comparison Chart Attached:
- <https://www.thenivbible.com/bible-translation-chart/>

### **Some Other Study Bible resources:**

- The Life Application Study Bible- NIV;
- The Life Application, Chronological Study Bible, New Living Translation, NLT;
- The MacArthur Study Bible, in print or online; Logos.org has a copy as part of the software. You can also purchase a print version.
- Beautiful Bible Stories by Rev. Charles P. Roney D.D.; the John A. Hertel Co. Wichita, KA; 1978 ed. Stories from the Genesis through the Gospels;

I am sure there are many quality bible resources available by noted teachers. These can all be purchased online or in retail bookstores.

### 3. **Online resources** that I typically use:

[www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com) ;

[www.bibleHub.com](http://www.bibleHub.com) ;

<https://www.ploughboy.org/> website; note: *"The I phone app has the map interactive map features- the website does not.;*

[www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org);

[https://bible.org/book/about-bibleorg.;](https://bible.org/book/about-bibleorg.)

Grace to You.org– [www.gracetoyou.org](http://www.gracetoyou.org)

### **Maps, pictures, and explanations of sites in Jerusalem, Israel, and the history of modern Israel from its formation as a modern nation in 1948**

<https://www.generationword.com/jerusalem101/1-biblical-jerusalem.html>

[https://www.generationword.com/Israel/Israel\\_site\\_page.htm](https://www.generationword.com/Israel/Israel_site_page.htm)

<https://www.standwithus.com/israel101>

- **iPhonee app resources:** (These may also be available for Android phones) Plano Bible Chapel- Dr. Thomas Constable's Notes (there is no app is available to my knowledge).  
<https://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> but it can be downloaded onto favorites in your phone library along with these;  
 bible gateway app;  
 bible hub app;  
 ploughboy app, (Apple App Store, under "Bible Map"), sponsored by Ploughboy.org.  
 got questions.org, app;  
 John MacArthur Study Bible with Notes app, Grace to you Ministries, Dr. John MacArthur- <https://www.gracetoyou.org/>
  - **YouTube and Websites- Sermons:**  
<https://discoverthebook.org/about-us/>- Dr. John Barnett;  
 Grace to you Ministries, Dr. John MacArthur- <https://www.gracetoyou.org/>  
 There are many others out there. "Explore and examine content for accuracy to God's Word."
4. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance:** (Print versions and Online as well).  
 An exhaustive concordance finds every word in Greek or Hebrew and listed all the locations of that Word in the Bible. It is a helpful tool and is available in print and online and included in many bible applications. Historically it uses the King James translation, but there is now a New American Standard Concordance, as well as Greek and Hebrew on [www.BibleHub.com](http://www.BibleHub.com) and other sites
  5. **Bible Maps, Atlases, Dictionaries, Greek Interlinear edition,** (print and online versions).
  6. I use the following:  
 Tyndale, Handbook of Bible Charts and Maps on CD,  
 The Life Application Study Bible NIV, (print version)

The Life Application, Chronological Study Bible, (New Living Translation NLT.) (print version) as a source for the same.

Also, other online resources abound: (see above).

7. **Commentaries:** There are several that I rely upon:

- **Dr. Thomas Constable's Notes** from Plano Bible Chapel, (Online Version) <https://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/>
- **Bible Knowledge Commentary Vol. I and II;** Editors -Walvoord and Zuck; The Bible Knowledge Commentary; An exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary faculty; Victory Books; based on the NIV version; 1983 edition. (It may be available free online now)
- **Moody Bible Commentary** by the faculty of Moody Bible Institute; (Print Version); Michael Rydelnik, Michael Vanlaningham editors; 2014 edition; NASB, and some ESV scripture quotations; Moody Publishers.
- **Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee;** (Print Version); J. Vernon Magee, author; 5 volumes; Thru the Bible Radio, Box 7100 Pasadena, CA 91109; Transcriptions from Dr. Magee, five-year audio bible Study from Thru the Bible Radio.
- It is available online via <https://www.biblegateway.com/> by purchasing a "plus subscription", or it can be found on audio by searching Google for Thru the Bible Radio.
- **Various other online commentaries** as part of inclusive applications and websites listed above.

May these little document help inspire you to go "deeper" in your study of our Lord's Word to us.

