



Note on Bible Versions — BEING A BIBLE SNOB!

All of the Bible quotations in this book are taken from the New International Version (NIV) or the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. When I started writing *Organic Faith*, I used mainly the NIV because I had always heard it was the easiest to understand. Since then, I have started cross-referencing three versions in my studies – the NIV, the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the original KJV.

Although the NIV and NASB use modern language and sentence structure, KJV has become my favorite. King James has a way of stopping casual Bible readers in their tracks. You can't skim KJV and expect to get the gist of the passage. Modern readers must really concentrate and read KJV, which can produce a more beneficial time in the Word. In cross-referencing the different version, I have found the KJV to be more accurate in places where the newer versions leave out material. The King James language just seems to be more poetic and has a beauty to it, which is missing in most modern translations.

Some people carry their Bible version preference to the extreme. I have seen Bible teachers scold students for reading anything other than the KJV. Likewise, I have seen people discourage others from reading KJV claiming it is too difficult to understand. These Bible snobs can foster division in the Body of Christ and tear down immature believers. Choosing a Bible translation has become a volatile issue for some

Christians today. Many Bible snobs have shown a lack of grace toward other believers who do not recognize the ‘superiority’ of a favored translation.

Now there are some versions that should be avoided. Some pseudo-Christian cults have developed their own translations reflecting their false doctrine. Editors for these translations remove or reword key Scripture passages. One example is the New World Translation (NWT) used by the Jehovah’s Witnesses. The NWT rewords parts of the Bible ascribing deity to Jesus.

Why did I stick with NIV if I personally prefer King James? For starters, my version preference changed mid-way through writing the book. And more importantly, many people are accustomed to the NIV. I did not want the use of KJV to be a stumbling block to them. I personally went through every Bible reference and looked for what seemed to be the best choice as guided by the Spirit. In a few places, I inserted words to clarify the translation. These words are set off by brackets.

Keep in mind that the Bible is not like any other book. More than just words on a page, the Bible teaches spiritual truth, which can only be understood as the Holy Spirit reveals it. The Spirit not our intellect does the real work when studying Scripture. This may explain why the Lord has allowed so many different Bible versions to exist. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6 – KJV). Truth can only be found in the person of Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit not words on a page studied by human intellect. The existence of numerous translations does not in any way undermine the validity of the Bible. The first thing the serpent tried to do when tempting Eve was discredit the very words of God. Satan asked, “Hath God said?”

Consider these words from the Bible:

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incor-

ruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (I Peter 1:23-25 - KJV)

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11- KJV).

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16 - KJV).

Followers of Jesus Christ serve the only sovereign God. Just as He created the world and all its creatures by His words, God is capable of preserving the integrity of the Scriptures. As you earnestly seek God, abstain from false teachers and study the Bible for yourself. The Holy Spirit will protect your hearts and minds from false doctrine. The decision to use a modern translation should not be a stumbling block either. Consider comparing a number of different versions. Or you could even study the original Greek or Hebrew as you dive deep into the treasures of the Bible. Don't be scared away from thorough Bible study by those claiming this should be left to seminary trained professionals. And don't feel like a junior level Christian if you use a modern translation. Enjoy delving into the living Word, God's love letter to you.

