

---

---

# SPARKLING GEMS FROM THE GREEK 1

---

---

**365 Greek Word Studies for Every Day of the Year  
To Sharpen Your Understanding of God's Word**

Rick Renner

# JANUARY 1



## *Let God's Peace Serve as an Umpire For Your Mind and Emotions!*

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,  
to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

— Colossians 3:15

**H**ave you ever had one of those days when there was so much confusion whirling around your head that you felt like screaming, “STOP”?

From time to time, everyone has that kind of a day. And when you do, your temptation is probably either to get in the flesh and react to someone in an ugly way or to get depressed, go to bed, and forget about it all. However, you know that neither choice will help you solve the problems you are facing.

Rather than throw in the towel and give way to these emotions that want to get the best of you, why not stop right now and make a decision to let the Word of God rule you today? When I say “rule” you, I’m talking about God’s supernatural peace *dominating* and *governing* every emotion and situation that confronts you. If you don’t make this decision and follow through with it, worry, fear, insecurity, doubt, and a whole host of other emotions will assuredly try to take control. And there is no worse roller-coaster ride than when you are being knocked all over the place by emotions that are out of control!

Instead, let the peace of God rule in your heart, as Paul wrote in Colossians 3:15. He said, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” I especially want you to notice the word “rule” in this verse. It is from the Greek word *brabeuo*, which in ancient times was used to describe the *umpire* or *referee* who moderated and judged the athletic competitions that were so popular in the ancient world.

Paul uses this word to tell us that the peace of God can work like an umpire or referee in our hearts, minds, and emotions. When detrimental emotions attempt to exert control over us or try to throw us into an emotional frenzy, we can stop it from happening by making the choice to let God’s peace rise up from deep inside us like an umpire or referee to moderate our emotions. As we do, we will be kept under the control of that divine peace as it rules in our hearts. When this divine umpire called “peace” steps into the game, it suddenly begins to call the shots and make all the decisions instead of fretfulness, anxiety, and worry.

**Colossians 3:15 could be translated:**

*“Let the peace of God call the shots in your life....”*

*“Let the peace of God be the umpire in your life and actions....”*

*“Let the peace of God act as referee in your emotions and your decisions....”*

Even though it’s true that everyone has hard days and difficult weeks, you don’t have to surrender to those emotions that try to steal your joy, disturb your relationships, and rob you of your victory. When you feel overwhelmed by problems or emotions that are hitting you from every direction, just stop a moment and deliberately set your heart and mind on Jesus and the Word of God. *As you do this, the wonderful, conquering, dominating, supernatural peace of God will rise up from your spirit and take control!*

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Lord, I don't want to let my emotions get the best of me today, so I ask that Your peace would rise up like a mighty umpire and referee in my heart, mind, and emotions. Help me recognize those moments when unhelpful emotions try to sneak up on me. I ask You to teach me how to put those emotions aside and release Your supernatural peace that is resident in my heart — the peace that is always ready at every moment to moderate every thought and emotion that tries to pass into my life!*

*I pray this in Jesus' name!*

MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

*I confess that God's supernatural peace dominates me. When I am tempted to get upset and my emotions try to take control of me, I put these emotions aside and allow the Spirit of God to release a supernatural, dominating, moderating peace to rule my heart, mind, and emotions!*

*I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!*

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Do you recognize moments when your emotions try to throw you into an emotional tizzy and steal your peace and joy?
2. Have you asked God to help you overcome these moments?
3. What steps can you take to quiet yourself so you can focus on God's Word and allow the peace of God to rise up and referee what is going on inside your heart, mind, and emotions?

JANUARY 2



*Could You Use a Little Extra Strength  
To Make It Through Your Day?*

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation  
through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

— Philippians 1:19

**A**t times everyone gets physically tired and mentally exhausted. However, some believers, regardless of how long or how hard they work, seem to have the knack, fortitude, determination, and will to keep going strong, even when everyone else can barely take one more step.

Have you ever met someone like this? Have you wondered, *How in the world can that person keep going the way he does?*

Could it be that this person has learned how to tap into a supernatural Source of power? Well, the same inexhaustible supply of power is available to you! In Philippians 1:19, Paul talked about this kind of power: “For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and *the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.*”

I especially want you to notice the word “supply” in this verse. It is the Greek word *epichoregeo*. To those who read Greek, this word seems like a strange choice for Paul. However, after reflecting on the original usage of this word, it makes this verse very exciting! The word *epichoregeo* is an old word that literally means *on behalf of the choir*. I know this sounds peculiar, so let me explain where this word came from and why Paul uses it here.

