New Testament Greek Syntax
The Infinitive

An indeclinable verbal substantive with either verbal force or substantival force
In New Testament Greek the infinitive is in the process of being replaced by a ἵνα + subjunctive construction

1. Substantive Infinitives

Used in place of a substantive. Always singular, neuter, with or without an article

i] Subject

An infinitive may introduce a substantival phrase, subject of a finite verb
Never found in a prepositional phrase
Sometimes ὅτι, or ἵνα + subj., is used in place of an infinitive to function as the subject of the verb
Test by replacing the infinitive with a noun to determine if it is functioning as a substantive

For me, TO LIVE is Christ and TO DIE is gain

εμοι γαρ το ζην Χριστος και το απαθανειν κερδος

To you it has been given TO KNOW the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven = TO KNOW has been given to you .....

ὑμιν δεδοται γνωναι τα μυστηρια της βασιλειας των ουρανων

There is disagreement among grammarians as to the classification of an infinitive with an impersonal verb such as δει, εξιστιν, δοκει, etc.

δει λυθηναι αυτον μικρον χρονον
It is necessary TO RELEASE him for a short time.
TO RELEASE him for a time is necessary (*Infinitive as the subject of the impersonal verb "is necessary"*)
Wallace opts for substantival, as in the example above - the classification used on this site.
Porter argues that δει, μελλω, θελω, δυναμαι, etc., form a catenative construction, see Porter p197.
Cully in the HGT series argues that an infinitive with an impersonal verb such as δει is complementary.

ii] Direct Object

An infinitive may introduce a substantival phrase or clause, accusative direct object of a finite verb (sometimes a genitive direct object)
Often as an articular infinitive
Object clauses are also formed by introducing them with ὅτι or ἵνα + subj., or ὅπως + subj. (negative, "lest", μη + subj.)
Test by replacing the infinitive with a noun to determine if it is functioning as a substantive

He did not consider EQUALITY with God something to be grasped
He did not consider THAT EQUALITY with God was something to be grasped
ουχ αρπαγμον ηγησατο το ειναι ισα θεω

iii] Complementary

Classed as a substantive object, although actually a helper (completive) verb. *Very common*
Completes the sense of verbs such as δυναμαι, επιτρεπτω, αρχομαι, βουλομαι, επιτρεπω, ζητεω, θελω, μελλω, οφειλω
With cognitive verbs an infinitive may be classified as introducing an object clause / dependent statement of perception

You cannot SERVE [you are not able TO SERVE] God and mammon
ου δυνασθε θεω δουλευειν και μαμωνα

iv] Epexegetic (Appositional)

An epexegetic infinitive limits a noun, pronoun or adjective by specifying or defining it
Some grammarians distinguish between epexegetic and appositional - See Wallace:
eg., epexegetic specifies / clarifies a substantive, while appositional defines it
Often formed by ἵνα + subj., or ὅπως ἵνα + subj. and rarely by ὅτι

I have food TO EAT that you are not aware of
εγω βρωσιν εχω φαγειν ἣν ὑμεις ουκ οιδατε

Genitive articular infinitive, του + inf. 50% are explanatory
    he has faith TO BE SAVED (he has saving faith)
    εχει πιστιν του σωθηναι
Can often be translated by joining the subs. and inf. with "namely"
    pure religion ... is this, NAMELY, TO VISIT orphans and widows
    θρησκεια καθαρα ... αυτη εστιν, επισκεπτεσθαι ορφανους ......

v] Dependent statements / object clause

An infinitive may by used to form an object clause, dependent on a verb of saying or thinking, to express content
    Sometimes constructed with εις + an articular infinitive,
    The tense of the imagined or original discourse is retained in the Gk.
    On rare occasions there may be a subordinate clause in a dependent statement retaining the original tense
    The infinitive sometimes has it's own subject, which is in the accusative case = the accusative infinitive construction
    When the subject of the infinitive is the same as the subject in the principal clause, it is omitted
    A dependent statement may also be formed by a clause introduced by ὁτι + ind., ἱνα + subj., ὁπως + subj., or an optative
        After θελω a subjunctive verb can follow without ἱνα
          "when the first verb is in the second person, and the second verb is in the first", Plummer.
            What do you want me to do for you
            What do you wish THAT I MAY DO for you
            τι σοι θελεις ποιησω

