The Biblical Counseling Reference Guide
Dedication

In 1986 I founded Hope For The Heart, never imagining that it would one day reach 80-plus countries in 28 different languages. Throughout the years, the Counseling Keys have been the foundation for our every teaching, outreach, conference, and radio broadcast (we have two). The Counseling Keys represent biblical teaching on life’s most pressing issues and also provide the backbone for this reference guide.

Today, our 100-topic Biblical Counseling Library is used worldwide in counseling offices, churches, universities, seminaries, and by people who simply have a heart to help others. Also, 21 Hope Centers span the globe providing biblical hope and practical help in at-risk communities that are being transformed...and dozens more of these counseling outposts will be launched to spread hope to the world.

With a mixture of genuine humility and heartfelt gratitude, I dedicate The Biblical Counseling Reference Guide to our international partners and to counselors who serve to provide biblical hope and relevant help to those in need around the world.
Acknowledgments

At times this project seemed insurmountable…yet because of the expert help and diligent collaboration between our Hope For The Heart team and those at Harvest House Publishers, *The Biblical Counseling Reference Guide* is now a reality…the culmination of a monumental cooperative effort dedicated to its completion!

With so many involved in the compilation of this concordance it would truly be impossible to recount the names of everyone involved. I offer my deepest gratitude to every hand and heart who worked on the project—the resourceful researchers and writers…those who searched and surveyed the Scriptures…those who compiled key verses, delineated the definitions, and partnered with us in prayer.

From the inception of this project, we have always had as our foundation...

“First seek the counsel of the LORD.”

(1 Kings 22:5)
Today, more than ever, we need *biblical hope and practical help* when the challenges of life threaten to overwhelm us. That is the reason for *The Biblical Counseling Reference Guide*. This resource connects our current concerns and contemporary questions with biblical wisdom.

After becoming a Christian, I was deeply drawn to biblical truth—especially to passages that pointed to the practical application of that truth. In 1989, I began teaching a topical Bible study called *Counseling Through the Bible*. Week by week, over the next three years, I taught on 96 topics—a daunting task that reminds me of the work that went into putting this reference guide together. God used these studies to bring real change to so many lives. Even now, they still provide *God’s Truth for Today’s Problems*...for those who need counsel and for those with a heart to counsel others.

Although much has changed since founding the ministry Hope For The Heart in 1986, the most important foundational truths remain the same—God’s Word and God’s ways have not changed, and I firmly believe the Bible provides the only reliable framework for dealing with all of life’s issues.

Even though certain topics and modern terminology may not be found in the pages of Scripture, that does not mean the Bible is silent on those themes. For example, even though Scripture doesn’t mention anorexia (the cause of untold suffering and many deaths every year), the Bible does address underlying struggles related to eating disorders, such as self-worth, perfectionism, anger, and loneliness. Therefore, we can be more successful when we learn how to mine the Scriptures for principles
relevant to our real-life problems and develop steps to put those principles to work in our lives.

It is with this goal in mind that we designed The Biblical Counseling Reference Guide. My prayer is that it will help you—and help you help others—as you seek God’s truth for today.

—June Hunt
Part 1:

Biblical Counseling Reference Guide
### Abandonment

**Definition:** Leaving or deserting a person (often a spouse and children) and failing to provide necessary support for their well-being.

**Key Verses:**
- Psalm 27:10
- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

**See Also:**
- Abuse
- Betrayal
- Child Abuse
-Death
-Desertion
-Neglect

### Ability

**Definition:**
The capacity to accomplish an intended purpose or task.

**Key Verses:**
- Zechariah 4:6
- 2 Corinthians 9:8

**See Also:**
- Accomplishment
- Adversity
- Capability
- Decision Making
- Employment

### Abomination

**Definition:**
A vile, detestable, or repulsive action or person.

**Key Verses:**
- Proverbs 6:16-19
- Proverbs 11:20

**See Also:**
- Apostasy
- Immorality
- Judgment
- Punishment
- Shame
- Sin

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### Of the way of truth

- 2 Peter 2:15
- Jude 11

### Lack of

- Exodus 6:30

### Trust God for

- Nehemiah 4:1-10
- 2 Corinthians 9:8

### Consequences of abandoning God

- Joshua 24:20
- Jeremiah 2:19

**God will not abandon His people**

- 1 Samuel 12:22
- 1 Kings 6:13
- Nehemiah 9:17
- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

