



SPIRITUAL WORD OF THE DAY

A video for each term¹ can be found on our [Parish Facebook page](#).

Love

Agapè - a love that seeks and desires *only* the wellbeing of another.

Grace

Charis - The unmerited favour of God - unmerited as there is nothing we have done to deserve it - grace is offered freely by a God who loves unconditionally.

Hope

Elpis - anticipating a future that is better than the present based on God's faithfulness to humanity in the past; confident expectation.

Peace

Shalom (OT), *Eirene* (NT) - presence of completeness, wholeness; make complete; in a state of completeness; reconciled, at-one-ment.

Sin

Harmatia - Any thought, word or deed that distances us from the love of God.

Faith

Pitis - faith, belief, firm conviction, assurance - Friendship, Attentiveness, Investment, Togetherness, Heaven.

Disciple

Mathētēs - A life-long learner, a pupil, a student of the Way of the Messiah.

Church

Ekklésia - "called out ones", those called out of their homes to gather, to assemble, to organise; a political assembly of citizens responding to Christ's call to participate in God's mission in the world.

Ministry

Diakonia - service, to serve, a commission or ministry in the service of the Gospel; the church's purpose to equip people to "carry forth Christ's mission in the world, conferred on each Christian at baptism".

¹ New Revised Standard Version of the Bible with Strong's Numbers and Mounce Greek Dictionary.



Mission

Derekh - way, path, journey, way of life, to send, to be pushed out; Jesus is the manifestation of God's mission in our world; the Christian mission is to alert others to the universal reign of God through Christ.

God

théos - deity, creator, divine spirit, Heavenly Father; Theism - puppeteer; Thomism - ocean; Deism - watchmaker; Process - dynamic spirit.

Bible

Bible... Old French from ecclesiastical Latin *biblia*, from Greek *biblia* '(the) books', from *biblion* 'book', originally a diminutive of *biblos* 'papyrus, scroll'.

Made up of the Old and New Testaments, recounting one overarching story revealing God's nature to God's people.

Old Testament

The Christian Bible has two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the original Hebrew Bible, the sacred scriptures of the Jewish faith. The Hebrew Bible has 39 books, written over a long period of time, and is the literary archive of the ancient nation of Israel. So... these are the sacred stories of faith BEFORE the time of Jesus...

The word "testament", Hebrew *berîth*, Greek *diatheke*, signifies the covenant - which means treaty, compact, agreement - God entered into first with Abraham, then with the people of Israel.

New Testament

The New Testament - treaty, compact, agreement - books were written by Christians in the first century AD. The New Testament has 27 books written by various Christian leaders to provide guidance for the earliest Christian communities. These texts recount the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and go on to encourage early Christians in their life of faith and spirituality, individually and communally.

Gospel

From Greek *euangelion* - which means "good news", "glad tidings" or "joyful news". The Gospel is "joyful" because it recounts to an oppressed people the "Good News" of new life, new hope, a loving future, in God through Jesus. "Good News" as the story of Jesus demonstrates that the darkness of today will be overcome by the lightness of tomorrow. Gospel. *euangelion*...



Psalm

Hebrew: *mizmor*... Psalm... a song, melody or poem... there are 150 Psalms or mizmors in the Old Testament... expressed in beautiful and often powerful language... the Psalms are songs of hope, of love, of despair, of fear, of lament, of pain... of faith. Psalm... mizmor...

Prayer

deēsis in the Greek...which means... entreaty, supplication or request...

I like to think of prayer as the conversation of relationship... as a dynamic, ever-deepening union with God and all the world... sometimes we speak, sometimes we listen... but at all times we seek the health and wholeness of peace with the spirit...

Spirit/Spirituality

Greek... *pneuma*... wind, breath, substance, spiritual beings, soul...

No 'spirituality' in the Bible... Spirituality is an ancient practice approached from many perspectives. Common to all is the inner experience of a field of universal awareness beyond the material world. Spirituality enables a sense of connection and oneness with the creative and life-sustaining power of the universe, the mystery some call God. This connection creates a sense of identity, relationship, meaning and purpose. It brings peace through the recognition that all is one and one is all. Everything belongs.

Spirituality is experiential; it's something we experience in practice. Spirituality moves beyond belief in specific religious doctrine... authentic spirituality shifts consciousness - a shift from the dualistic mind to the contemplative heart.

Contemplation

Latin... *contemplari*... act of looking at, to reflect, to gaze, to ponder...

To contemplate is to go deep in search of the divine, to gaze with the eyes of the heart. Contemplative spirituality was once known as mysticism. The word mysticism was an attempt to convey the sense that humanity cannot fully know the divine, as the divine is universal 'mystery'. Over time, the term contemplative spirituality emerged incorporating a depth and breath of practices transcending any one tradition. Both terms portray an experiential rather than intellectual spirituality.



