

## THAYER'S GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* contains much helpful information on Greek words in the New Testament. Both accessible and thorough, it is a work well suited for the Biblical research student. Thayer's lexicon not only gives dictionary definitions for each word, but also relates each word to its New Testament usage and categorizes its nuances of meaning.

This edition of Thayer's lexicon is coded with the Strong's numbering system, which opens this tremendous store of word-study material to the novice Greek student as well as to those who do not know Greek at all. The entries are arranged in order of the Strong's numbers, with the few out-of-sequence numbers being listed in an index at the back of the book for the reader's convenience.

Under the entries of each Greek word, Thayer's lexicon gives the definition of the word. Just as you find in an English dictionary, there is often more than one meaning, so the various definitions are enumerated under a bold number **1.**, number **2.**, and so forth as applicable. In addition to the definitions, scripture references are also included. You often see Greek words or phrases in the midst of the definitions and scripture references. To understand these phrases requires at least some knowledge of New Testament Greek. As you continue to grow as a disciple and as a workman of the Word, you may choose to develop yourself in this category. Even if you do not understand the Greek words and phrases, there is much helpful information given in English that you can readily understand.

For example, suppose you were reading *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today*, pages 49 and 50, and you learn that in Luke 24:49, the word "power" is the Greek word *dunamis*. It is not automatically manifested power; it is inherent power." Let's study the word *dunamis* in Thayer's lexicon. The words are listed in Greek alphabetical order and are spelled with the Greek characters. If you are familiar with Greek, you may locate *dunamis* on page 159. If not, you can utilize one of numerous other reference books to obtain the Strong's number for *dunamis*, number 1411. One option would be to look up the word "power" in Strong's concordance, scan the list of references to locate Luke 24:49, and there find the number 1411. Another option would be to utilize Tyndale's *Word Study New Testament*; look up Luke 24:49, and you will see the number 1411 below the word "power."

On page 159 in Thayer's lexicon, in the left column, we see the number 1411 clearly displayed. Just to the right of number 1411 are the Greek characters δύναμις, which we transliterate into English as *dunamis*. There is almost a full page of information devoted to this Greek word. The general definition is listed as "strength, ability, power." Then the bold letter **a.** is shown. As you review the information under *dunamis*, you will find the letters **a.** through **g.** included in this article. Each of the entries under **a.** through **g.** shows variations in the meaning of this Greek word. For our purposes, we will examine some of the information under the letter **a.** The following universal, or primary, definition is given: "inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth." Following this definition are scriptures that include the word *dunamis* and that relate to this definition. Because of the vast number of scriptures that are listed, it is easy to see that this resource also serves as a concordance as well as a lexicon (dictionary). Two other entries under **a.** are "powerfully" and "evidently." Near the top of the right column on page 159 it is stated that "δύναμις is ascribed to Christ, now in one sense and now in another: a power to heal disease proceeds from him, Mk. v. 30; Lk. v. 17; vi. 19; viii. 46." There is a storehouse of information here to help us gain a greater understanding of this word as it is used in the New Testament.

At the end of the article there are synonyms listed, several of which we are familiar with: βία (*bia*), δύναμις (*dunamis*), ἐνέργεια (*energeia*), ἐξουσία (*exousia*), ἰσχύς (*ischus*), κράτος (*kratos*). Following this list are given simple definitions for each of these words. For further study, we could find these words in Thayer's lexicon and study them in greater detail.

We are certainly blessed in this day and time to have reference works such as *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* that enable us to more fully understand the truth of God's wonderful, matchless Word.