

## Seek

- Two, related Greek words are translated “seek”: εκζητεω and ζητεω. The prefix, εκ, adds the literal concept of “out” or “out of.” The longer word is used only seven times in the New Testament:
  - Luke 11:50 – 51 May (shall) be *required* of this generation
  - Acts 15:17 (Amos 9:11 – 12) So that the rest of mankind may *seek* the Lord.
  - Romans 11:7 Israel has not obtained what it *seeks*
  - Hebrews 11:6 A rewarder of those who *diligently seek* Him
  - Hebrews 12:17 Although he *sought* it *diligently* with tears
  - 1 Peter 1:10 Of this salvation the prophets have *inquired* and searched carefully
- The shorter word is used 82 times in various contexts, seeking people for good or evil, seeking God or His Kingdom, seeking understanding, or similar things. A representative list follows:
  - Matthew 2:13 Herod will *seek* the young Child to destroy Him
  - Matthew 6:33 *Seek* first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
  - Matthew 7:7 *Seek* and you will find
  - Matthew 12:46, 47 His mother and brothers stood outside *seeking* to speak with Him
  - Matthew 28:5 I know that you *seek* Jesus who was crucified. He is not here.
  - Luke 9:9 He [Herod] sought to *see* him [John]
  - Luke 12:48 To whom much is given, from him much will be *required*
  - Luke 13:24 Many will *seek* to enter and will not be able
  - Luke 17:33 Whoever *seeks* to save his life will lose it
  - Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to *seek* and save that which was lost
  - John 5:30 I do not *seek* My own will but he will of the Father who sent Me
  - John 7:19, 20, 25 Why do you *seek* to kill me?
  - John 7:34, 8:21, 13:33 You will *seek* Me and not find. Where I am you cannot come
  - John 8:50 I do not *seek* My own glory
  - John 16:19 Are you *inquiring* among yourselves?
  - Acts 9:11 *Inquire* at the house of Judas for one named Saul
  - Acts 16:10 We *sought* to go to Macedonia
  - Acts 17:27 So that they should *seek* the Lord
  - Acts 27:30 As the sailors were *seeking* to escape the ship...
  - Romans 2:7 Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good *seek* for glory, honor and immortality
  - Romans 10:3 *Seeking* to establish their own righteousness
  - 1 Corinthians 1:22 The Jews request a sign and Greeks *seek* for wisdom
  - 1 Corinthians 4:2 It is *required* in stewards that one be found faithful
  - 1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no one *seek* his own but each one the other's
  - Colossians 3:1 *Seek* those things which are above
- The two words above do not impart any special meaning inherent to the words, but rather derive their specific meaning from the context.
  - The prefix is more a stylistic addition than a carrier of additional meaning.
  - The addition of “diligently” (which is not a separate word in the text) seems to be an addition by the translators without linguistic basis.

- In the passages concerning seeking God, what does the context imply about its characteristics?
  - Seeking can be fruitless due to inaccurate goals
    - Luke 13:24 Many will *seek* to enter and will not be able – Despite religious activity, God does not know them.
    - Luke 17:33 Whoever *seeks* to save his life will lose it – Physical life is not the objective
    - John 7:34, 8:21, 13:33 You will *seek* Me and not find. Where I am you cannot come – The Pharisees could not overcome their misconceptions and lack of love.
    - Romans 10:3 *Seeking* to establish their own righteousness – Legalism kills
    - 1 Corinthians 1:22 The Jews request a sign and Greeks *seek* for wisdom – Theory must not take precedence over evidence.
  - What to seek
    - Matthew 6:33 *Seek* first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
    - Romans 2:7 Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good *seek* for glory, honor and immortality
    - 1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no one *seek* his own but each one the other's
    - Colossians 3:1 *Seek* those things which are above
- Methods for re-focused seeking, not as divisive weapons but as consistent tools
  - Communication requires well-defined terms
    - Bad doctrine survives through inconsistent definitions
    - What they hear must be the same as what you say
    - Most have never considered a word study approach
    - If we don't fix bad definitions, they cannot read and understand
  - Discuss, don't lecture
  - Build from points of agreement
  - The Law was made for man, not man for the Law (be flexible)
  - Defeat minimalism
  - Recognize both the benefits and the hindrances inherent to traditions
  - Ask important, thought-provoking questions rather than easy answers