How to Use Concordances for Word Studies

BC502 Hermeneutics

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Using an English Concordance

- An English concordance allows you to look up an English word that occurs in a particular version of the Bible and find all its occurrences in that version.

- Most popular are *Strong's* (*KJV*) and *NIV Exhaustive Concordance* (*NIVEC*). Many computer and Internet Bible programs use the "search" feature to function as a concordance.

- The following slide is a section taken from the "obey" entry in the *NIV Exhaustive Concordance.* We will follow the word "obey" and the Greek word from which it is translated in Hebrew 13:17–18.

A portion of the "obey" entry from the *NIVEC*

Eph	6: 1	Children, **o** your parents in the Lord,	5634
	6: 5	**o** your earthly masters with respect	5634
	6: 5	just as you would **o** Christ.	NIG
	6: 6	**O** them not only to win their favor	NIG
Col	3:20	Children, **o** your parents in everything,	5634
	3:22	**o** your earthly masters in everything;	5634
2Th	1: 8	and *do* not **o** the gospel of our Lord Jesus.	5634
	3:14	If anyone *does* not **o** our instruction	5634
1Ti	3: 4	his children **o** him with proper respect.	2400+5717
Heb	5: 9	source of eternal salvation *for* all who **o** him	5634
	13:17	**O** your leaders and submit to their	4275
	13:17	**O** them so that their work will be a joy,	NIG
Jas	3: 3	the mouths of horses to **make** them **o** us,	4275
1Pe	4:17	*for* those who *do* **not o** the gospel of God?	578

- The boldface "**o**" indicates that this is where the word "obey" appears in the text. The first letter of the headword is always used in this way in the main concordance. Other words that are translated from the Greek word appear in boldface (e.g., James 3:3). Helper words (e.g., "do") or words implied by the grammar (e.g., "for") are in italics (1 Peter 4:17).

Other features of *NIVEC*

- Each entry line is called a "context line."
- The number at the end of the line is a cross reference to the dictionary at the back of the concordance (see later slide). *NIG* ("not in Greek") means that the word in the English text is not represented by a word in the Greek text. In the case of Hebrews 13:17, this is done because the English translators broke up one Greek sentence into two English sentences. NIH means "not in Hebrew".
- An italic number indicates a Greek word for New Testament passages. A roman (not italic) number indicates a Hebrew word for an Old Testament passage. For "obey" in Hebrews 13:17, the number is *4275.*
- Two or more numbers connected with a "+" sign indicate that those words together translate the boldfaced words in the context line.

Other features of the *NIVEC*

- The head word for each entry indicates the number of occurrences of the English word in the entire Bible version and any related English words.

- "Obey" occurs 165 times in the Bible, and its related forms with separate listings are "obedience, obedient, obeyed, obeying, obeys."

- Note that when you look up a related form, it references back to "obey" as the main word in that family of words.

Looking up the Greek Word

- In the *NIVEC,* if you turn to the "Greek-English Dictionary" in the back section and look for *4275,* you will find this:

4275 πείθω, *peithō*, v. [52] [→ *400, 577, 578, 579, 2340, 4272, 4273, 4274, 4282, 4301, 4391, 4392; cf. 4412*]. to convince, persuade; to trust in, have confidence in, be persuaded:— convinced (7), confident (5), persuaded (5), confidence (2), confident of (2), followers (2), persuade (2), put confidence (2), convince (1), convinced of (1), convinced that (1), dissuaded (1), encouraged (1), follow (1), fully convinced (1 [+*2779 +3857*]), give in (1), listening to (1), make obey (1), obey (1), obeying (1), persuasively (1), put trust (1 [+*1639*]), rely (1 [+*1639*]), satisfy (1), secured the support (1), set at rest (1), sure (1), trusted (1), trusts (1), trying to persuade (1), trying to win the approval of (1), urged (1), won over (1)

Explaining the Dictionary Entry

- The dictionary entry begins with the number followed by the word spelled out in Greek (or Hebrew) characters and an English transliteration [Greek/Hebrew-symbol-for-English-letter(s) equivalent].

