

Appendix A. Word Studies

Fool and related words:

Anoetos (453) “without *noeo* (3539).” *Noeo* = to perceive or observe with the mind. Thus it is “without comprehension; lacking intelligence; unreflecting.” Used of one who is unwilling to use one’s mental faculty to understand; also used of one who does not govern his lusts and acts out his passions without thinking. Foolish, unthinking.

“Unthinking; foolish.”

- Christ told the two men on the way to Emmaus they were “foolish” and “slow of heart to believe” (Luke 24:25).
- The Galatians were foolish because although they had believed in the risen Christ, they wanted back under the law, and although they had believed in justification by faith, they wanted back under works (Gal. 3:1; 3:3).

Anoia (454). “without *nous* (3563).” *Nous* = mind, the organ of mental perception. Folly, madness, lack of understanding (with the implication there is an unwillingness to understand). “**Irrational.**”

- When Christ healed the man with the crippled hand, the religious leaders were filled with *anoia*, they became as insane, mad (as in the “mad hatter” of Alice in Wonderland), totally without reason (Luke 6:11).
- The men of depraved minds who oppose the truth are *anoia* (2 Tim. 3:9)

Aphron (878). “without *phren* (5424).” The *phren* is the diaphragm, that which restrains. Thus figuratively it is used of the mind, the seat of mental and emotional activity, which governs one’s life. *Phren* means the mind, the disposition, feelings. Thus *aphron* = imprudent, inconsiderate, rash, senseless, unwise, foolish, destitute of sound principle.

“Senseless.”

- The man who had goods for years and said “Eat, drink and be merry” is senseless, rash (Luke 12:20).
- Paul said he had become a fool, a senseless one, in his boasting (2 Cor. 12:11).
- Christians are realize the seriousness of the times and not be fools be senseless, acting without restraint by getting drunk and wasting time (Eph. 5:17).

Aphrosune (877). Feminine noun from *aphron*. Not using the capacity for understanding. Folly, foolishness, lack of sense, unwise. “**Senselessness.**”

- Paul told the Corinthians to bear with him in his “folly,” his senselessness, (figure of speech: irony) as he fought for them against the “super-apostles” (2 Cor. 11:1, 17).

Asophos (781). “without *sophos* (4680).” *Sophos* = wise, prudent, skilled, knowledgeable. Thus: Unwise, foolish, not walking the way God expects. Used only once. “**Unwise.**”

- Christians are not to be unwise (*asophos*), but wise (*sophos*) (Eph. 5:15).

Asunetos (801) “without *sunetos* (4908).” *Sunetos* = to reason out, perceive, understand, gain insight. Thus *asunetos* is to be without understanding or without insight. “**Without understanding; devoid of understanding.**”

- Jesus was amazed that the disciples had no understanding, no insight, into what he had taught (Mat. 15:16).

- Those who reject God and have no understanding became darkened (Rom. 1:21). **Kenos** (2756). “Empty, hollow.” When used of people, the implication is that since they are “empty” concerning good or godliness, and since nature abhors a vacuum, evil of some type has filled the void. Empty, vain, fruitless, false (empty words are false for the simple reason that they are not true). **“Empty; worthless, empty-headed.”**

- The son of the landowner was sent away empty, with nothing (Mark 12:3).
- If Christ is not raised from the dead, Paul’s preaching is “empty” and so is our faith (1 Cor. 15:14).
- Let no man deceive you with empty words (Eph. 5:6)
- Do you not know, O empty-headed man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:20).

Moros (3474). Used of people who are foolish, dull or silly with an emphasis on moral worthlessness. The *moros* person is a fool, uncultured, uncouth, with no discernment, committing countless blunders, in a stupor in the face of God’s revelation. Versus **raka** (4469). *Moros* scorns one’s heart and character. **“Fool; no-good.”**

- If you call someone a “no-good” you will be in danger of Gehenna (Matt. 5:22)
- Christ called the Pharisees “no-goods” and blind (Matt. 23:17).
- The virgins were “no-goods” and did not bring oil (Matt. 25:2, 3, 8).
- God’s most no-good, foolishness is still wiser than men (1 Cor. 1:25).
- God chose the no-goods of the world to confound the wise (1 Cor. 1:27).
- Avoid “no-good” questions (Titus 3:9).

Raka (4469). Empty, therefore foolish, stupid, worthless. This scorns the mind and calls the man “Stupid,” whereas *moros* scorns his heart and character. **“Stupid.”**

- The man who calls someone “Stupid!” will be in danger of a lawsuit (Matt. 5:22).

Skotizomai (4654) “to darken.” Figuratively used of moral darkness (Rom. 1:21; 11:10).
 • but their thinking (*dialogismos* = internal dialogue) became futile and their foolish (*asunetos*) hearts became darkened.

Tuphlos (5185) “to envelope with smoke,” i.e., to be unable to see clearly. Hence, “blind.” The common word used when one is blind in the eyes. Figuratively, unable to comprehend, unable to see the end result of the action one is taking. Usually translated “blind.”

- Jesus called the religious leaders, “Fools and blind!” (Matt 23:17)

Tuphloos (5186) “to blind.”

From the dictionary:

Fool = One who is regarded as deficient in judgment, sense or understanding.

From the thesaurus: English words close to fool

Ass (a vain, self-important, or aggressively stupid person): Birdbrain: Blockhead: Bonehead: Boob: Bore: Buffoon: Clod: Clown: Cretin (An idiot; From French *cretin*, a deformed and mentally retarded person, from the Vulgar Latin *christidnus*, a Christian, a poor fellow): Dimwit: Dolt: Dope: Dumb ox: Dunderhead: Fathead: Goose: Half-wit: Idiot: Ignoramus: Illiterate: imbecile: innocent: jerk: lamebrain: lightweight: loon: moron: nerd: nincompoop: ninny: nitwit: numskull: oaf: sap: silly (lacking wisdom or good sense; lacking seriousness or responsibility): simpleton: stooge: sucker: turkey: twerp: twit: