



Glossary

AD and BC: AD are initials for the Latin phrase “*anno domini*” which means *in the year of our Lord*. BC stands for *before Christ*. The BC/AD dating system was developed around AD 525 to make Jesus the dividing line of world history. Initially, this dating system made a mistake in calculating the year of Christ’s birth. It was later discovered that Jesus was born around 6–4 BC, not AD 1.

Adherent: An adherent is someone who supports a particular party, person or set of ideas.

Advocate: Jesus called the Holy Spirit an *advocate* (John 14:16). The Greek word that is translated in the English NIV translation, *advocate*, is *parakletos* (παράκλητος). *Parakletos* is a verbal adjective with the basic meaning of one called alongside to help. As a legal technical term, it is defined as one who appears on another’s behalf—*advocate*, defender, and intercessor. *Parakletos* also has the meaning of one who gives protection, help, and security such as a helper, comforter, counselor, and encourager.

Ambassador: An ambassador is a diplomat sent by one country as a representative to another for a purpose or mission. A diplomat is a tactful and sensitive person working or dealing with other people.

Anoint: In the Bible, anoint means to apply or rub oil on a person or thing (Exodus 40:9). Anointing with oil was used for consecration (setting-apart)—God setting someone apart for special service. It was also used for healing (James 5:14), and burial (John 19:39–40). In the Old Testament, God gave Moses a special formula for the oil that was to be used only for anointing the priests. The first priest Aaron and subsequent priests were anointed with this special oil (Exodus 30:30). Saul and subsequent kings were also anointed with oil. This oil for the kings seems to have been a different mixture from what was used for the priests. Most likely it was a spiced or plain olive oil.

Anxiety: *Anxiety* is a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome. *Insecurity* is uncertainty or anxiety about oneself; lack of confidence. *Nervousness* is being easily agitated or distressed; high-strung or jumpy. A *depressed* person is in a state of general unhappiness or despondency. *Depression* can be a mood disorder that is marked by varying degrees of sadness, despair, and loneliness and that is typically accompanied by inactivity, guilt, loss of concentration, social withdrawal, sleep disturbances, and sometimes suicidal tendencies.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Apocrypha: All but a few Protestant denominations accept 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. These are the books represented in the vast majority of Bible translations. Protestants do not accept any of the 15 books known as the *Apocrypha*. The Catholic Church accepts 12 of the 15 apocryphal books into their canon. With slight variations, the Greek Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches follow in the Catholic apocryphal tradition. The word apocrypha is derived from a Greek word and means “things that are hidden” These apocryphal books were written between 200 BC and 100 AD. Notably, these additional 15 books have never been part of the Hebrew Bible.

Apostle: The Greek word *apostolos* (ἀπόστολος) translated *apostle* in English is defined as one who is sent on a mission with full authority such as a messenger, envoy, or ambassador. In the New Testament, it is generally used as a messenger for God and more specifically as a person who tells the gospel message. *Apostle* is also used of persons who have the task of founding and establishing churches and especially of the Twelve chosen by Jesus. In many Christian denominations, the term apostle is reserved for the original twelve, Matthias (Judas’ replacement), and Paul.

Atonement: Atonement in English means reparation, reconciliation, or “at-one-ment.” It’s the act of bringing together into harmony those who have been separated such as enemies. Biblically, it’s what Christ accomplished by His death and resurrection. We were enemies of God, and Christ’s death has made us one with Him.

Atonement Cover: Atonement cover or mercy seat was a piece of pure gold that covered the top of the Ark of the Covenant. The atonement cover symbolized God’s throne and the place to seek forgiveness for one’s sins. When the blood of a bull and goat was sprinkled on the atonement cover it would “cover” over Israel’s sins.

Attributes: Attributes used to describe God consist of His holy character personality, and behavior traits portrayed in Scripture.

Authority: The Greek word *exousian* (ἐξουσίαν) translated *authority* in English is defined as ability, capability, might, and power to act or speak without seeking approval. It is also defined as Jesus’ divinely given and unrestricted exercise of freedom to act with power and *authority*. *Authority* can be imparted to another person or community to act within the rightful bearer of the control and *authority*.

Balm of Gilead: *Balm of Gilead* is a healing ointment made from the resin of a plant found in the region of Gilead, renowned for its soothing and medicinal properties in ancient times. In Jeremiah 8:22, the “*balm in Gilead*” symbolizes the hope for healing and restoration, questioning whether there is any remedy left for the people’s suffering and spiritual wounds.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Baptize: The English word, baptize, is translated from the Greek word, *baptizo* (βαπτίζω). It means to immerse, plunge, or dip. Baptize is used in the Bible for: 1) Jewish ritual washings to cleanse and purify (Mark 7:4). 2) John the Baptist's preparatory baptizing for repentance (Matthew 3:6). 3) Jesus' transitional baptizing with water (John 3:22). 4) Christian baptism with water, identifying a believer with the death and resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3). 4) Receiving the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). 5) Trial and martyrdom (Luke 12:50).

Believe: Believing in Jesus Christ means the same as faith and trust in Him. Faith is total commitment and loyalty to Jesus and God's will. To believe in Jesus is to place one's trust, confidence, and dependence in God. The Greek word *pistis* (πίστις) means faith, trust, and belief.

Benediction: A benediction is a prayer for God's blessing or an affirmation that God's blessing is at hand.

Blaspheme: The Greek word *blasphemeo* (blasfhme,w), translated blaspheme in English, means to speak against God, blaspheme; speak against, slander, insult. The word blaspheme is defined in English as treating God disrespectfully through words or actions.

Bless: Bless means to give someone a desirable quality, state, gift, or talent. God is the source of all blessings. When we bless God, we praise Him for His faithfulness, goodness, mercy, and love. Being blessed is a state of happiness and well-being that is found in a faith relationship with God and obedience to Him.

Born Again: The term *born again* refers to a birth from above, a spiritual birth (John 3:3–7). One is born again when one believes and trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior. At this time hearts are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and they become children of God (John 1:12).

Born: The word *born* refers to one's physical birth. Born again refers to the spiritual rebirth of human hearts by the Holy Spirit's action when someone makes a profession of faith in Christ. Being born again results in a transformed life and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Salvation (saved from God's wrath, sin, and death) is another term for being born again.

Call: Both the Old and New Testaments contain five main uses of the word *call*: invitation, summons, commission, or naming. One meaning of the word *call* or *calling* is in the sense of commission or service (Acts 13:2). God issues a divine call to individuals for special work or office. The emphasis is on the initiative of God and grace in Christ Jesus.

Calling: A *calling* is a summons from God toward a particular course of action. It may involve a profession, talent, gift, or mission. God's *calling* is usually accompanied with a strong inner impression or impulse toward the activity.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Canon: *Canon* is defined as a set of religious writings regarded as authentic and forming a religion's body of scripture. The word *canon* is derived from a Greek word *kanon* (kanw,n) meaning rule. "Since the 4th century *kanon* has been used by Christians to denote an authoritative list of the books belonging to the OT or NT"¹ The *Bible* is the collection of books considered part of the Christian *canon*. *Non-canonical* means that a writing is not part of the *canon*.

