

Inductive Bible Study:

Analyzing the passage in order to meet God in the text

Pray: Ask the Spirit to guide your study and acknowledge your dependence on Him

Observation: Take notes on a printout of the passage, interrogating the text

- Investigative questions
 - Who is speaking? Who are the main people? Who is being spoken to?
 - What is happening? What is the cultural context?
 - Where is this taking place?
 - When did or will the events take place?
 - What was the response?
- Sentence diagram, noting verb tenses
- Grammatical connections: repeated words, comparisons, contrast, cause and effect
 - Without touching the Greek you can determine lexical range by comparing translations
- Look for conjunctions such as *since* and *therefore*. Why are they there?
- While you analyze the text, **make three lists**:
 - *Themes*—what are the main topics, thoughts, events, or ideas driving the passage?
 - *Questions*—both questions you have of the text and ideas for possible discussion questions
 - *Words*—identify key words and phrases for further study

Interpretation: This should take you to the point where you can recite from memory the flow of the passage

- How does the passage fit into the flow of the letter or book?
- How does the passage tie in with other passages in the Bible?

Suggestions:

- Time and repeated exposure are crucial: analyze the passage once a day, at least, for a week, marking up your manuscript each time
- Read the passage out loud and discuss it out loud

To do a word study:

A word study allows you to better understand the original intent of word by identifying the Greek (or Hebrew) word being translated and surveying how it is used in other contexts

On your PC:

- Download your free copy of **E-sword** from www.e-sword.net
- Pull up the verse of interest and select the KJV+ tab in the “Bibles” window, which indexes each word by its “Strong's number”
- Click on search (binoculars) in the “Bibles” window and enter the Strong's number, bringing up a list of all occurrences of that Greek word

From any browser:

- Look up the passage in question at www.biblegateway.com, selecting for translation “Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament”
- Click on the word of interest to obtain the Strong's number
- Enter the Strong's number in the Blue-Letter Bible search engine at <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strong=1>

“Power” (*dynamis*, G1411) in Eph 1:19-20: power, might, strength, force, capability (BDAG) [120 NT instances]

- Despite NRSV having “power” three times in vv. 19-20, *dynamis* only appears once in the Greek. The other words are *ischus* (strength) in v. 19 and *energeo* (to effect) in v. 20.
- Surveying characteristic verses:
 - “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion” (1:21)
 - “Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power” (3:7)
 - “I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit” (3:16)
 - “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” (3:20)
 - “For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me” (Col 1:29)
 - “...in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, ... holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power.” (2 Tim 3:1b-5)
 - ...and many verses in which it refers to miraculous events
- Conclusion: *dynamis* is God's supernatural power to change us, to enable us to comprehend his will, to minister

“Fullness” (*pleroma*, G4138) in Eph 1:23: to fill up, fulfill, complete [17 instances in the NT]

- In Ephesians and Colossians:
 - “a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and... on earth” (1:10)
 - “to know the love of Christ..., so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (3:19)
 - “until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ” (4:13)
 - “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (Col 1:19)
 - “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom 13:10)
 - “the earth and its fullness are the Lord’s” (1 Cor 13:10)
- Conclusion: the church is the *pleroma* of Christ—that is, in the church, the purpose of Christ, who completes all things, find its supreme completion