- When referencing a Greek or Hebrew word in a research paper, use the transliteration at a minimum, including the special characters (ē, ō). *Do not use the number to reference the word!*

Explaining the Dictionary Entry

- The entry continues with a part of speech and the total number of occurrences of the Greek or Hebrew word in the Bible. Because a Greek or Hebrew word will not always be translated into the same English word every time it occurs, this count will usually not agree with the English word count.

Explaining the Dictionary Entry

- An arrow (→) indicates that the Greek or Hebrew word is a root or base word (usually a verb, unless no verb form occurs in the Bible). The numbers that follow refer to the words derived from that root or base. Analyzing the *word family* can be an important aspect of word study, especially when studying an infrequently used word.

- A root symbol (√) indicates that the word's root is located at that number. More than one number after a root symbol indicates that the word is a compound.

Explaining the Dictionary Entry

- After the root or related words, a general dictionary definition is given.

- After the dictionary definition, the different translations of the Greek or Hebrew word in the NIV are listed in order of frequency, with the frequency count for each translation in parentheses.

- As with the main entry, a "+#" indicates more than one Greek or Hebrew word was used to translate the English word or phrase.

Why is this important?

- One of the most important reasons to utilize a concordance is to perform a "word study" on key words in your target text.

- A concordance helps you see the "range of meaning" of a particular Greek or Hebrew word, that is, what is the broad usage of the word throughout a testament.

- A word study helps you decide which *one* of those meanings was the author's intended meaning in your target passage. A biblical author rarely uses a word to imply more than one meaning, and he certainly doesn't intend to suggest that the reader can choose from the different meanings, as the *Amplified Bible* suggests.

Expediting the Process

- As you might imagine, it could get rather involved looking up each English word in the translation list in the *NIVEC* and trying to find the specific verses that have that word number.

- A much easier way would be to use a Greek-English or Hebrew-English concordance with English context lines. Sample entries from the *Greek-English Concordance* (based on the *NIV*) for *peithō* (*4275*) follow.

The Whole Entry

4275 πείθω, *peithō* [52] [→ *400, 577, 578, 579, 2340, 4272, 4273, 4274, 4282, 4301, 4391, 4392; cf. 4412*]

convinced [7], confident [5], persuaded [5], confidence [2], confident of [2], followers [2], persuade [2], put confidence [2], convince [1], convinced of [1], convinced that [1], dissuaded [1], encouraged [1], follow [1], fully convinced [+2779+3857] [1], give in [1], listening to [1], make obey [1], obey [1], obeying [1], persuasively [1], put trust [+1639] [1], rely [+1639] [1], satisfy [1], secured the support [1], set at rest [1], sure [1], trusted [1], trusts [1], trying to persuade [1], trying to win the approval of [1], urged [1], won over [1]

Mt 27:20 and the elders **persuaded** the crowd to ask for Barabbas
27:43 *He* **trusts** in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him,
28:14 to the governor, we *will* **satisfy** him and keep you out of trouble."
Lk 11:22 he takes away the armor in which the *man* **trusted** and divides up
16:31 *they will* not be **convinced** even if someone rises from the dead.' "
18: 9 To some who *were* **confident** of their own righteousness
20: 6 will stone us, because they are **persuaded** that John was a prophet."
Ac 5:36 He was killed, all his **followers** were dispersed, and it all came to
5:37 in revolt. He too was killed, and all his **followers** were scattered.
5:40 His speech **persuaded** them. They called the apostles in and had
12:20 *Having* **secured the support** of Blastus, a trusted personal servant
13:43 talked with them and **urged** them to continue in the grace of God.
14:19 Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and **won** the crowd **over**.
17: 4 Some of the Jews *were* **persuaded** and joined Paul and Silas,
18: 4 reasoned in the synagogue, **trying to persuade** Jews and Greeks.
19: 8 for three months, arguing **persuasively** about the kingdom of God.
19:26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul *has* **convinced**
21:14 *When* he *would* not *be* **dissuaded**, we gave up and said,
23:21 Don't **give in** to them, because more than forty of them are waiting
26:26 *I am* **convinced** that none of this has escaped his notice, because it
26:28 "Do you think that in such a short time *you can* **persuade** me to be
27:11 But the centurion, instead of **listening to** what Paul said,
28:23 and *tried to* **convince** them about Jesus from the Law of Moses
28:24 Some *were* **convinced** by what he said, but others would not
Ro 2: 8 *for* those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and **follow**

