

PTH221 Finding the Greek or Hebrew Word

The first goal is to find the lexical (dictionary) form of the word. There are several methods:

1. Using an exhaustive concordance that is keyed to a Greek and Hebrew dictionary (such as Strong's, Young's, or the NIV exhaustive):
 - a. Look up the word that you want to study, *as it appears in the version used by that concordance*.
 - b. Typically there will be a number or code (such as the "Strong's Number") following that entry. Write that number down.
 - c. Look up that number in the dictionary in the back.¹ Write down the word, to be looked up in a lexicon (the definition in most of these works is abbreviated and should not be used; citing "Strong's" in your work will make it look weak.) If you are looking up a Hebrew verb, you must use Young's to get the root.
 - d. The advantage of this method is that it is fast, the disadvantage is that it will not give you important information such as verb tense and/or stem.
2. Using an interlinear Bible and an Analytical Lexicon (2 separate tools):
 - a. Find the English word you are looking for.
 - b. Find the Greek or Hebrew word above it and write down that form of the word.
 - c. Use an analytical lexicon to find the lexical form and the parsing.
 - d. This method takes longer, and requires more tools, but gives you more information.
3. Using a computer Bible program:
 - a. This will vary with program, but typically you should be able to get the lexical form, the parsing and a basic definition.
 - b. A Few Bible programs will be demonstrated in class.
4. Using the internet:
 - a. The best web sites I have found are:
 - Greek New Testament
<http://gknt.org/gnt/>
<http://www.greekbible.com/>
 - Hebrew Old Testament
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/>
<http://interlinearbible.org/genesis/1-1.htm>
<http://www.searchgodsword.org/isb/>
 - b. Double click on the word you want to study and you will be provided with a wealth of information on that word.
 - c. Internet resources are not the best at this time and are somewhat difficult to use/navigate and are somewhat unreliable. I suggest using the internet for word study only as a last resort.

¹ Strong's has two dictionaries, the first one is for the OT (Hebrew and Chaldee [Aramaic]) and the second is NT (Greek). Make sure that you use the right dictionary as they both may use the same number.