



# **1 John**

**translationNotes**

v6

# Copyrights & Licensing

## License:

This work is made available under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#), which means

You are free:

- Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

Under the following conditions:

- Attribution — You must attribute the work as follows: “Original work available at <http://unfoldingword.org>.” Attribution statements in derivative works should not in any way suggest that we endorse you or your use of this work.
- ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

Use of trademarks: **unfoldingWord** is a trademark of Distant Shores Media and may not be included on any derivative works created from this content. Unaltered content from <http://unfoldingword.org> must include the **unfoldingWord** logo when distributed to others. But if you alter the content in any way, you must remove the **unfoldingWord** logo before distributing your work.

This work is still being revised, if you have comments or questions please email them to [help@door43.org](mailto:help@door43.org)

**Version:** 6

**Published:** 2017-02-22

---

## Table of Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Copyrights &amp; Licensing</b> . . . . . | <b>1</b> |
| <b>translationNotes</b> . . . . .           | <b>6</b> |
| Introduction to 1 John . . . . .            | 6        |
| 1 John 1 General Notes . . . . .            | 12       |
| 1 John 1:1-2 . . . . .                      | 13       |
| 1 John 1:3-4 . . . . .                      | 15       |
| 1 John 1:5-7 . . . . .                      | 17       |
| 1 John 1:8-10 . . . . .                     | 19       |
| 1 John 2 General Notes . . . . .            | 21       |
| 1 John 2:1-3 . . . . .                      | 22       |
| 1 John 2:4-6 . . . . .                      | 24       |
| 1 John 2:7-8 . . . . .                      | 26       |
| 1 John 2:9-11 . . . . .                     | 28       |
| 1 John 2:12-14 . . . . .                    | 30       |
| 1 John 2:15-17 . . . . .                    | 32       |
| 1 John 2:18-19 . . . . .                    | 34       |
| 1 John 2:20-21 . . . . .                    | 36       |
| 1 John 2:22-23 . . . . .                    | 37       |
| 1 John 2:24-26 . . . . .                    | 39       |
| 1 John 2:27-29 . . . . .                    | 41       |
| 1 John 3 General Notes . . . . .            | 43       |
| 1 John 3:1-3 . . . . .                      | 44       |
| 1 John 3:4-6 . . . . .                      | 46       |
| 1 John 3:7-8 . . . . .                      | 47       |
| 1 John 3:9-10 . . . . .                     | 49       |
| 1 John 3:11-12 . . . . .                    | 51       |
| 1 John 3:13-15 . . . . .                    | 52       |
| 1 John 3:16-18 . . . . .                    | 54       |
| 1 John 3:19-22 . . . . .                    | 56       |
| 1 John 3:23-24 . . . . .                    | 58       |
| 1 John 4 General Notes . . . . .            | 59       |
| 1 John 4:1-3 . . . . .                      | 60       |
| 1 John 4:4-6 . . . . .                      | 62       |
| 1 John 4:7-8 . . . . .                      | 64       |
| 1 John 4:9-10 . . . . .                     | 65       |
| 1 John 4:11-14 . . . . .                    | 66       |
| 1 John 4:15-16 . . . . .                    | 68       |
| 1 John 4:17-18 . . . . .                    | 69       |
| 1 John 4:19-21 . . . . .                    | 71       |
| 1 John 5 General Notes . . . . .            | 72       |
| 1 John 5:1-3 . . . . .                      | 73       |

*Table of Contents*

---

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1 John 5:4-5 . . . . .                          | 75        |
| 1 John 5:6-8 . . . . .                          | 76        |
| 1 John 5:9-10 . . . . .                         | 78        |
| 1 John 5:11-12 . . . . .                        | 80        |
| 1 John 5:13-15 . . . . .                        | 81        |
| 1 John 5:16-17 . . . . .                        | 83        |
| 1 John 5:18-19 . . . . .                        | 84        |
| 1 John 5:20-21 . . . . .                        | 85        |
| <b>translationQuestions . . . . .</b>           | <b>87</b> |
| 1 John 1 . . . . .                              | 87        |
| 1 John 2 . . . . .                              | 89        |
| 1 John 3 . . . . .                              | 91        |
| 1 John 4 . . . . .                              | 93        |
| 1 John 5 . . . . .                              | 95        |
| <b>translationWords . . . . .</b>               | <b>97</b> |
| marvel, wonder, amazed, astonished . . . . .    | 97        |
| anoint, anointed . . . . .                      | 98        |
| antichrist . . . . .                            | 99        |
| astray, go astray, led astray, stray . . . . .  | 100       |
| believe, believe in, belief . . . . .           | 101       |
| beloved . . . . .                               | 102       |
| blood . . . . .                                 | 103       |
| bold, boldly, boldness . . . . .                | 104       |
| born again, born of God, new birth . . . . .    | 105       |
| brother . . . . .                               | 106       |
| Cain . . . . .                                  | 107       |
| children, child . . . . .                       | 108       |
| Christ, Messiah . . . . .                       | 109       |
| clean, cleanse . . . . .                        | 111       |
| command, to command, commandment . . . . .      | 112       |
| compassion, compassionate . . . . .             | 113       |
| condemn, condemnation . . . . .                 | 114       |
| confess, confession . . . . .                   | 115       |
| confidence, confident . . . . .                 | 116       |
| darkness . . . . .                              | 117       |
| day of the Lord, day of Yahweh . . . . .        | 118       |
| death, die, dead . . . . .                      | 119       |
| deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive . . . . . | 121       |
| everlasting, eternal, eternity . . . . .        | 122       |
| evil, wicked, wickedness . . . . .              | 123       |
| faith . . . . .                                 | 125       |
| faithful, faithfulness . . . . .                | 127       |
| false prophet . . . . .                         | 128       |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| ancestor, father, forefather . . . . .                   | 129 |
| fear, afraid, fear of Yahweh . . . . .                   | 130 |
| fellowship . . . . .                                     | 131 |
| flesh . . . . .  | 132 |
| forgive, forgiveness . . . . .                           | 133 |
| God . . . . .  | 134 |
| godly, godliness . . . . .                               | 136 |
| God the Father, heavenly Father, Father . . . . .        | 137 |
| heart . . . . .  | 139 |
| Holy One . . . . .                                       | 140 |
| Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord . . . . . | 141 |
| idol, idolatrous . . . . .                               | 143 |
| in Christ, in Jesus, in the Lord, in him . . . . .       | 144 |
| Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus . . . . .              | 145 |
| joy, joyful . . . . .                                    | 147 |
| last day, last days, latter days . . . . .               | 148 |
| lawless, lawlessness . . . . .                           | 149 |
| law, law of Moses, God's law, law of Yahweh . . . . .    | 150 |
| life, live, living, alive . . . . .                      | 152 |
| light . . . . .  | 154 |
| love . . . . .   | 155 |
| lust . . . . .   | 157 |
| name . . . . .   | 158 |
| perfect . . . . .  | 159 |
| pray, prayer . . . . .                                   | 160 |
| propitiation . . . . .                                   | 161 |
| punish, punishment . . . . .                             | 162 |
| pure, purify, purification . . . . .                     | 164 |
| receive . . . . .  | 165 |
| resurrection . . . . .                                   | 166 |
| reveal, revelation . . . . .                             | 167 |
| righteous, righteousness . . . . .                       | 168 |
| Satan, devil, evil one . . . . .                         | 169 |
| save, safe . . . . .                                     | 171 |
| Savior . . . . .   | 173 |
| seed . . . . .   | 174 |
| sin, sinful, sinner, sinning . . . . .                   | 175 |
| Son of God, the Son, Son . . . . .                       | 177 |
| spirit, spiritual . . . . .                              | 179 |
| test . . . . .   | 181 |
| testimony, testify . . . . .                             | 182 |
| tongue . . . . .   | 183 |
| true, truth, come true . . . . .                         | 184 |

