

CHAPTER 1 – ABC

1. What have been your impressions or experience of theological study – boring, stimulating, pointless, important, divisive? Why have you come to that conclusion?
2. Hebrews 6:1-2 describes some of the “ABC’s” of the faith. What is your honest assessment of your own knowledge of these? Would you grade yourself with an A, B, C, D or F for fail?
3. If Christianity is all about “faith,” why should we bother with intellectual study of the Bible?

CHAPTER 2 – BIG WORDS

1. Peter Jeffery refers to the “technical words” of the Bible. Do you understand the meaning and concepts behind such words as Trinity, Atonement, Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification and Election? If not, be encouraged. By the end of this study, you will have a pretty good grasp of these, and several other technical words that the book deals with.
2. Do you know how to study the Bible to find out the answers? If not, be encouraged again. You will learn that skill also as we go through this study and you will find the Bible revealing its treasures to you like never before.
3. What difference, if any, do you think understanding these words makes to everyday life?

What will you need to help you do this study?

Firstly, a Bible in language you can understand. Good ones to use are the ESV (English Standard Version), NKJV (New King James), NASB (New American Standard Bible), RSV (Revised Standard Version), NIV (New International Version), HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible), and if you still love the old classic, the KJV (King James Version).

This is not to say that other Bibles like the New Living Translation, Good News Bible and The Message are not good, only that you will find it more difficult to do your study with using these, for reasons Peter Jeffery mentions in chapter 2 of the book.

Bibles are available from our local Christian bookstores for as little as \$3.95.

Also, you will want a Concordance that is matched to the translation you are using. This will help you to find all those Bible verses where you can only remember a word or a phrase from a particular passage.

Some Bibles will have a concordance in the back. But if they don't, they can be purchased separately from \$7.95 for a simple one, up to around \$50 for an Exhaustive Concordance containing references for every single word used in that translation. Some concordances also have word studies to help you understand the range of meanings that some words have in the Bible.

Other useful, but not necessary, resources are books known as Topical Bibles, such as Nave's Topical Bible (around \$14). Topical Bibles list verses based on topics rather than specific words.

For those who prefer to do their study on a computer, there is excellent software available, including much free software. One of the most useful and easy to use is e-Sword. It can be downloaded for free from <http://www.e-sword.net/downloads.html> with various Bible translations (including ESV and KJV), dictionaries and commentaries also available from the website for free. Other Bible translations (such as NIV, NKJV, NASB and HCSB) are available at relatively small cost.

There are other Bible software programs available for free, such as Bible Explorer at <http://www.bible-explorer.com/> and The Word <http://www.theword.gr/index.php?home&l=english> as well as online Bibles at <http://www.onlinebible.org/>. A Bible software review is available at <http://www.fostertribe.org/biblesoftware.html>.