Blessings to you all,

Kit Marye

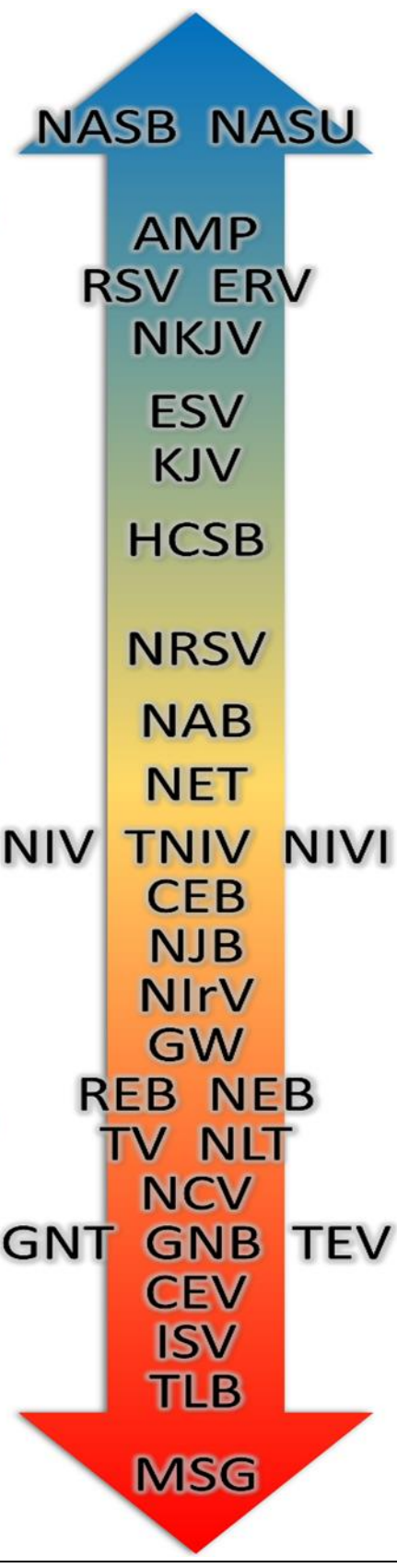
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Word for Word  
Formal Equivalent  
Literal  
Form Based

Thought for Thought  
Dynamic Equivalent

Paraphrase  
Functional Equivalent  
Paraphrase  
Meaning Based



- AMP - Amplified Bible (12)  
CEB<sup>va</sup> - Common English Bible (7)  
CEV<sup>va</sup> - Contemporary English Version (5)  
ERV<sup>va</sup> - Easy to Read Version (3.5)  
ESV<sup>\*</sup> - English Standard Version (9.5)  
GNB<sup>\*</sup> - Good News Bible (6)  
GNT - Good New Translation (6)  
GW - Gods Word (4.5)  
HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)  
ISV<sup>va</sup> - International Standard Version (8.5)  
KJV<sup>\*</sup> - King James Version (13)  
MSG - The Message (4.5)  
NAB<sup>\*</sup> - New American Bible (7)
- NASB - New American Standard Bible (11)  
NASU - New American Standard Update 1995 (11)  
NCV<sup>va</sup> - New Century Version (5)  
NEB<sup>va</sup> - New English Bible (7)  
NET<sup>va</sup> - New English Translation (7)  
NIrV - New International Readers Version (3.5)  
NIV - New International Version (8)  
NIV2011<sup>va</sup> - New International Version 2011 (8)  
NIV<sup>va</sup> - New International Version Inclusive (8)  
NJB<sup>\*</sup> - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)  
NKJV - New King James Version (9)  
NLT<sup>va</sup> - New Living Translation (6.5)  
NRSV<sup>va</sup> - New Revised Standard Version (10.5)
- REB - Revised English Bible (7)  
RSV<sup>\*</sup> - Revised Standard Version (11)  
TEV<sup>\*</sup> - Today's English Version (6)  
TLB - The Living Bible (8.5)  
TNIV<sup>va</sup> - Today's New International Version (7.5)  
TV - The Voice (7)
- <sup>va</sup> No gender neutral language for God, moderate inclusive language for man.  
<sup>v</sup> Gender neutral language  
<sup>\*</sup> Apocrypha available or included  
<sup>(#)</sup> Grade reading level