50 GREEK WORDS

Every Christian Should Know

Word	Definition	Scripture
1. Adelphos Adelphe ah-dell-FAWS ah-dell-FAY ἀδελφός ἀδελφή	brother, sister, fellow Christian	Matt. 12:49–50 "Pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my ***brothers***. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my ***brother*** and ***sister*** and mother.'" Rom. 16:1; 1 Cor. 7:15; 2 Cor. 13:11
2. Agape ah-GAH-pay ἀγάπη	love, affection, warm regard	Matt. 22:37–38 "'***Love*** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment." Matt. 22:39; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 13:1–13
3. Aletheia ah-LAY-thay-ah ἀλήθεια	truth, truthfulness, reality	John 14:6 "I am the way and the ***truth*** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 18:37–38; Rom. 1:18; 1 John 4:6
4. Anastasis ah-NAH-stah-sis ἀνάστασις	resurrection, rising, arise	John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the ***resurrection*** and the life.'" Luke 20:37; Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 15:21
5. Anthropos AHN-throw-paws ἄνθρωπος	man, humankind, people	Mark 1:17 "'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for ***people***.'" John 1:4; 19:5; Rom. 5:18
6. Aphiemi af-EE-ay-mee ἀφίημι	dismiss, release, forgive, leave	Matt. 6:12 "And ***forgive*** us our debts, as we also have ***forgiven*** our debtors." Matt. 9:6; Luke 18:29; John 16:32
7. Apokalupsis ah-paw-KAH-loop-sis ἀποκάλυψις	revelation, disclosure, apocalypse	1 Peter 1:13 "Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is ***revealed*** at his coming." Luke 2:26; 1 Cor. 1:7; Eph. 1:17
8. Basileia bah-sil-AY-ah βασιλεία	kingdom, kingship, royal reign	Matt. 18:3 "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the ***kingdom*** of heaven." Luke 12:32; John 3:5; 2 Peter 1:11

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The New Testament authors referred to their fellow Christians as brothers and sisters. This gives us a profound insight into how the first Christians viewed each other—as adopted children in the family of God: "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.... The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship" (Rom. 8:14–15).

The English word *love* can be used lightly ("I love pizza") or seriously ("I love you"). In the Bible, the word *agape* does not describe personal preference, but a heartfelt affection for another person, which causes one to sacrifice for the other's well-being. This is the way "God so loved the world," by giving up his only Son for its well-being (John 3:16).

Truth is not something that people make up themselves; truth is what is real. *Aletheia* is whatever agrees with reality and is trustworthy. Ultimately, what is true is what corresponds to what God says is true, because he is the ultimate reality. Christians follow Jesus for many reasons, but one of them is because he is *aletheia*.

The word *anastasis* is a compound word of a preposition meaning "up" (*ana*) and the verb for "I stand" (*histemi*). *Anastasis* is used to refer both to Jesus "rising up" from the grave with new life after he was crucified and to the future resurrection of believers.

When the New Testament authors used the word *anthropos*, they were sometimes referring to a male person (John 3:1), but usually they meant humanity collectively. God "wants all *people* to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

Aphiemi is most often used in the New Testament to mean "send away," "let go," or "leave," such as when the disciples *left* their fishing nets behind to follow Jesus (Mark 1:18). When used in the context of sins, *aphiemi* is usually translated as "forgive." A forgiven person is set free, having had their spiritual debts dismissed.

The English word *apocalypse* is a rendering of *apokalupsis*, the title of the book of Revelation. Since Jesus's return is associated with the end of the world, *apocalypse* evokes thoughts of worldwide disasters. However, the Greek word simply means "a revealing." Jesus's return is the time when he will be revealed.

The kingdom of God is a rich theological concept. Jesus proclaimed that heaven's kingdom had come in his ministry. The royal rule of God, his dominion, had begun to spread when Jesus was on earth, but it will not be fully established until Jesus returns. Christians experience some of the kingdom now on earth, but not all of it yet.
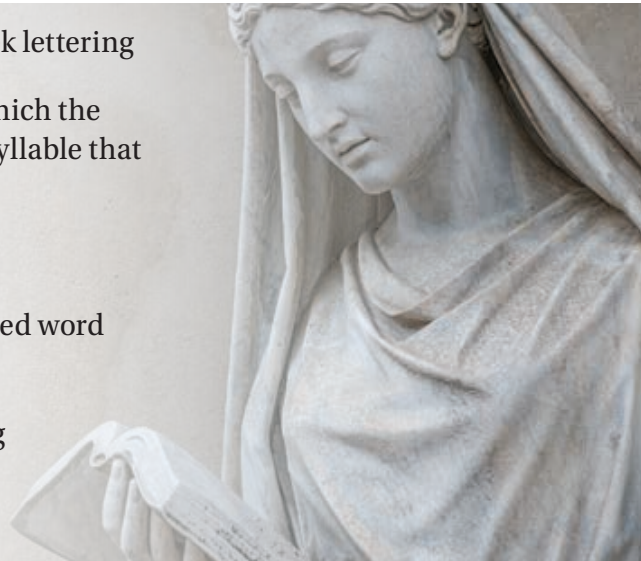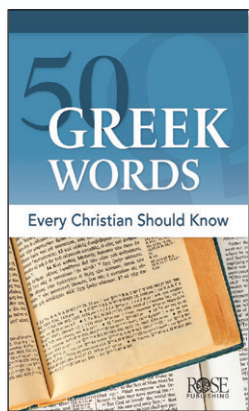
50 Greek Words Every Christian Should Know

Biblical Greek is rich with meaning and theological nuance, but sometimes these gems get lost in translation when exact English equivalents do not exist. While the definitions presented here do not match every instance where the Greek word occurs in the New Testament, these brief explanations will help you discover new insights into God's Word as you learn more about the language of the New Testament.

Though differences in spelling and pronunciation do exist, these fifty words are listed alphabetically according to common English renderings of the Greek terms.

Each entry includes:

- English transliteration and Greek lettering

- Basic pronunciation guide, in which the capitalized letters indicate the syllable that should be emphasized

- Definition and insights

- Key Bible verse with the translated word emphasized

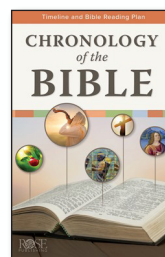- Other Scripture references using the word

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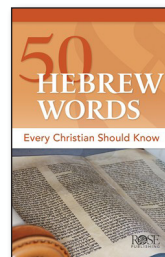
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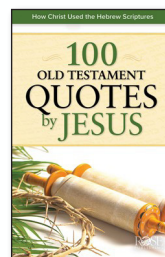
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