

**Welcome to: -
Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

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Bible Dictionary
And
Various Biblical Meanings.
2017

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Face

Face (*Hebrew paniym*) literally applies to the face, but figuratively can refer to the presence of God and standing before His presence. Face (*Greek prosopon*) refers to the appearance and countenance as that which is in view and by implication the outward appearance, the presence, person, or the presence of God.

I have seen his face: or I have seen him face to face means I have seen his character or can be a term of knowing will or intimately

Face to Face

Moses speaks to the LORD face to face: the statement, "The LORD speaks to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend" (Exod. 33:11) does not mean that Moses saw God's face we know this because the LORD said to Moses: -

- You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live. (Exod. 33:20).
- While my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen. (Exod. 33:22-23).

The expression, "the LORD speaks to Moses face to face," carries the idea of endearment and intimacy. It is very much like someone who has an internet friend who they have never seen, but over time they get to deeply know the person so intimately will, that they say to their friends, "It's like I have seen them face to face." God spoke from the pillar of cloud, so He was not seen by Moses, but Moses and God had such a very unique and intimate relationship with each other that Moses was able to say, "He spoke with God face to face."

Faint

Faint (*Hebrew raphah*) means slacken and feeble it carries the idea of being dizzy because of a brief loss of consciousness, caused by a reduction in the flow of blood to the brain or to be feeble in enthusiasm and conviction. It can embrace in the following two ideas, firstly, to a person who faints when faced with adversity, because their mental fortitude, resilience, determination, endurance and strength is weak. Secondly, to a person who gives up when faced with adversity or temptation because their conviction is weak.

Faith

Faith (*Greek pistis*) can apply to the absolute persuasion, assurance, trust acceptance, belief and moral conviction of religious truth or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher especially the Gospel truth and reliance upon Christ for salvation. The following attitudes manifest faith, faithfulness, obedience, trust, steadfastness, tenacity, perseverance, fortitude, devotion, allegiance and loyalty.

Faith (*Greek peitho*) means to be persuaded and convinced of a thing by argument whether true or false and then agreeing, relying and believing with absolute confidence on that thing and obeying it with total trust yielding to it with inward certainty.

Faith in general: some people's faith can be institutional or simply embraced because they have been born into it, are cousins of it or are grandchildren to it rather than it being a direct and individual relationship to God and the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb 11:1-2). Faith is faith however misguided it might be because faith is a conviction in the mind that a thing is true even if it is false, (i.e., many people throughout history have laid down their lives for false beliefs in false gods).

New Testament biblical faith: biblical faith surpasses just simply believing that something is true it is believing with the predominate idea of absolute trust and confidence that the Lord Jesus Christ is saving those who trust in him to eternal life and knowing that when life seems out of our control it is not out of God's control, true faith will be manifested in contentment, satisfaction and calm in those who are believing.

Faith and Charles Blondin: the following story is a good example of biblical faith, Charles Blondin (1824-1897) a French acrobat and tightrope walker who quickly won acclaim for his daring and outstanding performances of which one was walking above the Niagara Falls on a tightrope, sometimes blindfolded and at other times with a man on his back or pushing a wheel barrow.

A story is told that Blondin after walking across the Niagara Falls on a tightrope asked the cheering crowd if they believed he could do it again with a wheel barrow. The entire crowd excitedly shouted yes, they obviously believed he could. Blondin then asked who in the crowd is willing to climb into the wheel barrow and not one person responded.

This story beautifully illustrates the meaning of biblical faith if we view Blondin as a symbol of Christ and his wheel barrow as a symbol of grace saving us to eternal life. Biblical faith is having such confidence that we would without hesitation be willing to ride in the wheel barrow, meaning that we have absolutely no doubt the Lord Jesus Christ is saving us by grace to eternal life.

Faith in Good or Bad circumstances: it mattered not to David what his circumstance were (good or bad) God was always the praise of His heart and God's Spirit and love was what sustained Him and what he most sought after. His greatest treasure was God's love dwelling within his heart and mind and so he was deeply hurt and remorseful when convicted of any sin he had committed before God.

Whether David was prospering and full of joy; in despair and depression; surrounded by his enemies; lying on his bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death he always spoke honestly to God of how he felt, and always ends his Psalms, his prayers and his petitions with praising the name of the LORD, the Most High God.

Feelings and emotions are not faith: David had not only faced death on his sick bed, but also in battle. He slew Goliath as a young boy and was a mighty man of war (in some battles twenty-thousand warriors were slaughtered and killed in one day). Yet when a crisis arose he was often in fear and distress. Many Christians have this idea that if they have super faith they should never feel any negative emotion, but David often does and God Himself said he was a man after His own heart. (1 Samuel. 13:14) (Acts 13:22).

This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that feelings and emotions are not faith. Faith is not dependent on how we feel. Faith is belief, it is independent of emotions, faith may produce feelings, but faith is not the feeling that it is producing. A person can be full of joy and yet have very little faith, while another may be in great distress or despair and yet have great faith, because faith is independent of joy or fear, faith may produce joy, but joy is not faith. This means that the faithful can be continually connected to God by faith regardless of how they are feeling.

Faith goes beyond believing in doctrine: many people believe the following truths: -

- Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and God by the Holy Spirit was his Father.
- Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham and of David.
- Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of the world.
- Jesus lived without sin and performed many mighty miracles and wonders.
- Jesus died on the bloodstained cross of Calvary to save sinners and rose again.

Though these are all true statements the true meaning of believe or faith goes far beyond just having intellectual head knowledge of what is true. The full meaning of believe embraces also the act of trusting and relying on another with full confidence and assurance that they will do what they have promised, it is putting one's life in the hands of another.

The greatness of Noah's faith: the LORD told Noah, to take seven pairs of all living creatures, because he was about to send rain for forty days and forty nights, that would destroy every living creature on earth. Ponder for a moment Noah's great faith, he believed everything God had told him, yet he had never seen or experienced any disasters on earth especially one with the world changing magnitude of the flood.

The faith of New Testament believers works in the same way, they see nothing, but believe everything that the Gospel proclaims. Neither the God who they worship, the Saviour in who they trust and the heaven to which they are awaiting are seen by their natural eyes, they believe in all these based upon the word and promise of God.

However, it is extremely important and necessary to use our senses and reason to function and live a balanced and safe life in this mortal world, but when it comes to salvation and eternal life our senses and reason must submit to the dominion of faith since faith is the foundation of God's Kingdom and the very nature of true godliness.

The Bible was not written as a history book or to gratify our curiosity—but for the salvation of our mortal life to eternal life and though there may be much detail of history lacking and little to satisfy the curiosity of some there is abundantly more than enough to accomplish the salvation of all.

Faith is the substance: in the book of Hebrews we read, "faith is the assurance (substance in KJV) of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence in KJV) of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1). Normally a substance is a thing human's feel, see and touch, but when it comes to faith the substance is something that is unseen and cannot be touched, but nevertheless gives the intellect such a strong assurance it can be likened to solid matter.