Censer: A *censer* is a vessel or holder for burning hot coals and incense. Incense is a material used to produce a fragrant odor when burned.

Character: Character is a set of traits or qualities that reveals a specific temperament or make-up. It's character that makes a person distinctive or sets their behavior apart from another. As a Christian we should have positive qualities that set us apart as a follower of Jesus.

Christian: The word *Christian* appears only in Acts 11:26, 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16. It originally meant adherents or followers of Christ because their behavior, activity, and speech were like His. Pagans used the name *Christian* in a derogatory or derisive manner.

Comfort: *Comfort* is a state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint. It is also the easing or alleviation of a person's feelings of grief or distress. *Comfort* involves helping someone feel less worried, upset, or frightened. Additionally, *comfort* includes giving strength and hope.

Command: A *command* is an order given by someone in authority. It's not a suggestion but explicit instruction to do something. The one in authority expects the command to be followed.

Compassion: *Compassion* is the concern for the sufferings of others and the desire to help.

Concordance: A *concordance* is an alphabetical list of the words present in a text, usually with citations of the passages concerned. If a Bible includes a *concordance*, you will typically find it located at the back of the book under the title "*Concordance*."

Condemnation: *Condemnation* is the English word translated from the Greek word *katakrima* (κατάκριμα). It is a legal technical term for the result of judging, including both the sentence and its execution. The Greek word is also translated *condemnation*, penalty, sentence of doom and punishment. To *condemn* means to pronounce to be guilty, to sentence to punishment, or to pass judgment against.

Condition: *Condition* in the sense of a promise or agreement means that something must exist for something else to happen. In order for God's promise to take place or occur, we must be in a state of faith or do something.

¹ Ibid., 166.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Consecrate: *Consecrate* is a verb referring to persons or things sanctified or set apart for God's holy purposes.

Context: *Context* is defined in two ways. It means surrounding circumstances, conditions, or events. Context also means the text (words) surrounding the word or passage in a body of writing or speech that clarifies its full meaning.

Convict: The Greek word, *elegcho*, translated *convict* in English, means to show or convince someone their fault or error. It also means to prove guilty, condemn; rebuke, reprove. *Convict* in English is defined as declaring one guilty or showing they are at fault.

Consecrate: *Consecrate* is to separate oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one's relationship with a perfect God.

Courage: *Courage* is the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear or being sidetracked from a chosen course of action. A courageous person is bold, alert, secure, and able to prove himself in a purpose.

Covenant: A *covenant* is an agreement, pact, treaty, or alliance between two parties

Credit: The word *credit* has various meanings but in the context of Romans 4 it means that a payment has been recorded to one's account. Abraham was reckoned or *credited* righteous because he believed in God and His promises (Romans 4:20–22).

Crucify: *Crucify* is a verb describing an ancient punishment where a person was put to death by nailing or binding the wrists or hands and feet to wooden cross beams.

Crucify the Flesh: To *crucify the flesh* is a phrase that means to turn away from all the sinful passions, desires, and deeds of the human nature or body by figuratively nailing them to the cross. The *flesh* represents the fallen or sin nature of humanity that acts in opposition to the Holy Spirit.

Cup: The *cup* represents a mixture of blessing and affliction (Psalm 23:5; Isaiah 51:17). In the ancient near East, the master of a banquet would offer a *cup* to his guests. It came to be known as a symbol for one's fate. God uses the metaphor of the *cup* for His blessings, afflictions, and wrath poured out on people. The *cup* in these passages symbolizes God wrath poured out in divine judgment against sinners (Psalm 75:8; Habakkuk 2:16; Revelation 14:9–10). Jesus used the *cup* to signify the New Covenant and God's blessing on those who receive Him.

Cursing: *Cursing* isn't only exclaiming foul words; it's also saying evil or hurtful things about another human being. Even hoping for evil to come to another is silent *cursing* and wrong. *Cursing* is also lightly esteeming others or making someone loathsome.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Darkness: *Darkness* is the absence of light. In the Bible it is used in both real and figurative (representative) ways. *Darkness* symbolizes chaos, sin, ignorance, judgment, and punishment.

Discern: *Discern* is defined as the ability to see or notice something that isn't clear or obvious. It also means that a person can tell the difference between two or more things. A *discerning* person is selective and uses good judgment.

Disciple: A *disciple* is a born-again believer who submits, follows, and obeys Jesus.

Doctrine: *Doctrine* is a principle, rule or body of beliefs that forms the basis of our faith. *Doctrine* is based on Scripture and passed down through teaching or instruction that is binding on the Christian community.

Election: In *election*, God determines to bring about His will by His plans and choices. The word *election* means to choose for oneself. The objects of divine selection are the *elect* ones. God's overarching plan is to bring salvation to His people and His world. (See Ephesians 1:4–14)

Empathy: *Empathy* is like sympathy but takes feelings deeper. *Empathy* is the ability to identify oneself mentally with a person and understand his or her feelings, motives, and particular situation. In a sense, when you empathize, you become the other person.

Envy: *Envy* occurs when someone desires something that another person has and feels discontented or resentful because they lack it. It's about wanting what someone else possesses, whether it is a trait, possession, or status.

Eternal Life: Eternal life is given by God to those who trust in, and follow His Son, Jesus Christ. Biblically, it means a transformed and renewed life now and everlasting or unending life after the human body dies.

Evangelism: *Evangelism* is communicating the message of God's salvation and mercy to sinners.

Evangelist: An *evangelist* is one who preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. Preaching is proclaiming the truth of Christ as Savior and Son of God.

Ex Nihilo: Augustine vigorously argued that God created the world *ex nihilo* (creation "out of nothing" or "from nothing"). This means that God created the universe without recourse to anything but His infinite wisdom and awesome power. God called the world into existence not from pre-existent matter or energy or some other "stuff," but literally out of, or from, nothing. There was nothing but God. Then He created the universe (including matter, energy, and time).

Faith: Faith means complete trust and dependence on God. Believing in Jesus Christ means the same as faith in Him. Faith is total commitment and loyalty to Jesus and God's will. The Greek word *pistis* (πίστις) means faith, trust, and belief.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Faithfulness: The Hebrew word *emunah* (hn”Wma,) which we translate as faithfulness in Psalm 33, is defined as firmness, steadfastness, and fidelity. It means God is constant, strong, and sure. He is loyal, unchanging, and consistent. He is trustworthy, dependable, and reliable. Fidelity is defined as loyalty to an allegiance, promise, or vow.

Favor: The Hebrew word the NIV Bible translates favor is *hen* (!xe). Another way to translate *hen* (!xe), is approval or affection for someone. It also means grace.

Fealty: *Fealty* is the loyalty and duty owed by a vassal to his feudal lord. In case your medieval history is a bit rusty, a vassal is a person who held land from a lord or superior, and in return the vassal gave help in war or some other service. Feudalism was a political and economic system of Europe from the 9th to about the 15th century, based on the holding of all land in fief or fee and the resulting relation of lord to vassal and characterized by homage, legal and military service of tenants (renters), and forfeiture (penalty, loss).

