

## **Payton, Bible Translation, Session 22, Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases Resources from Notebooklm**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Payton, Bible Translation, Session 22, Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. George Payton's lecture** on Bible translation focuses on the complexities of translating verbal ideas and genitive phrases, particularly those containing abstract nouns. He illustrates the challenges using examples from various New Testament passages, emphasizing the need to break down complex phrases into simpler, more understandable components for modern readers. The lecture highlights the difficulty in translating idioms and figurative language accurately while maintaining the original meaning. Payton underscores the importance of careful interpretation and the use of various resources, including commentaries and other translations, to arrive at an accurate and accessible rendering. He stresses the ongoing process of interpretation and the translator's reliance on God's guidance for accurate and impactful translation.

**2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Payton, Session 22, Genitive Phrases – Double click the icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introductory Series → Bible Translation).**



**Payton\_BT\_Session2  
2.mp3**

### 3. Bible Translation: Session 22, Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases

#### Understanding Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases in Bible Translation

#### Short-Answer Quiz

1. What are the two main challenges in translating verbal ideas?
2. Why are genitive phrases containing verbal ideas particularly complex to translate?
3. Explain the concept of "giving knowledge" as an idiomatic expression.
4. What is the primary goal of breaking down abstract nouns in Bible translation?
5. In the phrase "teaching of the Lord," who is the agent of teaching and what is the content being taught?
6. Explain the difference in meaning between "deceitfulness of riches" and "cheating someone out of their riches."
7. What makes the phrase "the desires for other things" challenging to translate?
8. How can the concept of "fruitfulness" in the Parable of the Sower be understood figuratively?
9. What is the importance of using commentaries and other Bible versions in the translation process?
10. Explain the process of identifying clausal relationships and their significance in understanding a passage like Romans 1:1-7.

#### Answer Key

1. Verbal ideas are cryptic, omitting explicit information, and they are used grammatically as nouns or adjectives rather than verbs, making their function ambiguous.
2. They combine the challenges of interpreting both verbal ideas and the relationships expressed in genitive phrases, often involving abstract concepts and figurative language.

3. "Giving knowledge" is idiomatic because knowledge is an abstract concept, not a concrete object that can be physically given. It implies actions like teaching, informing, or revealing.
4. Breaking down abstract nouns aims to make the text clearer and more accessible to readers by expressing the underlying actions and relationships in simpler terms.
5. Paul and Barnabas are the agents of teaching, and the content is the word of the Lord, referring to the scriptures and teachings about Jesus.
6. "Deceitfulness of riches" uses personification, suggesting that riches themselves have the power to deceive, while "cheating someone out of their riches" implies a human agent taking money from another.
7. It is abstract and requires interpretation to understand what these "other things" might be in the context of the Parable of the Sower.
8. Fruitfulness symbolizes the positive outcomes of receiving the word, such as good works, spiritual growth, and transformed lives.
9. Commentaries and other versions provide valuable insights from scholars and translators, helping to ensure an interpretation within an acceptable range of understanding.
10. Identifying which clauses are main and which are subordinate clarifies the flow of information and helps to determine the emphasis and relationships between different ideas in the passage.

### **Essay Questions**

1. Analyze the challenges of translating biblical texts that employ a high density of abstract nouns and genitive phrases, as exemplified in Ephesians 1:1-4. Discuss specific strategies for effectively communicating the meaning of such passages in a target language.
2. Explore the significance of understanding the cultural and contextual background when translating idiomatic expressions and figures of speech. Using examples from the provided text, demonstrate how misinterpreting cultural nuances can lead to inaccurate translations.
3. Discuss the role of personification in biblical texts, specifically focusing on its use in the Parable of the Sower. Analyze how translating personified elements, such

as "the deceitfulness of riches," requires careful consideration of both literal meaning and figurative intent.

4. Evaluate the process of breaking down a complex sentence, like the one describing the Parable of the Sower, into smaller, more manageable units. Explain how this process aids in achieving a clearer and more accurate translation of the overall meaning.
5. Reflect on the ethical responsibilities of Bible translators. Discuss the importance of humility, careful research, and a reliance on the Holy Spirit in seeking to faithfully convey the message of Scripture to a new audience.

## Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition	Example
<b>Verbal Idea</b>	noun or adjective derived from a verb, retaining some of the verb's meaning.	"Forgiveness" (from "to forgive")
<b>Genitive Phrase</b>	phrase that indicates possession or a relationship between two nouns.	"The will of God"
<b>Abstract Noun</b>	noun that refers to a concept or quality rather than a concrete object.	"Love," "Justice," "Salvation"
<b>Idiom phrase</b>	with a figurative meaning that differs from the literal meanings of the individual words.	"To give knowledge"
<b>Figure of Speech</b>	word or phrase used in a non-literal sense for rhetorical effect.	"The word is choking"
<b>Personification</b>	figure of speech in which inanimate objects or abstract concepts are given human qualities.	"Riches deceive people"
<b>Metonymy</b>	figure of Speech in which a word or phrase is substituted with another closely associated word or phrase.	"The world" representing "worldly things"

**Clause** group of words containing a subject and a verb, forming a complete thought. "He believed in Jesus."

**Phrase** group of words that function as a unit within a sentence but may not contain a finite verb. "By the will of God"

## 4. Briefing Document

### Briefing Doc: Translating Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases in the Bible

**Source:** Dr. George Payton, Bible Translation, Session 22, Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases

#### Main Themes:

- The inherent challenges of translating verbal ideas and genitive phrases, especially in the New Testament.
- The need to break down complex phrases and figures of speech to make the meaning accessible to modern readers.
- The importance of utilizing various resources and considering existing interpretations when making translation choices.
- The meticulous and iterative nature of Bible translation, requiring both linguistic skill and spiritual discernment.

#### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Verbal Ideas:** These are cryptic constructions that express actions as nouns or adjectives, posing challenges for translation due to missing information and unfamiliar grammatical structures. For example, "forgiveness of sins" requires unpacking the verb "to forgive" and its relationship to the object "sins."
- **Genitive Phrases:** These phrases indicate possession or association, further complicating the translation process when combined with verbal ideas. The phrase "the teaching of the Lord" needs to be deconstructed to reveal the subject (Paul and Barnabas), the verb (teach), and the object (the word of the Lord).
- **Abstract Nouns:** The frequent use of abstract nouns like "salvation," "redemption," and "intention" adds another layer of complexity, demanding careful interpretation and clear expression in the target language.
- **Idioms and Figures of Speech:** The Bible utilizes various idioms and figures of speech, such as personification and metonymy, requiring translators to understand their intended meaning and find equivalent expressions in the target language. For instance, "the deceitfulness of riches" personifies "riches" as the subject performing the action of "deceiving."

- **Breaking Down Complex Phrases:** Dr. Payton emphasizes the importance of systematically analyzing complex phrases by:
  - Identifying the verbal nouns and participles.
  - Identifying the participants and their roles.
  - Recognizing figures of speech and their implications.
  - Determining the relationship between clauses and their prominence.
- **Resources and Interpretation:** While linguistic analysis is crucial, translators should consult commentaries, other Bible versions, and scholarly works to understand established interpretations and ensure their translation falls within an acceptable range.
- **The Importance of Clarity and Accuracy:** The ultimate goal is to produce a translation that is clear, accurate, and faithful to the original text, removing stumbling blocks for readers while preserving the intended message.

#### Quotes:

- "We're trying to alleviate the burden on the reader to try to figure things out."
- "The whole process of translating and breaking down abstract nouns takes time to develop these skills in order to interpret these passages, and it takes time to develop the skills to communicate these passages."
- "We rely on God to give us those insights into understanding and how to express it."
- "We use all of these resources... and try to arrive at an interpretation that is in the acceptable range."
- "Such is the work of translation."

#### Conclusion:

This session highlights the intricate and challenging task of translating biblical texts, particularly those laden with verbal ideas and genitive phrases. Dr. Payton emphasizes a methodical approach to analysis, the need to understand the nuances of the original language, and the importance of utilizing available resources to arrive at a clear and faithful translation.

## 5. FAQs on Payton, Bible Translation, Session 22, Translating Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: Verbal Ideas and Genitive Phrases in Bible Translation

#### 1. What makes translating verbal ideas challenging?

Verbal ideas in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, often present translation challenges due to their cryptic nature. They omit explicit information and utilize verbal nouns in ways that differ from typical English usage. This can lead to ambiguity and difficulty in understanding the intended meaning.

#### 2. What are genitive phrases, and how do they complicate translation?

Genitive phrases express a relationship of possession or association between two nouns. When these phrases contain verbal ideas or abstract nouns, the complexity increases. For instance, "forgiveness of sins" is a genitive phrase where "forgiveness" is a verbal noun. Understanding the exact relationship and intended meaning requires careful analysis.

#### 3. Can you provide an example of a challenging genitive phrase and explain the difficulties involved?

The phrase "the deceitfulness of riches" from Mark 4:19 poses a significant challenge. The abstract noun "deceitfulness" derived from the verb "to deceive" and the noun "riches" create ambiguity. Is it people deceiving others about riches, or are riches themselves deceiving people? Identifying the subject and object of the verb "to deceive" is crucial for accurate interpretation.

#### 4. Why is it important to break down genitive phrases containing verbal ideas?

Breaking down these phrases helps clarify the relationship between the nouns and the underlying verbal concept. This process involves identifying the verb, the subject, the object, and any figurative language involved. By doing so, translators can more accurately convey the intended meaning in a clear and understandable way.

#### 5. What strategies can translators employ to overcome these challenges?

Translators can employ various strategies:

- **Identify the verb:** Determine the underlying verb from which the verbal noun is derived.
- **Identify participants:** Determine the subject and object of the verb.



- **Analyze figurative language:** Identify any idioms, metaphors, or personification.
- **Consult resources:** Utilize commentaries, other translations, and linguistic tools.

## **6. How can understanding cultural context aid in translation?**

Cultural context plays a crucial role in understanding idiomatic expressions and figurative language. Translators must be aware of cultural nuances and how they might influence the interpretation of specific phrases. For instance, in some cultures, the concept of "deceitfulness" might be closely tied to financial swindling rather than a broader notion of deception.

## **7. Why is it important for translators to approach their work with humility?**

Translating biblical text requires a deep understanding of the original languages, cultural context, and theological concepts. Due to the inherent complexity and ambiguity, translators must approach their task with humility, recognizing that their interpretations may not always be perfect or definitive. It is a continuous process of seeking the most accurate and faithful rendering of the text.

## **8. What is the ultimate goal of accurately translating verbal ideas and genitive phrases?**

The ultimate goal is to remove stumbling blocks for readers, making the Bible's message clear and accessible to all. By carefully analyzing and unpacking these complex phrases, translators can bridge the gap between the original languages and contemporary audiences, facilitating a deeper understanding of God's word.