Ro 2: 8 *for* those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and **follow**
2:19 if *you are* **convinced that** you are a guide for the blind, a light for
8:38 For *I am* **convinced** that neither death nor life, neither angels nor
14:14 *I am* **fully convinced** [+2779+3857] that no food is unclean in
15:14 I myself *am* **convinced**, my brothers, that you yourselves are full
2Co 1: 9 But this happened that *we might* not **rely** [+1639] on ourselves
2: 3 *I had* **confidence** in all of you, that you would all share my joy.
5:11 we know what it is to fear the Lord, *we try to* **persuade** men.
10: 7 If anyone *is* **confident** that he belongs to Christ, he should consider
Gal 1:10 *Am I* now **trying to win the approval of** men, or of God?
5: 7 Who cut in on you and kept you from **obeying** the truth?
5:10 I *am* **confident** in the Lord that you will take no other view.
Php 1: 6 *being* **confident** *of* this, that he who began a good work in you will
1:14 most of the brothers in the Lord *have been* **encouraged** to speak
1:25 **Convinced of** this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue
2:24 And *I am* **confident** in the Lord that I myself will come soon.
3: 3 glory in Christ Jesus, and who **put** no **confidence** in the flesh—
3: 4 If anyone else thinks he has reasons *to* **put confidence** in the flesh,
2Th 3: 4 *We have* **confidence** in the Lord that you are doing and will
2Ti 1: 5 your mother Eunice and, *I am* **persuaded**, now lives in you also.
1:12 and *am* **convinced** that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to
Phm 1:21 **Confident of** your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will
Heb 2:13 And again, "I *will* **put** *my* **trust** [+1639] in him." And again he
6: 9 dear friends, *we are* **confident of** better things in your case—
13:17 **Obey** your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch
13:18 *We are* **sure** that we have a clear conscience and desire to live
Jas 3: 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to **make** them **obey** us,
1Jn 3:19 to the truth, and how *we* **set** our hearts **at rest** in his presence

The Greek-English Concordance

- Note that the first part of the *GEC* entry is almost identical to the *NIVEC* dictionary entry, minus the part of speech and the general dictionary definition. The general dictionary definition is found in the back of the *GEC* with other information.

4275 πείθω, peithō [52] [→ *400, 577, 578, 579, 2340, 4272, 4273, 4274, 4282, 4301, 4391, 4392; cf. 4412*]

convinced [7], confident [5], persuaded [5], confidence [2], confident of [2], followers [2], persuade [2], put confidence [2], convince [1], convinced of [1], convinced that [1], dissuaded [1], encouraged [1], follow [1], fully convinced [*+2779+3857*] [1], give in [1], listening to [1], make obey [1], obey [1], obeying [1], persuasively [1], put trust [*+1639*] [1], rely [*+1639*] [1], satisfy [1], secured the support [1], set at rest [1], sure [1], trusted [1], trusts [1], trying to persuade [1], trying to win the approval of [1], urged [1], won over [1]

The Greek-English Concordance

- Words are listed in order by number, so you don't have to know the Greek or Hebrew alphabets to quickly find a word.

- Notice in the whole entry that all the verses where the Greek word occurs are listed, with the English translation of the word in bold, and helper words in italics. This saves you the step of having to look up all the English words separately in an English-only concordance.

