

**Comparison of Translations
John 6:27**

Paraphrase
The MessageTM

"Don't waste your energy striving for perishable food like that. Work for the food that sticks with you, food that nourishes your lasting life, food the Son of Man provides. He and what he does are guaranteed by God the Father to last."

Dynamic
CEV

Don't work for food that spoils. Work for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you this food, because God the Father has given him the right to do so.

Mixed
NIV

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval

Formal
NKJV

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

Translation Characteristics				
Title	1	2	3	Note
Living Bible	1	I	M	Considered one of the less accurate, but nonetheless good for general reading.
The Message	2	I	M	An excellent paraphrase, both readable and accurate.
Contemporary English Version	5	I	M	Individual translation in simple language, by American Bible Society
Today's English Version	6	C	M	Largely replaced by CEV
New Living Translation	6	C	M	Evangelical, intended to replace the Living Bible
Revised English Bible	6	C	M	Interfaith cooperation
New Century Version	7	C	M	3 rd grade reading level
God's Word	7	C	M	Conservative
New Jerusalem Bible	7	C	M	Roman Catholic
Today's New International Version	8	C	M	Revised NIV, adds gender neutral language
New International Version	8	C	M	Evangelical
New American Bible	9	C	M	Roman Catholic
New Revised Standard Version	9	C	M	Interfaith
Holman Christian Standard Bible	9	C	M	Largely Baptist, conservative version
English Standard Version	9	C	M	Conservative revision of RSV
New American Standard Bible	9	C	M	Evangelical
New King James Version	X	C	T	Follows KJV closely, updating only language

Columns:

1. Formal (1 to X)
2. C=Committee; I=Individual
3. M=Modern text; T=Textus Receptus

More information on this chart can be found on our web site, <http://energion.com>.

This Pamphlet Provided Courtesy of:

What's in a Version?



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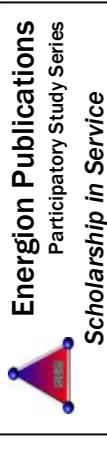
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Which Bible version should I use in Bible reading and study?

Many Christians are concerned that they will find an inaccurate Bible version to read and will somehow miss out on hearing God's word.

Relax!

The vast majority of the Bible versions available today are of high quality and accuracy. You can go to just about any Christian book store or to the Bible section of any secular store, close your eyes and grab a Bible and you will find the word of God.

In general, any non-denominational Bible is adequate for reading and for general study. For more serious study a few guidelines may help.

This pamphlet is designed to provide you with a few of those guidelines.

But the most important guideline is this: **Find a version that you are comfortable reading!**

What makes different versions different?

➤ The translation method.

Any time we have to translate something from one language into another there will be more than

A good Bible version is one you read!

one way to translate a particular word or phrase. Different translations will word the same thought in different ways.

There are two basic approaches to translation:

1. Translating the forms, or literal translation (sometimes called "formal equivalence").
2. Translating the thoughts and feel (or impact on the audience), sometimes called "dynamic equivalence" or "functional equivalence").

A very loose translation, or one where cultural concepts and even geographical references are changed is often called a paraphrase.

Translations are never totally formal or totally dynamic, but always include elements of both. You should try to discover what the translators were aiming to accomplish.

Perfect formal translation is impossible because the source languages, Hebrew and Greek, do not use the same word order and structure as English. More literal or formal does not necessarily mean more accurate; a translation needs to be clear and natural as well as accurate.

The manuscripts the translators use.

The Bible was written long before there were printing presses and copies were made by hand.

During the time of the early Christian church and the middle ages many of these manuscripts were lost. A large number of have been discovered over the last three or four hundred years. Some differences in translations are based on the readings of these different manuscripts.

Most translations use either the Textus Receptus, a Greek text similar to that used for the King James Version, or a modern text based on comparison of these more recently discovered manuscripts.

For the Old Testament, translations usually use the standard Hebrew text, but also refer to the Dead Sea Scrolls and some ancient translations of the Hebrew scriptures.

➤ Who does the translating.

Some translations are done by a committee and some by individuals. Committees may consist entirely of people from one denomination or religious group, or they may be

inter-denominational or even interfaith.

What are the general guidelines I can use in selecting a Bible?

- **Readability.** Can you read the Bible comfortably? Do you understand what you read without constant use of other references?
- **Accuracy.** For in-depth study, you may prefer a more formal translation. For general reading, a paraphrase may be good. **Translation committee.** It is generally better to select a translation done by a committee of scholars or edited and checked by such a committee. In general, the broader the committee, the better. However, some fine translations are done by individuals.
- **Use of a current text.** Though there is no major problem with the text used for the KJV, and in modern times by the NKJV, there have been many fine ancient manuscripts discovered recently. It is good to be as accurate as possible.