Thousands of years ago in classical Greece, a huge choral and dramatic company practiced endlessly for a huge, important theatrical performance. After they put in a great amount of time, effort, energy, and practice, it was finally time for the show to go on the road. But there was one major problem — they ran out of money!

These people had given their lives to this production. They had committed all their resources to making sure the performance succeeded. But because they ran out of financing, it meant the show was over — *finished!* They were washed up before the show ever officially got started. From all appearances, it was the end of the road for them and their dream.

At that exact moment, a wealthy man heard of their crisis, stepped into the middle of their situation, and made a huge financial contribution *on behalf of the choir*. This contribution “supplied” all they needed to get back in business again! In fact, the gift the man gave was so enormous that it was more than they needed or knew how to spend! This man’s contribution was excessively large, abundant, overflowing, and overwhelming.

This is where we get the word “supply” in Philippians 1:19 that now describes the enormous contribution of the Spirit that Jesus Christ wants to give to you and me!

**In light of this, Philippians 1:19 could be taken to mean:**

*“I am certain that this situation will ultimately turn around and result in my deliverance. I’m sure of it — first, because you are praying for me; and second, because of the special contribution of the Spirit that Jesus Christ is donating for my present cause.”*

This means when you’ve run out of steam; when you’ve given your best effort and you don’t feel like you have another ounce of energy left to give; when it looks like your resources are drained and you are unable to take one more step unless someone steps in to help you — that is exactly the moment when Jesus Christ becomes your personal Benefactor! Like the wealthy man in the story above, Jesus steps into your life at that moment to donate a massive, overwhelming, generous contribution of the Spirit’s grace and power for your cause!

Jesus is your wealthy Benefactor. He has more strength and power to give you than you’ll ever be able to use! If you are weak, He has precisely what you need to get up, get recharged, and get going again! If you’ll open your heart to Him right now, Jesus will give you a brand-new contribution of the Spirit’s power — and it will be more than enough to get you on your feet and back on the road again!

So when your natural human will is too tired to keep going and you’ve exhausted all your resources, let Jesus reinforce you with a new “supply of the Spirit” that will give you all the strength you will ever need. *Just open your heart to the Holy Spirit’s help today. Allow Him to fill you with a supply of power so large, you could never even begin to use it all!*

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Lord, I realize I don't have enough strength by myself to do what You have asked me to do. Today I'm asking You to donate a new supply of Your Spirit into my life. Right now, I open my heart and ask You to fill every nook and cranny of my life with the power of the Holy Spirit so I can get back on my feet again and fulfill what You have told me to do!*

*I pray this in Jesus' name!*

MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

*I declare by faith that I am refilled and recharged with the Spirit of God. There is no lack of strength in me because Jesus continuously provides a huge supply of the Spirit in my life that empowers me to achieve everything I need to do. There is no excuse for me to fail or to stop short of the goals God has given me for my life, because in the Spirit of God there is enough supernatural strength and power to energize me to finish my divine assignment!*

*I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!*

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Do you ever run into times in your life when you feel like you've hit a wall and you can't go any further?
2. How do you normally respond to times like these?
3. Compare the results of your past responses to these difficult times to what would happen if you took the time to talk to Jesus about your need for supernatural strength.

JANUARY 3



*Isn't It Time for You  
To Hit the Rewind Button?*

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God,  
which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

— 2 Timothy 1:6

**H**ave you ever experienced the delivering and rescuing power of God? I'm talking about those moments when your situation looks completely hopeless — but suddenly God's amazing grace intervenes and your situation is miraculously changed! Can you think of moments like this in your past?

It's amazing that when we are confronted with a new challenge, we often fail to remember God's faithfulness in the past. Our perspective gets blurry because of the problems we are currently facing, and we forget that we've gone through similar or worse circumstances before. The looming mountain of problems before us looks so big that we momentarily fail to remember all the other mountains we've already faced and overcome with the help of God.

When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, the younger man was facing the biggest mountain of his life. Nero had become the emperor of the Roman Empire. Because of his tyrannical rule, believers were being persecuted and were even dying for their faith. In the midst of all the panic, Timothy was tempted to fear for his life and his future. He must have wondered, *Is God going to be faithful to me in this terrible hour?*

So in Second Timothy 1:5, Paul tells Timothy, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that in thee also." Paul wanted to remind Timothy about something very important!