Dependent statements introduced by an infinitive, ἱνα + subj, ὁτι, ὁπως + subj., opt.
    a) Direct speech (recitative):
    b) Indirect speech:
        Stating. "He said that ......"
          Instead of stating what is said, πως introduces an object clause stating something ABOUT what is said
        Entreating - requesting, commanding, exhorting.
          I urge you, therefore brothers, ... TO PRESENT (THAT YOU PRESENT) your bodies
            παρακαλω ουν υμας, αδελφοι .... παραστησαι τα σωματα ὑμων
          Teacher, I beg you TO LOOK (THAT you LOOK) at my son
            διδασκαλε, δεομαι σου επιβλεψαι επι τον υἱον μου
        Questioning
        Promising, swearing
    c) Perception / cognition: infinitive, ἱνα + subj., ὁτι, and sometimes a PARTICIPLE.
        Thinking. pondering, planning, taking heed of, wondering, noting, deciding.
        Knowing: perceiving, feeling, seeing
        Hoping, wishing, desiring - usually an aorist infinitive
    d) Cause: infinitive, ἱνα + subj., ὁπως + subj., or fut.
        Striving, effecting, achieving
          He causes THAT THEY WORSHIP
          He makes them worship
          ποιει ἱνα πορσκυνησουιν (here with an irregular fut.)
          He does / makes / causes fire TO COME DOWN
          He causes THAT fire COME DOWN ("fire" serves as the accusative subject of the infinitive)
          He makes fire come down
          ποιει πυρ καταβαινειν
    e) Fear: μη + subj.
          for I am afraid THAT I WILL FIND YOU (lest I find you)
          φοβουμαι γαρ μη καγω εὑρεθω
    f) In answer to a question: ὁτι
        πλην ὁτι
        "What then? Only that ......"

vi] Object Complement

An infinitive (more commonly an acc. noun, pro., adj., rarely a part.) may be used to complement the direct object of a verb.

Usually formed with verbs of speaking, dressing, naming, giving, thinking and appointing.

It is similar to appositional, except that the complement predicates / states something about the accusative object.

May be translated by joining the object and its complement with "as", or "to be", even "namely".

If the infinitive has a subject it will be accusative, forming an object complement double accusative construction.

Note that in an accusative infinitive construction the acc. subject of the infinitive usually proceeds its object

μη ευρειν με Τιτον τον αδελφον μου

I (με the acc. subject of the infinitive) did not find Titus (acc. object of the infinitive) my brother.

Note also that often the infinitive is complementary, completing the sense of the main verb, rather than functioning as an object complement.

αφετε τα παιδια ερχεσθαι πρό με

[you (assumed subject)] must allow (aor. imp.) the children (acc. object) to come (infinitive) to me

[you] must allow (verb) to come (complementary infinitive) to me the children

vii] Prepositional phrase

The infinitive used with prepositions as a substantive
instead of SAYING (Substitutionary use)

αντι του λεγειν

2. Adverbial Infinitives

An infinitive may modify or clarify the assertion of the main verb, or function as a verb

Participle are commonly used to form adverbial clauses

i] Purpose (Final)

Forming a purpose clause expressing the the aim or purpose of the action (a hypothetical result).

Why? = intention. *Common*

Translate: "to, in order to, for the purpose of, with a view to"

A simple infinitive, usually after a verb of motion

Also in conjunction with:

του + inf. Genitive articular infinitive = purpose in Matt. Lk. Act.

του μη + inf. = separation following a verb of hindering or stopping.

εις το, προς το, ὡστε, ὡς + inf. = purpose

More commonly expressed by ἱνα + subj. (70% aorist), or ὁπως / πως + subj./fut.

Although ἱνα + subj. proceeded by οὑπως forms an epexegetic clause rather than a purpose clause, cf. 1Cor.9:24

A purpose clause is also often formed with a present or future participle, and rarely by a relative clause with fut. verb.

ii] Result (Consecutive)

Forming a result clause expressing the results of the action of the main verb.

Sense = effect. Not overly common and often close to purpose.

Translate: "so that, with the result that."

A simple infinitive, usually after a verb of motion

Usually in conjunction with:

ὡστε most common; ὡς, εν τῳ. *Rare*

του, [εις το] προς το + inf.

Result/consequence is also commonly expressed by ἱνα + subj., ὡστε + ind., or a participle

iii] Time (Temporal)

An infinitive may form a temporal clause expressing the relative time at which the action took place.

Also in conjunction with:

Antecedent time. "before".

προ του + inf., πριν + acc. + inf.

Contemporaneous time. "while, during"
εν τῳ + inf. (Heb.8:13, causal)
Subsequent time. "after" (See Wallace p594)
μετα το + inf.
Future time. "until"
ἑως του + inf.

A temporal clause is also often formed with ὁτε, ὡς, ἑως [ἑως ου, ἑως ὁτου], rarely ὁτι, ἱνα:
Definite time: ὁτε or ὡς + ind.
Indefinite time:
Present time: ὁτε + imperf.
"during the time when / "while", εν ᾡ / εφ ὁσον; see Fink.
"Whenever", επαν = επει αν + subj.
Past time: αν, or εαν + aor.
Future time: ὁτε αν + subj.
"From the time when / since", αφ οὑ
Indefinite time expressed by ἑως
When the clause it introduces refers to the same time in relation to the main verb: ἑως + ind., "while"
When the clause it introduces refers to past time in relation to the main verb: ἑως + past tense, "until"
When the clause it introduces refers to future time in relation to the main verb: ἑως αν + subj., ἑως οὑ,
"until"
Other particles often replace ἑως, eg.: αχρι, αχρι ου, αχρι ἡς ἡμερας, μεχρι, μεχρις ου
A participle may also form a temporal clause, esp. when a genitive absolute.