*Table of Contents*

---

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| unrighteous, unrighteousness . . . . .                             | 186        |
| walk . . . . .   | 187        |
| will of God . . . . .  | 188        |
| witness, eyewitness . . . . .                                      | 189        |
| word . . . . .   | 191        |
| word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture . . . . . | 192        |
| works, deeds, work, acts . . . . .                                 | 194        |
| world, worldly . . . . .   | 195        |
| written . . . . .  | 196        |
| <b>translationAcademy . . . . .</b>                                | <b>197</b> |
| Abstract Nouns . . . . .   | 197        |
| Active or Passive . . . . .  | 200        |
| Double Negatives . . . . .   | 203        |
| Doublet . . . . .  | 206        |
| Ellipsis . . . . .   | 208        |
| Euphemism . . . . .  | 210        |
| Exclusive “We” . . . . .   | 212        |
| Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information . . . . .               | 214        |
| Hyperbole . . . . .  | 216        |
| Idiom . . . . .  | 219        |
| Inclusive “We” . . . . .   | 221        |
| Metaphor . . . . .   | 223        |
| Metonymy . . . . .   | 228        |
| Nominal Adjectives . . . . .                                       | 230        |
| Parallelism . . . . .  | 232        |
| Personification . . . . .  | 234        |
| Rhetorical Question . . . . .                                      | 236        |
| Synecdoche . . . . .   | 239        |
| Forms of You . . . . .   | 241        |
| Translating Son and Father . . . . .                               | 242        |
| How to Translate Names . . . . .                                   | 244        |
| Textual Variants . . . . .   | 248        |
| Translate Unknowns . . . . .                                       | 251        |

## translationNotes

### Introduction to 1 John

#### Part 1: General Introduction

##### Outline of the Book of 1 John

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Christian living (1:5-3:10)
3. The command to love one another (3:11-5:12)
4. Conclusion (5:13-21)

##### What is the Book of 1 John about?

John wrote this letter to Christians at a time when the church was having trouble with people who denied the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. John's purpose in writing this letter was to prevent believers from sinning, to protect believers from false teaching, and to assure believers that they are saved. This, John explains, would "make his joy complete." (See: [faith](#))

##### How should the title of this book be translated?

Translators may choose to call this book by its traditional title, "1 John" or "First John." Or they may choose a clearer title, such as "The First Letter from John," or "The First Letter John wrote." (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

##### Who wrote the Book of 1 John?

The letter of 1 John was written by the Apostle John, probably near the end of his life. John does not identify himself as the author, but the first chapter shows that he was an eyewitness to the life and resurrection of Jesus.

#### Part 2: Important Religious and Cultural Concepts

##### Who were the people that John spoke against?

It is possible that the people John spoke against were those who would eventually become known as Gnostics. These people believed that Jesus was God, but that he was not really a human with a physical body on earth. The reason for their belief was their view that the physical world was evil. John writes this letter to assure his readers that he was a true eyewitness to the life of Jesus. (See: [evil](#), [wicked](#), [wickedness](#))

### Part 3: Important Translation Issues

#### Why are the many references in 1 John to “remaining” and “reside” important?

This language often expresses the idea of people residing somewhere, or often of something existing in a certain place. Jesus’ words are said to “remain” in Christians; Christians are said to “remain” in Christ and in God, and also in Jesus’ love. The Father is said to “remain” in the Son, and the Son is said to remain in the Father and also in the believers. The Holy Spirit is also said to “remain” in the believers.

Many translators will find it impossible to represent these ideas in their languages in exactly the same way. For example, John intends to express the idea of the Christian being spiritually together with Jesus. See, for example, “He who says he remains in God” (1 John 2:6) often must be expressed in a different manner. The UDB says, “If we say that we are in union with God,” but translators will often have to find other expressions that communicate well.

In the passage, “the word of God remains in you” (1 John 2:13), the UDB expresses this idea as, “you continue to obey what God commands.” Many translators will find it possible to use this translation as a model.

#### What are the major issues in the text of the Book of 1 John?

The following are the most significant textual issues in the Book of 1 John:

- “And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” (1:4) The ULB, UDB, and most modern versions have this reading. Some older versions have, “And we are writing these things to you so that your joy may be complete.”
- “And you all know the truth.” (2:20) The ULB, UDB, and most modern versions have either this reading or the following reading: “And you all have knowledge.” Some older versions have, “and you know all things.”
- “and this is what we are!” (3:1). The ULB, UDB, and most modern versions have this reading. Some older manuscripts omit this phrase.
- “and every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not of God.” (4:3) The ULB, UDB, and most modern versions have this reading. Some older manuscripts read, “and every spirit that does not acknowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh is not of God.”
- “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three are as one.” (5:7-8). The ULB, UDB, and most other versions do not have this reading. Translators are advised not to translate this material. However, if older Bible versions exist in their region have it, it is not wrong to translate it. If it is translated, it should be put inside square brackets ([]) to indicate that it is not original to the Book of 1 John.

(See: [Textual Variants](#))



**List of translationAcademy Topics in 1 John**

- \* **Abstract Nouns** is found in: 02:20, 03:13, 04:09, 05:09, 05:11, 05:13, 05:16, 05:20
- \* **Active or Passive** is found in: 01:01, 02:04, 02:12, 03:01, 03:04, 03:07, 03:09, 04:09, 04:17
- \* **Double Negatives** is found in: 03:09, 04:19
- \* **Doublet** is found in: 03:04, 03:16
- \* **Ellipsis** is found in: 03:11, 03:16
- \* **Exclusive “We”** is found in: 01:03
- \* **Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information** is found in: 01:08, 02:01, 02:07, 02:24, 02:27, 05:09
- \* **Hyperbole** is found in: 02:27
- \* **Idiom** is found in: 03:16
- \* **Inclusive “We”** is found in: 01:05, 02:01
- \* **Metaphor** is found in: 01:05, 01:08, 02:01, 02:04, 02:07, 02:09, 02:12, 02:15, 02:20, 02:24, 02:27, 03:07, 03:09, 03:13, 03:16, 03:19, 03:23, 04:01, 04:04, 04:07, 04:15, 05:11, 05:20
- \* **Metonymy** is found in: 01:01, 01:05, 02:12, 02:15, 02:18, 02:24, 03:01, 03:07, 03:13, 03:19, 04:01, 04:04, 05:04, 05:06, 05:18, 05:20
- \* **Parallelism** is found in: 01:01, 01:08, 02:09
- \* **Personification** is found in: 04:17
- \* **Rhetorical Question** is found in: 02:22, 03:11, 03:16, 05:04
- \* **Forms of You** is found in: 01:01, 02:24
- \* **Translating Son and Father** is found in: 01:03, 01:05, 02:22, 03:07, 03:23, 04:11, 04:15, 05:04, 05:09, 05:11, 05:13, 05:20

