

How to Answer Question 16: What Personal Theme Emerges from This Study of the Text?

Now that we've observed and interpreted this Scripture, we'll summarize what the Spirit has shown us and determine how we can translate it into action.

1. Review your answers to Questions 1 through 11 (especially Question 6) looking for **common threads** and noticing the **big picture or aha moments** from your answers. Note or highlight anything that catches your attention.
2. Next, consider your answers to Questions 12-15. What continues to **fascinate** or **intrigue** you? Write what you're noticing in your study journal, and wait a day or two before going to the next step.
3. Read completely through the study passage, first using your favorite translation, then again using another version. Of all the work you've done, what **one principle does it seem the Spirit is pressing upon you from this study?**
4. If necessary, edit what you identify to a word or short phrase, then write it in your study notes.

Hints & Hacks

- This question begins the focus shift from **what you saw** in the passage and **what it means** to **what you will do** with this truth. This is the miracle of God's Word: it changes us as we receive it.
- If you're having difficulty settling on a single theme, **you may need to focus at a higher level**. Do this by making a list of potential themes and thinking about how they relate to one another.
- Keep in mind, **study themes are personal** and **can be seasonal**. You can study the same passage with someone else whose theme is different from yours; and later study it again to discover a totally different principle.
- I like to keep track of the themes from the studies I've completed. I write each them and the study date in the margin of my bound Bible next to the passage.