### Of a spouse

- Proverbs 2:17

### Of God

- Deuteronomy 31:16
- Joshua 24:16

### Appraisal of

- 2 Corinthians 11:5-6

### From God

- Exodus 4:10-12
- Exodus 28:3
- Exodus 31:3
- 1 Samuel 17:32-37
- John 14:12
- Acts 6:8
- Philippians 4:13
- 1 Peter 4:11

### Human

- Genesis 11:1-6
- Genesis 47:6
- 1 Chronicles 26:6

### Human strength inadequate

- 1 Samuel 2:9

### Abomination of desolation

- Daniel 9:27
- Daniel 12:11
- Matthew 24:15
- Mark 13:14

### Of dishonesty

- Deuteronomy 25:13-16
- Proverbs 12:22
- Proverbs 20:10
- Proverbs 20:23

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Abortion

Definition:
The termination of a pregnancy, resulting in death of the unborn.

Key Verses:
Psalm 139:13-16
Jeremiah 1:5

See Also:
Adoption
Forgiveness
Guilt
Mother
Pregnancy…
Unplanned
Single Parenting

Abortion is not a loving choice
Romans 13:9

An unborn child is a living soul
Hosea 12:3

Child before birth
Jeremiah 1:5
Luke 1:41
Luke 1:44

Child wonderfully made
Psalm 139:13-16
Ecclesiastes 11:5

Choose life
Deuteronomy 30:19

Comfort in
Psalm 10:14

Condemned
Genesis 9:5-6
Exodus 20:13
Exodus 21:22-25
Deuteronomy 5:17
Proverbs 6:16-17

God forms the child
Deuteronomy 32:6
Isaiah 44:2
Isaiah 44:24
John 9:1-3

God’s care for all those involved
Psalm 68:5

Importance of children
Luke 18:15-16

Indicates rebellion against God
Psalm 106:38

Physical bodies belong to God
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Rescues the innocent
Proverbs 24:11-12

Reunion with lost child
2 Samuel 12:23

Abuse

Definition:
The wrong use of something or the insulting or cruel treatment of someone, usually resulting in harm.

Key Verses:
Psalm 28:4-7
Psalm 34:18

See Also:
Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Childhood Sexual Abuse
Emotional Abuse
Incest
Spiritual Abuse
Spouse Abuse
Verbal and Emotional Abuse

Condemned
Exodus 22:21
Leviticus 19:33
Ezekiel 22:29
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<td><strong>Acceptance</strong></td>
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<td>Proverbs 19:20</td>
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<td><strong>Accountability</strong></td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> Being responsible for something or answerable to someone.</td>
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<td><strong>Addiction</strong></td>
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<td>To serve the Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A mild or kind warning for the purpose of correction.</td>
<td>The transitional period of growth between childhood and adulthood characterized by dramatic emotional, social, and physical changes.</td>
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<td><strong>Key Verses:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Key Verses:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The legal process of receiving someone else’s child and the</td>
<td>Voluntary sexual</td>
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**Adultery**

**Definition:**
Voluntary sexual
intercourse between a married person and someone other than their legal spouse.

**Key Verses:**
- Matthew 5:27-28
- 1 Corinthians 6:18

**See Also:**
- Cheating
- Immorality
- Lust
- Marriage
- Sexual Integrity
- Temptation

Adultery brings God’s judgment
- 2 Samuel 12:1-12

Adultery leads to more sinful choices
- 2 Samuel 11:15

Attributed to false teachers
- 2 Peter 2:14

Avoidance of
- Genesis 39:7-20
- Job 31:1
- Proverbs 6:23-26
- 1 Corinthians 6:18

Comes from the heart
- Matthew 15:19
- Mark 7:21-23

Condemned
- Exodus 20:14
- Leviticus 18:20
- Proverbs 5:15
- Proverbs 5:17-19

1 Corinthians 5:9-11
1 Corinthians 10:8
Galatians 5:19
Ephesians 5:3
1 Thessalonians 4:3

Consequences of
Proverbs 6:27-29
Proverbs 6:32-34
Proverbs 14:12
Galatians 6:7-8

Deceitful and destructive
- Proverbs 5:3-4
- Proverbs 6:27
- Proverbs 7:6-23

Immoral lusts can never be satisfied
- Ephesians 4:19

Immorality has no place in the life of the believer
- Colossians 3:5

Importance of faithfulness
- Malachi 2:14-15
- Ephesians 5:25

Punishment for
- Leviticus 20:10
- Colossians 3:5-6
- Hebrews 13:4

Relationship to lust
- Matthew 5:27-28

Repentance from
- Psalm 51:1-19

Result of divorce
- Matthew 19:8-9

Run from lusts
- 2 Timothy 2:22

Severity of punishment
- Deuteronomy 22:22-29

Symbolizes unfaithfulness to God
- Jeremiah 3:6-10
- Ezekiel 16:26
- Ezekiel 16:37-38