The substance of Christian faith is the word of God, especially the Gospel. It is the Bible that gives the mind the substance and strong evidence needed to believe something that cannot be seen. This is why the Scriptures state, "receiving the Spirit comes by hearing God's word with faith." (Gal. 3:2, 5). Saving faith is having a conviction of belief that is so confident and assured in the person (i.e., the Lord Jesus Christ) it is believing in that it will put its total trust in him. (Rom 5:1)

Steadfast faith: endures all things and resists the changes of the world and remains with the constants of God's word

Continuing in the faith: does not mean you will never sin, but that you will always come back to God in repentance,

Faithless: (translated, believe not, in the KJV) (*Greek pistos*) means trustworthy, believing, sure and true. It embraces those who betrays a trust, especially a pledge of faith, people who cannot be relied on or trusted and to people without trust or who have no belief and faith in God

Faithful: (*Greek apisteo*) means to be unbelieving or disbelieve and by implication to disobey. It embraces those who continue to keep believing and being confident and trusting their pledge of faith, people who can be relied on and are worthy of trust, showing themselves faithful in their work or business and in their official duties.

In the New Testament it applies to people who trust in God's promises and who are convinced that Jesus has been raised from the dead, is the Messiah and Saviour and the only way to eternal life. For further information concerning faith see, 'Assurance' in this Bible Dictionary

Fainthearted

Fainthearted: (*Hebrew labab*) referring to the heart as the most interior organ it carries the idea of being faint hearted, afraid, timid, to be consumed or stunned by fear and melt away. Fainthearted (Faint in your minds in KJV) (*Greek ekluo*) means to loosen or feel faint and to put off dissolve and break up. Fainthearted (*Greek oligopsuchos*) (feeble-minded in KJV) means of little spirit or faint-hearted

Families different in Noah's days: in the early generations of Noah's days' families were quite different to what they are today with a Mom and Dad and two kids. The average life span of people during these generations was around eight-hundred years. If they only bore children during two hundred of these years and only had one child every five years, they would have died with over two million descendants each. Multiply that by just the number of people the Bible names and it gives a very huge population, even back as early as this the people were being fruitful and filling the earth (Gen. 1:28).

People fantasize about world peace, international fame, winning the lotto, or the noble peace prize, being a famous singer, or meeting the dream partner? Fantasy produces hope and hope produces excitement and joy, but for the hope to continue to exist the object of the fantasy must be perpetually absent, because, it is not the object that keeps people happy; it's the fantasy of it because in the fantasy is hope.

This is what is meant by the saying, "People are only truly happy; when daydreaming about future happiness" or why people say, "The hunt is sweeter than the kill" or "Be careful what you wish for" not because they'll get it, but because the instant the fantasy becomes reality there is no-more hope to look forward to so the mind almost immediately begins to seek out another fantasy.

Once a person has what they want hope is gone so to keep hope alive a new fantasy arises in the mind of something they desire and can fantasize about. This is one of the reasons people continually buy lotto tickets, it gives them a hope to fantasize about for a week, because of this principle of fantasy and its power upon us there is a danger that many who confess to believe in God, have Him as a fantasy in the mind only.

Fasting (*Hebrew tsowm*) meanings hunger, through the idea of denying one-self of food. Fasting (Greek *nesteuo* and *nestis*) literally means not eating and abstaining from food, especially for religious reasons.

The nation of Israel and fasting: (Isaiah 58:3-14) Israel was daily seeking the LORD and asking for His righteous judgments, they delighted drawing near to Him and to know His ways, but God did not respond to their fasting so they asked him why? God told them that He was not listening to their prayers for three reasons, firstly their motivation to fast was to seek their own selfish pleasure, secondly they were oppressing all their workers and thirdly they were quarrelling, fighting and doing harm to each other. He then tells them the fast He delights in is when His people: -

- Humble themselves and rid wickedness from amongst them.
- Stop putting their workers under bondage and oppressing them.
- Share their food with the hungry, cloth the poor and help the afflicted.
- Bring the homeless and the poor into their house and help their own family.
- Delight in the things of God, rather than doing their own pleasures.
- Honour the LORD'S ministry and His calling and not go their own way.
- Do not gossip about others or talk idly about things unlikely to be carried out.
- Are not frivolous wasting time, or unwilling to work.

God told Israel if they fast correctly truth and understanding would break forth like the dawn and healing would spring up speedily, righteousness would go before them and the glory of the LORD would be their rear guard. When they call or cry to the LORD He will answer and say, "Here I am." Prosperity and joy would rise in the darkness and the gloom would be as the light at noonday. The LORD would guide them continually, satisfy their desires, make their bones strong and they would be like a watered garden whose waters do not fail.

Their ancient ruins would be rebuilt and they would raise up the foundations of many generations, they would be called the repairer of the breach and the restorer of streets to dwell in. They will take delight in the LORD and He will make them ride on the heights of the earth and the LORD will feed them with the heritage and promises of Jacob their father.

Far off

In Ephesians it is written, "Now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephes. 2:13). The words, "far off," in this context refers to the Gentiles being far from God and from salvation in contrast to the Jews who are referred to as being near, because they had known God for over four thousand years and had the scrolls, the prophets, the promises the temple and were God's chosen people.

Fat

In the book of Zechariah, it is written, "behold, I (God) am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs. (Zech. 11:16). Fat (*Hebrew bara'*) means to be plump, to be fatter, to be well fed and to have more than enough. In this context speaks of power, authority, wealth and richness. This shepherd will not only have no respect for the poor, but will also have no respect for the rich and those in high positions of power and authority.

Father

Father (*Hebrew 'ab*) literally a father and figuratively a chief, foremost and principal. Father (*Greek pater*) means the same as (*Hebrew 'ab*).

God the Father: (the Father of Jesus Christ) the Jews believed Jesus was the Son of Joseph (as do some religious and secular people). One of the major reasons they plotted to kill him was because he said he was the Son of God such a statement was to them blasphemy. Jesus could have very simply stopped the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes hatred toward him and their plotting to kill him by simply saying that he was the Son of Joseph, but he never says he is or in any Scripture even implies that he is, rather he tells them that he is the bread of life which came down from heaven which simply leaves them even more determined to kill him.

The Jews were constantly asking Jesus who his father was (Matt 8:19, 25), if Joseph was his father he would have given an honest and simple answer to their question by simply saying, Joseph was his father but he never does.

Jesus always points to his Father being, God when confronted with the question who is your Father or whose son are you?". Jesus constantly enforced the idea that God was his natural Father (John 8:12-59). Jesus gives no room in his many conversations with the Jews for them to think that he is the son of Joseph. If Joseph was the biological father of Jesus there would be no reason for Jesus to avoid admitting it to the Jews.

Jesus at twelve years old acknowledges God as his Father: at twelve years old Jesus already knew he had a unique relationship with God, we know this because when Mary his mother said, "I and your father sought thee sorrowing." Jesus replied, "Don't you know I must be about my Father's business?" Jesus did not acknowledge Joseph as his father but said my father.

