



REDEEMING HOPE

Words of Grace Exploring the Vocabulary of God

July - September, 2020

Series Overview

In almost every house in America there is a lock on the front door. That lock has a key-hole, and that key-hole is made for a specific key. When that specific key is inserted and turned, the locked door becomes unlocked and entry becomes possible. Keys are made to open doors, and open doors mean accessibility to a new room, or a new house, or a new experience. The purpose of the key is not the key itself, but what the key unlocks.

And like keys, key words are meant to convey something beyond themselves. They are designed to be joined with intention, put into the right place at the right time, and to bring us into a greater awareness of a thought or idea. As keys open doors, so words unlock ideas. Words are not magic, they are the raw material of language that can convey new ideas that can be transformative.

There are some key words in the Bible that, when understood, can unlock new meaning, significance, and understanding of God's grace to us and for us. And just like technical words are needed in any science to help with the precision of thought and speech, so the Bible has technical words to help us more accurately grasp some of the beautiful and amazing truths of the Scriptures. Because we are separated in time by thousands of years, multiple languages, and completely different cultural backgrounds, sometimes these words can be hard to understand.

This is why we are beginning an exploration of the vocabulary of God...uncovering what some of the most important words of the Bible mean, and how we can apply the truths we unlock to our daily life. And surrounding these key words is a greater intention and focus for the entire Bible. In fact, there is a focal point of the Bible, a fulcrum upon which everything else pendulates. That is Jesus Christ. Every chapter, every verse, is pointing us to the central theme of Jesus' work on the cross, for our sins, and in our place. As we begin to explore these key words, the main goal will always be the same: to see ourselves for who we are and Jesus for who He is. Scripture is both the mirror in which we see ourselves (guilty, sinful, in need) and the spotlight which illuminates the living Savior, Jesus the "Christ, who is there and there for us, the Christ who is here, and here for me".¹

The message of the Scriptures is as real and vibrant for us today in the 21st century as it was millenia ago. Understanding key concepts that are expressed throughout the Bible can unlock greater doors of awareness, growth, and maturity as we uncover these Words of Grace by Exploring the Vocabulary of God.

¹Packer, J.I. "18 Words: The Most Important Words You Will Ever Know". pgs 15-16

Words/Topics

Peace [Shalom]

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Steadfast Love [Chesed]

- "Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations" (Exodus 34:6-7 NAU)

Blessing [Esher]

- X

Grace [Charis]

- X

Atonement and ransom

- From the meaning of kōper "ransom," the meaning of k¹par can be better understood. It means "to atone by offering a substitute." The great majority of the usages concern the priestly ritual of sprinkling of the sacrificial blood thus "making an atonement" for the worshipper.
- "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NAU)
- Mercy seat
- <https://t4g.org/resources/rc-sproul/the-curse-motif-of-the-atonement-session-v/>
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Mediator

- "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NAU)

Propitiation

- "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed" (Romans 3:23-25 NAU)

Reconciliation

- "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:18-21 NAU)

Justification

- "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21 NAU)
- "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;" (Romans 3:24 NAU)

Redemption

- "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:25-26 NAU)
- "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;" (Romans 3:24 NAU)

Helper/Advocate

- ""But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26 NAU)
- "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning" (John 15:26-27 NAU)
- ""But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:13-14 NAU)

Regeneration

- "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit," (Titus 3:5 NAU)
- https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference_media/you-must-be-born-again/
 - "The Greeks, many of the Greeks, believed that history was not linear, going someplace, but that it was cyclical and it repeated itself. Every so often there was a kind of conflagration in which the world was purged, it was regenerated, it burned or something. Then, history would start all over, and of course it would just decline down to the place when it would be regenerated again.
 - And they had a technical term for it, palingenesia, the regeneration of the world, but in the Greek way of thinking it was something that happened cyclically. And just made things a little better. You know, where the world was sort of reset. It's the way you always fix your computer. It's all messed up so you unplug it, you plug it in again, and it's reset. But it basically goes back to being what it was before.
 - Then Jesus Christ in Matthew 19:28-29 says something remarkable. He says "at the renewal of all things," which is the word palingenesia, "when the son of man sits on his glorious throne, everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive 100 times as much and will inherit eternal life." At the palingenesia, when the son of man sits on his throne, when the kingdom of God comes. He uses a Greek word, which was a technical term, but he uses it in a completely different way.
 - What he is saying is the philosophers got it wrong. There is only one palingenesia, there is one regeneration of the world, and it won't be just a reset of history just to go on declining. It will be one regeneration and that will be the end of all death, end of suffering, end of sin, end of evil, end of all those things. All evil and suffering, every tear. It will all be wiped away when the kingdom of God returns in fullness.