**List of translationWords in 1 John**

- \* **marvel, wonder, amazed, astonished** is found in: 03:13
- \* **anoint, anointed** is found in: 02:20, 02:27
- \* **antichrist** is found in: 02:18, 02:22, 04:01
- \* **astray, go astray, led astray, stray** is found in: 03:07
- \* **believe, believe in, belief** is found in: 03:23, 04:01, 04:15, 05:01, 05:09, 05:13
- \* **beloved** is found in: 02:07, 03:01, 03:19, 04:01, 04:07, 04:11
- \* **blood** is found in: 01:05, 05:06
- \* **bold, boldly, boldness** is found in: 02:27
- \* **born again, born of God, new birth** is found in: 02:27, 03:09, 04:07, 05:04, 05:18

- \* brother is found in: 02:09, 03:13
- \* Cain is found in: 03:11
- \* children, child is found in: 02:01, 02:12, 02:18, 02:27, 03:01, 03:07, 03:09, 04:04, 05:01, 05:20
- \* Christ, Messiah is found in: 02:22, 03:01, 03:04, 03:07, 03:16, 05:01
- \* clean, cleanse is found in: 01:05, 01:08
- \* command, to command, commandment is found in: 02:01, 02:04, 02:07, 03:19, 03:23, 04:19, 05:01
- \* compassion, compassionate is found in: 03:16
- \* condemn, condemnation is found in: 03:19
- \* confess, confession is found in: 01:08
- \* confidence, confident is found in: 03:01, 03:19, 04:17, 05:13
- \* darkness is found in: 01:05, 02:07, 02:09
- \* day of the Lord, day of Yahweh is found in: 04:17
- \* death, die, dead is found in: 03:13, 05:16
- \* deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive is found in: 01:08
- \* everlasting, eternal, eternity is found in: 01:01, 02:15, 02:24, 03:13, 05:11, 05:13, 05:20
- \* evil, wicked, wickedness is found in: 03:11, 05:18
- \* faithful, faithfulness is found in: 01:08
- \* false prophet is found in: 04:01
- \* ancestor, father, forefather is found in: 02:12, 05:01
- \* fear, afraid, fear of Yahweh is found in: 04:17
- \* fellowship is found in: 01:03, 01:05
- \* flesh is found in: 02:15, 04:01
- \* forgive, forgiveness is found in: 01:08, 02:12
- \* God is found in: 01:05, 02:04, 03:19, 04:04, 04:07, 04:19
- \* God the Father, heavenly Father, Father is found in: 01:01, 01:03, 02:01, 02:12, 02:15, 02:22, 03:01
- \* heart is found in: 03:16, 03:19
- \* Holy One is found in: 02:20
- \* Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord is found in: 03:23, 04:01, 04:11, 05:06
- \* idol, idolatrous is found in: 05:20
- \* in Christ, in Jesus, in the Lord, in him is found in: 02:04
- \* Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus is found in: 01:03, 02:01, 02:04, 02:22, 03:23, 04:15, 05:01, 05:06, 05:20

- \* joy, joyful is found in: 01:03
- \* lawless, lawlessness is found in: 03:04
- \* life, live, living, alive is found in: 01:01, 03:13
- \* light is found in: 01:05, 02:07, 02:09
- \* love is found in: 02:04, 02:09, 02:15, 03:01, 03:11, 03:16, 03:23, 04:07, 04:17, 05:01
- \* lust is found in: 02:15
- \* name is found in: 02:12, 03:23, 05:13
- \* perfect is found in: 02:04, 04:17
- \* pray, prayer is found in: 05:16
- \* propitiation is found in: 02:01, 04:09
- \* punish, punishment is found in: 04:17
- \* pure, purify, purification is found in: 03:01
- \* receive is found in: 05:09
- \* reveal, revelation is found in: 03:01, 03:04, 03:07
- \* righteous, righteousness is found in: 02:01, 02:27, 03:07, 03:09, 03:11
- \* Satan, devil, evil one is found in: 02:12, 03:07, 03:09, 05:18
- \* Savior is found in: 04:11
- \* seed is found in: 03:09
- \* sin, sinful, sinner, sinning is found in: 01:05, 01:08, 02:01, 02:12, 03:04, 03:07, 03:09, 04:09, 05:16
- \* Son of God, the Son, Son is found in: 01:03, 01:05, 02:22, 03:07, 03:23, 04:09, 04:15, 05:04, 05:09, 05:11, 05:13, 05:20
- \* spirit, spiritual is found in: 04:01
- \* test is found in: 04:01
- \* testimony, testify is found in: 05:09
- \* tongue is found in: 03:16
- \* true, truth, come true is found in: 01:05, 01:08, 02:04, 02:07, 02:20, 03:16, 03:19
- \* unrighteous, unrighteousness is found in: 01:08, 05:16
- \* walk is found in: 01:05, 02:04, 02:09
- \* will of God is found in: 02:15, 05:13
- \* witness, eyewitness is found in: 01:01, 04:11, 05:06, 05:09
- \* word is found in: 01:01, 02:04, 02:07, 03:16
- \* word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture is found in: 02:12

\* **works, deeds, work, acts** is found in: **03:07, 03:11**

\* **world, worldly** is found in: **02:01, 02:15, 03:01, 03:13, 04:04, 05:04, 05:18**

\* **written** is found in: **05:13**

## 1 John 1 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

This letter does not begin in the way letters in the ancient Near East traditionally began. Instead, it begins in a similar way to the Gospel of John. Both do not really have an introduction of any kind. John appears to almost begin in the middle of an idea.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Christians and sin

This chapter teaches that all Christians remain sinners after they come to faith in Jesus. Despite this, God still forgives a Christian's sins. (See: [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#), [faith](#) and [forgive](#), [forgiveness](#))

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Metaphors

There are many metaphors in this chapter, all of which are commonly used in Scripture. Light is always used in a positive way to describe righteousness. Darkness is always used in a negative way to describe unrighteousness. The Christian life is also described as a walk. (See: [Metaphor](#), [righteous](#), [righteousness](#) and [unrighteous](#), [unrighteousness](#))

#### Links:

- [1 John 01:01 Notes](#)
- [Introduction to 1 John](#)

## 1 John 1:1-2

### UDB:

<sup>1</sup> I, John, am writing to you about the one who existed before there was anything else. He is the one whom we apostles listened to as he taught us. We saw him. We ourselves looked at him and touched him. He is the one who taught us the message about eternal life. <sup>2</sup> (Because he came here to the earth and we have seen him, we proclaim to you clearly that the one whom we have seen is the one who has always lived. He was previously with his Father in heaven, but he came to live among us.)

