

2. Derivative Nouns

These are nouns derived from a verb and the manifestation of the verb-root is still in evidence. We are not always sure which came first, the noun or the verb but we assume the verb precedes in these cases and for the sake of not wanting to argue about it will proceed on that base.

The primitive noun offers less exegetical meaning for the preacher. The derivative noun, in some cases, offers much more. Its form and origin tell something about the inherent ideas latent in the term and this may give us preaching ideas even though the material must be supplied by hard work. Basically the derivation is from the infinitive or participle base of the verb and from these originations added meaning is often supplied.

a. Infinitive derivatives

All such nouns are called abstract and are thought of as "action-oriented". They embody within themselves the idea of movement or activity depicted in the verb. Following are two examples:

- (1) תפילה /prayer/ The verb is תפיל and the noun prayer describes the action of the word in a capsulized form. Prayer is never a static thing, therefore, but is a living expression. Prayer has life and movement and not mere objective existence.
- (2) תרומה /volunteer plant/ The verb is תרם and the noun describes something that grows of itself. It is "going forth" and not a settled or solidified matter. The noun has "life" in it!

There are many more of these but these two should show the idea. These nouns derived from the infinitive are often identified by the initial letters ת or ת carried over from the older infinitive preformatives-

b. Participle derivatives

This class of nouns uses the term concrete for depiction. They show an entity which embodies the subject in a rather inert form. The thing described by a concrete noun is in a state, not in the form of an exerted action. The following examples are typical:

- (1) מצוה /commandment/ from מצוה. It is an accomplished entity, a hard-cold fact, not a living or moving thing such as a prayer.
- (2) תבנית /building/ from תבנית. Again the completed object is in view. The building is a solid and accomplished matter...it has movement it means it is falling down!