

This is more complicated than it might appear at first sight. Usually a word does not represent a point but an area of meaning. These areas vary greatly in different languages. Thus the English word "friend" is quite generally applied to almost anyone with whom one is acquainted. The cognate German word Freund is restricted to those with whom one enjoys a very intimate relation. The English word "large," when applied to a person, refers to weight or girth but never exclusively to height. A German can speak of "a large, slender man," since the German word gross, while it generally corresponds to the English "large," may also correspond to the English "tall."

As words in various languages do not exactly correspond to one another, sometimes a rendering that can precisely represent what a word means in one context would be completely erroneous in another.

Word study is an area in which even a person who knows no Hebrew or Greek, if he will use Young's Concordance with care, can sometimes gain a much closer understanding of the meaning of an original word than he could derive from any ordinary translation. For instance the disciples are frequently commanded in the New Testament to watch, because they do not know the time when the Lord will return. Looking up "watch" in Young's Concordance one finds that this English word sometimes is used to translate each of several different Greek words. Among these, gr̄egoreō occurs a number of times in reference to watching for the Lord's return. Looking up gr̄egoreō in the back of the volume, one sees that it is translated "watch" 20 times, "wake" once, "be vigilant" once, and "watchful" once, in the King James Version. Examination of the other instances