Contemplative spirituality is a way of life, not a system of belief. While it engages all the senses and faculties, it draws most from the inner centre of being we might call the heart.

Retreat

from Latin *retrahere* "draw back, withdraw, call back,"

A retreat is an intentional time of 'withdrawal' from the pressures and patterns of routine life, dedicated to the rest and renewal of one's spirit. A retreat is a time and space focused entirely on spiritual wellbeing and re-connecting with self and God, often guided by a theme like creation or Benedictine spirituality. An experienced leader guides the retreat, offering a mix of input and time for personal reflection.

The duration, location and nature of retreats varies depending upon the needs of those seeking retreat and retreat leaders. Some retreats are silent, some involve much conversation. A retreat can be one day at a local site of cultural or spiritual significance, or two weeks at a residential Retreat Centre or Monastery.

Pilgrimage

Old French... *peregrin*... a stranger, a pilgrim, a foreigner...

A pilgrimage is a journey of both body and spirit, most often to unfamiliar and sacred lands seeking new or enhanced insights about oneself, others or the world through lived experience.

Going on a pilgrimage rarely leaves the pilgrim unchanged as a pilgrimage is not simply a holiday or guided tour. A pilgrim engages with sacred or significant sites on an existential, spiritual level. While on the way, the pilgrim asks big questions, reflects on their own lives and place in the world, challenging what might be otherwise accepted wisdom or personal norms. Being a genuine pilgrim is a spiritual experience leading often to personal transformation and, sometimes, in so doing, a little discomfort.

A pilgrimage might be to a sacred site within one's own country or continent, but is most often an international experience guided by spiritual teachers. For example, one might go on pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy, to explore the life and ministry of St Francis or to the Scottish island of Iona in search of Celtic inspiration.



Repentance

metanoia: a change of mode of thought and feeling, practical reformation.

Righteousness

dikaiosynē: fair and equitable dealing, integrity, virtue, generosity. (Justice)

Reconciliation

katallagē: an exchange; reconciliation, restoration to favour, to be reconciled.

Through Christ, humanity is placed in a 'right' relationship with God and each other.

Justification

dikaiōsis: a making right or just; a declaration justice, of being made right. Because of Christ's selfless act on the cross, humanity stands before God acquitted, righteous, square.

Sanctification

hagiasmos: sanctification, moral purity, sanctity. Humanity is made whole by Christ's cross. Whole within the self and whole with God. Oneness. Holiness.

Redemption

apolytrōsis: a deliverance, procured by the payment of a ransom. Humanity is brought out of slavery to sin to a redeemed new life.

Salvation

sōtērios: imparting salvation, saving. Humanity is rescued from sin and darkness of fallen self.

Atonement

hilaskomai: to appease, render propitious; be gracious, show mercy, pardon. At-one-ment... humanity is made 'at-one' with God by Christ taking upon himself the brokenness of all humanity.

Obedience

hypakoē: a hearkening to; submission or compliance. A term often abused for human power and control, actually means to follow the way of Jesus; to be loyal to Christ's death for us and God's love for us.



Pharisee

Pharisaios: a follower of the sect of the Pharisees; a numerous and powerful sect of the Jews, distinguished for their ceremonial observances, and apparent sanctity of life, and for being rigid interpreters of the law of Moses; but who frequently violated its spirit by their traditional interpretations and precepts, to which they ascribed nearly an equal authority with the OT Scriptures. Litigious and often hypocritical.

Sadducee

Saddoukaios: one belonging to the sect of the Sadducees, which, according to the Talmud (Jewish book), was founded by one, Sadoc, about three centuries before the Christian era: they were directly opposed in sentiments to the Pharisees.

Gentile

ethnikos: not Israelites; non-Jew. Jews and everyone else.

Reformation

Reformation, also called *Protestant Reformation*, the religious revolution that took place in the Western church in the 16th century. Its greatest leaders undoubtedly were Martin Luther and John Calvin. Having far-reaching political, economic, and social effects, the Reformation became the basis for the founding of Protestantism, one of the three major branches of Christianity.

Protestant

Latin: *protestari*... protesting, to protest. **Protestantism**, movement that began in northern Europe in the early 16th century as a reaction to medieval Roman Catholic doctrines and practices.

Catholic

Greek: kata (in respect of) and holos (whole)... katholikos (universal) Roman Catholic Church - a Christian denomination with a capital C; with a lower case c it means universal, inclusive, comprehensive... why all Christians say in the Creed "one holy, catholic, apostolic church (little c).

Anglican

Latin: Angli (English) ... Church of England, as distinct from 'Roman'. **Anglicanism**, one of the major branches of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation; a Christian tradition including features of both Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.