

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” - Acts 2:42

“Go and make disciples of all nations, ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Jesus, Matt. 28:20a



FROM DISTRACTION TO
TRACTION:
PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15-17

2 Timothy 2:15

There's a correct way to handle it

Don't just read it – study it

(Consider the Bereans, Acts 17:11)

Don't just read it – in humility, sit under its authority

(James 1:21)

Don't just read it – do what it says. (James 1:22)

Hide it away in your heart (Psalm 119:11)

WHY STUDY IT? 2 TIM. 3:15-17

It can make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ

It is God-breathed

We need sound doctrine (correct teaching)

We need rebuked regularly

We need our thinking corrected

We need trained in godly living

It is designed to thoroughly equip us

WHY ELSE?

We're growing in our faith

God's word is like milk to a newborn 1 Pet. 2:2

It shows us who we truly are

God's word is like a mirror to our soul James 1:23

It sees through our charades to bring about real transformation

God's word is a two-edged sword Heb. 4:12-13

WHY ELSE?

It's dark out there!

God's word is a lamp to our feet
and a light for our path Ps. 119:105

We are at war spiritually

God's word is the sword of the Spirit Eph. 6:17



WHERE TO BEGIN

Many suggest John's gospel and the book of Romans to start

Incorporating the Psalms can strengthen our prayer life

The wisdom of Proverbs helps us think biblically



For those who want to start at the beginning and work their way through, a chronological Bible is encouraged to help understand the story line

SO MANY CHOICES

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE (Word for word)

Translation which does its best to accurately translate each of the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words of the original Scriptures. Some popular versions include the ESV, NASB, HCSB, KJV, NKJV, AMP

Primary caution: some measure of readability is sacrificed in order to ensure accuracy

DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE (Thought for thought)

Translation based on examining the whole sentence in an attempt to convey the intended meaning in a more-easily readable format. Some popular translations include the NIV (1984) and the NRSV.

Primary caution: some accuracy is sacrificed in order to assure readability

PARAPHRASE

These are just that. A paraphrase. Modern language and idioms are used to get the thought across to the reader. The goal of a paraphrase is to produce a literary work. Popular paraphrases include the NIRV, The Good News Bible, The Living Bible and The Message.

Primary caution: accuracy

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN:

“The Passion Translation” Some describe it as a paraphrase posing as a translation.

got questions.org says, “The Passion Translation is a re-worded and re-written Bible, apparently to support a particular strain of theology” which “reimagines the Bible as one human author thinks it should be written.”

From TPT’s own page: “sometimes in order to communicate the correct intended meaning, words needed to be changed.” “(TPT) is more in favor of prioritizing God’s original message over the words’ literal meaning.”