

Bible Study tools: Online Concordance

The use of a concordance is a powerful tool to understand what the Bible writer meant. Proper use can generate vast insights into the original intent of the Scripture as well as open up untold riches of meaning lying beneath the surface. We will use one example here from Romans 12:1-2. A list of HTML references/links will be at the end.

Overall plan:

- 1) Read Scripture
- 2) Search text
- 3) Read related passages
- 4) Dig through etymologies
- 5) Follow comparative words
- 6) Make observations
- 7) draw conclusions

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

READ SCRIPTURE

i've chosen Romans 12:1-2. I've chosen the KJV because it is familiar to me. You can choose another version simply by selecting the drop down menu item of your choice

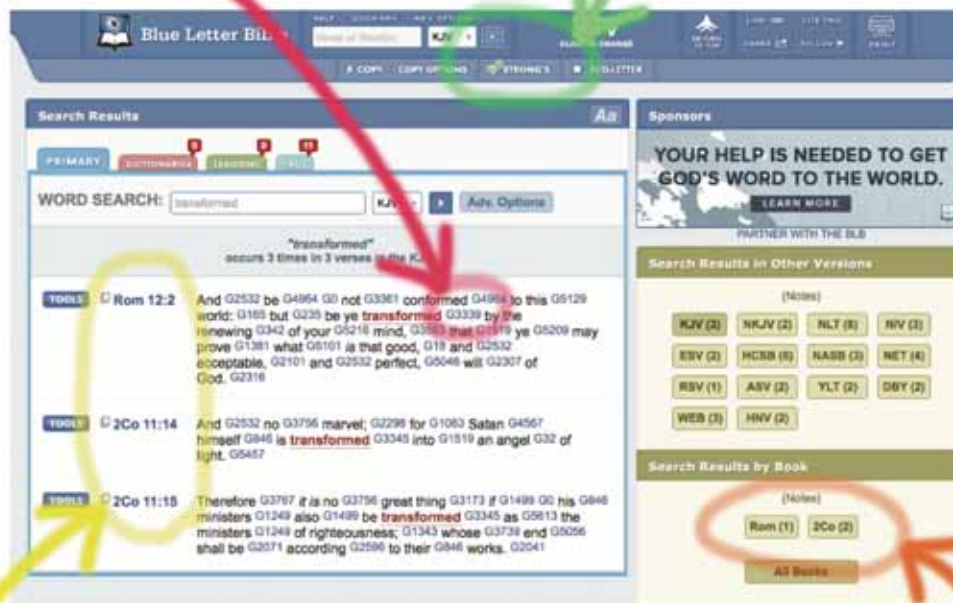


SEARCH TEXT

Once you select the search button you will be transported to the Blue Letter Bible site and it should look something like the image below. Please note several details:

The actual STRONGS concordance number. Each different number identifies a unique word. In this case the word we're interested in is #3339. Note that although there are three instances of the word transformed, two of them are a different word. We will come back to that later!

Check to make sure this box is checked. Sometimes it becomes unchecked and then you won't actually see the SC# (Strong's Concordance) number that goes with it.



This lists all the verses that our word appears in. We're primarily interested in the Romans 12 passage. But sometimes you can gain extra insights in comparing other verses to see what words a writer chose NOT to use—that tells you something about the word that they DID use.

This shows all books that the word appears in. These are all the ENGLISH translations of the word and not necessarily the same word. Note the different SC numbers (#3339 & #3345) indicate that the original language uses different words.

READ RELATED PASSAGES

At this point i usually read all related passages that show up so i can begin to catch the “gist” or “gestalt” of what the word means and therefore brings to the text. In our case, however, there is only one instance (it appears so far) of where this particular word is used. i would probably note, though, that the word also SEEMS to apply to satan and his angels in some manner. The question might arise, “is THAT how i’m suppose to change?” or “what does being transformed by God’s method have to do with what satan and his angels do?”

i’m glad you asked . . . we’ll get to that! stay tuned!