Fear of the Lord: *Fear of the Lord* is a profound blend of reverence, awe, and wonder, rooted in a deep awareness of God’s holiness, power, and authority. It involves trusting, obeying, and worshiping God wholeheartedly while recognizing our accountability to Him (2 Corinthians 5:10–11). Often described as “genuine faith” or “true religion,” fearing the Lord evokes both reverence and actual fear, protecting us from presuming on His grace. It also means being afraid of offending God and because we love Him, we feel true anxiety at the thought of failing Him.

Fear: The Greek word *phobos* (φόβος) is translated fear in Luke 12:5 and other New Testament passages. In addition to fear, *phobos* denotes being afraid of; being afraid (to do something); worshiping and reverencing (God) and respecting others. The Greek word captures the same meaning as the Hebrew word for fear. Christians are still admonished (warned) to fear and reverence the triune God.

Federal Headship: *Federal headship* refers to the representation of a group united under a federation or covenant. For example, a country's president may be seen as the *federal head* of their nation, representing and speaking on its behalf before the rest of the world.² If the president declares war, then its citizens are at war, whether one likes it or not. In regard to theology, *federal headship* means that we are represented before God by someone else, who acts on our behalf. What the headship achieves or loses, so do we. Western societies are highly individualistic, but the Bible takes a racially different approach. The Bible speaks of human solidarity (unity).³ As human beings, our *federal head* was Adam who brought the entire human race into sin and death because of his disobedience. But Christ, representing God and humanity, was obedient in everything, even death on a cross, in order to impute righteousness and eternal life to believers.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_headship

³ Timothy Keller, *Romans 1-7, The gift of God* (Charlotte, North Carolina: The Good Book Company, 2014), 34.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Figurative: *Figurative* means the word(s) are not literal but are symbolic in nature. Literal is defined as taking words in their usual or most basic sense without metaphor or allegory. A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares one thing in terms of another. An allegory is a story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning.

Figurative Language: “*Figurative* language refers to all uses of words that are metaphorical or symbolic in nature, conveying a meaning different from their common, literal sense. In biblical interpretation, understanding the meaning of figurative language often involves the study of its cultural, historical, and literary contexts”⁴

Figures of Speech in Language⁵

Anthropomorphism: (an-thro-po-mor-ph-ism) noun

A description or depiction of God as if He were a human being, sharing some human characteristic or function. As a result, anthropomorphic language helps the author convey truth about God in human terms, ascribing to God some attribute or action that belongs to humans. Biblical example: *Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear* (Isaiah 59:1). Anthropomorphism can also mean assigning human motivation, characteristics, or behavior to inanimate (lifeless) objects, animals, or natural phenomena.

Hyperbole: (hy-per-bo-le) noun

A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect, as in *I could sleep for a year* or *This book weighs a ton*. Biblical example: *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.* (John 21:25)

Irony: (i-ro-ny) noun

The use of words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal meaning. Irony is also a literary style employing such contrasts for humorous or rhetorical effect. Biblical example: *Then Job replied: “Doubtless you are the only people who matter, and wisdom will die with you!”* (Job 12:1–2)

Metaphor: (met-a-phor) noun

A figure of speech wherein an implicit comparison is made, one thing being spoken of in terms of another. A metaphor suggests a strong symbolic image that communicates not so much what is true to fact but as to feeling. Biblical example: *He replied, “Go tell that fox,*

⁴ James D. Hernando, *Dictionary of Hermeneutics* (Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 2005), 22.

⁵ Ibid., definitions of figures of speech.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'" (Luke 13:32)

Personification: (per·son·i·fi·ca·tion) *noun*

Occurs when personal qualities or activities are attributed to something that is impersonal such as animals, things, or ideas. Biblical example: *Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* (Psalm 24:7) This literary technique is used to create vivid and colorful images and is sometimes referred to as "figures of humanization."

Simile: (sim·i·le) *noun*

A figure of speech that explicitly compares one thing to another by using the words "like" or "as". What is being compared may be either objects or actions, but the nature of the comparison is formally expressed and easily identified. Biblical example: . . . *and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove.* (Luke 3:22a)

Fix: Fix means to fasten firmly and to direct (the eyes or attention) steadily toward something. This is the meaning of the Greek word *aphorao* (avfora,w) which is translated fix in Hebrews 12:2. It means to direct one's attention without distraction.

Flesh: Flesh is literally the skin and meat of humans and animals. In Romans 8:1–4, Paul uses flesh symbolically as a sinful and sensual power tending toward sin and opposing the Spirit's working. Flesh represents dedication to physical desires rather than obedience to God.

Follow: Literally, follow is defined as going along behind, accompanying, or going along with a crowd. Figuratively, follow speaks of discipleship, self-commitment, and obedience.

Forbearance: Forbearance is patience, restraint, mercy.

Foreshadowing: *Foreshadowing* is a literary device giving an indication of what is coming later in a story. God uses this device through biblical writers to help us develop expectations about future events, especially concerning the Messiah. The Bible has stories, events, and people that *foreshadow* Christ in both His first and second coming.

Forgive from our Heart: Jesus tells us that we must forgive from our hearts. We must really pardon our offenders from our spirit. That is, we hold no grudges or thoughts of revenge. We do not withhold love or affection from the person, nor do we withhold kind and responsible actions toward him or her.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Forgiveness: *Forgiveness* is a pardon, cancellation of an obligation, a punishment, guilt. The Greek word *aphesis* (ἄφεσις) is translated *forgive* in English Bible translations such as in Colossians 1:14 below. In relation to sins, it predominately means *forgiveness*, cancellation of guilt. In the New Covenant, *forgive* involves not a passing over of sins as in the Old Covenant, but their removal from the mind of God, a taking away. The Greek word *aphesis* is also defined as release from captivity, liberation, deliverance.

Fruit: Fruit (figurative or metaphorical) is defined as loving and righteous character traits, deeds, discipleship, and praise. These are all produced by a personal relationship with Jesus and in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (See Matthew 7:16–20; Luke 6:43–45; John 15:1–20)

Gentile: Gentile refers to a person of a non-Jewish nation or of non-Jewish faith. In biblical times, the Jews saw the Gentiles as pagans that didn't know the true, living, God. Gentile is the English translation of the Hebrew word for nation.

Genetics: Genetics is the study of heredity, or how the characteristics of living things are passed from one generation to the next when they reproduce. Every living thing contains the genetic material that makes up DNA molecules. The basic unit of heredity is the gene.

Glorify: *Glorify* means to give *glory*, praise, and honor. The Hebrew word for *glory* is *kabod* (dabeK'). It means abundance, weight, burden, and honor. It's used in various ways in the Bible, but when it refers to God it means recognizing His importance (heavy weight) and majesty. *Glorifying* God is recognizing God's holy character, His goodness, and tremendous worth. He's the most excellent, the greatest, and unsurpassed Supreme Being. The Greek verb *doxazo* (doxa,zw) that English translates *glorify* is to render or to give praise and honor. It means to *glorify* and to exalt. When we *glorify* God, we elevate and recognize Him as the most significant and important "Person" in the universe. We serve and *glorify* a triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus *glorified* God the Father (John 17:1–5) and as we follow after Him, we also *glorify* God.