God's faithfulness was a part of Timothy's family heritage. His grandmother trusted the Lord — *and the Lord had never failed her or let her down*. His mother trusted the Lord — *and the Lord had never failed her or let her down either*. Because Timothy was dealing with great stress and difficulty, Paul took the opportunity to remind him that just as God had never failed his grandmother or mother, neither would He abandon Timothy in his difficult hour.

Then Paul told him, "...I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (2 Timothy 1:6). I want you to particularly focus on the phrase, "I put thee in remembrance." It is taken from the Greek word *anamimnesko*, a compound of the words *ana* and *mimnesko*. Pay close attention, because this is very important! The word *ana* means *again* or *to repeat something*. The second part of the word *mimnesko* means *to be reminded of something*, such as memories.

When these two words are joined together as in this verse, it means *to regather* or *to recollect memories*. The little prefix *ana* carries the idea of *replaying* these memories over and over again in your mind, the way you would hit the rewind button on your video player so you can back up and watch one part of a movie over and over again.

This means there are some memories we should never forget! For example, we should constantly hit the rewind button in our minds and "replay" the times that God has been faithful to us in the past — delivering us, healing us, and rescuing us time and time again. We should "replay" those scenes in our minds until we never forget His faithfulness to us!

**You could translate Second Timothy 1:6 in the following way:**

*"I am putting you in memory of all these things, so that by your remembering them, you might stir up the gift of God that is in you...."*

Paul reminds Timothy (and us) to take our eyes off these times of trouble or the present crisis and to *remember* God's delivering and rescuing power in the past. If we really looked at our past, we'd find that we have faced other moments more severe than the one we're facing right now — and God never failed us or let us down. In fact, He delivered us and turned those situations around!

Don't ever forget what God has already done for you, for those memories will stir you up and encourage you to face your present dilemma with faith. Just as God has always been faithful to you in the past, He will be faithful to you right now.

Never forget how:

- ◆ God has *healed* you.
- ◆ God has *delivered* you.
- ◆ God has *saved* you.
- ◆ God has *guided* and *directed* you.
- ◆ God has *brought you through* difficult trials.
- ◆ God has *provided* for you during hard financial times.
- ◆ God has *protected* you from the snare of the enemy.

*These kinds of memories are powerful and will stir up your faith today!*

So the next time the devil tells you there is no way you'll survive what you're facing, take the time to get alone with the Lord. Then hit the rewind button, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you regather and recollect all those past events when God came through for you! As you replay those memories over and over in your mind, your faith will rise to a new level of confidence. You'll be able to look your problems right in the face and say, "God's record with me has always been faithfulness, and I know He'll be faithful to me now as well!"

#### MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Lord, You have always been faithful. I thank You that even in my present situation, You are going to be faithful again. Please help me recall all the times in the past when You delivered and rescued me from other situations that also looked hopeless. Thank You for helping me keep those awesome experiences alive and fresh in my mind and heart. I thank You for always being faithful to me!*

*I pray this in Jesus' name!*

#### MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

*I confess that God has never failed me or let me down. He has always delivered me from difficult times, and He will rescue and deliver me now as well. Today I will dwell on those past moments when God did for me what everyone thought was impossible! Just as He intervened on my behalf in the past, He will intervene on my behalf again! I will not succumb to fear, doubt, or failure. With God's help, I will conquer what the enemy meant for my downfall and defeat!*

*I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!*

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. As you think about God's faithfulness in your life, how does it affect the way you perceive the problems you are dealing with right now?
2. What are some of the seemingly impossible situations you faced in the past that God delivered you from?
3. What steps can you take to trust God more fully to deliver you from your present situation as He has done for you in the past?

## JANUARY 4



### *How Often Should We Pray?*

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,  
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

— Ephesians 6:18

**H**ow is your prayer life? Is prayer a central and significant part of your life, or is it something you only do when you are with other believers? Is prayer a daily discipline for you, or do you mainly pray when you get in trouble? Do you pray when you are home alone, or do you find that you pray and worship the Lord only when you come to church and are in the presence of other worshipping and praying people?

To pray regularly requires discipline. Unfortunately, most people are “on-again, off-again” when it comes to prayer. They are faithful for a while, but then they fall out of prayer because they are too tired to get up early, or they become distracted by other things.

But how often are we supposed to pray? Ephesians 6:18 gives us the answer! It says, “Praying *always* with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

The word “always” is taken from the Greek phrase *en panti kairo*. The word *en* would be better translated *at*. The word *panti* means *each and every*. You could say that this word *panti* is an all-encompassing word that embraces everything, including the smallest and most minute of details. The last word in this Greek phrase is the word *kairo*, the Greek word for *times* or *seasons*. When all three of these words are used together in one phrase (*en panti kairo*) as in Ephesians 6:18, they could be more accurately translated *at each and every occasion*.