### ULB:

**1** <sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning—which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched—it is about the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> Also, the life was made known, and we have seen it, and we bear witness to it. We are announcing to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and which has been made known to us.

### translationWords:

- word
- life, live, living, alive
- witness, eyewitness
- everlasting, eternal, eternity
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - This book opens with two of its purposes - fellowship and joy.
- **General Information:** - The apostle John wrote this letter to believers. All instances of “you,” “your,” and “yours” include all believers and are plural. Here the words “we” and “us” refer to John and those who had been with Jesus. (See: **Forms of You** and **Exclusive “We”**)
- **General Information:** - Verse 1 is a partial sentence. If you need to have a complete sentence, you can begin the sentence with verse 1, treat verse 2 as a parenthesis, as the UDB does, and complete the sentence with **1:3**.
- **That which was from the beginning** - The phrase “That which was from the beginning” refers to Jesus, who existed before everything was made. AT: “We are writing to you about the one who existed before the creation of all things.”
- **the beginning** - “the beginning of all things” or “the creation of the world”
- **which we have heard** - “which we have heard him teach”
- **which we have seen ... we have looked at** - This is repeated for emphasis. AT: “which we ourselves have seen” (See: **Parallelism**)

- **the Word of life** - The “Word of life” is Jesus. AT: “Jesus, the one who causes people to live forever” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **life** - The word “life” throughout this letter refers to more than physical life. It stands here for Jesus, the eternal life. (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **the life was made known** - This can be stated in active form. AT: “God made the eternal life known to us” or “God made us able to know him, who is eternal life” (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **and we have seen it** - “and we have seen him”
- **and we bear witness to it** - “and we solemnly tell others about him”
- **the eternal life** - Here, “the eternal life” refers to the one who gives that life, Jesus. AT: “the one who enables us to live forever” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **which was with the Father** - “who was with God the Father”
- **and which has been made known to us** - This was when he lived on earth. AT: “and he came to live among us” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 01 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 01 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 1:3-4

### UDB:

<sup>3</sup> We are proclaiming to you the message about Jesus, the one whom we saw and heard, in order that you may join together with us. The ones with whom we have joined are God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I am writing to you about these things so that you will be convinced that they are true, and that as a result we may be completely joyful.

### ULB:

<sup>3</sup> That which we have seen and heard we declare also to you, so you also will have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> Also, we are writing these things to you so that our joy will be complete.[1]Some older versions read, *And we are writing these things to you so that your joy will be complete.*

### translationWords:

- fellowship
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father
- Son of God, the Son, Son
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- joy, joyful

### translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Here the words “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to John and those who had been with Jesus. (See: [Exclusive “We”](#))
- **That which we have seen and heard we declare also to you** - “We say to you also what we have seen and heard”
- **have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father** - “be our close friends. We are friends with God the Father”
- **Our fellowship** - It is not clear if John is including or excluding his readers. You may translate this either way.
- **Father ... Son** - These are important titles that describe the relationship between God and Jesus. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **so that our joy will be complete** - “to make our joy complete” or “to make ourselves completely happy”



**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 01 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 01 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 1:5-7

### UDB:

<sup>5</sup> The message that we heard from God and that we are proclaiming to you is this: He never sins. He is like a brilliant light that has no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have joined together with God, but if we conduct our lives in an impure manner, that is like living in evil darkness. We are lying. We are not conducting our lives according to God's true message. <sup>7</sup> But living in a pure manner, as God is living in a pure manner in every way, is like living in God's light. If we do that, we can join together with each other, and God forgives us and accepts us because Jesus died for us.

### ULB:

<sup>5</sup> This is the message that we have heard from him and are announcing to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.

### translationWords:

- God
- light
- darkness
- fellowship
- walk
- true, truth, come true
- blood
- Son of God, the Son, Son
- clean, cleanse
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - From here into the next chapter, John writes about fellowship - close relationships with God and other believers.
- **General Information:** - Here the words "we" and "us" refer to all believers, including the people to whom John was writing. Unless otherwise stated, that is the meaning for the remainder of this book. (See: **Inclusive "We"**)
- **God is light** - This means that God is perfectly pure and holy. Cultures that associate goodness with light may be able to keep the idea of light without explaining the metaphor. AT: "God is purely righteous like pure light" (See: **Metonymy**)

- **in him there is no darkness at all** - This means that God never sins and is not evil in any way. Cultures that associate evil with darkness may be able to keep the idea of darkness without explaining the metaphor. AT: “in him there is no darkness of sin” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **walk in darkness** - This means “practice evil” or “do evil.” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **walk in the light** - This means “practice goodness” or “do what is good.” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **the blood of Jesus** - This refers to the death of Jesus. (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **Son** - This is an important title for Jesus, the Son of God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 01 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 01 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 1:8-10

### UDB:

<sup>8</sup> Those who say that they have never sinned are deceiving themselves and are refusing to believe what God says about them. <sup>9</sup> But God always does what he says he will do, and what he does is always right. So if we admit to him that we have sinned, he will forgive us for our sins and will free us from the guilt of everything we have done wrong. Because of that, we should admit to him that we have sinned. <sup>10</sup> Because God says that everyone has sinned, those who say that they have never sinned talk as though God lies! They reject what God says about us!

### ULB:

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his word is not in us.

### translationWords:

- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive
- true, truth, come true
- confess, confession
- faithful, faithfulness
- forgive, forgiveness
- clean, cleanse
- unrighteous, unrighteousness

### translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Here the words “he,” “him,” and “his” refer to God. (See: [1:5](#))
- **have no sin** - “never sin”
- **are deceiving** - “are tricking” or “lying to”
- **the truth is not in us** - The truth is spoken of as if it were an object that could be inside believers. AT: “we do not believe what is true” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness** - These two phrases mean basically the same thing. John uses them to emphasize that God will surely forgive our sins. AT: “and will completely forgive us of what we have done wrong” (See: [Parallelism](#))
- **we make him out to be a liar** - we claim that he is a liar AT: “it is the same as calling him a liar, because he said we have all sinned” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

- **his word is not in us** - Obeying and honoring God's word is spoken of as if his word were inside the believers. AT: "we do not understand God's word nor obey what he says" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 01 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 01 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 2 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### New and old commandments

The old commandments are contained in the law of Moses. The new commandments are those given to the church after the death and resurrection of Jesus. (See: [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [God's law](#), [law of Yahweh](#) and [resurrection](#))

#### Antichrist

This chapter refers to both a specific Antichrist and many different antichrists. "Antichrist" means to be against Jesus. The antichrist is a person who will come in the last days and imitate the ministry of Jesus for evil. Before this person comes, there will be many different people who work against the cause of Christ and are referred to as "antichrists" because they are working against Jesus. (See: [last day](#), [last days](#), [latter days](#) and [evil](#), [wicked](#), [wickedness](#))

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Metonymy

There are many different metonymies used in this chapter. They are used to teach and to give instructions that are generic and can be applied in many different circumstances. (See: [Metonymy](#))

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "This we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments"

John has just stated that all Christians sin. There is appears to contradict his earlier statement that Christian do not always keep God's commandments. John explains that the desire to serve God is born from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the new life or nature given to Christians. Christians sin. The word "know" can be understood in many different ways and this range of meaning can cause confusion here.