Mary and Joseph knew it was not Joseph's business Jesus was referring to because Joseph was a carpenter not a Levite priest which was the work Jesus was doing. Both Mary and Joseph would have understood if Jesus was meaning the carpentry business of his supposed father Joseph.

God the Father was fully involved in the conception and birth of Jesus.

- By the prophets and the word of God.
- By multitudes of angels and the Angel of the LORD.

- By the Holy Spirit.
- By shepherds and wise men.

God was the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ in a unique manner and way that is quite different from the fatherhood God extends to believers. It is interesting to note that begotten in Scripture always relates to being born or birth while sent always relates to being sent to minister or ministry.

God is the Father in the following ways: -

- He is Father of the Lord Jesus Christ who was born of him and united to Him in the closest bond of love and intimacy and made acquainted with His eternal plans and purposes and was appointed to explain and carry out among mankind the plan of salvation and how every child of Adam can share in God's divine nature.
- He is Father of all who He has infused His Own Spirit into.
- As creator, upholder and ruler of all rations and preserver and sovereign guardian of all rational and intelligent beings He is the Father of all dwelling on planet earth.
- He is the lovingly heavenly Father of all Christians, who through faith in Christ have been reconciled to Him and have been exalted to an especially close and intimate relationship with Him.

God the Father and Christ are One: means they are one in union, in mind, in motive, in unity and love, it does not mean that Jesus is actually God the Father (as many believe). Jesus prayed: -

- Holy Father, keep them (those who belong to Jesus) in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (John 17:11).
- That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us. (John 17:21).

In this prayer Jesus is praying that multitudes of believers will be one just as he and God are one, this is about being one in unity, purpose motivation, union and love. Jesus prayer could be paraphrased in the following ways, "Just as you, Father are one in union and love with me, and I am one in union and love with you, I am praying that they may be one in union and love just as we are one in union and love.

The statement, "Jesus and the Father are one," does not literally mean that they are one person, being one in the context of Jesus prayer means, being one in agreement, purpose and plans and one in union and love. Jesus was praying that his followers would enjoy this same union and oneness that he and God have.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information, see the title: -

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Favour

Favour means: -

- An act of kindness in assisting and helping others.
- A friendly, supportive attitude that treats a person gently and with care.
- Showing affection, interest and concern for a person.
- Giving preferential treatment and showing a person approval.
- Showing or favouring somebody with the best of something.
- Distinguishing a person by giving them something valuable or a small gift.

Favour

In Psalms it is written, "though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar: (Psalm 138:6) showing that those the LORD favours are the humble. Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah also tell us that the LORD favours those who do justice; love kindness; walk humbly with their God; hate robbery and wrong doing; know God; practise steadfast love and righteousness in the earth. (Micah 6:5-10) (Isaiah 61:8) (Jer. 9:24).

The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency, grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. These are the things that God delights in and it is those who do them that He will favour. All in Christ who make these the signposts and guides of their life will hear their master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much, enter into the joy of your master." (Matt. 25:21).

Fear

Fear (*Hebrew mowra' and yare'*) literally means fear it carries the idea of something fearful and terrible; a fearful deed; to be in dread; to be in terror; to frighten; to be or make afraid and to put in fear. Fear (*Greek phobeo*) to frighten; to be alarmed; to be afraid; to be put in exceeding fear or terror and by analogy to be in awe of (i.e. revere). When fear is put under a spotlight, almost all fears will be basically found to stem from self-preservation.

Fear of the LORD: is about fearing to do anything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally, or spiritually because these things bring pain, hurt and harm to humans who God loves and gave His Son to die for. The fear of God is about knowing we are all going to stand before God one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right thing and treat others with respect.

The reason a person is told to fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek after God and his eternal plan of salvation and forgiveness. That is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek God and His forgiveness.

Those desiring eternal life (if they are wise) should be motivated by this fear of judgment to seek after God.

Fear of God and love: Jesus said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Those in Christ understand this great love of God and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart, likewise, those who know the Lord's love also live to please him from love and not from fear.

Fear and God: fear stems from a lack of faith and belief that our lives are in God's control or we are out of His love and care it is a self-imposed prison that will keep us from living in the love, peace and contentment of God. There is no fear in love, perfect love drives out all fear, a good example of this kind of love is a Mother or Father who run into a burning building covered in flames to save their child, in that moment the parents love for that child is greater than their fear of the flaming fire. Knowing the perfect love of God and that His desire is for good to those who love Christ, casts out the fear of eternal judgment and punishment.

Fear and the phone: people fear to phone others because they feel they don't have any worth, they feel they don't have anything of value to offer and that they are intruding on others lives and their time, but if you don't phone people they will think you don't care about them. The underlying cause of the thought, "I don't want to intrude on their time," can be an excuse to avoid the problem a person may have or the intimacy. The simple answer to this type of fear is to simply do the call and see if you or they fall apart, will the world end? When you feel to phone a person just do it, don't allow the negative self-talk to stop you, then analyze whether it was good or bad.

Fear and witnessing: the spirit of fear in witnessing often comes from caring more for one's own reputation than the Gospel of Christ, this kind of fear is called in Scripture, "Being ashamed of the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ." Meaning, our reputation is more important to us than Christ's, it is being more concerned about our own life than standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ and not wanting to suffer with other brothers and sisters in Christ who stand up for the Gospel (2 Tim. 1:8).

Fear and monsters: a fantasy movie was made in which kids had to fight off monsters. The monsters got their power by frightening the kids and sucking up their fear. The more the monsters were able to frighten the kids, the greater the fear the monsters had to suck up and the more fear they sucked up the bigger and stronger the monster became until eventually the monster had total power over those they frightened.

The prideful powerful and scary Queen of the monsters, while sucking up the fear of her frightened victims, said, "It is fear that makes the monster and not the other way around." The only way for the kids to protect themselves was to reject their feelings and emotions of fear, then the monsters had no food to suck up and eventually they diminished and became a vapour in the wind. Though a somewhat light-hearted kid's movie, the underlying theme contains a lot of truth. The movie ended happily with the kids winning the battle.

Fellowship

Fellowship (*Greek koinonia and koinos*) means partnership and participation (i.e., to communicate in social interaction or help with a labour, a financial donation or gift. Fellowship implies a union of sharing together and closeness it carries the idea of sharing an association, companionship or partnership or something common that is shared by all in a group. God intended for humans to experience life shared together. The Bible calls this shared experience fellowship, today the word fellowship has lost most of its biblical meaning.

Fellowship, now usually refers to casual conversation, socializing food and fun. The question, "where do you fellowship?" Means, "Where do you attend church?" And the invitation to stay after church for fellowship, usually means wait for refreshments, but real biblical fellowship is so much more than just showing up at services it is experiencing life together.

New Testament biblical fellowship included un-selfish loving, honest, sharing, practical serving, sacrificial giving sympathetic comforting one another and all the other commands found in the New Testament. When it comes to fellowship, size matters, smaller is better, you can worship with a crowd but you can't fellowship with one. Once a group becomes larger than about ten people, the dynamics of the group change, some in the group stop participating; usually the quieter ones and a few people begin to dominate.