BUT now if you click the SC# (#3339) the following screen appears:

- ☐ Rom 12:2 And G2532 be G4964 G0 not G3361 conformed G4964 to this G5129 world: G186 but G235 be ye **transformed** G3339 by the renewing G342 of your G5216 mind, G3363 that G1519 ye G5209 may prove G1381 what G5101 is that good, G18 and G2532 acceptable, G2101 and G2532 perfect, G5046 will G2307 of God, G2316
- ☐ 2Co 11:14 And G2532 no G3756 marvel; G2296 for G1063 Satan G4567 himself G846 is **transformed** G3345 into G1519 an angel G32 of light, G5457
- ☐ 2Co 11:15 Therefore G3767 it is no G3756 great thing G3173 if G1499 G0 his G846 ministers G1249 also G1499 be **transformed** G3345 as G5613 the ministers G1249 of righteousness; G1343 whose G3739 end G5056 shall be G2071 according G2596 to their G846 works, G2041

Lexicon :: Strong's G3339 - metamorphō

μεταμορφώ

Transliteration	Pronunciation
metamorphō	me-tā-mor-fō'-ō (Key)
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
verb	From μετά (G3326) and μορφώ (G3445)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: View Entry

TDNT Reference: 4:755,607

KJV Translation Count — Total: 4x

The KJV translates Strong's G3339 in the following manner: transfigure (2x), transform (1x), change (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

I. to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure

A. Christ appearance was changed and was resplendent with divine brightness on the mount of transfiguration

Click for Synonyms

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

μεταμορφώ metamorphō, met-am-or-fō'-o; from G3326 and G3445; to transform (literally or figuratively, "metamorphose");—change, transfigure, transform.

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Elisabeth Elliot
PARTNER WITH THE LORD

Search Results by Book

(Notes)

Mat (1) Mar (1) Rom (1) 2Co (1)

All Books

There is a lot of information here. There is the actual greek word, the English transliteration (how you would say it using English), an audio file to hear it said, etymology (which we'll get to), how many times the word appears in the NT, which books it appears in, alternate translations, and dictionary meanings! WHEW!!!

Bible Study Tools: Using an Online Strong's Concordance

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READ RELATED PASSAGES cont'd

Now the page displays all the RELATED passages. These passages are linked linguistically because they all use the SAME greek word! Now read these passages.

Make observations:

Strong's Number **G3339** matches the Greek μεταμορφώω (*metamorphōō*), which occurs 4 times in 4 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV

[Click here to view results using the NASB Greek concordance](#)

[Click here to view results using the HCSB Greek concordance](#)

TOOLS ☐ **Mat 17:2** And was transfigured **G3339** before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

TOOLS ☐ **Mar 9:2** And after six days Jesus taketh *with him* Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured **G3339** before them.

TOOLS ☐ **Rom 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed **G3339** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

TOOLS ☐ **2Co 3:18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed **G3339** into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

observations

word used only 4 times in NT. somewhat rare!

two times it is used of Jesus' transformation at the mount of transfiguration. one time is our passage and the 2Cor passage seems to speak to the same idea (sanctification) as the one we're studying.

hmmmm . . .

what might the MAT/MAR passages have in common with the ROM/2COR passages? why did Paul use this word and not the other word (remember earlier the different SC#s)?

let's keep going!

DIG THROUGH ETYMOLOGIES

Now comes some fun stuff. Follow the various etymology links and you'll come across the following screens:

Root Word (Etymology)

From μετά (G3326) and μορφόω (G3445)

Lexicon :: Strong's G3326 - μετά

μετά

Transliteration	Pronunciation
meta	mə-tā' (Key)
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
preposition	A primary preposition (often used adverbially)

Dictionary Aids

TDNT Reference: 7:766,1102

KJV Translation Count — Total: 473x

The KJV translates Strong's G3326 in the following manner: with (345x), after (88x), among (5x), hereafter (with G5023) (4x), afterward (with G5023) (4x), against (4x), not translated (1x), miscellaneous (32x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

I. with, after, behind

this word is fairly common. it is a modifying prefix. the meaning is largely unchanged over thousands of years. think of the word "metacognition" or "metadata" and you'll understand what "meta" is about

Lexicon :: Strong's G3445 - μορφόω

μορφόω

Transliteration	Pronunciation
morphōō	mor-fo'-ō (Key)
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
verb	From the same as μορφή (G3444)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

TDNT Reference: 4:752,607

KJV Translation Count — Total: 1x

The KJV translates Strong's G3445 in the following manner: form (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

I. to form

Strong's Definitions [?] (Strong's Definitions Legend)

μορφόω morphōō, mor-fo'-ō; from the same as G3444; to fashion (figuratively): —form.

this word is much more interesting. it appears only once in the entire Bible and how it is used (Gal 4:19) seems to add to our mounting evidence for what this word is about. you can keep going with the etymology or pause here for now.

