The Power of Words

# Purpose

The purpose of this exercise is to help you identify the power of words by investigating their specific meanings, identifying where you may have misunderstood or misinterpreted certain words, and realize how Christ, who is literally “The Word” can speak to you through words and often “The Word”.

1. Choose a sentence or two from your spiritual reading
   1. If you don’t have one, <https://www.morningoffering.com/> sends out daily emails with excellent excerpts, highly recommend this as a place to start. Completely free.
2. Identify words that stand out to you
3. Write them down
4. Write out your own understanding of the word, define it in your own words
5. Now comes the fun part: look up the dictionary definition, I recommend Merriam Webster. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/> Remember not to use definitions that repeat the word you are defining!
   1. Use the context of the sentence to find the best definition.
   2. Does your definition match precisely to the dictionary definition?
   3. Is the dictionary definition more specific than yours?
6. Now look up the etymology of the word. Go to the oldest known meaning first.

<https://www.etymonline.com/>

* 1. Does this help you understand the specific meaning of the word better?
  2. \*\*What is the particular nuance (subtle distinction) of this word that may not have been identified in your own definition?\*\*
  3. How has your understanding of the word been enhanced?

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to be present, “Come Holy Spirit”. Pause a moment
   1. What is God speaking to you in this realization?
   2. Did a specific scripture phrase or song come to mind? Write it down.
   3. Thank God for this time with Him and whatever has been revealed or not yet revealed.

# Example

1. “God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life.” CCC

2. “God, **infinitely** **perfect** and **blessed** in himself, in a plan of **sheer** **goodness** **freely** **created** man **to make** him **share** in his own blessed life.” CCC

| **3. Word** | **4. My Definition** | **5. Dictionary Definition** | **6. Etymology** | **7. Nuance** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Infinitely** | goes on forever | Having no limits, Endless, Boundless (Infinite) | Eternal, Limitless | A heavenly endlessness |
| **Perfect** | flawless | Having no mistakes or flaws | Complete, Full, Finished, Lacking in no way. | Complete (reached its intended end) |
| **Blessed** | God-given attention | Having a sacred nature | “Supremely happy” or  “Consecrated, Holy” | “Supreme Happiness” |
| **Sheer** | Nothing but | Unqualified, utter, pure, unmixed | Exempt, free from guilt OR  Absolute, utter, unmixed | Absolute |
| **Goodness** | Absence of bad | Of high quality | “Good” an elongating of the word, “God” | God IS goodness |
| **Freely** | With no outside influence | Autonomously, Independently | “Of one’s own accord”, “without constraint” | All on his own, because He wanted to. |
| **Created** | Made from nothing | To make something, to cause something to exist | “To bring into being” | To make something exist which did not before. |
| **To Make** | To allow | To cause to happen | To bring into existence | To be the cause of bringing into existence (this was His plan) |
| **Share** | Mutual lived experience | To partake of, experience or enjoy with others. To have in common | “A portion or division of” OR “to enjoy or suffer something with others” | I think it’s both a portion of the divine life and to be shared in communion! |

8. Come Holy Spirit…What is God saying to me here?

God, in an outpouring of His excessive, unadulterated goodness, determined, all on His own, to bring ME into existence SOLELY for the intention that I share in His eternal existence of supreme happiness, (both in experience and as my inheritance as his beloved daughter)!!!!

Holy cow, I did not see this coming. An answer to my greatest prayer. “Lord, help me know your love for me.”

…Thank you God for illuminating my mind and bringing clarity and truth to my understanding.

# For Fun

Try steps 4-7 with your **Name**! Nothing is an accident for God. Everything is on purpose, serves a purpose, he works all things for our Good. What does your name mean to you, what do you find as you dig, and what is God prompting you to understand?