

Chapter 25: Spiritual Terms

Objective: *Participants will be prepared to check key spiritual terms in their drafted New Testament to ensure they have been translated clearly and consistently by all translators.*

Core Concepts:

- Spiritual Terms should be checked across the entire New Testament after it is drafted to ensure that the whole team of translators accurately translated these terms.
- Wycliffe Associates provides the resource Spiritual Terms to support translation teams in checking that the spiritual terms are translated clearly and consistently.
- The Spiritual Terms resource is an audit of selected verses (up to 15) of 100 terms. The team may choose to check spiritual terms more thoroughly if desired.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (1 Cor. 2:13).

Intro:

The New Testament uses many spiritual concepts and symbolic terms. Translators need a deeper understanding of these terms, so they can discern which meaning is used in different passages. Translators may also have to be creative to explain concepts that have no word in their heart language.

When your New Testament is complete, you will want to check across books to make sure that these spiritual or symbolic concepts have been communicated clearly into your heart language.

The Spiritual Terms resource is designed to help translators evaluate the translation of key spiritual terms throughout your whole New Testament.

Remember that in Step 7 of MAST, translators chose which key words and terms to check for each chapter. **After the whole New Testament is drafted, they will want to check key spiritual terms separately, as an added layer for confirming consistency and accuracy.**

Scheduled Time: 60 min.

Workbook p. 106

Materials:

- ✓ Slide deck T3.Slides_25_Spiritual.Terms.Evaluation
- ✓ Key Spiritual Terms Evaluation Exercise (in Participant Workbook, reprinted at the end of this chapter if extra copies are needed)

Teacher's Notes:



**Spiritual
Terms
Evaluation**

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual (1 Cor. 2:13).
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Some may ask the difference between Key Words (checked in MAST step 7) and Key Spiritual Terms. It may be helpful to explain that Key Spiritual Terms are a subset of Key Words. While Key Words can be any word that carries meaning, Key Spiritual Terms are words that are spiritually significant, or are symbolic, or are difficult to translate for another reason.



• In Step 7, key words were chosen for each chapter.



• Now an assigned list of terms will be evaluated across the whole New Testament.

One hundred words have been chosen in advance. The evaluation will touch many parts of the New Testament instead of just one chapter at a time. **The goal is for the translation team and other Christian leaders to check through verses across several New Testament books to confirm that the translation of key spiritual terms has been consistent and clear.**

The resource provides verses for each word. This selection of verses is not complete or exhaustive. (However, an exhaustive list is available for a thorough review of any terms where issues are found.)

Discuss:

- **What kinds of terms do you think would be helpful to check across the New Testament?**

Explain:

These terms are ones that have an abstract or spiritual meaning. They are based on Greek words that may have various meanings. They may even have a symbolic meaning that could be missed if not fully understood. Here are some examples:

1. In the New Testament, the word “tree” is used in several places to mean “cross” and to refer to the death of Jesus on the cross. (1 Peter 2:24)
2. In the New Testament, the word “adoption” is used to explain the way God brings believers into his family. (Ephesians 1:5)
3. In the New Testament, the word “flesh” is sometimes used to mean humanity. It is used at other times to mean carcasses, even of animals. Sometimes, it is used to mean the tendency or desire in humans to do evil. These different meanings make it difficult (and sometimes incorrect) to use the same word or phrase to translate it every time. (Matthew 16:17, 1 Corinthians 15:39, Romans 8:13)

Discuss:

- **Why do you think this resource is designed to check these words across the whole New Testament?**

Notes:

Some translation teams may choose to go through this list before they begin translating. They can discuss multiple meanings and collaborate about the best way to communicate these terms in their heart language.

Consistency *may not* mean that the word will be translated the **same** way each time it appears in the New Testament, because some of these terms have multiple meanings and should be translated in different ways depending on how they are used. It does mean that:

- Translators use consistent translations for the same meaning or use in the source text.
- Translators consistently communicate concepts that have no word in their heart language.

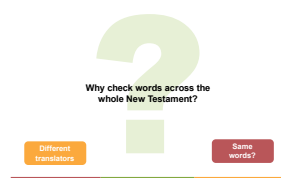


Since a team worked together to translate the whole New Testament, different people have worked on different parts. Up until this point, we have done checks on verses, chapters, and books, but not an overall review that covers the way terms are used across many books. This evaluation will help the translation team to see if individual translators used different terms or even spelled the same terms differently, so they can address these differences and standardize their translation as needed.

