

2 / 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 / Encouragements / Word Studies

Another type of study is looking at the Greek words and attempting to get a better picture about what they mean through lexicons and dictionaries. This little passage is a quick rifling of commands with nearly one word commands. Let's try to learn more about each one with some dictionary entries. I have copied and pasted these in for your quickness of use, but such things can be accessed by anyone with a bit of know-how, reference books, or software. we will focus on the verbs in 1 Corinthians 16:13.

Read each word and examine the dictionary/lexicon entries for each. Try to think about these words and how the research documents help you understand their meanings better.

Be Watchful / grēgoreō / be on the alert, be awake

What you learn after study about this word:

Logos Bible Sense / to be alert — be awake / to beware, conceived of as staying awake.

Louw Nida...

27.56 γρηγορέωb: (a figurative extension of meaning of γρηγορέω 'to stay awake,' 23.72) to be in continuous readiness and alertness to learn — 'to be alert, to be watchful, to be vigilant.' γρηγορεῖτε, στήκετε ἐν τῇ πίστει 'be alert, stand fast in the faith' 1 Cor 16:13. ¹

BDAG... [note which one of the three meanings is meant here by finding the 1 Corinthians 16 reference below... note cross references.]

① to stay awake, be watchful (Herm. Wr. 11, 21b; 1 Macc 12:27; 2 Esdr 17:3) Mt 24:43; 26:38, 40; Mk 13:34; 14:34, 37; Lk 12:37, 39 v.l.

② to be in constant readiness, be on the alert (fig. ext. of 1; cp. Bar 2:9 al.; cp. our 'keep one's eyes open') Mt 24:42; 25:13; 26:41; Mk 13:35, 37; 14:38; Ac 20:31; 1 Cor 16:13; 1 Th 5:6; 1 Pt 5:8; Rv 3:2f; 16:15; IPol 1:3.

• ὑπὲρ τῆς ζωῆς be vigilant for your life D 16:1.

• Of alertness in prayer γρηγοροῦντες ἐν αὐτῇ (=προσευχῇ) be wide awake about it Col 4:2.

¹ (Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 332.)

③ to remain fully alive, be alive (opp. to be dead, fig. ext. of 1) γ. and καθεύδω, be alive and be dead 1 Th 5:10 (this opposition develops in association w. the popular consolatory motif of death as a sleep, s. καθεύδω 3).²

Stand Firm / stēkō / stand firm, stand

What you learn after study about this word:

Logos Bible Sense / to stand (maintain) — to hold one's ground, maintain a position; be steadfast or upright.

Louw Nida...

13.30 στήκωb: to continue in a state, with a possible implication of acceptability— 'to continue to be, to stand.' τῷ ἰδίῳ κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει 'stand or fall to the advantage or disadvantage of his own master' or 'whether he stands or falls is a concern of his own master' Ro 14:4. For a discussion of στήκω as part of an idiom in Ro 14:4, see 87.56.

BDAG... find reference to determine which # meaning to reference.

① to be in a standing position, stand Mk 11:25;

- ἔξω στ.
- stand outside 3:31.
- μέσος ὑμῶν στήκει there is one standing in your midst J 1:26 v.l. ὁ δράκων ἔστηκεν ἐνώπιον τῆς γυναικός Rv 12:4 v.l. (s. above).

② to be firmly committed in conviction or belief, fig.

- ext of 1:
- stand firm, be steadfast ἐν τινι in someth.:
- ἐν τῇ πίστει 1 Cor 16:13.
- ἐν κυρίῳ Phil 4:1; 1 Th 3:8.
- ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι in one spirit Phil 1:27.
- τῷ ἰδίῳ κυρίῳ στήκειν ἢ πίπτειν stand or fall to the advantage or disadvantage of his own master or to be his own master's concern whether he stands or falls Ro 14:4.
- Abs. 2 Th 2:15; Gal 5:1 ('in freedom' is to be supplied).

² William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 208.

Act Like Men / andrize the / act courageously

What you learn about this word:

Logos Bible Sense / to be courageous — be manly / possessing qualities befitting a man

Louw Nida...

25.165 ἀνδρίζομαι: (a figurative extension of meaning of ἀνδρίζομαι 'to be manly' or 'to become a man,' not occurring in the NT) to exhibit courage in the face of danger— 'to be brave, to be courageous.' στήκετε ἐν τῇ πίστει, ἀνδρίξεσθε, κραταιοῦσθε 'stand firm in the faith; be brave; be strong' 1 Cor 16:13.

Be Strong / krataiousthe / become strong, strengthen

What you learn about this word:

Logos Bible Sense / to be strong — to be or become strong or powerful beyond the average or expected; whether physically or in one's constitution.

Louw Nida...

76.10 κραταιόομαιb: (derivative of κραταιός 'powerful,' 76.9) to become strong psychologically — 'to become strong, to become powerful.' ἐκραταιοῦτο πνεύματι 'he became strong in spirit' or 'he developed in spirit' Lk 1:80; κραταιωθῆναι διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν ἔσω ἄνθρωπον 'to become strengthened through his Spirit in the inner person' Eph 3:16; ἀνδρίξεσθε, κραταιοῦσθε 'be brave, be strong' 1 Cor 16:13. In 1 Cor 16:13 κραταιόομαι must be understood in a non-physical sense. The implication is that the believer is to be sufficiently strong as to be able to dominate any evil influence.