



# **Sparkling Gems from the Greek: 365 Greek Word Studies for Every Day of the Year to Sharpen Your Understanding of God's Word**

*Rick Renner*

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Unlock a Cache of Enduring Riches In Sparkling Gems From the Greek. Rick Renner unlocks an amazing cache of rich, enduring treasures mined from deep within the Word to unveil a wealth of brilliant wisdom and sound counsel that will enrich and redefine your life. Sparkling Gems is arranged in a devotional format with more than 1,000 in-depth Greek word studies, crafted into 365 daily devotions that are sure to inspire and provoke you to plunge deeper into your own search for more hidden treasures from God's Word. Three exhaustive indices an English to Greek index, a Greek to English index, and a Scripture Index are also included, making Sparkling Gems a highly effective reference tool for your own personal study library. So let wisdom and enduring riches define your life as you delve into the depths of God's Word with Sparkling Gems From the Greek by Rick Renner.

## **Sparkling Gems from the Greek: 365 Greek Word Studies for Every Day of the Year to Sharpen Your Understanding of God's Word Details**

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Author : Rick Renner

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## **From Reader Review Sparkling Gems from the Greek: 365 Greek Word Studies for Every Day of the Year to Sharpen Your Understanding of God's Word for online ebook**

### **Cynthia says**

My all time favorite devotional. Great if you love breaking down the language barriers in scripture. He takes the words, breaks them down, and puts them together in a way that's amazingly fresh and clear.

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### **Kelsey Bryant says**

This was probably the most impacting book I've read this year. Although it's a daily devotional, and probably best read that way, I doubled up on many of the days. The insights are so rich you could easily turn it into a study guide instead and do word studies for each entry, learning about New Testament Greek as you go. The Greek never negates the impact the book has on your spiritual life, however; it adds to it as you understand what more is behind the concepts we've become so familiar with in the NT.

It covers a wide range of topics. The amazing thing for me is, a huge portion of the devotions addressed and helped me with something I was dealing with that day or in that season. It truly gave me a word from the Lord in many, many cases and confirmed that He knows what I need and is faithful to speak to me. I am so thankful for this book.

Although there may have been a smattering of subjects I didn't agree one hundred percent with (I can't even remember what they are right now), they gave me something to think about and didn't dent my enjoyment. Rick Renner isn't just a scholar, he's a faithful pastor and missionary in Russia. He practices what he preaches and can therefore write with true godly wisdom.

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### **Faye says**

Learned SO much from this book. He focuses a lot on the power of the Holy Spirit which is sometimes not talked a lot about in my church. Really good insight into the original meaning and historical context of the Greek in which the NT was written. Thoroughly recommend do this one as a year long Bible Study. Well worth the time investment.

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### **Thea Smith says**

This is a book that you dip into every now and again - although you could read one gem for every day of the year. The pages I've read have helped me gain a deeper understanding of the bible verses by explaining the greek and therefore giving a deep yet easy to understand application - dont be put off by the title - it's a great read for any chirstian

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### **Tyler says**

Awesome book! Tons of wisdom and a must have for every library!

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### **Cheree says**

This is a great book for daily devotionals or just to read a Sparkling Gem here and there. I enjoy word studies and often have commentaries, concordances and dictionaries on hand as I read the Bible. We are meant to not just READ God's Word, but to "study to show thyself approved." Rick Renner's book is a great tool for study. Especially for those who aren't familiar with word studies, this is an easy way to begin. Once you see the "hidden" meanings in familiar biblical passages, you will probably be inspired to do word studies on your own. Highly recommend.

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### **Sean Nemecek says**

It didn't take long to realize that this author is using the Greek words of scripture to manipulate the text for his own purposes. He defines faith as your heart and mind being in agreement instead of biblical faith which is believing God. This book is filled with the heresies of the Word of Faith movement. Stay away from this book!

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### **Cheryl Skid says**

I read this book cover to cover along with my daily bible reading two consecutive years. I looked forward to reading Rick's personal experiences along with his explanations of the Greek word of the day. It was refreshing and opened the Word a little more each day.

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### **Timothy Burns says**

Rick Renner pens a great book, an helpful aid to your personal devotional time. However, the book is often slanted and influenced by American culture, rather than a biblical, discipleship world view. At times, Renner's spin on Greek definitions lacks personal, "How should this affect and change my life (what I do)?" application in favor of "What should I think so that God answers my prayers better (what I think?)."

Discipleship is about how we live, including what we do and believe. Many of Renner's devotionals miss the Doing application.

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### **Bob Flores says**

This is my new favorite book!! It's actually a devotional with new "gems" for every day of the year, but it is so much more than that. Most days have 2 or more greek words brought to life with much deeper meaning than our own english language. I love every page! Just the declarations (or what the author calls confessions) themselves are worth their weight in gold. Gold or gems, either way this book is a treasure!

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### **Bhall says**

Father Roseberry, Christ Church Plano gave me this book and it is one of the most special gifts i have received this year.

Rick Renner's depth of experience and Greek combines to encourage and enlighten the spirit...drawing me constantly and clearly toward Christ's love and grace. Equipping me for battle!

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### **Denise says**

Good some days, a bit dry on others. Glad the year is over. I'll probably keep it to refer back to once in a while. I did quit reading the daily confessions. Just because one says something, confesses it, does not mean God will give it to you.

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### **Pete says**

There are many "gems" in Renner's book. From what I know, experts in Greek may take issue with some of his interpretations... so I urge the reader to remember that this book is one man's interpretation... it is not itself "the Gospel" :)

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### **Debbie says**

While the author did spend about a third of each devotional explaining the meaning of one or two Greek words in the selected verse, none of it really seemed to "stick" in my mind. I think this was partly because the verses were usually isolated from the surrounding verses. The author's conclusions or suggested re-translations didn't always "fit" the greater context in a way that made sense to me, so my brain promptly forgot the expanded meaning. I felt like some of the author's suggestions or conclusions were rather narrow (too specific in application) or speculative (not clearly what the biblical author was trying to convey). I also differ from the author in some points of theology, which may be part of the problem. I usually love word studies, but I felt like I got very little lasting benefit from this large book.

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### **Anastasia Riebs says**

Rick Renner's daily devotional, Sparkling Gems From the Greek, is a thick, heavy tome that is somewhat intimidating at first glance, but don't be misled. In each daily reading, Renner offers up a daily scripture and breaks it down, piece by piece, into its original Greek translation, allowing the reader to gain a fullness of

understanding that includes the nuances and inferences that don't translate well into modern American-English. Consider the word "love." In English, its meaning is limited to "an intense feeling of deep affection" Our understanding of the word "love" is limited to that of a feeling, even though the word itself appears 179 times alone in the New Testament. Japan, until the late nineteenth century, didn't have a word for love at all. The Greek language can boast five; *philia*, *storge*, *eros*, *agape*, and *xenia*.

"*Philia*" is commonly translated from ancient Greek to modern English as being a "brotherly love." *Philia* is the dispassionate virtuous love and loyalty to friends and family, a concept that was, interestingly, developed by Aristotle. It can also mean "love of the mind."

"*Storge*," like "*Philia*," occurs within families, but differentiates in that it specifies natural affection; that which is naturally reciprocated between parents and their children. *Storge* has been commonly defined as "motherly love."

"*Eros*" is described passionate love, with sensual desire and longing.

The Greek word, "*agape*", refers to a Godly, divine spiritual relationship. If in the Greek "*eros*" describes a physical attraction, then the Greek "*agape*" describes a spiritual one.

The fifth and last Greek word for love is "*xenia*." Its meaning translates with the most difficulty into modern English, and even when translated, doesn't easily interpret into understanding in western-thinking minds. *Xenia* is loosely translated as "hospitality," but more specifically is an almost ritualized reciprocal need-based friendship between a host and his guest. It is somewhat like the dependence-based "*storge*" in familial relationships, differing in that the *xenia* relationship can potentially take place between individuals who had previously been strangers. Both material as well as non-material benefits expressed include mutual gift giving and protection or shelter. The word in the Greek originates from traditions honoring the Greek god, Zeus, also known as Zeus Xenios, from which the word originates. In mythology, he had the role of protector of travelers, creating a religious obligation to be hospitable to travelers.

While all this may seem tedious, the impact of breaking open the limits of the English language in understanding scripture is no less than astonishing.

Imagine reading this scripture assuming that the word, love, has been translated from the Greek word, *eros*:

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

What?! I can connect with the act of physical intimacy being one in which couples are unrushed in their lovemaking and in intimate encounters we are to avoid at all costs being arrogant and/or rude to one another, but REJOICE IN WRONGDOING? What does that even mean? I shudder to think! Is God telling us through His Word to patiently endure an unskilled intimate partner? And I should hope that spouses would not boast to others about what goes on behind closed doors!

This scripture, correctly translated using the word, *agape*, changes form entirely and takes on a completely different meaning. It translates more accurately as

“God’s perfect divine love is patient and kind; His holy love does not envy or boast; Perfect Godly love is not arrogant or rude. God’s sacred love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. God’s pure, undefiled love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Godly love never ends.”

Replacing the faulty word, eros, with the correct word, agape, as correctly identified using a Strong’s concordance brings much more clarity, and ultimately, understanding, to the scripture. It takes the Word from (still true) difficult to apply to giving a clear understanding of God’s loving relationship to us that we are to try to emulate.

In each daily devotional, Rick Renner does precisely this; offering up scripture verses and unlocking the keys to understanding by breaking down and translating each scripture to illuminate the lost nuances. He does this in a palatable manner using stories to illustrate meanings and follows with questions for the reader to ask one’s self, making the devotion both personal and applicable.

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