

4. Look up the Strongs Number in the matching Old or New Testament dictionary at the back
5. The word in italics—right after the dictionary tells you where it comes from—is its root idea
6. A helpful insight into the word’s meaning usually follows the italicized word

Now that you have the root meaning, the original sense that the word brought with it to the sentence, you must allow the context to shape its final contribution to the meaning of the text.

To approach the true meaning of the word

As you zero in on the contextual meaning, look for some of these ways that the Bible writers gave meaning to the words that we find in their writings.

- *Definitions*—Sometimes the author defines the meaning of the word, such as Paul did with the word “carnal” in Romans 7:14, KJV. He said that it meant “sold into slavery to sin” (NRSV).
- *Explanations*—The apostle Paul deliberately attaches explanations to key terms to avoid any misunderstandings. For instance, when he says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,” in Romans 1:16, he quickly explains, “For it is the power of God unto salvation.”

Less obvious are the explanations that the writer of Hebrews makes part of the text. Take for instance, Hebrews 5:12, where he says: “You need someone to teach you the basics of what God says. You need milk instead of solid food.” The second line, “You need milk,” repeats the thought of the first, “You need someone to teach you the basics.” Only this time, the writer calls, “the basics of what God says,” “milk.”

- *Translations*—Matthew, for example, inserts the words, “which is translated ‘God with us,’” to define “Emmanuel,” in 1:23
- *Descriptions*—Sometimes the author supplies facts, characteristics, and other descriptive information rather than a straight definition, as Jonah does with regard to the plant in Jonah 4.

The fact it came up over Jonah tells us it was tall; that it shaded him from the sun tells us it was large enough to cast a shadow over a full-grown man. To come up overnight, it could have been either a fast growing or a miracle plant; and for it to wither so quickly from a single hungry worm, implies it had, either a thin stalk, short roots, or thin skin. You could describe it as: a very tall, fast-growing plant with a short-lifespan.

As you read the text, scan it for *definitions, explanations, translations, and descriptions*:

- Ask, “Does the author *translate* anything?”
- Ask, “Does the author *explain* anything?”
- Ask, “Does the author *supply* facts, characteristics, or other descriptive information?”

With a little practice, you can bring your recognition skills up to speed; /besides, the hunt for help from the writer will add to the excitement of the search.

How to Find Ageless Truths and Make Timeless Applications

Every event or thought in Scripture starts with either:

- A *precept*—a timeless rule for guiding people’s actions—like, a 35 mph speed limit, that never changes, or
- A *principle*—an ageless way of looking at life that requires a judgment call to carry it out—like, drive carefully, that vary with road or traffic conditions

Bible writers built their stories, ideas, and arguments on precepts and principles; so you will find valuable instructions for life, from God—in a speaker’s words, the writer’s thoughts, or an actor’s

actions or experiences in the text. As we apply these immortal truths to life today, we also prepare for eternity (1 Timothy 4:6-8).

While this same procedure appears in greater detail in the *QuikStudy Manual*, pages 49-55, here it is in its simplest form.

1. *What verses do you want to apply?*

- The books of the Bible boil down to two main formats:
 - *Stories* that unfold one event at a time, in the order events happen
 - *Explanations* that unfold one thought at a time, in the order the writer arranged them
 - ▶ *Stories* develop three ways
 - ➔ They **add** something to what came before
 - ➔ **Fill in** missing details
 - ➔ **Bring out** something you couldn't see without it
 - ▶ *Explanations* usually
 - ➔ **Begin** with a capital letter
 - ➔ **End** with a period
- Once you choose your verse(s), subject it to the *three-step* application process.

2. *Is it (are they) part of something or does it stand by itself?*

In a **STORY**, if the verse you are studying:

- **Adds to what came before**, it probably shares a precept or principle with the previous verse
 - So, for example, when Jonah 1:10 adds the sailors' reaction to Jonah's confession in 1:9 that he worships the Creator, you probably need both verses to find the precept or principle in 1:10
- **Fills in missing details**, it probably shares a precept or principle with the verse that it fills in
 - When Jonah admitted to running away from the Lord in 1:10, he also filled in something missing from 1:9—another answer to the sailors' questions in 1:8. So you probably need all three verses to find the precept or principle in 1:10
- **Brings out something you couldn't see without it**, it probably does not share a precept or principle with any others, because it has one of its' own
 - When Jonah concedes in 1:12 that he caused the storm, he reveals (brings out) why throwing him overboard will calm the sea; so you have everything you need to find the precept or principle in 1:12, right there in 1:12
 - ▶ Once you single out an event, write down the verses involved

In an **EXPLANATION**, track the thought from start to finish:

- Thoughts rarely divide where verses begin or end; instead, they usually start with a capital letter and end with a period, regardless of what comes between. That's how to pick out a thought from the rest of a text.
 - Take Rev 1:1-2—*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place; and He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw."*
 - ▶ The thought begins with a capital "T" in the word, "The" that starts v.1
 - ▶ Continues with a semi-colon after "place" at the end of v.1
 - ▶ Ends with a period after "saw" at the close of v.2
 - Once you single out a thought, write down the verses involved