God's Decretive Will: God's decretive will defines His ability to decree (order) whatever He desires to happen. It's sometimes called God's absolute or sovereign will and refers to the hidden or secret things of God.

God's Perceptive Will: God's perceptive will describes the way He directs humans in the duties that belong to us. This would include the teachings and commandments in the Bible. This is the part of God's will that He desires for mankind but that He allows to be disobeyed.

God's Wrath: God's wrath is His permanent attitude and response to human sins and injustice. The word wrath can also be described in other terms such as anger, fury, displeasure, and irritation. Although we define God's wrath in human terms of intense anger, it is not uncontrolled or fitful. God always has power over His feelings. Therefore, His wrath is deliberate and intended.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Gospel: The Greek word for “good news” is translated gospel in English. It refers to God’s saving activity through the life, ministry, and death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Gospel Tract: A *gospel tract* is a concise (brief) piece of writing that presents the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ while giving the reader an opportunity to repent and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. The majority of *gospel tracts* are small booklets emphasizing the gospel with Scripture. They can also be in a format to use on the internet or on social media.

Grace: *Grace* is God’s divine power and love in action to undeserving people (Hebrews 12:15). It is also part of God’s character and includes His favor and mercy. The height (pinnacle) of God’s *grace* is Jesus Christ.

Grieve: *Grieve* is a verb that describes someone experiencing deep sorrow, pain, or sadness. To *grieve* another means that we have caused that person pain, hurt, sorrow, or distress. We are commanded not to *grieve* the Spirit, but to remove all wickedness, and to be kind (Ephesians 4:30–32).

Heart: In biblical language, the *heart* is the center of one’s mind and personality. A soft *heart* is open to God. A hard *heart* is not; it lacks faith and godly wisdom. Sin and especially unrepentant (no change) sin causes *hearts* to harden.

Holiness: *Holiness* is a divine attribute of God. It means He is set apart from all that is impure or morally wrong. He is perfect and deserves adoration and reverence. *Holiness* is also used to describe persons, places, and things which have been set apart by God and used for His purposes.

Holy: *Holy* is defined as being set apart, pure, and sacred.

Honor: *Honor* is defined in Psalm 50 as showing admiration, dignity, and a sense of reverence or high regard towards God. To *honor* God means to acknowledge His infinite worth, excellence, and significance, often through words, actions, or gestures that express esteem, deep respect, and appreciation.

House: A *house* in the normal usage of the word is a physical dwelling place where family or related people live together. *House* in the context of 2 Samuel 7:16 means a royal family line, including ancestors (born before David) and descendants (born after David). God is not talking about a physical building but physical people.

Hover: The English word *hover* means to float in the air without moving far from the same area or spot. The Hebrew word *rachaph* (@xr) which is translated *hovering* in the NIV English translation, also means to move gently, cherish, and brood. The English verb brood is used to describe a bird sitting on her eggs to hatch them and to cover the nestlings (baby birds) for warmth. The word has other meanings but given the context (words surrounding) of Genesis 1:2, these definitions are appropriate.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Humble: *Humble* is defined as being modest and unassuming in attitude and behavior. It also means being respectful towards other people. A Christian definition of humility is a personal quality in which one shows dependence on God and respect for other persons. The *humble* Christian attributes all talents and gifts to Him. *Humble* Christians are not concerned with pleasing themselves but with pleasing God and serving His people. Jesus is the model of a *humble* servant (Philippians 2:5–8).

Image of God: *Image of God* means humans have been created on purpose to be like God (Genesis 1:27). God is spirit (John 4:24), so we aren't like God physically, but we're like Him spiritually. We can think, choose, and communicate.

Impart: *Impart* means to give, share, or communicate something, especially knowledge, wisdom, or a particular quality, to someone else. It involves transferring or conveying something, often with the intention of influencing or benefiting the recipient.

Incarnation: The word *incarnation* comes from the Latin word, *incarno*, meaning to take on flesh. The doctrine of the *incarnation* describes God, the Son taking on a sinless human nature (flesh) in the person of Jesus Christ while remaining divine (God). The purpose of the *incarnation* was to free human beings from sin and death. Pre-incarnate describes the time before Jesus took on human nature through his holy conception and birth.

Inheritance: *Inheritance* is a legal transmission of property after death to a person known as the heir. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew language that English translates *inheritance* generally means to take possession. God takes possession of Israel as His own. Israel is God's people and His *inheritance*. God, who owns everything, gave Himself Israel as His *inheritance*.

Inner Circle: An *inner circle* is a select group of people close to the leader of a government, organization, or movement. Peter, James, and John were part of Jesus' inner circle.

Impute: In Christianity, "impute" refers to the act of attributing or crediting something to someone. In the context of Jesus' imputed righteousness, it means that believers are considered or credited as righteous in the eyes of God because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Similarly, Adam's sin is understood to have been imputed to humankind, resulting in the need for Jesus' atoning sacrifice to restore the broken relationship between humanity and God. This theological framework underscores the belief that through faith in Jesus, believers are credited with his righteousness, while also being freed from the guilt and consequences of Adam's sin.

Jars of Clay: *Pottery* is defined as pots, jars, dishes, and other articles made of earthenware or baked clay. A *jar of clay* was a piece of pottery that was used to hold water or flour. In biblical times, treasures or valuables might be hidden in a *clay jar* because of its simplicity, it did not attract attention. Eastern kings also had the practice of storing their valuable gold and silver in *clay jars*. Paul uses the term *jars of clay* figuratively in 2 Corinthians 4:7 above to represent his and other believers' frail, feeble, and perishing bodies.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Jealousy: *Jealousy* occurs when someone perceives a threat to something they already possess, typically in a relationship or status. It involves the fear of losing something valuable to oneself due to someone else's actions. For example, **Saul's jealousy of David** (1 Samuel 18:7-9) where Saul feared losing his position and respect due to David's anointing by God and his rising popularity with the people.

Justice: *Justice* is the quality of being just, equitable, and morally right. *Justice* is the process of using laws to judge and punish crimes fairly.

Justification: *Justification* is the act by which God declares a person righteous, or "in right standing" with Him. It happens when someone places their faith in Jesus Christ. *Justification* means that God forgives our sins and sees us as righteous because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It is not something we earn by our own efforts—it is a gift of grace through faith in Christ alone (Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Keep: Keep means to retain in one's possession or power. Hold as one's own. If someone keeps or is kept in a particular state, they remain in it. In Christian terms, kept would mean God's power to cause a person to stand firm and not fall into temptation or sin. Kept is also a term used to confirm a believer's place in heaven.

Lead: Lead is a verb (action word) with a variety of meanings: (1) to show the way by going in advance; (2) to guide or direct; (3) to serve as a route or a channel; (4) to guide the behavior or opinion of; (5) to direct the performance or activities of; to inspire the conduct of; (6) to be at the head of; (7) to be foremost in or among.

Literal: *Literal* is an adjective meaning to conform or to uphold the exact or primary meaning of a word or words. It can also be defined as word for word or verbatim. *Literal* means avoiding exaggeration, metaphor, or embellishment; factual.

