



# BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

## **BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:**

Modern-day Bibles have been translated from the original Greek and Hebrew texts that were recorded in Jesus' time. Translations will vary depending on whether they are:

- *Literal* ("word-for-word" translation that conveys the exact meaning of the original words)
- *Paraphrase* (usually translated in contemporary language for easy reading, it conveys the thought or intent of the original words).

There are varying degrees of each type of translations and both types of translations are good for reading through the Word. But for going deeper in learning to study the Bible, it's best to use "literal" translations that will most closely convey the original meaning of the Greek or Hebrew text.

## **BIBLE TRANSLATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR STUDY:**

These Study Bibles are "literal" translations that contain notes and commentary pertaining to the Scriptures.

If you decide to purchase a study Bible, look for these things: wide margins, Scripture cross-references, and an adequate concordance in the back. The translations we find best for studying are:

- English Standard Version (ESV)
  - ESV Study Bible (Crossway Books)
  - The Reformation Study Bible (R.C. Sproul / Ligonier Ministries)
- New International Version (NIV)
  - 1984 Edition
- New King James Version (NKJV)
  - MacArthur Study Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
- Life Application Study Bible (NIV 1984 edition; Tyndale House Publishers)
  - GREAT for those who are new to studying the Word!
  - Has an extensive concordance, topical references, and commentary.
  - Word of caution: Don't get too dependent on the commentary and application notes. Stick to the Scriptures themselves for your interpretation.
- Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible (NIV 1984 edition; AMG Publishers)
  - Includes word studies and lexical aids.

## **BIBLE TRANSLATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR READING:**

These Bibles are "paraphrase" translations. Use the paraphrase translations to re-

read the passage of Scripture you're studying to get another perspective. But do keep in mind that since these are paraphrased they do not generally convey the original meaning of the word.

- New Living Translation (NLT)
- New English Translation (NET)
- The Message (MSG)
- Amplified Bible (AMP)

**ONLINE BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES:** These web sites feature various translations of the Bible, concordances, commentaries, lexical aids and dictionaries.

- MyStudyBible.com
- BibleStudyTools.com
- BibleGateway.com
- BlueLetterBible.org
- NetBible.org
- Dictionary.com

#### **CONCORDANCES, DICTIONARIES, AND OTHER TOOLS:**

- Strong's Concordance
- Vine's Expository Dictionary
- What the Bible is All About – Bible Handbook (H. Mears; Regal Books)
- The Complete Word Study – Old Testament (Baker/Carpenter; AMG Publishers)
- The Complete Word Study – New Testament (Zodhiates; AMG Publishers)
- The Navigators Bible Studies Handbook (NavPress)