It should be mentioned here, this does not mean that all large churches are not in God's will, since many of them do have small home groups during the week where brothers and sisters in Christ bond with each other and make close friends that they do share their lives with.

Fervent

Fervent means to be eager, enthusiastic, earnest, impassioned, zealous and spirited.

Feasts

The feast of tabernacles, booths or ingathering: the feast of tabernacles, booths (tents) or ingathering was the name given in the Old Testament to the Jewish festival marking the close of the harvest in Palestine. Booths (*Hebrew cukkah*), can refer to a hut, a lair, a cottage, a covert, a pavilion, a tabernacle or a tent. Booths (*Hebrew cok*) can refer to a hut that has been made by entwining branches and sticks or to a lair, den pavilion and tabernacle.

The Booth was a simple, temporary shelter generally constructed of tree-branches with the leaves left on. It was used by the guardian of the vineyard or vegetable garden as a shelter when the fruit was ripe and often stolen. Sometimes it was used for a larger enclosure (Gen 33:17) such as Jacob built for his cattle (Isa 1:8). Because the festival of Booths is a harvest festival it is also known as the feast of ingathering (Exod. 23:16) (Exod. 34:22) and can be traced back to the Canaanites.

Prior the feast of tabernacles: a ten-day period of self-examination and repentance precedes the festival of tabernacles. It starts with Rosh Hashanah (new year's day, in September-October) and ends with Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, the holiest day of the year, during which Jews fast, pray, and confess their sins, asking God for forgiveness. The booths are built in the five days between Yom Kippur and the beginning of the festival of booths.

The first day of the feast of booths begins, on the 15th day of the 7th Jewish month of Tishri (in the autumn) five days after the day of atonement (Lev. 23:34) (Deut. 16:13) after they had gathered in the produce of the land. It was held for seven days in which they were to offer food offerings. The 1st day was a Sabbath in which no secular work was to be done, rather they were to take the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and then rejoice before the LORD for seven days.

The 8th day was also a Sabbath so the entire feast went for eight days. (Lev 23:33-36) (Lev 23:39-40). The feast of booths marked the completion of the harvest and historically commemorated the wanderings in the wilderness. It was to be a perpetual reminder to Israel's future generations that God made the people of Israel dwell in booths when He brought them out of the land of Egypt and that their forefathers dwelt in booths on their journey to the Promised Land, particularly of the 40 years' sojourn in the wilderness, when the tent was the only habitation. The festival of booths (tabernacles) was so called because of the custom of erecting booths for temporary homes (tabernacles).

During this festival people lived, ate and slept in booths in Jerusalem to remind themselves of how their forefathers wandered in the wilderness and lived in booths. The final day of the festival is called Simhath Torah (Hebrew, rejoicing in the law); on that day the yearly cycle of reading the Torah is begun anew amid great rejoicing, dancing and singing. The whole feast was popular and joyous in nature because it was also celebrating the birth of the nation of Israel and their deliverance from the house of bondage (i.e. Egypt). (Lev. 23:40-43). The sacrifices were more numerous than at any of the other feasts. This was the last of the sacred festivals under the old covenant, in pre-exilic times. (Deut. 16:13-16) (Exod. 34:22) (Deut. 31:10-13) (Lev. 23:34-36) (Lev. 39-44) (Num. 29:12-40).

- Jesus taught in the temple during the festival of booths (John 7:2, 14).

Fiery

Fiery (*Hebrew saraph*) means burning, flaming, hot, kindle, ignite, glow, refined and figuratively, poisonous (i.e., a serpent) specifically a saraph or symbolic creature (from their copper color). It can signify a burning trial or calamity as a test or trial to refine a person or denote a person being inflamed with anger, grief or lust.

When Israel's armies had a victory in battle the law of the LORD was that all the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, the lead and everything that would survive fire that they had plundered from their enemies to be made clean was to be passed through fire.

To purify all items that wouldn't survive the flames and heat of a fire (i.e., linen, fabrics and silk etc.) it was to be made clean by washing it in water. (Numbers 31:21-24).

Fig Tree

The following verses show that the nation of Israel, Judah, Nineveh and the king of Assyria, kings in general and good, bad, obedient and disobedient are all likened to figs: -

Israel is likened to figs: -

- The fading flower of its (Israel) glorious beauty, which is on the head of the rich valley, will be like a first-ripe fig before the summer. (Isaiah 28:4).

Judah is likened to figs: -

- The LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten." ⁴Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁵"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. (Jer. 24:1-10).

Nineveh and the king of Assyria is likened to figs: -

- All your (Nineveh v7) fortresses are like fig trees with first-ripe figs if shaken they fall into the mouth of the eater (Nahum 3:12).

Fig Trees can be good or bad, obedient or disobedient: -

- When it was told to Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim and cried aloud and said to them, "Listen to me, you leaders of Shechem, that God may listen to you. ⁸The trees once went out to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.' ⁹But the olive tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my abundance, by which gods and men are honored, and go hold sway over the trees?' ¹⁰And the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come and reign over us.' ¹¹But the fig tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit and go hold sway over the trees?' ¹²And the trees said to the vine, 'You come and reign over us.' ¹³But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men and go hold sway over the trees?' ¹⁴Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'You come and reign over us.' ¹⁵And the bramble (Abimelek) said to the trees, 'If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade, but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.' (Judges 9:7-15).

Since a fig has multiple seeds when it represents a king it can also include those in his kingdom and in a wider sense different aspects of Israel.

Fire

Fire (*Hebrew 'esh*), literally means fire it carries the idea of a flaming fiery hot burning fire. Fire (*Greek pur*) means the same as (*Hebrew 'esh*), but figuratively can also refer to lightning. Fire can also represent anger and judgment, especially if it is used in the expression, eyes of fire.

First

First can apply to the first in time, the first in place, the first in order, or the first in importance (i.e., the chief, principal or head etc.), or the first or best of all or before the beginning.

First and Last

When the title: "The first and last," is referring to Jesus it carries the following ideas.

- Jesus is the first and only one of his kind begotten and born of God the Father.
- Jesus is the first of God's foreordained plan of salvation that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind from the beginning and is the final and complete accomplishment of it.
- Jesus is the only Redeemer there will never be another plan of salvation or another Saviour.
- Jesus is the first and the last to bring all God's people together in His Eternal Kingdom.
- Jesus is the first of God's plan of salvation, the first of the New Testament age and the first of the Gospel of grace and the end of the law.

It is in this sense that Jesus is given the title, the first and the last.

Firstborn

Firstborn and first begotten in reference to Christ: firstborn (*Greek prototokos*) means the first-born or first-begotten, firstborn (*Greek protos*) means, the foremost in time, place, order or importance, first of all, beginning, before or the chiefest and the best and firstborn (*Greek tikto*) means, to produce from seed, as a mother, a plant or the earth, etc., to bear, be born, bring forth, be delivered or be in travail. The expression, "the firstborn and first begotten," when applied to Christ carries the idea of the first born of all creation (Col 1:15) to be resurrected to eternal glory and sit with God in heaven.