Then Paul, in a remarkable little aside, almost, in Titus 3:5-6 Paul is talking about the new birth. He talks about the new birth and then he says, "he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior." But that first term—when he says through the washing of regeneration—is the word palingenesia.

- See, what this text here in John 3 is hinting at but what Paul says directly is this: Where is the new birth from? It's from the future. The new birth is the power that God is going to use to regenerate the world. Brought into your present. It's not complete, of course. It's only partial. But didn't you always like time travel stories? I love time travel stories. I love getting into some machine or something and going to the future. Well, this is kind of like that, only it's the reverse. It's the future coming into you. It's God's future, present in your heart now. It's that renewing, regenerating power by which God is going to heal everything and remove

all evil and all sin and everything. But it comes into your heart now. Only partially, but actually. And that's what it means to be born again.

- Now that may sound pretty esoteric. Let me be as practical as I can possibly be. Don't you ever underestimate the power of the new birth to change somebody. Never underestimate that power! Look here's Peter. Peter was soft, squishy and impulsive, too much so. Here's Paul almost the opposite: hard, over controlled, abrasive, harsh. But they were born again, and they were turned into world changing Christians. They were not made of any more promising material than you. There is no fear, there is no guilt, there is no hurt, there is no flaw that the new birth can't at least partially repair.
- So where is the new birth from? It's from the future. It's the power of God to regenerate the entire world coming into your life and your heart now. That's amazing! Don't underestimate its power. Don't settle for little change if you are born again.

Sanctification

- "But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life." (Romans 6:22 NAU)
- " But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption," (1 Corinthians 1:30 NAU)
- "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you." (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Repentance + faith

- "solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21 NAU)
- "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God," (Hebrews 6:1 NAU)
- "and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."" (Mark 1:15 NAU)
- "Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."" (Acts 19:4 NAU)

QUOTES

Some key words in the Bible have a meaning that is developed over thousands of years, their "meanings broaden and deepen as God's historical self-disclosure by word and deed proceeds."

Technical words are needed in any science. Precision of thought and speech. "As true in theology as in ophthalmology"

"Our goal must be to think biblically, not just about the Biblical writer's problems, but also our own"

"With Christ at its center, the Bible is like a huge circle embracing the whole of every man's life."

Words carry incredible weight and power in human communication. That "Yes" after the proposal on one knee, the "I do" at a wedding, the words "I'm proud of you" coming from a parent,

Have you ever been to another country and struggled to understand the language, customs, or culture? Sometimes it can feel like another world, but if you have the opportunity to travel you know that some of the richest and most fulfilling experiences come from doing the hard work to know the language, understand the culture, and find those special places that make lasting memories.

We are going to go on a journey to find those special places in the Scriptures.

Separated by 2,000-5,000 years of time

6,500 miles

Multiple languages

Two-Five millenia of cultural differences

So reading the Bible and understanding it can be very difficult.

But there is so much God has for us. He could have come in the 21st century and put Jesus on YouTube...but He didn't. He gave us a book, and a written narrative. And we find that in God's Word and through His words He delivers to us immense grace.

So understanding the Scriptures is vital for the Christian or for those exploring the life and teachings of Jesus.

As we begin this church and begin to read the Bible together, I want us to look at key words that we will be reading for the rest of our lives, with an eye to see how Jesus works for us and delivers to us God's immense grace and infinite love.

Implying a distance between Jesus and us

Jesus is ever present on earth in every age through his people

Resources

- [18 Words by J.I. Packer \(summary\)](#)

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