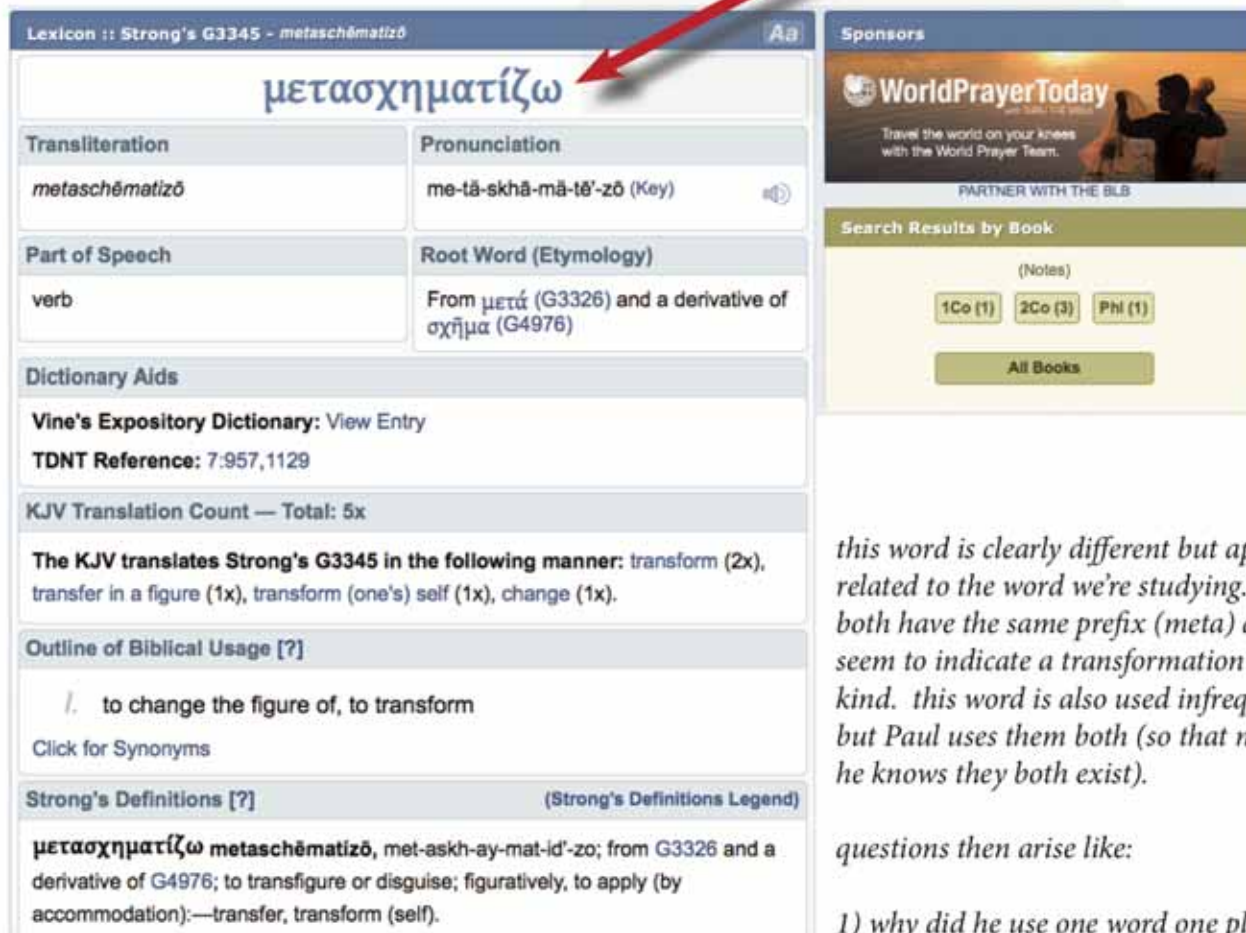
let's go back to our "contrast" word and dig through that and see what we can find!

Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed **G3445** in you,

FOLLOW COMPARITIVE WORDS

Remember all the way back to our original search? Let's now go back and follow the SC# to the other transformed (#3345) to see what we can learn.