A firstborn son: The Britannica Encyclopaedia says if a firstborn son does not belong to a priestly or a Levitical family he is redeemed when he is one month old in accordance with (Exod. 13:12–13) (Num. 18:14–16) by the payment of a stipulated sum to a Cohen. A Cohen is a commonly accepted member of the priestly family.

Five Thousand

The feeding of the five thousand took place in Bethsaida, which was very close to Capernaum. Bethsaida and Capernaum are both on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee. Bethsaida was later cursed by Jesus because of unbelief (Matt 11:21) (Luke 10:13)

Flagons

See Cups and Flagons in this Bible Dictionary.

Flagstaff

Flagstaff (beacon in KJV) refers to a pole or mast for a flag. It carries the idea of raising up a flag that is clearly visible for a signal of inspiration and encouragement or for a guide or as a sign of warning and alarm or to indicate authority and command or as a sign of victory or a national emblem.

Flattery

Flattery means a parasite or free-loader, the English Dictionary says it means to compliment somebody too much, often without sincerity, especially in order to gain favour or an advantage.

In the book of Proverbs, it is written, "A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet." (Prov. 29:5). The word flatters come from the Hebrew word (*chalaq*) and means to be smooth. A net is usually used for catching animals or fish, so figuratively it would carry the idea of setting a trap or snare around a person.

The proverb is saying that flattery traps and snares a person as a net snares animals and fish. Following are two simple examples: -

1. A man who desires to have loose sex with women will tell them all sorts of romantic things to appeal to their vanity and heart's desire and continue to flatter them until they give into his lying and deceitful charm.
2. An ambitious woman seeking a promotion may flatter her superior to puff up his ego and pride to win his favour in the hope of getting the promotion.

In this way the man and the woman are spreading a net of flattery around their victims for the purpose of winning their favour to get what they want from their innocent and unsuspecting targets.

Flesh

In the book of Philippians, it is written, "We (those in Christ) are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh." (Philip. 3:3). Putting no confidence in the flesh (i.e., self, ego and pride etc.) in this context means not trusting in the law, good deeds and works to earn salvation. Flesh (Greek sarx) literally means the flesh as stripped of the skin or the meat of an animal (as food), but it can apply to: -

- The body as opposed to the soul (or spirit) and a human being or kindred.
- Being carnal or carnally minded (fleshly) and a symbol of what is external.
- Human nature with its frailties and its passions (physical or moral) and self, ego and pride.

The Bible talks about the Old Nature, being the nature of the flesh and the new nature referring to the nature of the Spirit. These two opposing natures can be broken up in the following way.

The Old Nature (the flesh). The New Nature (the Spirit).

Attracted to sin	Attracted to righteousness.
Not with Christ	With Christ always.
Is condemned already	Justified already.
Sinful always	Righteous always (by faith).
Feed by Satan's power	Feed by Christ power.
Will decay and eternally die	Has eternal life.

The character of the flesh (self, ego and pride etc.) is carnally minded, meaning it is always minded to satisfy the demands of self. From a worldly view it may appear to be very decent and good in many instances, but from a heavenly view it is sinful when it denies God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Self, ego and pride is at the center of the works of the flesh it is sensuous with its cravings inciting to sin and opposed to God and opposed to the higher divine nature of the human spirit.

The motivation of the flesh is to satisfy its own selfish needs and desires; it is never content or satisfied nor does it ever subject itself to God's law or consider God or gives Him a thought.

Walking according to the flesh refers to living a lifestyle of: -

- Sexual adulteries, impurity, sensuality, idolatry and sorcery and taking mind altering drugs.
- Enmity, meaning finding reasons for opposition and strife and of jealousy, anger and rivalries (i.e., quarrelling).

- Dissension's (rebellion and argument) divisions and envy and drunkenness, orgies, and things like these (Gal. 5:19-21).

Enmity (Greek *echthra* and *echthros*) (hatred in KJV) means hostility, hatred, to hate, it embraces the idea of a person constantly finding reasons for opposition and to be actively hostile, generally enmity applies to an adversary (especially Satan) (Gal. 5:19-21).

Rivalries: (Greek *eris*) (variance in KJV) means quarrel, wrangling, contention, debate and strife. (Gal 5:19-21).

Dissensions: (Greek *dichostasia* and *stasis*) (seditions in KJV) means division, uprising, controversy, argument, quarrelling, discord, strife, contention, rebellion and uproar. (Gal 5:19-21).

Sorcery: (Greek *pharmakeia* and *pharmakeus*) (witchcraft in KJV) means medication (i.e., pharmacy) and by extension a drug or spell-giving potion (i.e. a druggist and pharmacist) or poisoner, today it would be one who pushes or sells mind-altering drugs, magic sorcery or witchcraft. (Gal 5:19-21).

Setting the mind on the flesh: (Self, ego and pride etc.,) means to be focused on the things of the world and all it has to offer (i.e. money, material possessions, parting, drinking and sexual freedom and adultery).

Becoming one flesh: carries the idea of becoming one in thought mind plans and purposes, to be in unity and intimacy with others or being one through children.

Flesh and Spirit: The Spirit refers to the higher nature within us, the godly nature that is not only God focused, but also others focused, and that part of us that desire to live righteously for God. The flesh can at times refer to the physical body and at other times to self, ego, pride, lustful thoughts and greed etc. The secular world refers to the flesh as the lower nature and to the spirit as the higher nature. The flesh can be seen as that part of us that says, "me first." It denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God.

Flour

Flour (meal in KJV) means to grind, flour and meal.

Followed

Followed (*Greek akoloutho*) means a union or a road and carries the idea of being and going in the same way with another and accompanying (especially as a disciple).

Folly

Folly (*Hebrew 'ivveleth*) means silliness, foolishness and to be perverse, obstinate and stubborn. Folly (*Greek aphrosune*) carries the idea of mindless senselessness and stupidity, egotistic foolishness, moral recklessness and of being unwise and unbelieving. Folly (*Greek tiphlah, taphel and anoia*) (error in ESV) means frivolousness, foolishness, thoughtlessness, laziness, stupidity,

and by implication rage and madness. It carries the idea of bragging foolishly, of glorifying and boasting of one-self, to show off and rave and by implication feeble-mindedness or stupidity. To sing a song of praise glorifying self and thereby make a fool of oneself and so be embarrassed or humiliated.

Flood

In the book of Joshua, it is written, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time." (Josh. 24:2) (KJV). The word flood comes from the Hebrew word (*nahar*) and can refer to a stream (including the sea and especially the Nile and the Euphrates rivers, etc.), but since it refers to Ur being on the other side it is better translated, "On the other side of the river (i.e. the Euphrates).

The Euphrates is most likely referred to as a flood in ancient time because of its enormously vast size which made it appear as it was always in flood (especially compared to other river beds) and because of its prominence fame and renown.