#### Links:

- [1 John 02:01 Notes](#)

## 1 John 2:1-3

### UDB:

<sup>1</sup> You who are as dear to me as my own children, I am writing this to you to keep you from sinning. But if any of you believers does sin, remember that Jesus Christ, the righteous one, pleads with the Father for him to forgive us. <sup>2</sup> Jesus Christ voluntarily sacrificed his own life for us, so that as a result God forgives our sins. Yes, God is able to forgive our sins, but not only ours. He is also able to forgive the sins of people everywhere!

<sup>3</sup> I will tell you how we can be sure that we know God. If we obey what he commands us to do, that shows us that we are joined together with him.

### ULB:

<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> Children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the one who is righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. <sup>3</sup> By this we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments.

### translationWords:

- children, child
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- righteous, righteousness
- propitiation
- world, worldly
- command, to command, commandment

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - John continues to write about fellowship and shows that it is possible because Jesus goes between believers and the Father.
- **General Information:** - Here the words “we” and “us” refer to John and all believers. The words “him” and “his” could refer to God the Father or to Jesus. (See: **Inclusive “We”**)
- **Children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: “My dear children in Christ” or “You who are as dear to me as my own children” (See: **Metaphor**)
- **I am writing these things** - “I write this letter”
- **But if anyone sins** - “But when anyone sins.” This is something that is likely to happen.

- **an advocate with the Father** - The word “advocate” here refers to Jesus. AT: “someone who speaks to God the Father and asks him to forgive us” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **He is the propitiation for our sins** - “He sacrificed his own life for us, and because of that God forgives our sins”
- **By this we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments** - “If we do what he tells us to do, then we can be certain that we have a good relationship with him”
- **we know him** - “we have a relationship with him”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)



**1 John 2:4-6****UDB:**

<sup>4</sup> Those who say, “We know God,” and do not obey what God commands us to do, are liars. They are not conducting their lives according to God’s true message. <sup>5</sup> But those who obey what God commands them to do are the people who love God in every way. This is how we can be sure that we are joined with God. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we are in union with God, we should conduct our lives as Christ did.

**ULB:**

<sup>4</sup> The one who says, “I know God,” but does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps his word, truly, it is in that person that the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him. <sup>6</sup> The one who says he remains in God should himself also walk just as Jesus Christ walked.

**translationWords:**

- God
- command, to command, commandment
- true, truth, come true
- word
- love
- perfect
- in Christ, in Jesus, in the Lord, in him
- walk
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus

**translationNotes:**

- **The one who says** - “Anyone who says” or “The person who says”
- **I know God** - “I have a good relationship with God”
- **does not keep** - “does not do” or “disobeys”
- **his commandments** - “what God tells him to do”
- **the truth is not in him** - The truth is spoken of as if it were an object that could be inside the believers. AT: “he does not believe what God says is true” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **keeps** - “does” or “obeys”
- **his word** - “what God tells him to do”
- **the love of God** - Possible meanings are 1) “our love for God” or 2) “God’s love for us.”
- **truly, it is in that person that the love of God has been perfected** - This can be stated in active form. AT: “God has perfected the love of God in that person,” “For sure, those who

obey God's commands are the people who love God in every way," or "God's love for people has achieved its goal when they do what he tells them to do" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

- **By this we know that we are in him** - The phrase "we are in him" means that the believer is always united with God or has continual fellowship with God. Often in 1 John the phrase "remain in him" is used to mean the same thing. AT: "When we obey what God says, we can be certain that we have fellowship with him" (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **remains in God** - "has a relationship with God"
- **should himself also walk just as Jesus Christ walked** - Conducting one's life is spoken of as if it were walking. AT: "must live as Jesus Christ lived" or "should also obey God just as Jesus Christ did" (See: [Metaphor](#))

#### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 2:7-8

### UDB:

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, I am not writing that you must do something new. Instead, I am writing something that you have known to do since you first believed in Christ. This is part of the message that you have always heard. <sup>8</sup> But I will say something again to you on this same topic: I can say that I am telling you to do something new. It is new because what Christ did was new, and what you are doing is new. This is because you are ceasing to do evil and you are doing more and more good. It is like when night passes away and day dawns, the true day of Christ.

### ULB:

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you heard. <sup>8</sup> Yet I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Christ and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

### translationWords:

- beloved
- command, to command, commandment
- word
- darkness
- true, truth, come true
- light

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - John gives believers basic principles of fellowship - obedience and love.
- **Beloved** - “You people whom I love” or “Dear friends”
- **I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment** - “I write to you to love one other, which is not a new thing to do but an old commandment that you had heard.” John refers to Jesus’ command to love one another.
- **from the beginning** - Here, “beginning” refers to when they decided to follow Christ. AT: “from when you first believed in Christ” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **Yet I am writing a new commandment to you** - “But in one way the commandment I write to you is new”
- **which is true in Christ and in you** - Here the word “in” means “because of.” AT: “which is true because what Christ did, and because of what you are doing”

- **the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining** - Here “darkness” refers to evil and “light” refers to goodness. AT: “because you are ceasing to do evil and you are doing more and more good” (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 2:9-11****UDB:**

<sup>9</sup> Those who claim that they are like people who live in the light, but who hate any of their fellow believers, are still like people who live in darkness. <sup>10</sup> But those who love their fellow believers behave like people who are living in the light; they have no reason to sin. <sup>11</sup> Those who hate any of their fellow believers are still like people who are living in darkness, unaware of what is true about God.

