



# BANNER of *Love* MINISTRIES

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## Which Bible Translation Should You Use?

Do you ever wonder which translation of the Bible you should be using? Which translations best portray the words of God from the languages they were originally written in? These are great questions to ask. No single English translation can fully represent the original biblical languages perfectly. Why? Because the Bible's original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) function differently than English. But it is possible to create literal translations that portray the Biblical text clearly and accurately in English.

The Bible is the most important book you will ever own. There are many translations of the Bible available today. Deciding which one to use is one of the most important choices you will ever make. In order to help you with this decision, we have evaluated several of the most common translations. It is very important that a translation be accurate. It must communicate the same message that was in the original languages of the Bible. We need all of the messages God has for us. Unfortunately, many translations today attempt to simplify the Bible, sacrificing some accuracy in order to be easy reading. But the Bible itself says that in it there are "some things hard to understand" (2 Pet 2:16). The Holy Spirit will teach the eager Christian from the Scriptures - from the easy and the difficult parts. The teaching ministry of the Church will also help. It is not the job of the translator to simplify or explain the Bible. That belongs in footnotes or in the margin of a study Bible, not in the text itself.

### **These are translation that we recommend:**

The New American Standard Bible (NASB) This is a very faithful translation of the Bible. It is not as easy to read as some other versions (it is at a 12th grade reading level). But this level is necessary to convey the fullness of the Bible's message.

The King James Version (KJV) This is an excellent translation. But its ancient language (it was translated in 1611) makes it very difficult for many to use. Due to the great change in the English language since then, it can sometimes be confusing or misleading.

The New King James Version (NKJV) This is an updated version of the KJV. It is an excellent Bible for reading and study.

English Standard Version (ESV) This is another excellent translation of the Bible. It is quite literal in it's translation and is very comparable to the NASB.

The Revised Standard Version (RSV) This is also a very good translation of the Bible. However, it is not widely used.

The New International Version (NIV) This version is easy to read because its makers decided to simplify the Bible so that it could be easily understood by the average 7th grade child. In doing so, they may have in some cases diluted some of its message. The NIV is a faithful translation, but I do not recommend it as your only Bible for study.

**These are translations that we do not recommend:**

The Living Bible (LB) This version is not a translation, but a paraphrase. It is also easy to read. But the author has injected many of his own ideas into the text. Therefore, I do not recommend it for study.

The Message Bible (MSG) This is another paraphrase with much interpretive bias. There are many words that were added in that are not in the original text. I do not recommend it for study or devotional reading.

The Passion Translation (TPT) This is another paraphrase of the Bible which must be steered clear from. It was written by a man who received so-called “revelation” from an angel named Passion on how to correctly translate the holy Scriptures. He even goes so far as to say the Lord has given him an extra chapter to the Gospel of John. The interpreter’s own beliefs come out in the text and it is not recommended for study or devotional reading.