

## THEMATIC BIBLE STUDY

The purpose of this type of study is to understand a specific concept, idea, or word in the biblical text. It involves the following "steps."

1. Choose the theme or word you have an interest. This can range from a word study (joy) to a concept (Paul's method of making decisions). The point here is to attempt to get focused and begin your study and research.

At some time you may do this kind of study in a particular book...like Acts in studying the content of the disciple's sermons when speaking about salvation. In other words, what you are doing is trying to learn what the content is of the early church's message of salvation...from Acts.

2. Gather all references from a concordance that lists the concept you are working with or the word you are studying.

3. Organize the materials in categories. For example you might make a category on a word study about joy as:

- joy as an emotion
- joy as a fruit of the Spirit
- joy in the midst of problems
- the place of joy in ones Christian life
- etc.

The point here is to get all the references you have found in your research and make some organized sense of them. This is necessary for you to do the next step.

4. Draw some conclusions. This is where your research becomes your own discovery. This is the area of discovering some life changing truths you have never known before.

5. Make personal applications and faith commitments from your study.