**ULB:**

<sup>9</sup> The one who says that he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> The one who loves his brother remains in the light and there is no occasion for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**translationWords:**

- light
- brother
- darkness
- love
- walk

**translationNotes:**

- **General Information:** - Here the word “brother” refers to a fellow Christian.
- **The one who says** - “Anyone who says” or “Those who claim” (UDB). This does not refer to a specific person.
- **he is in the light** - This is a picture of living right. When people do what is right, they can do it in the light and not hide in the dark. AT: “he does what is right” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **is in the darkness** - This is a picture of living sinfully. When people do what is wrong, they like to hide in the dark. AT: “is in the darkness, doing what is evil” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **there is no occasion for stumbling in him** - “nothing will cause him to stumble.” The word “stumbling” is a metaphor that means to fail spiritually or morally. AT: “nothing will cause him to sin” or “he will not fail to do what is pleasing to God” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **is in the darkness and walks in the darkness** - This same idea is said twice to bring attention to how evil it is to hate a fellow believer. AT: “is living in darkness” or “is living in the darkness of sin” (See: [Parallelism](#))

- **he does not know where he is going** - This is a picture of the believer who is not living as a Christian should be living. AT: “he does not even know he is doing what is evil” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **the darkness has blinded his eyes** - “the darkness has made him unable to see.” Darkness is a metaphor for sin or evil. AT: “sin has made it impossible for him to understand the truth” (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 2:12-14****UDB:**

<sup>12</sup> I am writing this to you whom I love as though you were my own children. God has forgiven your sins because of what Christ has done for you. <sup>13</sup> I am writing to you believers who are older than the others. You have known Christ, who has always lived. I am also writing to you young men; you have defeated Satan, the evil one. And I am writing to you little children, because you know God the Father. <sup>14</sup> I will say it again: I am writing this to you older men because you have come to know Christ, the one who has always existed. And I am writing to you young men, because you are strong and you continue to obey what God commands, and because you have defeated Satan, the evil one.

**ULB:**

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins are forgiven because of his name. <sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers, because you know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, little children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, because you know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

**translationWords:**

- children, child
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- forgive, forgiveness
- name
- Satan, devil, evil one
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father
- ancestor, father, forefather
- word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture

**translationNotes:**

- **General Information:** - John explains why he is writing his letter to either different age groups or to believers with differences in maturity. Try to use similar wording for these sentences, as they are written poetically.
- **dear children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: “my dear children in Christ” or “you who are as dear to me as my own children.” See how you translated this in 2:1. (See: **Metaphor**)

- **your sins are forgiven** - This can be stated in active form. AT: “God forgives your sins” (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **because of his name** - “his name” refers to Christ and who he is. AT: “because of what Christ has done for you” (UDB). (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **I am writing to you, fathers** - The word “fathers” here is possibly a metaphor referring to mature believers. AT: “I am writing to you, mature believers” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **you know** - “you have a relationship with”
- **the one who is from the beginning** - “the one who has always lived” or “the one who has always existed.” It refers either to “Jesus” or to “God the Father.”
- **young men** - This possibly refers to those who are no longer new believers but are growing in spiritual maturity. AT: “young believers” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **you are strong** - Here “strong” refers not to believers’ physical strength, but to their faithfulness to Christ. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **the word of God remains in you** - The writer refers to the believers’ increased faithfulness to Christ and knowledge of him as if he were speaking of God’s word existing in them. AT: “you know the word of God” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **overcome** - The writer is speaking of the believers’ refusal to follow Satan and of their frustrating his plans as if it were a matter of conquering him. (UDB) (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)



**1 John 2:15-17****UDB:**

<sup>15</sup> Do not behave like the people in the world who do not honor God. Do not desire the things they want to have. If anyone lives like they live, they are proving they do not love God our Father. <sup>16</sup> I am writing this, because all the wrong things that people do, all the things that people see and try to obtain for themselves, and all the things that they boast about—all these things have nothing to do with our Father in heaven. They belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> The people in the world who do not honor God, along with everything that they desire, will disappear. But those who do what God wants them to do will live forever!

**ULB:**

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the arrogance of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desire are passing away. But whoever does the will of God will remain forever.

**translationWords:**

- love
- world, worldly
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father
- lust
- flesh
- will of God
- everlasting, eternal, eternity

**translationNotes:**

- **Do not love the world** - In 2:15-17 the word “world” refers to all the things people want to do that do not honor God. AT: “Do not behave like the people in the world who do not honor God” (UDB). (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **nor the things that are in the world** - “and do not want the same things those who dishonor God want”
- **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him** - A person cannot love this world and all that dishonors God and love the Father at the same time. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **the love of the Father is not in him** - “he does not love the Father”
- **the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the arrogance of life** - This is a list of some of the things in the world. It explains what is meant by “everything that is in the world” (See: [Metonymy](#))

- **the lust of the flesh** - “the strong desire to have sinful physical pleasure”
- **the lust of the eyes** - “the strong desire to have things that we see”
- **the arrogance of life** - “pride of life.” This could imply both possessions and attitudes. “bragging about what a person has or does” or “the pride people feel because of their things and what he does”
- **life** - This could refer here to the things that people have in order to live, such as possessions and wealth as well as attitudes.
- **is not from the Father** - “does not come from the Father” or “is not how the Father teaches us to live”
- **are passing away** - “pass away” or “will one day not be here”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 2:18-19

### UDB:

<sup>18</sup> You who are very dear to me, it is now just before Jesus returns to earth. You have already heard that the person who will pretend to be Christ is coming; actually, many such persons have already arrived—but they are all against Christ. Because of this, we know that Christ will return very soon. <sup>19</sup> These people refused to remain in our congregations, but they never really belonged with us in the first place. When they left us, we clearly saw that they had never joined with us.

### ULB:

<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that the antichrist is coming, now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not from us. For if they had been from us they would have remained with us. But when they went out, that showed they were not from us.

### translationWords:

- [children, child](#)
- [antichrist](#)

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - John warns about those who are against Christ.
- **Little children** - “Immature Christians.” See how you translated this in [2:1](#).
- **it is the last hour** - The phrase “the last hour” refers to the time just before Jesus returns. AT: “Jesus will return soon” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **many antichrists have come** - “there are many people who are against Christ”
- **By this we know** - “and because of this we know” or “and because many antichrists have come, we know”
- **They went out from us** - “They left us”
- **but they were not from us** - “but they did not really belong to us anyway” or “they were not really part of our group in the first place.” The reason they were not really part of the group is that they were not believers in Jesus.
- **For if they had been from us they would have remained with us** - “We know this because they would not have left us if they really had been believers”

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)

- 1 John 02 General Notes
- 1 John 02 Translation Questions

**1 John 2:20-21****UDB:**

<sup>20</sup> But as for you, Christ, the one who is holy, has given you his Spirit; it is his Spirit who teaches you all the truth. <sup>21</sup> I am writing this letter to you, not because you do not know the truth about God, but because you do know what it is. You also know that God teaches us nothing that is false; instead, he teaches us only what is true.

**ULB:**

<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know the truth.[1]Some other modern versions read, *and you have all knowledge*. Some older versions read, *and you know all things*. <sup>21</sup> I did not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and because no lie is from the truth.

**translationWords:**

- [anoint, anointed](#)
- [Holy One](#)
- [true, truth, come true](#)

**translationNotes:**

- **General Information:** - In the Old Testament the word “anointing” referred to pouring oil on a person to set him apart to serve God.
- **But you have an anointing from the Holy One** - “But the Holy One has anointed you.” Here “anointing” refers to Jesus’ giving the Holy Spirit to believers to set them apart to serve God. AT: “But Jesus Christ, the Holy One, has given you his Spirit” (See: [Metaphor](#) and [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **no lie is from the truth** - Here the action of lying is spoken of as if it were an object. AT: “no lie comes from God, who is true” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 2:22-23

### UDB:

<sup>22</sup> The worst liars are the ones who deny that Jesus is the Christ. All who do this are against Christ, because they refuse to believe in the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> Those who refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is God's Son are in no way joined with the Father, but those who acknowledge that Christ is the Son of God are also joined with Father.

