

# Which Bible is the Right one?

A Quick Bible Translation Chart

Formal Equivalence

Functional Equivalence

Free Translation

KJV NASB RSV

NIV NAB GNB JB

NEB

*The Message*

NKJV NASU NRSV

TNIV NJB REB NLT

ESV

## A Quick Guide to Abbreviations

KJV - The King James Version (1611)  
 NKJV - The New King James Version (1982)  
 NASB - The New American Standard Bible (1960)  
 NASU - The New American Standard Update (1995)  
 RSV - The Revised Standard Version (1952)  
 NRSV - The New Revised Standard Version (1991)  
 ESV - The English Standard Version (2001)  
 NIV - The New International Version (1984)  
 TNIV - The Today's New International Version (2002)  
 NAB - The New American Bible (1970)  
 NJB - The New Jerusalem Bible (1985)  
 GNB - The Good News Bible (1994)  
 REB - The Revised English Bible (1961)  
 JB - The Jerusalem Bible (1966)  
 NLT - The New Living Translation (1997)  
 NEB - The New English Bible (1961)  
 The Message - The Message



**Formal Equivalence** - *As close to "word for word" translation as they could get.*

**Functional Equivalence** - *Close to "word for word" but using more contemporary language and idioms.*

**Free Translation** - *Translates the thoughts, not overly concerned with a "word for word" translation.*

*Chart information taken from "How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth" by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stewart, Zondervan Publishing, 2003*