Food

Food (*Hebrew ma'akal*), refers to anything eatable, fruit food, fruit, meat, victual grain (for making bread. Food (*Greek trophe and trepho*) (meat in KJV) means nourishment and carries the idea of feeding, fattening, cherishing, pampering and bringing up and nourishing with food, etc., and by implication wages.

Fool

Fool (*Hebrew k^eciyl*) means stupid, silly, unwise and foolish. Keeping company with such people is not wise and even more it is a waste of time, because they have nothing that will benefit a person's life physically, financially, emotionally, mentally or spiritually. (Proverbs 14:7). Fool (*Greek moros and musterion*) means, dull, stupid or absurd and applies to one who is morally oblivious, careless, unaware, ignorant, indiscriminate, unenlightened and thoughtless. Unwise, thoughtless and ignorant.

The character of a fool: in the book of Psalms it is written, the fool says in their heart there is no God and therefore do not seek after Him, but instead have turned from Him and rebel against His will. They have no understanding or knowledge of what is important to God and are corrupt and full of wicked acts so God rejects them as they have rejected Him (Psalm 53). It is a wise thing for us all to live by the following principal of King David. His attitude (perhaps after the prophet Nathan had wisely rebuked him concerning Bathsheba) was that he considered it a kindness and an excellent thing for him if a righteous person rebuked and corrected him and he himself prayed that he would not refuse correction (Psalm 141:5).

In the book of Proverbs, it is written: -

- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. ¹⁶The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult. (Prov. 12:15-16).
- A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent. (Proverbs 15:5).
- A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool. (Proverbs. 17:10).
- A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. (Proverbs. 18:2).

Fools are unwise, egotistical, sensual (meaning they live to follow the flesh and for the things of this world). They are spoken of as being foolish in the Bible for the following two reasons, firstly, they consider sin a mere trifle and make light of it rather than mourned over it and secondly, their pride is so high they refuse to listen to those with knowledge and wisdom or take counsel and advice from them and therefore their growth in good knowledge, wisdom and maturity is stunted.

In some contexts, the word fools refer to the following: -

- Those who are unlearned and who do not know their way. (Eccles. 10:15).
- Those who are destitute of understanding and education.
- Those who are faithful, but the world regards as fools.
- Those who have been foolish in their unregenerate state.
- Those who are dull of mind and do not have good wisdom.
- Those who lack knowledge of the Gospel and the ways of God.

During the Old and New Testament most relied on the priests, the scribes and the religious leaders to teach them the ways of God, but since Jesus death and resurrection and the introduction of the Gospel of grace all can understand the way to God and to eternal salvation.

No one needs to be a scholar, or have a high IQ or even have an education all can understand the simple message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Gospel of grace.

Foolishness

Foolishness (*Greek aphrosune and aphron*) means senselessness, stupid, ignorant and unintelligent it carries the idea of being egotistic, mindlessly recklessness and by implication sensual or unwise. Concerning the foolish, God says, "Brutish and foolish men do not understand is that when the wicked and all the workers of iniquity flourish and spring forth as the grass, they will be destroyed for ever." (Psalm 92:6-7).

Footstool

In Hebrews it is written, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (Heb. 1:13). God is saying that He will make Jesus Christ's enemies his footstool (Psalm 110:1) (Heb. 10:12). The LORD (Y^ehovah) means the self-Existent or Eternal Jehovah it is the Jewish national name of God whereas Lord ('adown) means to rule and can apply to a human or divine sovereign ruler or controller. God the creator and source of all life will make the enemies of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ his footstool.

Forbidden Woman

A forbidden woman or strange woman according to Proverbs is a whorish woman, a prostitute, an evil woman, a whore, a harlot and an adulteress woman which all primarily refer to a married woman having sex with a married or single man other than her husband, but sometimes refers to a single woman who is having sex with a married man.

In all cases the sex involves cheating and betraying a married partner, which means that the expression, "a forbidden woman," refers to a married woman (Prov. 2:16-19) (Prov. 5:3-20) (Prov. 6:23-34) (Prov. 7:4-27) (Prov. 23:26-28). Adultery from the English Dictionary means extramarital sex (i.e. voluntary sexual relations between a married person and somebody other than his or her spouse).

Foreknew

Foreknew (*Greek proginosko and pro*) means, to know or foresee and foreknow beforehand or prior to, figuratively it means superior to or to be before another in position, rank or authority.

Foreknowledge

Foreknowledge is the same as (Greek prognosis and pro) previous mentioned.

Foreknowledge and Christ: in the book of Peter it is written, "Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:20). Some have mistakenly taken the words, "Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world" (v20) to mean that Jesus was with God before the foundation of the world, but this is reading into the verse more than what Peter is saying.

Peter does not say Jesus existed but that he was foreknown before the foundation of the world meaning Jesus was the central focus of God's eternal plan that He purposed in His eternal and divine mind before the world began. It is in this sense that Peter says Jesus was foreknown.

An architect long before a building is constructed plans the entire structure in his mind, he sees every detail of it in vivid clarity long before the builders begin to construct it and long before the workers even set foot on the site where it is to be built.

An excited expectant mother plans in her mind her baby's room long before the baby is born, she not only sees in her mind the design and colours of that room, but also the lighting, furniture and clothing long before the child is born. In the same manner God planned and purposed in his timeless mind that Christ would be the central focus of His sovereign plan for mankind's eternal salvation long before Jesus came into the world. For further information concerning this, see the title: "Trinity (the Doctrine of the Trinity)," in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Foreknowledge and who killed Jesus? God's eternal foreknowledge is a stunning mystery to the human mind but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will. Judas, the Jews and the Romans were acting from their own will, the Jews (primarily the religious leaders) acted from prideful envy that Jesus was gathering such enormous crowds and multitudes of followers.

Judas acted from greed and Pilate simply wanted to appease the crowds screaming crucify him, yet all this is spoken of in the Old Testament. By foreknowledge God is able to allow us to do as we please and come what may our free will is still mysteriously working within God's Sovereign will and bringing about His eternal plan that He set in motion before the beginning of time such is the wonder of God's eternal foreknowledge and His eternal wisdom. God in the book of Isaiah says: -

- My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Foreknowledge and God: (Eccles. 8:17) by eternal foreknowledge God is able to allow us to do as we please and come, what may our free will is still mysteriously working within His Sovereign will and bringing about His eternal end that He planned and purposed before the beginning of time.

This is the wonder of dwelling in an eternal dimension that has no beginning and no end and the wonder of God's eternal mind and His eternal foreknowledge. A mystery our mortal and limited minds cannot grasp or comprehend. This is why Scripture states, "Man cannot find out the work of God that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out."

Foreknowledge summed up: when speaking of God's foreknowledge, sovereignty, timeless mind, predestination and foresight it should always be kept in mind that it is with a fallen and finite mind limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than our fallen, limited mortal mind can comprehend which means though we may have some insight we should never claim perfect understanding or be dogmatic concerning our explanations when speaking of God's eternal sovereignty, but always allow for a certain amount of mystery.