### ULB:

<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? That person is the antichrist, since he denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever acknowledges the Son also has the Father.

### translationWords:

- [Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus](#)
- [Christ, Messiah](#)
- [antichrist](#)
- [God the Father, heavenly Father, Father](#)
- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)

### translationNotes:

- **Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?** - "Who is the liar? Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ." John used a question to emphasize who liars are. (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))
- **denies that Jesus is the Christ** - "refuses to say that Jesus is the Christ" or "says that Jesus is not the Messiah"
- **denies the Father and the Son** - "refuses to say the truth about the Father and the Son" or "rejects the Father and the Son."
- **Father ... Son** - These are important titles that describe the relationship between God and Jesus. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **has the Father** - "belongs to the Father"
- **acknowledges the Son** - "speaks the truth about the Son"
- **has the Father** - "belongs to the Father"

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)

- 1 John 02 Translation Questions

**1 John 2:24-26****UDB:**

<sup>24</sup> So, as for you, you must continue to believe the truth about Jesus Christ that you first heard, and to live according to it. If you do that, you will stay joined to the Son and the Father. <sup>25</sup> And what God told us is that he will cause us to live forever!

<sup>26</sup> I have written this to you to warn you about those who want to deceive you concerning the truth about Christ.

**ULB:**

<sup>24</sup> As for you, let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is the promise he gave to us: eternal life. <sup>26</sup> I have written these things to you about those who would lead you astray.

**translationWords:**

- everlasting, eternal, eternity

**translationNotes:**

- **Connecting Statement:** - John reminds believers to continue in what they had first heard.
- **General Information:** - Here the word “you” is plural and refers to the people to whom John wrote as well as all believers. The word “he” is emphatic and refers to Christ. (See: [Forms of You](#))
- **As for you** - This marks John’s telling them how they should live as followers of Jesus instead of how those against Christ live.
- **let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you** - “remember and believe what you have heard from the beginning.” How they heard it, what they heard, and what “the beginning” means can be made explicit: AT: “continue to trust what we have taught you about Jesus just as you have trusted since you first became believers” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **what you have heard from the beginning** - “what we taught you about Jesus when you first became believers”
- **If what you heard from the beginning remains in you** - The word “remains is talking about relationship, not salvation. ”If you continue to trust what we first taught you”
- **also remain in the Son and in the Father** - “also have a relationship with the Son and with the Father.” See how this was translated in [2:5-6](#).
- **And this is the promise he gave to us: eternal life** - “And this is what he promised to give us - eternal life” or “And he has promised to cause us to live forever”



- **life** - The word “life” throughout this letter refers to more than physical life. It stands here for Jesus, the eternal life. See how you translated this in [1:1-2](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **would lead you astray** - “want to draw you away.” There are those who would try to draw believers away from God. AT: “want to draw you away from God and His truth” “would try to make you believe a lie” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **lead you astray** - Persuading someone to disobey God is spoken of as if it were leading someone off the right path to follow. (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 2:27-29****UDB:**

<sup>27</sup> As for you, God's Spirit, whom you received from Christ, remains in you. So you do not need anyone else to be your teacher. God's Spirit is teaching you everything that you need to know. He always teaches the truth and never says anything that is false. So continue to live in the way that he has taught you, and remain joined with him.

<sup>28</sup> Now, my dear ones, I urge you to continue to remain joined with Christ. We need to do that in order that we may be confident that he will accept us when he comes back again. If we do that, we will not be ashamed when we stand before him when he comes. <sup>29</sup> Since you know that Christ always does what is right, you know that all those who continue doing what is right are the ones who have become God's children.

**ULB:**

<sup>27</sup> As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you everything and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in him.

<sup>28</sup> And now, dear children, remain in him, so that when he appears, we will have boldness and not be ashamed before him at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born from him.

**translationWords:**

- anoint, anointed
- children, child
- bold, boldly, boldness
- righteous, righteousness
- born again, born of God, new birth

**translationNotes:**

- **Connecting Statement:** - Starting in verse 29, John introduces the idea of being born into God's family. The previous verses show that believers continue to sin; this part shows believers also have the new nature which cannot sin. It continues to show how believers can recognize each other.
- **As for you** - This marks John's telling them something else about how they should live as followers of Jesus instead of following those who are against Christ.
- **the anointing** - This refers to "God's Spirit." See the note about "anointing" in 2:20.
- **as his anointing teaches you** - "because his anointing teaches you"

- **everything** - Here this phrase is a hyperbole. AT: “everything that you need to know” (See: [Hyperbole](#))
- **remain in him** - “live for him.” See how this phrase was translated in [2:5-6](#). How a person remains refers to his fellowship or relationship. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **And now** - This phrase is used here to mark a new part of the letter.
- **dear children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: “my dear children in Christ” or “you who are as dear to me as my own children.” See how you translated this in [2:1](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **he appears** - “we see him”
- **boldness** - “confidence”
- **at his coming** - “when he comes again”
- **has been born from him** - “has been born of God” or “is God’s child”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 02 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 02 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 3 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Children of God

The author John, was a Jew, but he did not become a child of God until after he came to faith in Jesus. (See: [faith](#))

#### Cain

Cain was the son of the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. He murdered his brother out of jealousy or envy. This reference will be difficult to understand if Genesis has not yet been translated. Additional explanation may be necessary.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### “To know”

The verb “to know” is used in a way that means “to understand.” It is a type of knowledge based on one’s experiences. Care should be taken when translating this word because it is not the primary definition of the term.

#### Keeps sinning and doing righteousness

There are many instructions in this chapter that will change their meaning if they are translated as happening continually or in another way. This passage is especially difficult in light of the fact that the first chapter teaches that Christians inevitably sin. (See: [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#)).

#### “He who keeps God’s commandments remains in him, and God remains in him”

Many scholars believe this is about remaining in the will of God and is not a reference to a person’s eternal salvation. (See: [everlasting](#), [eternal](#), [eternity](#) and [save](#), [safe](#)).

#### Links:

- [1 John 03:01 Notes](#)

## 1 John 3:1-3

### UDB:

<sup>1</sup> Think about how much our Father loves us: He allows us to say that we are his children. And this is indeed true. But people who are unbelievers have not understood who God is. So they do not understand who we are, that we are God's children. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, even though at present we are God's children, he has not yet shown us what we will be like in the future. However, we know that when Christ comes back again, we will become like him, because we will see him face to face. <sup>3</sup> So all those who confidently expect to see Christ face to face, will keep themselves from sinning, just like Christ, who never sins.

### ULB:

**3** <sup>1</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and this is what we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know him.[1]Some older versions leave out, *and this is what we are*. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this confidence about the future fixed on him purifies himself just as he is pure.