Explain:

- To use the Spiritual Terms resource, you will need a team of people working together. It is recommended for the translation team to work together on this (although they can break out into groups of 2 to 4 and split up the work).
- The resource will be available through your Wycliffe Associates contact, or on DOC (online).
- For each term listed, one or more definitions will be given. Then several verses (up to 15) will be shown, with the gateway language for that verse in one column and the heart language for that verse in the other column.
- The word or words will be bold in the source language, but not in the heart language column.
- Verses in the list should be read one after the other, and the term identified should be evaluated as it is used in the verses. If the term has multiple meanings, determine the intended meaning in the verse being checked and confirm that the correct translation has been used. All verses with the same meaning of the word should have a similar or same translation.
- If reviewers find anything that causes concern, the team should work together on any necessary changes.
 - They should refer first to the definitions of the word and consider which one is used in the source text. Then, they will need to determine what translation will be most easily understood without losing accuracy. If they have internet access, they can look at definitions for the Strong's numbers for the word.
 - They may use other resources such as Translation Notes, Translation Words, Greek Words for Translators, or the Unlocked Greek Grammar.

Notes:



church (ECCLESIA)

This word can be used to describe:

- A group of people in a certain location who are connected by their belief in Jesus.
- A group of people who believe in Jesus.

Matthew 16:18	Mark 16:16
I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.	Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
And he will build his church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.	Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 14:23

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, to the work of the gospel.

Romans 16:5

Greet the church that meets at their house. Greet the church that meets at their house.

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God in Corinth, to those who have been called by the grace of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1

To the church of God in Corinth, to those who have been called by the grace of Jesus Christ.

This resources is designed to help our partners achieve the highest quality translation possible. Because the translation is owned by the local Church, it is their decision how deeply they want to check Spiritual Terms. This resource is like an audit or “spot check” to alert them if there are deeper problems that need to be examined.

- They may consult spiritual leaders in their community.

The team should work through each term on the list. If they find areas of concern, they can use the exhaustive list of verse references to check every verse where that term appears.

Exercise: Key Spiritual Terms Evaluation Workbook pp.109-113

Using the sample portion of the resource, check the verses in a common translation in your language. (For example: If your mother tongue is English, you might check the verses listed in the NLT or the CEV. The text provided in the example exercise is the CEV.) For each verse, look at the function of the Spiritual Term in the source text, and then the translation. Decide whether the chosen word or phrase in the translation successfully conveys the correct meaning of the term in that verse.

Discuss:

- **Did the translation maintain consistency across verses?**
- **Did you find issues with the translation of any of the terms you reviewed?**
- **If you were the translator, what changes would you make (if any)?**

Notes:

church (2537)
Matthew 16:18, 19; 18:17, 20; 23:34; Mark 11:17; Luke 11:22, 23; 12:1, 13; 22:18, 19; John 14:23; Acts 1:5, 14; 5:14; 8:1, 19; 13:5; 14:22, 23; 17:19, 21; 18:22, 26; 19:9, 10; 20:6, 7; 21:16, 17; 22:4; 24:14; 26:10; 27:32; 28:16, 17; 29:10; 31:1; 32:1; 33:1; 34:1; 35:1; 36:1; 37:1; 38:1; 39:1; 40:1; 41:1; 42:1; 43:1; 44:1; 45:1; 46:1; 47:1; 48:1; 49:1; 50:1; 51:1; 52:1; 53:1; 54:1; 55:1; 56:1; 57:1; 58:1; 59:1; 60:1; 61:1; 62:1; 63:1; 64:1; 65:1; 66:1; 67:1; 68:1; 69:1; 70:1; 71:1; 72:1; 73:1; 74:1; 75:1; 76:1; 77:1; 78:1; 79:1; 80:1; 81:1; 82:1; 83:1; 84:1; 85:1; 86:1; 87:1; 88:1; 89:1; 90:1; 91:1; 92:1; 93:1; 94:1; 95:1; 96:1; 97:1; 98:1; 99:1; 100:1; 101:1; 102:1; 103:1; 104:1; 105:1; 106:1; 107:1; 108:1; 109:1; 110:1; 111:1; 112:1; 113:1; 114:1; 115:1; 116:1; 117:1; 118:1; 119:1; 120:1; 121:1; 122:1; 123:1; 124:1; 125:1; 126:1; 127:1; 128:1; 129:1; 130:1; 131:1; 132:1; 133:1; 134:1; 135:1; 136:1; 137:1; 138:1; 139:1; 140:1; 141:1; 142:1; 143:1; 144:1; 145:1; 146:1; 147:1; 148:1; 149:1; 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1507:1; 1508:1; 1509:1; 1510:1; 1511:1; 1512:1; 1513:1; 1514:1; 1515:1; 1516:1; 1517:1; 1518:1; 1519:1; 1520:1; 1521:1; 1522:1; 1523:1; 1524:1; 1525:1; 1526:1; 1527:1; 1528:1; 1529:1; 1530:1; 1531:1; 1532:1; 1533:1; 1534:1; 1535:1; 1536:1; 1537:1; 1538:1; 1539:1; 1540:1; 1541:1; 1542:1; 1543:1; 1544:1; 1545:1; 1546:1; 1547:1; 1548:1; 1549:1; 1550:1; 1551:1; 1552:1; 1553:1; 1554:1; 1555:1; 1556:1; 1557:1; 1558:1; 1559:1; 1560:1; 1561:1; 1562:1; 1563:1; 1564:1; 1565:1; 1566:1; 1567:1; 1568:1; 1569:1; 1570:1; 1571:1; 1572:1; 1573:1; 1574:1; 1575:1; 1576:1; 1577:1; 1578:1; 1579:1; 1580:1; 1581:1; 1582:1; 1583:1; 1584:1; 1585:1; 1586:1; 1587:1; 1588:1; 1589:1; 1590:1; 1591:1; 1592:1; 1593:1; 1594:1; 1595:1; 1596:1; 1597:1; 1598:1; 1599:1;