- The word/phrase translated from the Greek word is in boldface; helper words are in italics.

- As with the *NIVEC,* [+#] indicates one or more words were used together to make the one translation.

The Greek-English Concordance

- The dictionary in the *Greek-English Concordance* offers a general dictionary definition for each word, followed by cross-references to other Greek dictionaries or lexicons.

- Read the user's guide at the front of the *GEC* to understand what the different abbreviations mean.

The Greek-English Concordance

4274 πειθώ, *peithō*, n. variant: *persuasiveness.* S: 3981*, BAGD: 639A, CB: 369A

4275 πείθω, *peithō*, v. *to convince, persuade; to trust in, have confidence in, be persuaded.* S: 3982, BAGD: 639A, CB: 369A

- Note the placement of the accent mark on the two words. Make sure you get the correct number! The first entry says "variant," so that is probably not used in the regular body of the Greek text.

- S = Strong's concordance number

- BAGD = A *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (2nd edition, green binding; 3rd edition has been published with a maroon binding). The page number and page quadrant (A, B, C, D, top to bottom, left to right) are given.

- CB = Colin Brown's *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* index volume, (usually volume 4) page number and column number; index entry tells all the places a discussion of that word can be found. An abridged version of this work is available already keyed to the NIV numbering system.

The Greek English Concordance

- If you want a summary of all the Greek words that translate to a specific English word, you can get that information from the Index in the back of the *GEC.* This essentially "sorts" the *NIVEC* main entry by frequency of Greek word.

- *RPE* means the word did not occur in Greek, but the English word was needed for clarity.

OBEY [49]

obey, *5498, tēreō* [16]
obey, *5634, hypakouō* [14]
obey, *RPE* [3]
obey, *5633, hypakoē* [3]
obey, *5875, phylassō* [3]
obey, *4272, peitharcheō* [2]
obey, *201, akouō* [1]
not obey, *578, apeitheō* [1]
obey, *2400+5717, echō+hypotagē* [1]
obey, *4275, peithō* [1]
make obey, *4275, peithō* [1]
obey, *4472, poieō* [1]
obey, *4475, poiētēs* [1]
obey, *5675+1181, hypēkoos+ginomai* [1]

OBEYED [8]

obeyed, *5634, hypakouō* [4]
obeyed, *5498, tēreō* [3]
obeyed, *5875, phylassō* [1]

OBEYING [2]

obeying, *4275, peithō* [1]
obeying, *5633, hypakoē* [1]

Blueletterbible.org

- The Web site www.blueletterbible.org has an excellent setup to explore the Greek and Hebrew behind the English text.

- When you go to the Web site, type in any verse. You will see a series of boxes next to each verse. Click the "C" box, and the Greek or Hebrew text will open, with all forms parsed and with all words (in the Strong's numbering system; different from the *NIV* numbers) hyperlinked.

- When you click the Strong's number, you will get a *Greek-English Concordance*-style listing.

istory Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=Hbr&c=13&v=17&t=KJV#1

Getting Started Latest Headlines http://www.mycokere... Share on Facebook

K C L I V D Hbr 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

K C L I V D Hbr 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

K C L I V D Hbr 13:18 ¶ Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

istory Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=Hbr&c=13&v=17&t=KJV#

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K C L I V D Hbr 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

Lexicon / Concordance for Hebrews 13:17

Textus Receptus

13:17 Πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν καὶ ὑπείκετε αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες ἀλυσιτελὲς γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο

English (KJV) (Help)	Strong's	Root Form (Greek)	Tense
Obey	G3982	πείθω *peithō*	TENSE
them that have the rule PHR.	G2233	ἡγέομαι *hēgeomai*	TENSE
over you, PHR.	G5216	ὑμῶν *hymōn*	
and	G2532	καί *kai*	
submit yourselves: PHR.	G5226	ὑπείκω *hypeikō*	TENSE