Forever

Forever (*Hebrew netsach*) literally means a goal, (i.e. a bright object some distance away that is travelled towards). It carries the idea of a continual period of time to the most distant point in view. It can also refer to a constant, perpetual or permanent period of time; an indefinite or unending period of time; a long duration of time or an unbroken age of time.

Forget

Joseph said. "God has made me forget," (Gen. 41:51) meaning now that he has been freed from prison and given such a high royal position in Pharaoh's palace he has forgotten all the past hardships, (i.e., the rejection of his good master, because of his wife's evil lies, the prison and the injuries his brother afflicted upon him). This does not mean that he has utterly forgotten, no one forgets such horrific experiences, and later when we read of Joseph's brothers coming before him it is very clear that Joseph had not forgotten the violent way they had treated him.

What it does mean is that because of the grandeur and honour, wealth and riches, power and authority he had now been blessed with, the dominant thoughts of his mind were upon all the goodness in his life, rather than upon all the past horrors, struggles, sorrows and sadness. It is by taking Joseph's life from extreme sorrow to extreme joy that God made him to forget the sorrows of his past, meaning they were no longer the invading, permanent and dominate thoughts of his mind.

Forgive (*Hebrew nasa'*) means to accept and lift another or oneself, up, to endure suffering or an offense and afterward arise up and help and forgive the offender. Forgive (*Greek aphemi*) means, to go, to send forth and applies in various applications as follows, to cry, forsake, lay aside, leave, let alone, suffer or yield up.

Forgive usually denotes separation, departure, cessation, completion and reversal, etc. Forgive (*Greek charizomai*) means to grant forgiveness with kindness and favor, to freely pardon rescue deliver and forgive. Spiritually, it especially applies to God's forgiveness and its influence upon the heart outwardly reflected in a person's life by gratitude and thankfulness

Forgiveness

Jesus told the twelve, "If they do not forgive, neither will their Father which is in heaven forgive them their trespasses" (Mark 11:25-26) it is absolutely imperative to forgive. Notice Jesus does not add, "providing they repent." This forgiveness is independent of the other person's response, for two reasons, firstly God freely grants to everyone in Christ forgiveness and righteousness every-day.

Everyone who has eternal life is totally indebted to God, simply because without the righteousness that God grants to them because of their faith in Christ none of us would be counted worthy, added to this there is nothing we can do to repay God for the life of His Son or repay Christ for his suffering.

Secondly, God wants to set us free from the mental torment that comes with unforgiveness, but He can only do it when we forgive. If we do not forgive whoever offends us bitterness, hatred and a craving for revenge (i.e. to see the other person suffer) will take hold of our hearts and fill it with every other destructive attitude and in extreme cases even murder.

Added to this as long as we remain in unforgiveness we continue to allow the person we are not forgiving to have control over our thoughts and our hearts and that will hurt us mentally and emotionally and rob us spiritually. The Spirit of God (i.e. joy, peace and contentment) cannot dwell in a human heart that is filled with bitterness, the lust for revenge and hatred. Forgiveness keeps our hearts free from all these destructive attitudes such is its tremendous healing power.

Forgiveness and repentance: Jesus heart is always open and ready to forgive whoever comes to him in repentance, his heart is continually overflowing with forgiveness, but only those who come to him in repentance enter the family of God. The following verses show that it is a Bible principle, that before forgiveness can be received a person must acknowledge (confess) their wrongdoing. God in the Old Testament said, "If Israel confesses their iniquity that they committed against me and if their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, with Isaac and with Abraham, and I will remember the land" (meaning bless it) (Lev 26:40-42).

David when speaking of himself in Psalms says, "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity," I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin (Psalm 32:5) and in the New Testament the apostle John says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Added to what God, David and John say God's forgiveness though permanently available to everyone through Jesus is only realised when a sinner comes to Christ in repentance and sorrow.

If a person does not acknowledge their wrong doing how can they possibly be sorry for the hurt, they have caused? Even more how can they put right something they don't acknowledge is wrong. God's forgiveness is always available, forever flowing, as should ours be, but confessing one's wrong actions is required before it can be received and experienced in the heart of the guilty. In some cases, when possible restitution may be required to help repair the hurt caused to others. True repentance would automatically bring about this desire in the heart. Restitution in most cases may simply be saying sorry to the person offended or to God.

Forgiveness and trust: trust is different to forgiveness, trust must be rebuilt over time it requires a track record if someone hurts you repeatedly, you are commanded by God to forgive them, but you are not expected to trust them immediately. They must prove they have changed over time.

A person may forgive another but that does not always mean that they will become a bosom friend or even have contact with the person who is forgiven, in many cases that would be foolishness.

Consider a girl who has been raped will have to forgive to set her own heart free from the hurt and bitterness and everything that stems from it, but she would be foolish to have immediate contact with the man who raped her until that man had proven he could be trusted.

Forgiveness is never easy because it always involves forgiving someone who has hurt or offended us, to overcome the reluctance to forgive it is helpful to look at Jesus who even though we were sinners against God was prepared to be cruelly nailed to the cross, and even more while in tremendous suffering he prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:32-34), there is no malice in the heart of Christ only love and if we are to have a deeper relationship with God we cannot do it with malice in our hearts.

Take the hurt and pain to God and forgive and the Lord will free you from the mental and emotional torment.

Fornication

Fornication (*Hebrew zarah*) means wanton it carries the idea of committing adultery (usually of the female and less often of simple fornication and rarely of involuntary ravishment (i.e., forcing another to have sexual intercourse).

Figuratively it means to commit idolatry especially for the Jewish people as they were regarded as the spouse of God and for Christians as they are regarded as the Bride of Christ and both Jews and Christians are to have only one God so to worship other gods is spiritually the same as committing adultery.

Fornication (*Hebrew taznuwth*) means harlotry and whoredom, figuratively it carries the idea of idolatry. Fornication (*Greek porneia*) (*porneuo*) (sexual immorality in ESV) means, harlotry or to act the harlot (including adultery and incest). Literally it means to commit fornication or indulge in unlawful lust of either sex and figuratively to practise idolatry.

Fornication of nations: in the book of Isaiah, it is written, "Tyre, shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication," (Isaiah 23:17). This means that even though Tyre had been chastised by the LORD, she would return to her old wicked practises. The ships of all nations will once more crowd her harbours. The expression, "Tyre shall commit fornication," (Isaiah 23:17 KJV) carries the idea that Tyre will return to her old temptation, which could embrace any or perhaps all of the following: -

- Being lovers of money and worldly riches and full of covetousness and spiritual idolatry.
- Trading with strangers and foreigners to gain worldly wealth regardless of their morals, ethics and gods, even today to increase their financial gain nation's trade with countries that oppress and treat their citizens with brutality.
- Using dishonest and deceptive means, fraudulent practises and illicit ways to achieve greater wealth and global influence and power over other nations.
- Oppressing countries and nations to increase their wealth and deny those who labour of a proper wage.
- Giving herself to the lust's of all nation's like a harlot gives herself to all men, meaning Tyre will give herself to worldly riches; material possessions and luxurious and promiscuous lifestyles without giving God any thought or offering any help to the poor and needy.