iv] Cause (Causal)
An infinitive may form causal clause expressing the reason for the action of the main verb. Why?
Translated: usually "because"
Also formed by δια το + inf., or a dative article + inf. [τῳ, ἑνεκεν του, + inf. *Rare*]
Causal clauses are also formed by a participle, or a genitive absolute, or the following particles + ind.
ὁτι, επει, εφ, ᾡ διοτι, επειδη

v] Imperatival (Infinitive of Command)
An infinitive functioning as an imperative. *Rare*
Often formed by a ἱνα + subj. construction
to what we have already attained, LET US LIVE up to it
εις ὁ εφθασαμεν, τῳ αυτω <u>στοιχειν</u>

vi] Means (Instrumental)
Describes the way in which the action of the main verb is accomplished.
Is with or without an article, but usually εν τῳ + inf.
Very similar to the verbal infinitives of purpose or result.
Translate "by means of / by"
to bless you BY TURNING
ευλογουντα ὑμας <u>εν τῳ αποστρεθειν</u>

vii] Manner (Modal)

viii] Absolute
An infinitive that stands alone and has no relationship with the sentence, cf. Phil.3:16, Rom.12:15
James to the twelve tribes in the dispersion. GREETING
ἱακωβος ... ταις δωδεκα φυλαις ταις εν τη διασπορᾳ <u>χαιρειν</u>

ix] Concessive (expressing a concession)
A clause expressing a concession which implies that the action of the main verb is true despite the concession
Translated, "though", "although"
The clause may be introduced by ει και, εαν και, και ει, και εαν
A concessive clause is sometimes formed by καιπερ + part, or a simple participle on its own

x] Comparative

A clause that compares the action of the main verb with another action

The clause may be introduced by:

ὡς, ὥσπερ, καθως, ... = "as". ὡς + subj. = "as if"

ἤ = "than"

xi] Conditional Clauses

A clause that identifies a condition on which the action of the main verb depends

1st Class. The condition stated in the protasis (the "if" clause) is assumed to be a reality.

Protasis ει + ind. Apodosis ind., subj., imp., moods

IF HE HAS FALLEN ASLEEP, he will be cured

ει κεκοιμηται σωθησεται

2nd Class. The condition stated in the protasis is assumed to be untrue

The apodosis states what would have been true had the protasis been true.

Protasis ει + ind. past tense. Apodosis αν + ind. past tense

3rd Class. The condition stated in the protasis has the possibility of being/becoming true

Protasis αν, or εαν + subj. Apodosis, pres. aor. fut.

Sometimes formed by a participle in the protasis (the "if" clause)

How shall we escape IF WE NEGLECT so great a salvation?

πως ἡμεις εκφευξομεθα πηλικαυτας αμελησαντες σωτηριας;

xii] Local

A clause expressing the locality where the action of the main verb takes place. "Where", "there" ...

A definite place takes the indicative mood

An indefinite place: some places, αν + ind. past tense; a place where the action will occur, αν, εαν + subj.

Local clauses are introduced by: οὗ, ὁπου, ὁθεν, ...

Notes

i] The accusative of respect

Where the subject of the infinitive is different to the subject of the main verb, it takes the accusative case. Where it is difficult to differentiate between the subject of the infinitive (accusative) and the object of the main verb (accusative), the subject of the infinitive usually precedes the object.

ii] Articular Infinitives

Of approximately 2,300 infinitives, 291 are articular

Most articular infinitives are governed by a preposition

All infinitives governed by a preposition are articular

Articular infinitives are sometimes final, but most times substantive

Infinitives are neuter and so take a neuter article

iii] Negation

Always μη

iv] An Actualized Infinitive

An infinitive is emphasized by γινομαι preceding it in a sentence.

v] Following εγενετο δε **or** και εγενετο **(cf. Luke)**

Serves to lead into a narrative or incident

Then it happened that he WAS PASSING through some grain fields on the Sabbath

WHILE HE WAS PASSING through some grain fields on the Sabbath

εγενετο δε εν σαββατω διαπορευεσθαι αυτον δια σποριμων

vi] The infinitive with του

The genitive article with the infinitive has no particular use. It may form a purpose clause, a consequence/result clause, serve as the subject or object of a verb, or function epexegetically.

vii] The infinitive replaced by a clause formed by ἰνα + **subjunctive**

In New Testament times, spoken Greek was beginning to drop the infinitive and replace it with a clause formed by ἰνα with a subjunctive verb. This process is evidenced in NT. texts. So, a *hina clause* often substitutes the normal

functions of an infinitive: Noun clauses as subject, object or in apposition to a verb; An epexegetic clause, qualifying a substantive; An adverbial clause expressing purpose, result, cause ...

viii] Object complement

    An infinitive which states something about an object

    Usually in the form of a double accusative construction

    An object complement my also be formed by a noun, adjective or participle

    A less than common usage

    Adverbial clauses not formed by an infinitive, but included for reference purposes only