If you follow that link then you come to this (below):



Lexicon :: Strong's G3345 - metaschematizō

μετασχηματίζω

Transliteration	Pronunciation
metaschematizō	me-tā-skhā-mā-tē'-zō (Key)
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
verb	From μετά (G3326) and a derivative of σχῆμα (G4976)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: View Entry

TDNT Reference: 7:957,1129

KJV Translation Count — Total: 5x

The KJV translates Strong's G3345 in the following manner: transform (2x), transfer in a figure (1x), transform (one's) self (1x), change (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

1. to change the figure of, to transform

Click for Synonyms

Strong's Definitions [?] (Strong's Definitions Legend)

μετασχηματίζω metaschematizō, met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo; from G3326 and a derivative of G4976; to transfigure or disguise; figuratively, to apply (by accommodation):—transfer, transform (self).

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Search Results by Book

(Notes)

1Co (1) 2Co (3) Phi (1)

All Books

this word is clearly different but appears related to the word we're studying. they both have the same prefix (meta) and seem to indicate a transformation of some kind. this word is also used infrequently, but Paul uses them both (so that means he knows they both exist).

questions then arise like:

1) why did he use one word one place and another word in a different place?

2) are the words interchangeable or is there something else going on here

let's keep going!

FOLLOW COMPARITIVE WORDS cont'd

If you look at the verses you'll notice something about all the CONTENT of the verses

- 1Co 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred **G3345** to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.
- 2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves **G3345** into the apostles of Christ.
- 2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed **G3345** into an angel of light.
- 2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed **G3345** as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
- Phi 3:21 Who shall change **G3345** our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

what do all these verses have in common in their meaning? that's the clue to the intent of Paul's use of this word

And finally follow the etymology of the word and something very different emerges as compared to the meaning of the word we're focusing on (metamorphow)

Lexicon :: Strong's G4976 - schēma

σχῆμα

Transliteration	Pronunciation
schēma	skhā'-mā (Key)
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
neuter noun	From the alternate of σχῶ (G2192)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: View Entry

TDNT Reference: 7-954,1129

Trench's Synonyms: ὁκ. μορφή, σχῆμα, ἰδέα.

KJV Translation Count — Total: 2x

The KJV translates Strong's G4976 in the following manner: fashion (2x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

1. the habitus, as comprising everything in a person which strikes the senses, the figure, bearing, discourse, actions, manner of life etc.

Click for Synonyms

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions [?])

σχῆμα schēma, skhay'-mah; from the alternate of G2192; a figure (as a mode or circumstance), i.e. (by implication) external condition:—fashion.

Sponsors

Elisabeth Elliot

SEARCH RESULTS BY BOOK

(Notes)

1Co (1) Phi (1)

All Books

this word is the ancestor of our modern word for SCHEMA and SCHEME.

notice also that this word is concerned with the outward (detected by and having to do with the senses)

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

Let's see if we can get a handle on all we've looked at so far.

In regards to **μεταμορφω** we noticed that it was used only four times and that two times were devoted to Christ's transformation (which was a revealing of His veiled glory He already had) from the inside out. The two other uses of the word involve a Christians transformational change involving becoming like Christ in some manner. We also noted that the root, **μορφω**, also appears to apply to the sanctification process.

In regards to **μετασχηματιζω**, the word seems to also apply to a transformation process. But this word has a sensory component that deals specifically with how things are perceived with the senses. This seems to indicate an external process. This word is also infrequently used. But Paul used them both, so it seems logical that he was aware of their differences to have used them purposefully.



DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Putting all this together, we can discern a few things. The transformation that Christ desires of us (ROM 12:1-2) is an internal one. He is concerned with what is inside shining out to the world. This transformation is about BECOMING the holy person He wants us to be not just SEEMING to be such from the outside. Satan only worries about outside appearances so it is safe to say that is the key difference between the two words. Moreover, the Bible indicates that we will be changed on the outside—at the 2nd coming—if the transformation from the inside has been ongoing. This all seems to connect fairly well with other passages we might think of such as God's words to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7. That our understanding lines up with other Scripture is a good indication we have uncovered Truth because of the Bible's consistency. There's certainly more here. What did you discover?



HTML LINKS

wordstudy form:

<http://www.danielegregory.info/websupport/Bible%20class%20site/webpages/biblecurr/wordstudyguide.pdf>

word search portal link:

<http://www.eliyah.com/lexicon.html>

Blueletter Bible direct link:

<https://www.blueletterbible.org>