The expression, "Tyre, shall turn to her hire, and commit fornication," is used of Babylon in the book of Revelation: -

- All nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her (Babylon the great) sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living." (Revelation 18:3).

The King James Bible says: -

- All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her (Babylon the great) fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Foreordained

Foreknow means to foreordain, to now before, to have knowledge before hand or to predestinate (Peter 1:20). (See Foreknowledge (above)).

Forever

The KJV uses everlasting instead of forever, while the NKJV use the word forever instead of everlasting therefore both words carry the same meaning. Forever and everlasting in the New Testament means: -

- Eternal, everlasting, forever, eternity, perpetuity of time, an indefinite period of time or an or unending space of time.
- An unbroken age, never to cease, since the world began or a long duration of time.
- A season of time, that which always has been and always will be.
- Age, without beginning and without end.
- The universe as being without end or a period of time which could be a long or short space of time.

Forsaken

Forsaken (*Hebrew`azab*) to loosen, i.e. relinquish, permit, etc. commit self, fail, forsake, fortify, help, leave (destitute, off), refuse, surely. Forsaken (*Greek egkataleipo*) in a good sense means to leave behind in some place, to let remain over and in a bad sense to desert, forsake and leave.

Forsake

God Said to Joshua, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Josh. 1:5) these words, were spoken to Joshua, but they also apply to all Israel who went to battle with him and all who remained faithful to God as Joshua did. It was made to a collective group of people. The author of Hebrews cites the LORD'S words, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb. 13:5) and again they apply to all who remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

God did forsake those that willfully and deliberately turned from Him to idols and unbelief and Jesus will do the same. The comforting words, "I will never leave you or forsake you," only applies to those who remain faithful to God and in belief in Christ.

Fortress/defence

Fortress/defence comes from the Hebrew word (*misgab*) it literally it refers to a high cliff (or some other lofty or inaccessible place such as a high fort or tower (especially one that is inaccessible) and carries the idea of a safe and strong place of refuge and defence. Figuratively it means exalted, excellent, strong and set on high. High comes from the Hebrew word (*'iysh*) and refers to a man as an individual especially a champion, a great and mighty man and a man of high degree.

Foundations

The foundations of the earth: Micah says, "Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice, hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel" (Micah 6:1-2).

Mountains, hills and the foundations of the earth do not have ears. Mountains and the hills in this context refer to the leaders, the prophets and the rulers of Judah and Israel, while the enduring foundations of the earth refer to the faithful remnant.

Micah is calling the people of Judah and Israel together to hear the word of the LORD that he is about to speak to them. The LORD through Micah tells the faithful that the LORD is about to bring judgment on Judah and Israel.

The foundations of the earth are shaken: Asaph ask the LORD to rescue the weak and the needy and deliver them from the hand of the wicked and goes on to say, the weak and needy have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness. Asaph likens the situation to all the foundations of the earth being shaken. The foundations of the earth in this context are the laws on which the LORD has established for the people of the earth.

In this scenario the wicked are prospering and the weak and needy are struggling that is why Asaph is able to say the foundations of the earth are shaken, it means the foundations of God's ways are turned upside down. (Psalm 82:4-5)

The foundation of the LORD'S throne: in Psalms it is written, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you" (Psalm 89:14). Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne (Psalm 97:2). Shining a spotlight upon the truth that the foundation of God's throne is steadfast love and faithfulness, righteousness and justice.

The foundations corner stone: see: "Corner Stone," in this Bible Dictionary.

Four

The number four can signify sprawling (i.e., spreading out across the land or the earth), or possibly square or four sided.

Four chariots: can symbolise four nations.

Four winds: can signify the centre of the earth, being Jerusalem, Judah and Israel.

Fragrance

Fragrance (sweet savour in KJV) means good-scentedness, fragrance or a sweet savour. Figuratively it carries the idea of something being pleasing to God.

Frankincense

See (Plants)

Fraternal

Fraternal means, chummy, dear, intimate, brotherly and friendly.

Freedman

Freedman, in Corinthians it is written, "He who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord." (1 Cor. 7:22). Freedman (*Greek apeleutheros*), means one freed away.

Free gift

Paul speaks of the, "abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness." The free gift in this context and when identified to salvation refers to righteousness being granted to those who belong to Christ as a pure gift from God (Rom 5:17). It is a gift, because not one of us can attain to the perfect standard the law demands nor can any of attain to God perfect holiness, if any of us could Christ died for no reason. All those in Christ are saved by his righteousness and not their own. This is why our righteousness is spoken of as a gift, especially since none of us are deserving of it.

Friend

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:13-15). A friend tells their friends everything that they know.

Friends and relationships: take time and effort and the best way to spell love is T-I-M-E.

The most desired gift of love is not diamonds or roses or chocolate. It is focused attention, love concentrates so intently on another that you forget yourself at that moment. Attention says, "I value you enough to give you my most precious asset My T-I-M-E." Whenever you give your time you are making a sacrifice.

Fruit

Fruit (*Greek karpōs and harpazo*) means, fruit (as plucked, pulled and caught away it can apply to attitudes, deeds, character or people saved. The fruit the apostles were to bear was, spreading and increasing the word of God, delivering people from the bondage of the law and translating people from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light.

Fruit can also refer to praises that are presented to God as a thank offering; to fruitful and honest work; to services for God; to good and kind acts and deeds; to the character produced in those who by their honest labors have minds and hearts that are fitted to obtain eternal life; to saving people to eternal life and to one's own work, acts or deeds. (John 15:17).

Fullness

Fullness means, full, it carries the idea of filling up something that is empty or needs filling up. It embraces abundance and completeness and can refer to the fullness of time (Col 1:19). In, the New Testament, the body of believers is spoken of as being filled up with the presence, love, power, and riches of God and of Christ

Futility

Futility (*Greek mataiotes mataios*) (vainity in KJV) means, temporary, brief, passing and profitless and of no use. It embraces vanity which means useless futile and worthless and refers to a useless thing or useless person and figuratively it carries the idea of moral depravity and the worship of idols.

The future and Christ's return: as much as all Christians would like to know God's timetable of future events in exact, meticulous detail, such copies of God's perfect timetable are not available in advance. Every book secular or Christian written that pinpoints Christ's return to a certain day or week are either utterly deceived or simply out to make large amounts of profit from vulnerable Christians who have a heart that longs for Jesus return.

It is true that in the Bible there are many signposts that through the spirit of prophecy give certain signs of Christ's return so that those who dwell in the light of Christ will know the season they are dwelling in, but since many of these signs are symbolic and some of the events can apply to various ages it is foolishness and spiritual stupidity to dogmatically pin-point such a world changing event to a specific date or time.

End