

Leveraging Different Bible Translations

Compare translations side by side, for example take a look at Ecclesiastes 12:13 in several versions. Agreement is a really good sign, but sometimes the small changes in a translation's word order or word choice can help us make new meaning of a text we've heard many times.

Be sure to keep in mind the translation type and use for each translation....

Translation	Translation Type	Additional context	Potential Best Use
King James Version (KJV)	Formal Equivalence (word for word)	The KJV was translated by a team of scholars in the early 1600s. It uses the Textus Receptus for the New Testament and the Masoretic Text for the Old Testament. The translators aimed to adhere closely to the original Hebrew and Greek texts while producing a literary English text.	Its formal language makes it a popular choice for liturgical use in churches and for memorization.
New International Version (NIV)	Dynamic Equivalence (thought for thought)	The NIV was produced by an international team of scholars in the late 1970s. It aims to balance readability and fidelity to the original languages, making it accessible to modern readers while retaining the intended meaning of the biblical texts.	Its dynamic equivalence makes it highly readable and understandable for a wide audience. It balances accessibility and accuracy, making it a versatile choice for both new and seasoned Bible readers.
English Standard Version (ESV)	Formal Equivalence (word for word)	The ESV, published in 2001, is based on the 1971 Revised Standard Version (RSV) and aims to be an "essentially literal" translation. It strives for precision and literary excellence, reflecting the structure and style of the original texts.	The ESV can be very helpful for detailed studies, like a word study that seeks to trace back to the origin language or "root word" in Hebrew/Greek.
New Living Translation (NLT)	Dynamic Equivalence (thought for thought)	The NLT, first published in 1996, is a revision of The Living Bible. It seeks to provide clarity and readability by using contemporary language, making it accessible to modern readers while conveying the original meaning of the texts.	The NLT's dynamic equivalence and use of contemporary language make it easy to understand and engaging. It's particularly helpful for reading aloud, reading large passages at a time, and conveying the Bible's messages in a clear and relatable way.

			way.
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	Formal Equivalence (word for word)	The NASB, first published in 1971 and updated in 1995 and 2020, aims for high accuracy and fidelity to the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. It uses more modern language while maintaining a literal translation approach.	The NASB is ideal for rigorous academics, word-for-word analysis, and detailed study. Its formal equivalence and commitment to literal translation make it one of the most accurate translations available.