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Lexicon Results

Strong's G3982 - *peithō*

πείθω

Transliteration	Pronunciation
peithō	pā'-thō (Key)

Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
verb	a primary verb

TDNT Reference	Vines
6:1,818	View Entry

Outline of Biblical Usage

1) persuade
  a) to persuade, i.e. to induce one by words to believe
  b) to make friends of, to win one's favour, gain one's good will, or to seek to win one, strive to please one
  c) to tranquillise
  d) to persuade unto i.e. move or induce one to persuasion to do something
2) be persuaded
  a) to be persuaded, to suffer one's self to be persuaded; to be induced to believe: to have faith: in a thing
    1) to believe
    2) to be persuaded of a thing concerning a person
  b) to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with
3) to trust, have confidence, be confident

Authorized Version (KJV) Translation Count — Total: 55

AV — persuade 22, trust 8, obey 7, have confidence 6, believe 3, be confident 2, misc 7

Thayer's Lexicon (Help)

πείθω [(fr. r. meaning 'to bind'; allied w. πίστις, fides, foedus, etc.; Curtius § 327; Vaniček p. 592)]; impf. ἔπει-θον; fut. πείσω; 1 aor. ἔπεισα; 2 pf. πέποιθα; plupf. ἐπε-ποίθειν (Lk. xi. 22); Pass. [or Mid., pres. πείθομαι; impf. ἐπειθόμην]; pf. πέπεισμαι; 1 aor. ἐπείσθην; 1 fut. πεισθή-
Click Here for the Rest of the Entry

Strong's Number G3982 matches the Greek πείθω (*peithō*), which occurs 63 times in 55 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV
Page 3 / 3 (Hbr 11:13 - 1Jo 3:19)
(More Info)

SHOW STRONG'S ☑

Hbr 11:13   These [3778] all [3956] died [599] in [2596] faith [4102], not [3361] having received [2983] the promises [1860], but [235] having seen [1492] them [846] afar off [4207], and [2532] were persuaded of [3982] [them], and [2532] embraced [782] [them], and [2532] confessed [3670] that [3754] they were [1526] strangers [3581] and [2532] pilgrims [3927] on [1909] the earth [1093].

Hbr 13:17   Obey [3982] them that have the rule [2233] over you [5216], and [2532] submit yourselves [5226] : for [1063] they [846] watch [69] for [5228] your [5216] souls [5590], as [5613] they that must give [591] account [3056], that [2443] they may do [4160] it [5124] with [3326] joy [5479], and [2532] not [3361] with grief [4727] : for [1063] that [5124] [is] unprofitable [255] for you [5213].

Hbr 13:18   Pray [4336] for [4012] us [2257]: for [1063] [3754] we trust [3982] we have [2192] a good [2570] conscience [4893], in [1722] all things [3956] willing [2309] to live [390] honestly [2573].

Jam 3:3   Behold [2400], we put [906] bits [5469] in [1519] the horses [2462]' mouths [4750], that [4314] they [846] may obey [3982] us [2254]; and [2532] we turn about [3329] their [846] whole [3650] body [4983].

1Jo 3:19   And [2532] hereby [1722] [5129] we know [1097] that [3754] we are [2070] of [1537] the truth [225], and [2532] shall assure [3982] our [2257] hearts [2588] before [1715] him [846].

Continued Search Results

1. (Mat 27:20 - Act 28:24)   3. (Hbr 11:13 - 1Jo 3:19)
2. (Rom 2:8 - Hbr 6:9)

Blueletterbible.org

- Note that when you click a word number, you get Strong's outlined definition of the word, a lexicon (Thayer's) entry, and a list of all complete verses in which the word occurs.

- Note that the count in a *KJV* bible might be different than in a *NIV* translation because each uses a different underlying Greek texts.

- Note the "continue" option allows you to access all of the verses in blocks of 20 or so. On the screen shot on the left in the previous slide, note the access to different study materials based on this passage.

- This Web site has much to offer. Explore!