Spiritual Terms Evaluation Exercise

Directions: Compare the translated text in the right column to the Gateway Language text in the left column. Write notes on how the key word has been translated. Does the translation represent the correct meaning of the word for each verse? Are translations with the same meaning spelled consistently? To help you find the word in the translated text, the Gateway Language text on the left has its meaning for this word in bold.

(The "Gateway Language Text" is the ULB. "Translated text" for this exercise is from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. Some variations have been inserted.)

Abba (G5)

This Greek word is used for "father" by a beloved child.

- Jesus used this word when speaking to God, his Father.
- Christians can use this word when talking to God.

Most translations transliterate this from the Greek word.

Mark 14:36	Mark 14:36
He said, " Abba , Father, all things are possible with you. Remove this cup from me. But not my will, but yours."	"Father, you can do anything. Don't make me suffer by drinking from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."
Romans 8:15	Romans 8:15
You did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you live in fear again; but you received the Spirit of adoption, by which we cry, " Abba , Father!"	God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father.
Galatians 4:6	Galatians 4:6
And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, who cries out, " Abba , Father."	Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father.

adoption (G5206)

This word is used to describe when a person accepts into the family a child who was not their son or daughter. This child then is loved and accepted as a son or a daughter.

Romans 8:15	Romans 8:15
You did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you live in fear again; but you received the Spirit of adoption , by which we cry, "Abba, Father!"	God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father.
Romans 8:23	Romans 8:23
Not only that, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan	The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future. But now we groan silently, while we wait for God to show that we are his children.

inwardly, as we wait eagerly for our adoption , the redemption of our body.	
Romans 9:4	Romans 9:4
They are Israelites. They have adoption , the glory, the covenants, the gift of the law, the ministry in the temple, and the promises.	They are the descendants of Israel, and they are also God's chosen people. God showed them his glory. He made agreements with them and gave them his Law. The temple is theirs and so are the promises that God made to them.
Galatians 4:5	Galatians 4:5
so that he might redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.	so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children.
Ephesians 1:5	Ephesians 1:5
God predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.	God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children.

angel (G32)

This word can mean:

- Someone who has been sent by someone else, usually to deliver a message.
- An angel who delivers messages from God or does things for God. Most New Testament uses of this word refer to these supernatural beings.
- A demon. A demon is an angel who does not obey God.

Matthew 1:20	Matthew 1:20
As he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, because the one who is conceived in her is conceived by the Holy Spirit.	While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her.
Matthew 4:11	Matthew 4:11
Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him.	Then the devil left Jesus, and angels came to help him.
Mark 1:13	Mark 1:13
He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels served him.	He stayed there for 40 days while Satan tested him. Jesus was with the wild animals, but angels took care of him.
Luke 16:22	Luke 16:22
It came about that the beggar died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,	The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honor next to Abraham.

