

Key words in 1 Peter

Word: Greek *logos* — 1:23; 2:8; 3:1 — literally “word” or “idea,” also Greek *rhema* — 1:25. “The word of God” (1:23) is the gospel message about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit uses the Word to produce life. It is the truth of the gospel that saves and regenerates men and women. Peter used Isaiah 40:6-8, which says “the word of our God” in a NT context.

Example: Greek *hupogrammos* — 2:21 — literally, “tracing tablet.” In biblical times, this term denoted tablets that contained the entire Greek alphabet. Students would practice tracing each letter of the alphabet on these tablets. When believers use the life of Jesus as their example, His life of suffering becomes their tracing tablet. Christians who trace the life of Jesus learn godliness and wisdom in the face of persecution.

Love: Greek *agape* — 4:8 — literally, “Love.” Most of the ancient occurrences of this Greek word appear in the NT. *Agape* describes the love of one who shows kindness to strangers, gives hospitality, and acts charitably. In the NT, the word *agape* took on a special meaning: It denoted a love in action as opposed to the purely emotional kind. *Agape* love is the self-sacrificial love naturally demonstrated by God.