

# HOW I STUDY THE BIBLE

I find it's best to always start at the beginning and continually pay attention to the context. I like to allow what is established in the beginning to be the foundation for all that comes after it.

## Text Analysis

Whenever doing an in-depth study of the text, I like to view the Biblical text in its source language, coded with Strong's' numbers, to see the words that are used.

Then, I compare multiple English translations to include that of the Septuagint (when studying the Old Testament), and the Young's Literal Translation and note similarities or variances.

## Define the Terms

After getting an overview of what the text says, I typically then drill down on the key words in the passage to determine the meanings of those terms in their source language.

First, I look up the Strong's' number for the English word in question, and then I read its definition from a Lexicon/Dictionary. I *do not* rely on the Concordance for the definition. I then also, identify the root word from which the word in question is derived.

Then, using the Concordance, I look up where else these key words appear in the Bible. Depending on how much I want to delve into the study, I'll read each verse in which those keywords appear, as well as its immediate context, if necessary to better understand its use.

## Personal Takeaway

Then, I like to copy the main passages I'm studying from a translation that uses English words that are in closest alignment to what I found in my vocabulary research and paste them into a Word document.

I like to include the entire context, going back to the beginning of the chapter, and without the verse breaks, so it is all one continuous paragraph.

Then, I break the passage up into what I consider to be reasonable breaks at each new thought or point of dialogue, regardless of traditional verse breaks.

And lastly, I like to trade out some of the English translated words with the definitions learned in my vocabulary research to help me see the text in a different light.

## Ask Questions

And then I ask questions: who, what, where, when, why and how. I consider different ways of reading the text, putting the emphasis on different words as I read through the passage repeatedly to see if something new comes to light. I consider who the target audience is for what I am reading. And of course, through all of this my underlying question is: what is it the author and/or the main characters in the text are trying to convey to the reader.