

Here are the basic steps for using *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* for word studies.

(Note: *Strong's* is a listing of all the words in the King James Version of the Bible, so you need to work from KJV as you study):

- Look up a word as it appears in the KJV. For our example, we are going to look up *envieth*.

You should find an entry that looks like this:

ENVIETH
1Co 13: 4 is kind; charity e not; charity vaunteth G2206

- You can see the reference of the verses that contain this word in the KJV. For *envieth*, there is only one, and it is the verse we are studying, 1 Corinthians 13:4.
- You can also see a partial quotation of the verse. The *e* stands for the word *envieth*. At the end of this line is the number 2206. This is the Strong's number assigned to the original Greek word that has been translated into English as *envieth*.
- Turn to the back of the concordance. This section contains two dictionaries. The first one is a Hebrew dictionary, and it contains information about all the words in the Old Testament. The second one is a Greek dictionary, and it contains all the New Testament words.

We will be working in the Greek dictionary, since 1 Corinthians is part of the New Testament.

- Look up the number 2206 in the Greek dictionary. (Be sure you get the Greek dictionary or your going to find a definition about *beards* in the Hebrew one.)

This is what you will find:

G2206 ζήλω *zēloō* from G2205; to *have warmth* of feeling for or against:— affect, covet (earnestly), (have) desire, (move with) envy, be jealous over, (be) zealous, zealously affect.

- First you see the Greek word, then the English transliteration of it, then the pronunciation.
- The next number is the Strong's number for the **root word** for this word. We will look at that later.
- After that number is the **meaning of the word**. This is information you will want to record in your notebook.

- Next, following the colon and dash (: --) are other words that the KJV has used to translate this Greek word.

If you want to read other verses that contain this same Greek word *zeloo*, you can look up each of these words in the concordance section of *Strong's*.

Let's look up *covet*.

This is what you will see:

COVET		
Ex	20:17 Thou shalt not c thy neighbour's house,	H2530
	17 thou shalt not c thy neighbour's wife,	H2530
Dt	5:21 wife, neither shalt thou c thy neighbour's	H183
Mic	2: 2 And they c fields, and take <i>them</i> by	H2530
Ro	7: 7 the law had said, Thou shalt not c.	G1937
	13: 9 Thou shalt not c; and if <i>there be</i> any	G1937
1Co	12:31 But c earnestly the best gifts: and yet	G2206
	14:39 Wherefore, brethren, c to prophesy,	G2206

The entry lists 8 verses that contain the word *covet*. Some of these are in the Old Testament. We know they will not be using the same Greek word we are studying, because the Old Testament is written in Hebrew. So we don't need to look at these verses.

Four verses are in the New Testament. *But not all of these verses use the same Greek word.* Look at the Strong's number at the end of each line. Only the verses that are followed with the number 2206 contain the same word. **That number is our key.**

So there are only **two verses** in this listing that relate to our study. We're looking for the same Greek word that was used in 1 Corinthians 13:4.

These two verses, when you read them, help you see that the Greek word for *envieth* is not always used in a negative way. In fact, it is often used to speak of earnestly desiring a *good* thing in a *good* way.

This is where the beauty and efficiency of online Bible study tools shines! If you want to see *all* the other verses that contain the Greek word *zeloo*, you only have to click a button on the computer. With *Strong's*, you have to look up each English rendering of the Greek word (all those words that followed the colon and dash) in the concordance, look for the verses that are assigned the Strong's number 2206, and then look up each of those verses.

This is pretty cumbersome, especially after doing it the easy way online, but it's the way I did my study for years! **It works.** It just takes longer – and if you're trying to save time and fit your study into a busy, child-filled schedule, the computer, tablet, or smartphone can be a pretty awesome ally! It just takes self-discipline! ☺

Eventually I learned about the *Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament* and used that more for my word studies. With it, you can simply look up Strong's No. 2206, and it will list *all* the verses that include *zeloo*, no matter how it was translated in the English. Much easier! If you're committed to studying offline

and you're serious about doing word studies, (and you have spare book shelf space), *Englishman's* would be a really good investment.

You can follow this basic procedure for any word study you do.

To summarize:

- Look up the word in *Strong's*.
- Find the reference of the verse you are studying in that listing.
- Note the Strong's number.
- Look up that number in the Greek dictionary at the back of *Strong's* (if you are studying in the New Testament).
- Note the definition.
- Look up each English rendering of the word and read all the verses that are assigned the same Strong's number.
- Record all your observations and thoughts.

I hope this is helpful. **Ask questions** on the blog or Facebook page if you have questions. I know this was brief, and even though the process is fairly simple once you learn how to do it, it can get a bit confusing when you first start out.