



QA: Why Do You Emphasize Wording In Bible Versions? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: Why do you place so much emphasis on the particular wording in various versions?

ANSWER: God inspired men to write the Bible with words, because words convey the ideas God wants each person to understand. Every Bible "version" that deviates from exactly what God has said is not to be trusted. Bible-believers are precisely careful because:

1. God Commands It:

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (**2 Timothy 1:13**)

- a. **No one can "hold fast" if the wording is changed** from version to version!
- b. **Word Thieves Aboard:** "Pattern" means "sketch, plan or outline," and is the structure that supports all details described. If wording has been altered, there is no "pattern" to be followed.

2. God Opposes Variation:

"Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor." (**Jeremiah 23:30**)

Wisdom declared:

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. (**Proverbs 30:5-6**)

God is against, and will hold accountable, all those who "steal" His words, or "add to His words" because God's actual words are kept back from people's sincere hearts.

3. Scholarship Demands It:

The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright-words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. (**Ecclesiastes 12:10-11**)

As long as Bible studies are used up comparing different versions of the Bible, no one can “nail” down what God has said, and “goad” thoughts to conform to His doctrine! The only “acceptable words” are those “upright words of truth,” that is, with no variation of turning:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (**James 1:17**)

All versions of the Bible that have changed or altered God’s words have created in people’s minds “variation or shadow of turning,” as if God cannot be trusted to have stated accurately what He meant or wants people to do!

4. **Certainty of Faith Requires It:**

Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge,
That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you
may answer words of truth To those who send to you?
(**Proverbs 22:20-21**)

If you don’t “know the certainty of the words of truth” you need to study an accurate Bible translation and not one that has been rewritten in an attempt to over-simplify God’s actual language. **The King James Version and the New King James Version have proven themselves** over the years to provide an accurate, **word-for-word English translation.**

5. **Inspiration’s Selection Insists On It:**

And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. (**Hebrews 13:22**)

- a. “Have written” means God will not keep writing;
- b. “few words” means each one has been selected by God.

—- jtpll, October 9, 2022