Logos (low-gowz): The Greek word logos (λόγος) is translated word in English. In English, word is a vocalized expression of the mind as communication ranging broadly in extent of content and variety of form. The Greeks used the term regarding both the spoken and unspoken word—reason. Greek philosophers used the term to mean the rational principle that gave order to the universe or cosmos. In Hebrew, and displayed in the Old Testament, the word was used to designate God's communication to humans. Thus, all of Scripture can be referred to as God's Word. The word is also the divine agent in creation, wisdom, and revelation of God's will. With all these meanings in mind, especially the Hebrew, the New Testament writers affirm Christ is the Word and Son of God (John 1:1–18). He's the incarnate, revealer of God; He *is* God.

Love: *Love* is the quality of warm regard for, and interest in another person. *Love* is a strong affection and unselfish concern for another. It usually includes a deep, personal attachment. *Love* in terms of the Greek word *agapao* (avgapa,w) is unconditional and sacrificial. It is based on the compassion and extended love of the giver, not the actions of the recipient. *Agapao love* is

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

representative of God's activity in Christ. The source of this kind of self-giving, Christian *love* is from God (Romans 5:5).

Mantel: *Mantel* is an important role or responsibility that passes from one person to another.

Martyr: The Greek word *martures* (μάρτυρες) translated witness in Acts 1:8, is defined as telling what one believes, even though it may result in one being killed for it. The Greek word *martures* can also be rendered *martyr*, and subsequently became a church term used for saints who suffered and died in their witness to Christ.

Meditation: In the Bible *meditation* is to think deeply and reflect on God and His Word. As Trent Butler writes in the *Holman Bible Dictionary*, "Meditation is the repetitious going over of a matter in one's mind because it is the chief concern of life. The constant recollection of God's past deeds by the hearing of Scripture and repetition of thought produces confidence in God."⁶ *Meditation* is contemplating God—His attributes, Person, acts, words, and truths.

Mercy: *Mercy* can be defined as kindness or forgiveness toward another person, especially one in another's power. *Mercy* is being good to people and helping them when they are in need, even though they don't deserve it.

Messiah: *Messiah* is the transliteration of the Hebrew word, *Mashiach* (מָשִׁיחַ), meaning anointed or chosen one in English. In Greek, *Messiah* is translated, *Christos* (Χριστός), and in English, Christ. The *Messiah* is the hope of Israel for an end time deliverer. For Christians, the Anointed One, the *Messiah*, the Christ is fulfilled in Jesus, God's Son.

Metaphor: A *metaphor* is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them. It is an imaginative way of describing something by referring to something else.

Ministry: *Ministry* is the dedication to specific activity, especially in reference to a divine assignment. It is service to God and His people.

Mission: The word *mission* not only means an assigned task but a calling as well. A calling is an objective or task that a person believes they must carry out with special care and devotion.

Missions: *Missions* are specific activities undertaken to bring the gospel to places where people have not had the opportunity to hear or read it. It's an organized effort to reach the lost and make disciples. Typically, *missions* involve believers being sent to foreign countries in order to share the story of salvation.

⁶ Ibid.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Name: The noun name is a word or phrase by which someone or something is known and distinguished from other people or things. It's what someone or something is called; it can also designate a good reputation or a bad one.

Nations: The Greek word *ethnos* (ἔθνη) is usually translated nations (Matthew 28:19) in the Bible. The Greek word not only means nations but also people or a group of people, non-Jews, foreigners, pagans, and heathens (unaware of God).

Non-canonical: *Non-canonical* means that a writing is not part of the *canon*. See definition of canon.

Obedience: Obedience means to comply (follow, observe) with an order, request, or law. It's submission to another's authority.

Open the eyes: Open the eyes or open the eyes of my heart, is another way of saying, "let me see beyond the physical realm into the spiritual" or "give me deeper spiritual understanding." (Ephesians 1:18–23)

Overshadow: The Greek word *episkiasei* (ἐπισκιάσει) is translated *overshadow* in Luke 1:35 above. Literally, it means to cast a shadow by partially blocking out a source of light. Figuratively, *episkiasei* is defined as the effective presence of God; in imagery of divine power.

Parachurch: Parachurches are Christian ministries operating as nondenominational organizations in welfare programs and evangelism. Para means alongside in Greek; thus parachurches come alongside the church in helping people.

Pentecost: *Pentecost* was a Jewish festival, also known as the Feast of Weeks, celebrated fifty days after the Feast of Passover. It was also called the Feast of Harvest or the Day of Firstfruits and was a holy day of offerings, joy, and thankfulness for the Lord's blessing of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15–21). After the events recorded in Acts 2:1–4, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples, Christians began to celebrate *Pentecost* to commemorate this pivotal moment in the birth of the Church.

Pharisees: The Pharisees, meaning "separated ones," were experts in the Law and developers of the oral tradition. In their view, the way to God was in obedience to the law and their interpretation. They were the most powerful Jewish party during the first and second centuries, controlling the synagogues and the people.

Pottery: *Pottery* is defined as pots, jars, dishes, and other articles made of earthenware or baked clay. A *jar of clay* was a piece of pottery that was used to hold water, flour, etc. In biblical times, treasures or valuables might be hidden in a *clay jar* because of its simplicity, it did not attract attention. Eastern kings also had the practice of storing their gold and silver in *clay jars*. Paul uses the term *jars of clay* figuratively in 2 Corinthians 4:7 above to represent his own, and also humanity's frail, feeble, and perishing bodies.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Power: *Power* is defined in three ways. *First*, it is the ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way; *second*, it means to direct or influence the behavior of others or events; and *third*, *power* is the ability to exert physical strength or force by something or someone. The Greek word *dunamis* (δύναμις) is translated *power* in most English translations. In addition to meaning *power*, it also means strength; miracle, miracle worker, supernatural power(s), the *power* of God; ability, capacity, means, and significance.

Preach: *Preaching* is proclaiming the truth of Christ as Savior and Son of God.

Prejudice: Prejudice is an irrational dislike of somebody. It's an unfounded hatred, fear, or mistrust of a person or group, especially one of a particular religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or social status.

Presence: The English noun, *presence*, means to be present. That is, someone or something is in the immediate vicinity (area) at the current time. When we speak of God's presence, we usually mean that we can feel God is near to us and influencing us in some way. This is one of the ways that God expresses or involves us in relationship. The word in Hebrew that the NIV translates presence is *panay* (yn:īP'), which literally means face. The same word is used in the Aaronic or priestly benediction of Numbers 6:24–26. When God turns His face toward you and gives you peace, you have been blessed with His acceptance and attention. God is with you.

Presume: Presume is to suppose something is the case based on probability or with no proof. When we presume on God, we're not acting in faith, but taking things into our own hands. We're presuming God will approve our plans, bless our deeds, or protect our actions. Presumption disregards prayer, Scripture, and godly counsel or distorts them to justify rebellion and sin.

Pride: Pride is a feeling and deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievement instead of recognizing God and His grace (Proverbs 16:18).

Prodigal: Prodigal is an adjective describing someone who spends money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.

Professing Christ: *Professing Christ* or those who have *professed Christ* are those who declare or state their faith in Christ Jesus openly and freely.