3. *Who or what is universal? Who or what is not? What universal terms can replace them?*

To make the precept or principle fit his situation, the writer added names, places, or other things specific to his situation—to it. To rediscover the precept or principle, strip away anything specific to the writer's situation from the verse(s) and summarize what's left:

- To apply to anyone, anytime, anywhere, precepts and principles use general—non-specific—language
 - So, get rid of any *specific* people, places, and things in the situation—but keep references to *already timeless* people, places, or things—like God, Jesus, earth, heaven, the everlasting covenant, etc.
 - Replace *specifics* with *generic* terms that apply to *anyone, anytime, anywhere*

4. *Reword the verse(s) and state the timeless truth.*

The verse(s) will now sound like the precept or principle on which the writer based it.

- **The example of a text from a STORY format book: Jonah 1:3**
 - a. Verse 3 adds Jonah's reaction to his call in verse 2 as the next event in the story. So verse 3 probably shares a precept or a principle with verse 2
 - b. Strip the text of specifics
 - Work backwards from the text to its' timeless truth as a detective solves a crime from its clues
 - ▶ Since a precept or a principle applies to people in general:
 - ▶ Replace (the following)
 - ➔ Jonah's name with a generic term like, "someone"—otherwise you could give the false impression that the timeless truth applies only to him
 - ➔ Nineveh with something generic like, "where God wanted him to go"
 - ➔ Tarshish with "somewhere else," and
 - ▶ Leave out Joppa altogether since it was only Jonah's idea to escape there and the contrast is between Nineveh and Tarshish.
 - ▶ Change the reference to "the presence of the Lord," to "the Lord" or "Him" because He is already timeless.
 - ➔ So, verses 2-3 boil down to: God told Jonah where he should go, but Jonah went somewhere else to run away from the LORD.
 - c. Reword the verse in a timeless way
 - Replace specifics with generics to reword the thought so it applies to anyone, anytime, anywhere.
 - ▶ In this case: *When the Lord tells someone where they should go, going anywhere else is running away from Him*
- **The example of a text from an EXPLANATORY format book**
 - a. Revelation 2:2, 3— *"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary."*
 - The thought begins with the capital letter "I" in verse 2 and ends with a period (.) after the word "weary" in Verse 3
 - Not only do verses 2 and 3 work together to express reasons the Ephesians have for thanksgiving or praise, but they also probably share a precept or principle

- b. Strip the text of specifics
 - Work backwards from the text to its' timeless truth as a detective traces a crime scene back to its crime
 - ▶ Since a timeless truth applies to people in general, *replace*:
 - ➔ The *Ephesians* with a universal term like, “they,” or “no one”—otherwise you could give the false impression that the timeless truth applied only to them.
 - ➔ Since, *Jesus* already summarized everything the Ephesians did as “your deeds,” replace “Your deeds” with, “whatever they do” to get away from the Ephesians
 - ➔ “Name” with “reputation.”
 - ▶ Leave the reference to Christ because He is already timeless
 - ➔ So, verses 2-3 boil down to: *Jesus knows everything they do for the sake of His reputation, without getting tired.*
3. Reword the verse in a timeless way
 - Replace specifics with generics to reword the thought so it applies to anyone, anytime, anywhere.
 - ▶ In this case: *Whatever they do, no one should ever tire of defending Christ's reputation*

In both cases, the principles made to fit the writers' situations, have been stripped of specifics and returned to their original, generic form—applicable to anyone, anytime, anywhere.

The *QuikestStudy* CD

Now that we have equipped you for it, our *CD* will enable you to carry out the *QuikestStudy* method. It has all the following for digging as deeply as you want into the text:

- *The QuikestText Template* for creating a TextSheet you can analyze
- *The QuikestView Worksheet* to see it all at a glance
- *The QuikestGuide* to stay on track step-by-step, from start to finish
- *The QuikestWord Worksheet* to fully understand words in the text
- *The QuikestLink Worksheet* to let other Bible writers explain your text
- *The QuikestTool Worksheet* to let your analysis tools help the text explain itself
- *The QuikestApply Worksheet* to live by ancient truth, today
- *The QuikestSense Worksheet* to analyze and understand figures of speech and symbols
- *The QuikestJournal Template* to keep a record of personal interaction with Christ, our Teacher

Reproductions of these worksheets and templates appear on pages 35-52. You may either copy them, or generate originals from the CD.

In addition to the above, the CD also includes:

- e-Sword install files for PC (install_advance.exe. internet_update.exe)
- MacSword install files (Eloquent-2.4.4.app.zip, MacSword-2.2.12-1776.dmg.zip)
- Online Bible install files for PC (setup1021.exe)
- Online Bible install files for Mac (OLB_StarterPack_4.1.1(1).dmg)
- Dictionary of Biblical Imagery.pdf
- Outline of Vos Biblical Theology.pdf
- The Temple by Alfred Edersheim.pdf
- TN-ExpandedBible-Final.pdf (New Testament, only)
- Vines_Expository_Dictionary.pdf