#### **Ephesians 6:18 conveys this idea:**

*“Pray anytime there’s an opportunity — no matter where you are or what you’re doing. Use every occasion, every season, every possible moment to pray...”*

This clearly tells us that prayer is not optional for the Christian who is serious about his or her spiritual life. According to this scripture, believers are to make prayer a top priority. Yet, unfortunately, prayer is largely disregarded by the average Christian today.

If prayer isn’t a priority in your life right now, why not make it a priority starting today? You might say, “*But I don’t have time to pray.*” You have time to do whatever you really want to do. If it’s truly in your heart to pray, you can find the time. And if your schedule is as busy as you think it is, take Ephesians 6:18 to heart. Grab any available time you can find, and make it your prayer time. Why not start this day out right? *Make a quality decision to make prayer your first order of business!*

#### MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Lord, I ask You to help me become consistent in prayer. I admit that other things have distracted me from being in Your Presence, but I ask You to forgive me for this and to give me the*



*strength to say no to those things that keep pulling me away from time in prayer. Thank You for helping me to make this a high priority in my life. I know that with Your help, I can learn to discipline myself to pray. Thank You for helping me get started on the right path today!*

*I pray this in Jesus' name!*

### MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

*With God's help, I have the power to say no to the distractions that keep trying to steal my time with God. Prayer is a top priority in my life; therefore, I am consistent and habitual in my prayer time. Nothing is a higher priority than the time I spend every day with God. From this moment onward, I will be as faithful as can be when it comes to this issue of prayer!*

*I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!*

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Have you been “on-again, off-again” in your prayer life? What keeps distracting you from being consistent in your prayer life?
2. What type of event in your life consistently jolts you out of prayerlessness and into a time of praying?
3. What changes do you need to make in your life or environment to assure that your prayer life becomes disciplined and consistent?

## JANUARY 5



### *Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit!*

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,  
whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

— Ephesians 4:30

**M**any years ago, when I first studied the word “grieve” in Ephesians 4:30, I ran to my bookshelf and pulled out my Greek New Testament to discover exactly what the word “grieve” meant. I found that this word was taken from the Greek word *lupete*. This surprised me, because the word *lupete* is from the word *lupe*, which denotes a *pain* or *grief* that can only be experienced between two people who deeply love each other.

This word *lupe* would normally be used to picture a husband or wife who has discovered his or her mate has been unfaithful. As a result of this unfaithfulness, the betrayed spouse is *shocked*, *devastated*, *hurt*, *wounded*, and *grieved* because of the pain that accompanies unfaithfulness.

This tells us, first of all, that the relationship that exists between us and the Holy Spirit is precious! The Holy Spirit is deeply in love with us. Just as someone in love thinks about, dreams of, and cherishes

the one he loves, the Holy Spirit longs for us, thinks about us, desires to be close to us, and wants to reveal Himself to us.

But when we act like the world, talk like the world, behave like the world, and respond the same way the world does, we cause the Spirit of God to feel shock, hurt, and grief. You see, when we deliberately do what is wrong, we drag Him right into the mire of sin with us, because He lives in us and goes wherever we go.

The Holy Spirit convicted us of sin and brought us to Jesus; then He indwelt us, sanctified us, empowered us, and faithfully remains alongside to help us. So when we deliberately enter into sin, it *grieves* Him. Just as a husband or wife would feel who has just discovered that his or her spouse has committed adultery, the Holy Spirit is *shocked* when we dishonor His Presence in our lives.

One scholar has translated Ephesians 4:30 in the following way:

*“Stop deeply wounding and causing such extreme emotional pain to the Spirit of God, by whom you have been sealed until the day of your redemption.”*

We need to realize how precious the Holy Spirit is in our lives and honor Him by making sure we live holy and upright lives. If our behavior has been wrong, we should confess our sin and receive cleansing by the blood of Jesus so we can be restored to fellowship with the Spirit of God.