Promise: The word *promise* is defined as a vow or pledge to do or provide something. A promise will cause someone to expect something. God's promises to people are found in the Bible and generally fall into four classes: (1) Messianic (2) Israel (3) Believers (4) Gentiles.

Prompting of the Holy Spirit: Prompting of the Holy Spirit is when one is led, moved, compelled, or guided by the Holy Spirit into deeds or actions in God's will. It's essential to distinguish or discern promptings from the Spirit from our own desires, and those of Satan.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Prophecy: Prophecy is a message received from God and delivered through a person to others. Prophecy in the Old Testament had a strong element of foretelling or predicting the future, but this isn't a requirement for prophesying. What is necessary and critical for prophesying is the empowerment and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Prophesy: Prophesy is translated from the Greek verb *propheteuo* (profhteu,w), which means to proclaim God's message, preach; prophesy, predict; speak God's message intelligibly (as opposed to speaking in tongues 1 Corinthians 14.1); use prophetic insights to make something known (Matthew 26:68; Mark 14:65; Luke 22:64).

Prophet: *Prophets* are persons inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak for God and His purposes. A *prophet* may or may not be given insight into the future. When prophets speak God's truth, their words are known as prophecy. The gift of *prophecy* is given to instruct, encourage, warn of judgment, and speak on current events.

Propitiation: *Propitiation* refers to the removal of God's righteous wrath through the offering of a gift. Jesus offered Himself as that sacrificial gift, satisfying God's justice and turning away His anger. Through His death, Jesus took the punishment we deserved, restoring peace between God and humanity (1 John 2:2; Romans 3:25). *Propitiation* emphasizes God's love and justice working together through Christ's sacrifice.

Proselyte: Proselyte refers to a person who has been converted from one opinion, religion, or party to another. In the Bible it refers to converts to Judaism, strangers, or newcomers to Israel.

Providence: Providence is how God continually controls and directs all the world's activities, including all the creatures He has made. God's sovereignty refers to the fact of His control.

Pure: Pure as related to an individual is perfection. To be pure is being free or separate from moral fault, sin, infirmity, or contamination.

Quicken: Quicken is to stimulate or cause to be enlivened. To be quickened by the Holy Spirit means that our spirits are stimulated and enlivened. The Holy Spirit gives life and revives life.

Rabbi: *Rabbi* is a Hebrew word meaning "my master." Jews applied it to their teachers and spiritual instructors as a form of respect and honor. During the New Testament period the word *rabbi* became more narrowly focused on a person knowledgeable in the law of Moses.

Rebellion: Rebellion is open, armed, and organized resistance to a government (political system); it's also an act, or a show of defiance toward an authority or established convention. Authority is the power to enforce laws, exact obedience, determine, or judge.

Recompense: *Recompense* is to compensate or give back in return to someone for loss or harm suffered.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Reconciliation: *Reconciliation* is the reestablishing of personal relations—a change from enmity to friendship.

Redemption: The word *redemption* meant to pay a required price (ransom) for someone's release. For example, the price could be used for slaves, criminals, or prisoners of war to be set free. Jesus described His death on the cross as 'a ransom for many' (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). The apostle Paul also referred to Jesus' death on the cross as a ransom (1 Timothy 2:5–6). Jesus is the Redeemer (Rescuer, Savior).

Regeneration: *Regeneration* is another word for being born from above—a radical spiritual transformation and rebirth that occurs through the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

Relationship: *Relationship* refers to the way you are related or connected to another person. It also means how you behave or care about another person. The most important *relationship* for everyone is with God.

Relent: The Hebrew word *niham* (נִחַם), is translated *relent* in the English NIV Bible (Exodus 32:14; Amos 7:3). *Niham* is a verb that means to allow oneself to be sorry, regret, suffer grief, and *relent*. *Relent* means to soften in one's intention, feeling, temper, or determination. Thus, God allowed Himself to soften in His intention to bring judgment on the Israelites at particular times and circumstances.

Remnant: *Remnant* is defined as a remainder or something left over. The biblical definition for *remnant* refers to the righteous people of God remaining after divine judgment.

Repent: *Repent* means to turn from sins to God. Turning to God means to follow and obey Him. *Repentance* also includes being sorry for wrongdoing.

Restitution: *Restitution* is the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner; recompense for injury or loss. *Recompense* is to compensate or give back in return to someone for loss or harm suffered.

Revelation: *Revelation* means the unveiling or uncovering of something hidden. When we speak of the *revelation* of God, we are referring to the way He makes Himself known, including His attributes, character, will, plans, and nature. This occurs through general *revelation*, where God reveals Himself through creation and conscience (Romans 1:20), and through special *revelation*, where He makes Himself known more fully through Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ.

Reverence: *Reverence* is a deep sense of respect, awe, and honor toward someone or something, often accompanied by a feeling of humility. It goes beyond simple respect, involving an attitude of profound admiration and veneration, particularly toward someone held in high esteem or considered sacred. In a biblical context, *reverence* toward God includes recognizing His majesty, holiness, and authority, leading to worship, obedience, and a heartfelt desire to honor Him in all aspects of life.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Revival: We translate *revival* from two Hebrew words: *sháva* (שָׁבָה), which means to bring back, restore, return and *chayah* (חַיָּה), which means to live and revive (See Psalm 85:6). *Revival* is about God's people, believers, returning to Him in fervent love and obedience. When Christians are revived, they will fervently pray and actively share their faith resulting in large number of people being saved. *Revival* refers to a specific period of spiritual renewal and holiness in the lives of Christians; they exhibit a healthy fear and reverence for God. In English, the term *revival* is derived from the word *revive*, which means to recover consciousness or full strength; bring somebody back to life.

Righteousness: The Hebrew word that we translate righteousness is *tsedeq* (צֶדֶק). It means that which is right, just, and normal. It's also defined as rightness, justness, and specifically of weights and measures. Right means that someone or something is correct, proper, morally good, and appropriate. Just means that someone is fair, impartial, morally correct, and reasonable.

Sabbath: The Hebrew word translated Sabbath in the English NIV (Exodus 16:26) is *sabbat* (שַׁבָּת). In Hebrew, the word *sabbat* (שַׁבָּת) is defined as a day of rest or the Sabbath. The Sabbath or seventh day according to the Hebrew calendar is Saturday. The first day of the week is Sunday.

Sacred: Sacred is defined as worthy or entitled to reverence, veneration, and respect. Places that are dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of God are sacred.

Sacrifice: *Sacrifice* in the Old Testament is the offering of physical items and/or animals to God through a priest to express loyalty, thanksgiving, or the need for forgiveness. These sacrifices were symbolic and foreshadowed Christ's saving work on the cross. Priests were people chosen to offer the sacrifices and perform other religious duties. In the New Testament, Jesus is the High Priest, whose crucifixion is the perfect sacrifice offered to God on people's behalf in payment and punishment of sins.

