

# Some key structural/grammatical things to look for

## 1.) Repeated words or similar words

**Psalm 136:1-5**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

**His love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods.

**His love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

**His love endures forever.**

To him who alone does great wonders,

**His love endures forever.**

who by his understanding made the heavens,

**His love endures forever.**

## 2.) Cause and Effect (Clue words: Therefore, for, then, because)

**Romans 12:1** I urge you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

**Psalm 13:6** I will sing to the LORD, **Because** He has dealt bountifully with me.

**Matthew 11:29-30** “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, **for** I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. “**For** My yoke is easy, and My load is light.”

## 3.) Stated Purpose (Clue words: That, So, for this purpose, in order)

**Joshua 20:30-31** These were the appointed cities for all the sons of Israel and for the stranger who sojourns among them, **that** whoever kills any person unintentionally may flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stands before the congregation.

**Colossians 1:29** And **for this purpose** also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

**1 John 3:5** And you know that He appeared **in order** to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

## 4.) Conditional Clauses (Clue words: If, Then)

**Nehemiah 1:8-9** “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘**If** you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, **but if** you return to me and obey my commands, **then** even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’”

## 5.) Comparisons: Similies (where one this is like another) & Metaphors (where one this is another) (Clue words: As, Like)

**Psalm 42:1** **As** the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God

**Isaiah 40:31** But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

**James 3:3-6** When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **The tongue also is a fire**, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

## 6.) Contrasts (Clue words: but, however, nevertheless, except, although, other than)

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, **but** the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Luke 11:11-13** “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**Galatians 6:14** But may it never be that I should boast, **except** in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

## 7.) Lists (Clue words: And, Nor, Or, Also)

**Gal 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love  
joy  
peace,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness and  
self-control.

Against such things there is no law.

**Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death, **nor** life, **nor** angels, **nor** principalities, **nor** things present, **nor** things to come, **nor** powers, **nor** height, **nor** depth, **nor** any other created thing,

shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 8.) Examples (movement from general to specific)

**Galatians 5:16-21** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. . . . The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

## 9.) Summaries (movement from specific to general)

**James 2:21-26** Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. . . . In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? **As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**

## 10.) Questions (and Answers)

**Romans 6:1-3** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

## 11.) Methodologies (Clue words: by, through, by means of)

**Psalms 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

**Romans 3:24** . . . being justified as a gift **by** His grace **through** the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

## 12.) Emotions

**Galatians 4:12** I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more **gladly** about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

**Galatians 3:1-4** **You foolish Galatians!** Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing?

## 13.) Grammatical Structures

- Verbs (note tense, commands, active/passive)
- Nouns (Subjects and Objects)
- Pronouns (identify who or what)
- Adjectives
- Conjunctions
- Prepositional phrases
- Figures of speech
- Interchanges in dialog
- Connectivity between passages