Warning against
- Proverbs 7:25-27

**Adversity**

**Definition:**
A situation or event that causes distress, hardship, or affliction.

**Key Verses:**
- Psalm 10:1, 17
- Proverbs 17:17

**See Also:**
- Affliction
- Persecution
- Suffering
- Trials

As part of discipleship
- Job 5:7
- Job 14:1
- Romans 8:17
Because of disobedience
   Deuteronomy 28:45-48

Benefits of
   Psalm 119:71

Causes of
   Genesis 3:13-16
   Leviticus 26:14-16

Encouragement in
   Genesis 50:20
   Psalm 55:22
   Psalm 119:107
   Romans 8:28
   2 Corinthians 4:17
   Hebrews 4:15
   1 Peter 1:6-7
   1 Peter 5:7
   1 Peter 5:10

Endurance in
   Romans 5:3-4
   2 Corinthians 4:8
   Hebrews 12:5
   James 1:2-4
   James 5:8

From God
   Isaiah 1:25
   John 15:2

From the devil
   1 Peter 5:8

God’s grace in
   2 Corinthians 12:7
   2 Corinthians 12:9
   Hebrews 4:16

God’s presence in
   Psalm 147:3

Of Jesus
   Hebrews 2:18

Purpose for
   Deuteronomy 8:16
   Ezekiel 14:11
   John 9:1-3
   1 Corinthians 11:32

Rescue from
   Psalm 46:1
   Psalm 50:15
   Psalm 71:20
   Psalm 138:7
   Psalm 140:1
   Isaiah 33:2
   Isaiah 41:10
   Isaiah 43:2
   Jeremiah 17:17
   Matthew 11:28

Results of
   Philippians 1:12

Sharing in
   2 Corinthians 1:7

Strength in
   Isaiah 40:29

Avoidance of wicked advice
   Psalm 1:1

For leaders
   Esther 1:13
   Acts 20:25-28

From elders
   Job 8:8-10

From family
   Proverbs 1:8

From the wise
   Proverbs 10:31

Importance of heeding
   Exodus 18:13-27
   Proverbs 7:2
   Proverbs 11:14
   Proverbs 13:10
   Proverbs 20:18
   Proverbs 24:5-6

Leads to wisdom
   Proverbs 12:15
   Proverbs 15:22
   Proverbs 19:20

Pleasant
   Proverbs 25:11

Seek
   1 Chronicles 13:1

Advice

Definition:
   Opinion or counsel regarding an appropriate course of action.

Key Verses:
   Proverbs 19:20
   Proverbs 27:9

See Also:
   Counseling
   Mentoring

Affection

Definition:
   A feeling of tenderness or fondness toward someone or something.
### Affliction

**Definition:**
A condition of pain, distress, or suffering.

**Key Verses:**
- Psalm 10:17
- Psalm 119:67, 71

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### Aging

**Definition:**
Increase or advancing in years.

**Key Verses:**
- Isaiah 46:4
- 2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:10

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#### A time for

**Ecclesiastes 3:5**

#### Between friends

**Ruth 1:14-18**
1 Samuel 20:41

#### Commanded

**John 13:34**
**John 15:12**
1 Peter 4:8
1 Peter 5:14
2 Peter 1:7

#### Of God

**Jeremiah 31:3**

#### Toward fellow believers

2 Corinthians 2:4
2 Corinthians 12:15
Philippians 1:7
1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

### Aggressive

**Definition:**
Marked by forceful, dominating, or even belligerent attitudes and actions.

**Key Verses:**
1 Samuel 25:10-11
Ephesians 4:2-3

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### Affliction

**By God**
- Ruth 1:21
1 Samuel 5:9
2 Kings 15:5
2 Chronicles 21:18

**By the wicked**
- Deuteronomy 26:6

#### Care for the afflicted

Deuteronomy 15:11
1 Timothy 5:10

#### God delivers the afflicted

2 Samuel 22:28

#### Suffering for righteousness

Hebrews 11:37

### A crown for the righteous

Proverbs 16:31

### Age is to be respected

Leviticus 19:32

### As a blessing

- Deuteronomy 25:15
- 1 Kings 1:31
- Psalm 119:17
- Zechariah 8:4

### Based on obedience to parents

- Exodus 20:12
- Ephesians 6:2-3

### Because of prayer

Isaiah 38:5

### Blessing for obedience to God

1 Kings 3:14
Psalm 91:16
Proverbs 10:27
1 Peter 3:10-11