Sacrifice of Praise: In general, the word *sacrifice* means to surrender or give up, or permit injury or disadvantage to, for the sake of something else. So a "*sacrifice of praise*" refers to offering praise or worship to God even in difficult circumstances even to our own personal injury or disadvantage. Praising God, especially in times of trial or adversity, can be seen as a *sacrifice* because it may require effort and faithfulness despite challenging situations (Hebrews 15:15). A "*sacrifice of praise*" signifies a willingness to honor and glorify God regardless of one's personal circumstances—demonstrating trust and devotion to Him.

Salt of the earth: *Salt of the earth* is a description of Christ's disciples meaning they are to flavor and be flavored by godly lives and conversation, correct doctrine, holy experiences, ministering of the Word, and communicating divine truth.

Salvation: In the New Testament, salvation is defined as being saved or delivered from the consequences of sin by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. To experience salvation or be

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

saved, a person must believe in, and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. They must submit their lives to God.

Sanctification: Sanctification (sanctified) refers to both the believer's position of being "holy" in Christ and the process of becoming holy (transformed into His image). Believers are holy in that we are "set apart" or "consecrated" for God's holy use or purpose.

Sanctify: The Greek verb *hagiasmo* (a`gia,zw), translated sanctify or sanctifying in English, means to set apart for sacred use. Other meanings of the Greek word include consecration, dedication, holiness, and the state of purity. The English word sanctify is defined as making something holy or giving something a holy status.

Sanctuary: A sanctuary is a holy place designated for worship and meeting with God.

Seal: A seal is a sign of identification or ownership. In biblical times, a seal was used to make one's distinctive and permanent mark into soft clay and then it was used as an official signature. The idea is like an ink stamp used to mark a document or electronic signature technology. Seals were important in the Hebrew and Greek cultures and gave identity, definition, and authority to the person who carried it. In many cases, this instrument which was used to sign clay tablets was worn around the person's neck or finger (ring) revealing that it was a most valuable possession. A deposit is a pledge or down payment. Figuratively, both seal and deposit are used regarding the Holy Spirit.

Sensitivity: Sensitivity means responsiveness or openness through one's senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, or smell. It's also an awareness and understanding of the feelings of other people.

Seraph: Seraph is a heavenly or angelic being with human form and six wings. The plural, masculine, noun is normally rendered seraphim but translated seraphs in the NIV Bible translation. They seem to be positioned over God's throne for divine worship and used as agents of purification. Seraphim are only mentioned in Isaiah 6.

Set Apart: *To set apart* makes (someone or something) different, special, or sacred. *To set apart* means to put (someone or something) in a particular place or category. It can also mean selecting (someone or something) for a specific purpose.

Sharing the Gospel: *Sharing the gospel* means telling or communicating the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection so others can be saved from judgment, reconciled to God, and become followers Jesus Christ.

Sign: A *sign* points to something else—an object, occurrence, or person through which one recognizes, remembers, or validates something. In the Old Testament *signs* may be classified according to seven somewhat overlapping functions: to impart knowledge, to protect, to motivate faith, to recall significant events, to witness to the covenant, to confirm, and to illustrate through

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

prophetic action.⁷ God is a God of order and intention. From creation to redemption, there is a plan in effect. God's ways are never haphazard or happenstance. As with all God does, He gives *signs* for a purpose.

Sinner's Prayer: The *sinner's prayer* is a name given to a prayer whereby a person admits that they are a sinner and accepts by grace Christ as Savior and Lord. The prayer is meant to be a first step and decision to give up control of one's life to God and follow Christ forever. Sadly, some misunderstand and think it is a one-time prayer and then, life as usual.

Slander: *Slander* is saying something false and hurtful about another person that damages their reputation. *Slander* is included with a list of additional sins in Mark 7:21–23.

Son of Man: Jesus used the term *Son of Man* about eighty times in the New Testament to describe Himself as the representative of the human race. He is God incarnate on mission to restore humanity from the Fall through His death and resurrection. The term *Son of Man* is also used in the Old Testament as a synonym for humanity and also for a certain person. This person was prophesied to be the Messiah

Sovereign: As a noun, the word sovereign means a supreme (highest, ultimate) ruler, especially a king. As an adjective, sovereign is defined as possessing or having supreme or absolute power.

Sovereignty of God: The sovereignty of God describes His supreme rule over the universe. He's the source of and sustainer of all creation. All things depend upon God. This truth is taught in Psalm 24:1–2: *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.*

Speaking in Tongues: *Speaking in tongues* can be defined as a person speaking another language in which they've never been trained. It would be a miraculous event like when all nations of Jews understood the disciples speaking in their own language (Acts 10:46). Today, especially Pentecostal and charismatic Christians view it differently. For example, "glossolalia" is a term they use for *speaking in tongues* and it refers to speaking an *unknown language*. It comes from the Greek words meaning *tongues* or *languages*, and *to speak*. Some Pentecostal denominations teach that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*. They also teach three distinctions or types of *speaking in tongues*: 1) Tongues as a supernatural outpouring and sign to unbelievers (Acts 2:11). 2) Tongues for the strengthening of the church—requires an interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27). 3) Tongues as a private prayer language (Romans 8:26).

⁷ Ibid., 1277–78.

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

Spirit, Human: The *human spirit* is often considered the immaterial essence of a person, the human spirit is believed to be the part of a person that connects with God. It encompasses one's inner life, including thoughts, emotions, and will.

Spiritual: *Spiritual* is an adjective describing the unseen, as opposed to material or physical things.

Spiritual Gifts: *Spiritual gifts* are abilities, talents, characteristics, or qualities given by the Holy Spirit to followers of Christ to fulfill God's purposes in the world. The Holy Spirit endows us with a variety of these gifts to communicate God's plan and purpose of restoring creation to its intended glory through Jesus Christ. These gifts are meant to be used in love and unity, both for building up and expanding the Christian community. (In Romans 1:11, the Greek word *pneumatikon* (πνευματικόν) translated spiritual in English is an adjective describing gifts that are influenced by the Spirit of God. The Greek word *charisma* (χάρισμα), translated gifts, is a noun meaning divine gifts (freely and graciously given), favors bestowed.)

Spreading the Gospel: *Spreading the gospel* refers to expanding the reach of this good news, taking it to a larger or increasingly wider area.

Strong: The word *strong* does mean having physical strength but it also means being firm and emotionally resilient (flexible). It means that one has the necessary emotional qualities to deal with difficult situations including pain, sorrow, loss, and risk. A *strong* person is firm and urgent about matters of importance.

Stronghold: A *stronghold* is a place that is strongly defended to protect it against attack. It can be a good stronghold of protection (1 Samuel 24:22), or Satan's evil stronghold for battle (2 Corinthians 10:3–4). A *stronghold* is also an incorrect thinking pattern affecting how one responds.

Stumbling block: A *stumbling block* is an obstacle, something that stands in the way of achieving a goal, or of understanding something.

Submit: *Submit* means be subject to, obey, be under the authority of; take a subordinate place. Resist means to oppose, withstand; hold one's ground. Both words *submit* and resist, in James 4:7, are imperatives (commands).

Sympathetic: *Sympathetic* is feeling or showing concern for others going through difficult or bad situations.

Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting: The *tabernacle* was known by various names: *tent of meeting*, dwelling, house, tent, and temple. It was the holy and consecrated place where God would reveal Himself to His people, the Israelites. Moses received instructions from God in the design of the *Tent of Meeting*. Initially, the Israelites were a nomadic people and therefore, the tabernacle was

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

a tent. About 480 years later, Solomon constructed the *tabernacle* (temple) with quarried stone blocks.

Tactics: Tactics is defined as the science of organizing and maneuvering forces in battle to achieve a limited or immediate goal. It's also the art of finding and implementing the means to achieve immediate or short-term goals.

Get behind me, Satan: Stated another way, "*Get behind me, Satan,*" would read "get away from me, Satan." The phrase meant that Satan, the adversary, is tempting someone to turn away from God. In this context, Peter was being used by Satan to deter Jesus from His mission.

Take up your cross: The phrase "*take up your cross*" means to die to oneself through total surrender to Jesus. In the first century, the cross was a means of death and so in carrying it, one was carrying their own execution device. It is a call to self-sacrifice and self-humiliation.

Tempt: Tempt is a verb meaning to invite or try to persuade a person to sin by making the wrongdoing seem attractive. Temptation can come from the devil or our own sinful desires.

Temptation: *Temptation* is defined as something that provokes a strong urge or desire to do something, especially something bad, wrong, or unwise. Satan *tempts* or entices people to sin.

Tender: The word *tender* is an adjective describing a very loving and gentle person. A *tender* person is kind, sympathetic, sensitive, and caring toward others. It also means being responsive to God's guidance. A *tender* person often feels emotions intensely.

Test: *Test* is defined as a measure to check the quality, performance, or reliability of something, particularly before it is put into widespread use or practice. God *tests* for faith and loyalty.

Testify: Testify is to bear witness—to make a solemn statement under oath for the purpose of establishing truth or facts.

Testimony: A *testimony* is a solemn statement of fact based on personal knowledge or belief, such as given in a court of law. A *personal testimony* is a statement that involves giving facts or sharing a story of a personal and truthful nature. A *Christian personal testimony* is a statement about the divine identity and historical reliability of Christ. It also includes the story (and specific time) when one placed their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. It includes life before Jesus, how trusted Jesus, and life changes after faith in Jesus.

The Boxer Rebellion: "The Boxer Rebellion, (1899—1900) was an anti-foreign/Christian movement by the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists in China. In response to imperialist expansion and missionary evangelism, local organizations began to emerge in Shandong in 1898. At first, they were suppressed by the Qing Dynasty but later, the Empress Dowager tried to expel western influence from China with aggressions aimed towards foreign missionaries. Boxers

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

across North China attacked mission compounds killing foreign missionaries and Chinese Christians.”⁸

The High Places: The high places were elevated sites on hills or mountains that were dedicated to worshipping idols or false gods. An idol is something or someone worshipped other than God.

Times of the Gentiles: *Times of the Gentiles* being fulfilled means that the nations will rule until the divinely set number of Gentiles have been saved in Christ.

Tract: A *tract* is a short or condensed written essay (treatise) on a particular subject. A *gospel tract* covers the subject of salvation through Christ Jesus. Gospel tracts may have been used as early as the 13th century.

Transfiguration: The word *transfigure* is to transform into something more elevated and beautiful. The *Transfiguration* refers to a specific time Jesus took Peter, James, and John to the top of a high mountain where He was *transfigured*. While there, Jesus was transformed so that His face shone like the sun and His clothes were as white as light (Matthew 17:1–13)

In the Old Testament idols are usually carved images or statues of some kind.

Trinity: The *Trinity* is the Christian doctrine that defines God as an undivided unity expressed in the threefold nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus is of one substance (essence) with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Although the actual word *trinity* is not in the Bible, it expresses the truth of Scripture regarding our triune God.

Trust in God: *Trust in God* is the solid belief in His reliability, truthfulness, ability, and strength. It means that we feel safe and have full confidence in God, no matter the situation or condition of our lives. In the same way we are commanded to trust in God, we are to trust in Jesus (John 14:1).

Universe: Universe is defined as all of space and everything in it, including stars, planets, and galaxies. A galaxy is a system of millions, or billions of stars held together by gravity. The earth's galaxy is known as the Milky Way and our planets rotate around the sun. The phrase, the heavens and the earth, is the same as referring to the entire creation or universe.

Walk with God: Walk is used figuratively in the Bible to indicate one's conduct or way of life. To walk with God is to be obedient, acceptable in His sight, and conformed to His will (Genesis 5:24). Believers walk with God through the grace of Christ Jesus. To walk by the Spirit is to accept and welcome the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

⁸ The Alliance website, “About History,” < <https://www.cmalliance.org/about/history/in-the-line-of-fire/boxer-rebellion> > (accessed 08/2/2020).

In Jesus Steps - Biblical Glossary

War: War is a state of open and armed conflict carried on between nations, states, or other parties. It is a concentrated effort or campaign to put an end to something considered harmful. A battle is an encounter or skirmish (fight) between the opposing forces.

Welsh Revival 1904: The Welsh Revival of 1904 was the largest Christian revival in Wales during the 20th century. It was one of the most dramatic in terms of its effect on the population, and triggered revivals in several other countries. The movement kept the churches of Wales filled for many years to come, seats being placed in the aisles in Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Swansea for twenty years or so, for example.”⁹

Will: As a verb, will means to exercise or put into effect one’s willpower. One’s willpower is a mixture of determination and self-discipline that enables a person to do something no matter the difficulties. Recall, the will is the command post of an individual. The noun, will, is defined as the mental faculty (ability) by which a person decides upon and controls his own actions or those of others. It’s the part of the mind that makes decisions. Will is also defined as that which is desired or determined; something that someone wants to happen.

Witness: A *witness* sees something happen or has personal knowledge of something. It’s usually affirmed by word or example of one’s religious faith or conviction. When we’re *witnesses* for the Lord Jesus, we’re telling others the truthful facts and events of His life. We share how we’ve come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and how they can also. We publicly affirm by words, deeds, and actions that we’re His and He’s ours. The Greek word *martures* (μάρτυρες) translated *witness* in Acts 1:8, is defined as telling what one believes, even though it may result in one being killed for it. The Greek word *martures* can also be rendered martyr, and subsequently became a church term used for saints who suffered and died in their *witness* to Christ.

Worship: *Worship* can be defined as total love, honor, and devotion to God. It also means to regard God with ardent, adoring esteem and devotion. Disciples take an active part in worship and influence others to honor and love God too.

YHWH: *YHWH* (יהוה) is “God’s name in Hebrew known by the technical term ‘Tetragrammaton’ (Greek, meaning four letters), these are the four consonants which make up the divine name (Exodus 3:15; found more than 6,000 times in the Old Testament). The written Hebrew language did not include vowels, only the consonants were used; thus readers supplied the vowels as they read.”¹⁰ Yahweh (pronounced Yah weh) is the same Hebrew name with vowels added to it and is translated LORD in Psalm 99:1–2.

Rev 1/24/2025

⁹ 1904–1905 Welsh Revival<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904%E2%80%931905_Welsh_revival>Accessed 3/4/2021).

¹⁰ Trent Butler, “YHWH” *Holman Bible Dictionary*, (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), 1429.