Acts 12:10	Acts 12:10
After they had passed by the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city; it opened for them by itself. They went out and went down a street, and the angel left him right away.	They went past the two groups of soldiers, and when they came to the iron gate to the city, it opened by itself. They went out and were going along the street, when all at once the angel disappeared.
1 Corinthians 13:1	1 Corinthians 13:1
Suppose that I speak with the tongues of men and of angels . But if I do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.	What if I could speak all languages of humans and even of angels? If I did not love others, I would be nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
2 Corinthians 12:7	2 Corinthians 12:7
To keep me from exalting myself because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger from Satan to afflict me—so I would not exalt myself.	Of course, I am now referring to the wonderful things I saw. One of Satan's angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud.
Galatians 3:19	Galatians 3:19
What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the descendant of Abraham would come to whom the promise had been made. The law was ordained through angels by the hand of an intermediary.	What is the use of the Law? It was given later to show that we sin. But it was only supposed to last until the coming of that descendant who was given the promise. In fact, angels gave the Law to Moses, and he gave it to the people.
2 Thessalonians 1:7	2 Thessalonians 1:7
and relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels	but he will give you relief from your troubles. God will do the same for us, when the Lord Jesus comes from heaven with his powerful Angels
1 Timothy 5:21	1 Timothy 5:21
I solemnly command you, before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen angels , to keep these commands without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.	In the presence of God and Christ Jesus and their chosen angels, I order you to follow my instructions! Be fair with everyone, and don't have any favorites.
Hebrews 1:5	Hebrews 1:5
For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have become your Father"?	God has never said to any of the angels, "You are my Son, because today I have become your Father!"

Or to which of the angels did God ever say, "I will be a Father to him, and he will be a Son to me"?	Neither has God said to any of them, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son!"
1 Peter 3:22	1 Peter 3:22
Christ is at the right hand of God. He went into heaven. Angels , authorities, and powers must submit to him.	Christ is now in heaven, where he sits at the right side of God. All angels, authorities, and powers are under his control.
2 Peter 2:4	2 Peter 2:4
For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but delivered them into hell to be kept in chains of darkness until the judgment,	God did not have pity on the angels that sinned. He had them tied up and thrown into the dark pits of hell until the time of judgment.
Revelation 5:11	Revelation 5:11
Then I looked and heard the sound of many angels who encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. Their total number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands.	As I looked, I heard the voices of a large number of angels around the throne and the voices of the living creatures and of the elders. There were millions and millions of them,

anger (3709, 3710, 3949)

This word can mean feeling or showing strong displeasure, hostility, or wrath.

Mark 3:5	Mark 3:5
He looked around at them with anger , and he was grieved by their hardness of heart, and he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.	Jesus was angry as he looked around at the people. Yet he felt sorry for them because they were so stubborn. Then he told the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did, and his bad hand was healed.
Luke 3:7	Luke 3:7
So John said to the crowds who were coming out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to run away from the wrath that is coming?"	Crowds of people came out to be baptized, but John said to them, "You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming judgment?"
Romans 1:18	Romans 1:18
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who through unrighteousness hold back the truth.	From heaven God shows how angry he is with all the wicked and evil things that sinful people do to crush the truth.
Romans 5:9	Romans 5:9

Much more, then, now that we are justified by his blood, we will be saved by him from the wrath of God.	But there is more! Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood, we will also be kept safe from God's anger.
Ephesians 2:3	Ephesians 2:3
Once we all lived among these people, fulfilling the evil desires of our flesh, and carrying out the desires of the flesh and of the mind. We were by nature children of wrath , like the rest of humanity.	Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else.
Ephesians 4:26	Ephesians 4:26
Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger .	Don't get so angry that you sin. Don't go to bed angry
Ephesians 6:4	Ephesians 6:4
Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger . Instead, raise them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.	Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord.
Colossians 3:6	Colossians 3:6
It is for these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.	God is angry with people who disobey him by doing these things.
1 Thessalonians 1:10	1 Thessalonians 1:10
and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.	They also tell how you are waiting for his Son Jesus to come from heaven. God raised him from death, and on the day of judgment Jesus will save us from God's anger.
1 Thessalonians 5:9	1 Thessalonians 5:9
For God did not appoint us for wrath , but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,	God doesn't intend to punish us, but wants us to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ.
Revelation 11:18	Revelation 11:18
The nations were enraged, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and for you to reward your servants the prophets and God's holy people, and those who feared your name, both the unimportant and the mighty. The time has come for you to destroy those who are destroying the earth."	When the nations got angry, you became angry too! Now the time has come for the dead to be judged. It is time for you to reward your servants the prophets and all your people who honor your name, no matter who they are. It is time to destroy everyone who has destroyed the earth.