

# What Translation Of The Bible Should I Use?

I always love to pray this prayer before I read or study the Bible:



**Psalm 119:18** "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law."

DAY 4

If you are going to get serious about growing as a follower of Jesus, you have to commit to knowing and loving God's Word. The more I love His Word, the more I love Jesus. The more I love Jesus, the more I love His Word.



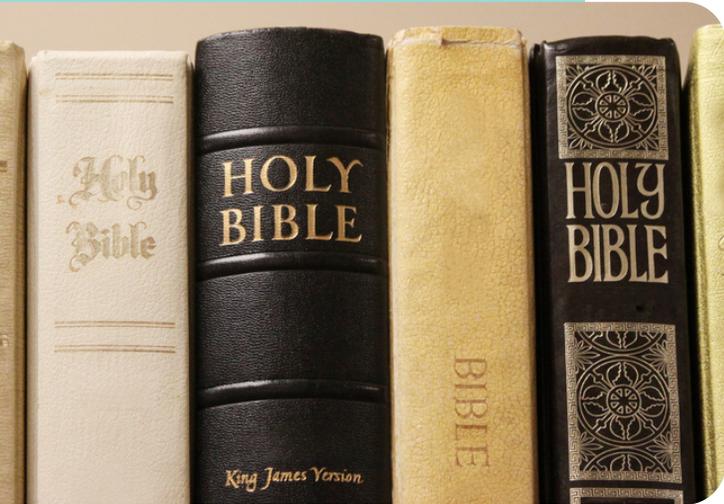
**Big  
Idea**

My relationship with God is as strong as my relationship with God's Word.

It's a relationship. That's our approach to the Bible.

If we want to get serious about growing as a student of God's Word, we need to invest in a paper bible.

I recommend you purchase a study Bible. A study Bible has the actual Scripture and commentary at the bottom, notations for context and application. A study Bible will actually help you STUDY THE BIBLE.



There are a few options for study Bibles I would recommend

- The Spirit Filled Life Bible
- The Life Application Bible
- The John Maxwell Leadership Bible
- NIV Study Bible

These will cost you some money, but one of the greatest investments you will make is a good study Bible. It will last you for years and years if you take care of it.

The best Translation is the one you actually read.

The reason there are a lot of translations is that English was not the language used to write the Bible.

The **Old Testament** was written in **Hebrew** language and in **Aramaic**  
The **New Testament** was written in **Greek**

None of us speak Hebrew or Greek, so we need some translations.

One of the very first English translations was the King James Version. It was written in 1611. It reads like people who lived in that time, Old English language. Some have revered King James as the REAL BIBLE – as if God is from England, but there are other types of translations.

# Three types of translations

## Formal (or exact) equivalency KJV, NKJV, NAS, ESV

01

These are translated word for word from the original manuscripts. Scholars who understood those languages put it in English word for word. So these are the closest to the exact way the original Bible was written. These were not copied from one copy after another over years and years. Each one is translated from the original manuscripts. This is why the Dead Sea Scrolls were a big deal. We will talk about that in another session.

## Functional (or dynamic) equivalency NLT, GN, TEV, NIV

02

These were also translated from the original text. Not word for word but thought by thought. The translators would take a whole sentence and put it in today's grammar. It's easier to read and very close to the original text. The NIV is the top-selling translation of this kind. It is written at an eighth-grade level, so almost everyone can understand it.

## Paraphrases – Living Bible (LB), The Message (MSG)

03

These do not go back to the original text. The translators took English Bibles and resaid it even simpler form.

**The Living Bible** was created by a guy who wanted his kids to understand the Bible. If you want a good Bible for your kids, parents, look for the Living Bible. He wrote it for his children.

**The Message** is the most popular paraphrase out there. The formal equivalency will say, "I was glad when they said unto me let us go to the house of the Lord." The Message will say Dude let's go to church – it's awesome.

Let me show you the difference in a verse that we all have heard at weddings at some time or another.

KJV



**1 Corinthians 13:4** “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”

NIV



**1 Corinthians 13:4** “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

MSG



**1 Corinthians 13:4** “Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head..”

They are all good. Get one that works for you.

REMEMBER:

The best translation is the one you actually read.



What is your one takeaway from this session?