So before you get started with your daily duties today, stop and ask, *“Holy Spirit, is there anything in my life that causes You grief? If there is, please reveal it to me so I can change.”*

#### MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Lord, I ask You to forgive me for allowing attitudes and actions in my life that are dishonoring to You. I want to please You more than ever before, so I ask You to help me recognize those negative things in my life that cause You pain. Help me to permanently walk free of them. From the depths of my heart, I thank You for all You have done inside me. Starting right now, I want to live every moment of my life with the intent to please You and to never cause You grief again.*

*I pray this in Jesus' name!*

#### MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

*Starting today, I make the choice to walk away from everything in my life that is displeasing and desecrating to the Holy Spirit's Presence within me. I walk away from every negative thought, word, and deed that has tried to operate in me and that is dishonoring to Him. I turn the other direction to walk a new walk and talk a new talk that shows respect and love for the Spirit of God who dwells inside me.*

*I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!*

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Are there any wrong attitudes or actions in your life that grieve the Holy Spirit? If so, write them down and then pray about them.

2. Are there any relationships in your life that have a negative effect on your relationship with the Lord?
3. For you to get right and stay right with God, what changes do you need to make in your life?

## JANUARY 6



### *Dealing With Wrong Attitudes The Right Way*

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,  
and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

— James 1:21

**T**oday I would like to draw your attention to the words “lay apart” in the verse above. These words are taken from the Greek word *apotithimi*, a compound of the words *apo* and *tithimi*. The word *apo* means *away*, and the word *tithimi* means *to place* or *to lay something down*. When these two words are compounded together, it gives a picture of someone who is *laying something down* at the same time he is *pushing it far away* from himself. Therefore, this compound word means *to lay something down and to push it far away and beyond reach*.

An example would be a person who is about to sinfully indulge in eating too much pie but suddenly realizes what he is doing. So instead of diving into the extra piece of pie and eating it, he chooses instead to lay it back down on the table; then he deliberately shoves it away from himself lest he should overindulge one time too many! He lays it down, and he pushes it away. This is the idea of the word *apotithimi* James uses when he tells us to “lay apart” all filthiness in our lives. But there is another very important meaning to this word in the New Testament!

In New Testament times, the word *apotithimi* was frequently used to describe someone taking off his dirty clothes at the end of the day. How do you deal with your dirty clothes at the end of the day? *You take them off and put them away in the clothes hamper!* Now James uses this illustration to explain how you must deal with wrong attitudes and actions in your own life. *Just as you wouldn't go to bed in dirty clothes at night, neither should you go to bed with wrong attitudes.* You must deal with them like an old set of filthy clothes. *You have to decide to get rid of those bad attitudes!*

**James 1:21 could be interpreted to mean:**

*“You must make the choice to remove those filthy, stinking garments from your life, to permanently lay them down and then deliberately push them out of your range forever...”*

Also, it's important to realize that dirty clothes don't fall off your body by accident! To get them off, you have to push the buttons through the button holes, unzip the zipper, and slip the clothes off your arms and legs one piece at a time. Dirty clothes don't automatically come off just because you realize they are dirty. They will come off only if you do something to remove them! This is *exactly* what James has in mind when he tells us to “lay apart” all filthiness from our lives.

When James says to “lay apart” all filthiness from our lives, he is telling us to first acknowledge what is wrong and then to take appropriate measures to remove those areas from our lives. If you are going to get free and stay free, it won’t happen by accident. You must start taking steps to remove those negative things from your life — to lay them down and push them so far away that you’ll never be able to reach them again!

Are you struggling with a sin today? Does a wrong attitude keep trying to conquer your life? If so, you must begin to look at that sin or wrong attitude like an old set of filthy clothes that isn’t worthy for you to wear anymore. Make the decision to step out of every destructive area of your life that has held you captive. *Once you make that decision, the Holy Spirit will give you the power to carry it out!*

#### MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Lord, help me step out of the sins and bad attitudes that have held me captive for so long. Help me know the right steps to take to remove these destructive and unworthy things from my life. You want me to be free, and I desire to be free. With Your help, I know I can be permanently set free from these negative things, stepping out of them and pushing them so far away that I will never pick them up again!*

*I pray this in Jesus’ name!*

#### MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

*The Word of God reveals those areas in my life that are unclean and that need to change. Rather than act like a victim who cannot do anything about myself or my circumstance, today I start the process of acknowledging my sin and removing these attitudes, actions, and sins that are unworthy of the new creation I am today in Christ. I can be free, and I will be free. I will be ALL that God intended for me to be!*

*I declare this by faith in Jesus’ name!*

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Do you recognize wrong attitudes or patterns of behavior in your life that you know need to change?
2. Are you willing to make the necessary adjustments to walk free from the sins, attitudes, habits, and bondages that have been clinging to you?
3. If your answer is yes, what steps do you need to take to start walking toward your freedom?

Does a wrong attitude keep trying to conquer your life? If so, you must begin to look at that sin or wrong attitude like an old set of filthy clothes that isn't worthy for you to wear anymore.