### translationWords:

- love
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father
- children, child
- world, worldly
- beloved
- reveal, revelation
- Christ, Messiah
- confidence, confident
- pure, purify, purification

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - In this part John tells the believers about their new nature which cannot sin.
- **See what kind of love the Father has given to us** - "Think about how much our Father loves us" (UDB)
- **we should be called children of God** - "the Father called us his children"
- **children** - Here this means people who belong to God through faith in Jesus.

- **For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know him** - Possible meanings are 1) “Because we are the children of God and because the world did not know God, it does not know us” or 2) “Because the world did not know God, it does not know us.”
- **the world does not know us, because it did not know him** - Here “the world” refers to people who do not honor God. What the world did not know can be made explicit: AT: “Those who do not honor God do not know that we belong to God, because they did not know God” (See: [Metonymy](#) and [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **Beloved** - “You people whom I love” or “Dear friends.” See how you translated this in [2:7](#).
- **it has not yet been revealed** - This can be stated in active form: AT: “God has not yet revealed” (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **revealed** - This can mean here either “told” or “demonstrated,” “shown.”
- **Everyone who has this confidence about the future fixed on him purifies himself just as he is pure** - “Everyone who confidently expects to see Christ as he really is will keep himself pure because Christ is pure”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 3:4-6

### UDB:

<sup>4</sup> But everyone who continues to sin is refusing to obey God's laws, because that is what sin is, refusing to obey God's laws. <sup>5</sup> You know that Christ came in order to completely remove the guilt of our sins. You know also that he never sinned. <sup>6</sup> Those who continue doing what Christ wants them to do, do not continue sinning repeatedly. But those who repeatedly sin have not understood who Christ is, nor have they truly joined with him.

### ULB:

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who commits sin is doing what is lawless; for sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that Christ was revealed in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who remains in him will keep on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen him or known him.

### translationWords:

- [sin, sinful, sinner, sinning](#)
- [lawless, lawlessness](#)
- [Christ, Messiah](#)
- [reveal, revelation](#)

### translationNotes:

- **is doing what is lawless** - "is refusing to obey God's law" (UDB)
- **Christ was revealed** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "Christ appeared" or "the Father revealed Christ" (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **remains in him** - "has a relationship with God." See how this was translated in [2:5-6](#).
- **No one ... has seen him or known him** - John uses the words "seen" and "known" to say that the person who sins has never met Christ in a spiritual sense. A person behaving according to his sinful nature cannot know Christ. AT: "No one ... has never truly believed in him" (See: [Doublet](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 3:7-8

### UDB:

<sup>7</sup> So I urge you who are very dear to me, do not let anyone deceive you by telling you that it is all right to sin. If you continue doing what is right, you are righteous, just like Christ is righteous. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who continues to sin repeatedly is like the devil, because the devil has always been sinning since the world began. And the reason why God's Son became a human being was to destroy what the devil has done.

### ULB:

<sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous. <sup>8</sup> The one who commits sin is from the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this reason the Son of God was revealed, so that he would destroy the devil's works.

### translationWords:

- children, child
- astray, go astray, led astray, stray
- righteous, righteousness
- Christ, Messiah
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- Satan, devil, evil one
- Son of God, the Son, Son
- reveal, revelation
- works, deeds, work, acts

### translationNotes:

- **Dear children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: "My dear children in Christ" or "You who are as dear to me as my own children." See how you translated this in 2:1. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **do not let anyone lead you astray** - Being persuaded to disobey Christ is spoken of as if one were led off the right path to follow. AT: "do not let anyone fool you" or "do not let anyone deceive you" (UDB) (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **The one who does righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous** - "He who does what is right is pleasing to God just as Christ is pleasing to God."
- **is from the devil** - "belongs to the devil" or "is like the devil" (UDB)
- **from the beginning** - This refers to the very earliest time of creation before humans first sinned. AT: "since the earliest time of creation" (See: [Metonymy](#))



- **the Son of God was revealed** - This can be stated in active form. AT: “God revealed his Son” (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **Son of God** - This is an important title for Jesus that describes his relationship to God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 3:9-10****UDB:**

<sup>9</sup> People do not continue sinning repeatedly if they have become children of God. They cannot continually sin because God has made them his children, and he has put into them what he himself is like. <sup>10</sup> Those who are God's children are clearly different from those who are the devil's children. The way that we can know who are Satan's children is this: Those who do not do what is right are not God's children. And those who do not love their fellow believers are not God's children.

**ULB:**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born from God does not continue to sin because God's seed remains in him. He cannot continue to sin because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> In this the children of God and children of the devil are revealed. Whoever does not do what is righteous is not from God; neither is the one who does not love his brother.

**translationWords:**

- born again, born of God, new birth
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- seed
- children, child
- Satan, devil, evil one
- righteous, righteousness

**translationNotes:**

- **Connecting Statement:** - For now John ends this section on the new birth and the new nature which cannot sin.
- **Whoever has been born from God** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "Whoever God has made his child" (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **God's seed** - This speaks of the Holy Spirit, whom God gives to believers and who makes them able to resist sin and do what pleases God as if he were a physical seed that is planted in the earth and grows. This is sometimes referred to as the new nature. AT: "the Holy Spirit" (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **he has been born of God** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God has given him new spiritual life" or "he is a child of God" (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **In this the children of God and children of the devil are revealed** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "This is how we know the children of God and the children of the devil" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

- **Whoever does not do what is righteous is not from God; neither is the one who does not love his brother** - Here “brother” means fellow Christians. “Only those who do righteousness are from God, and only those who love their brothers are from God” (See: [Double Negatives](#) and [Ellipsis](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 3:11-12

### UDB:

<sup>11</sup> The message that you heard when you first believed in Christ is that we should love each other.

<sup>12</sup> We should not hate others as did Adam's son, Cain, who belonged to Satan, the evil one. Because Cain hated his younger brother, he murdered him. I will tell you about why he murdered his brother. It was because Cain habitually behaved in an evil way, and he hated his younger brother because his younger brother behaved in the right way.

### ULB:

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another,

<sup>12</sup> not like Cain, who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he kill him? Because his works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

### translationWords:

- [love](#)
- [Cain](#)
- [evil, wicked, wickedness](#)
- [works, deeds, work, acts](#)
- [righteous, righteousness](#)

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Here John teaches believers how they can recognize each other by the way they live; he teaches his readers to love each other.
- **General Information:** - Cain and Abel were the first sons of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman.
- **not like Cain** - We should not act as Cain acted. (See: [Ellipsis](#))
- **brother** - This refers to Cain's younger brother, Abel.
- **And why did he kill him? Because** - John uses a question to teach his audience. This can be translated as a statement. AT: "He killed him because" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))
- **his works were evil, and his brother's righteous** - His brother's works were righteous. AT: "he did evil things and his brother did what was right" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 3:13-15****UDB:**

<sup>13</sup> You should not be amazed when unbelievers hate you. <sup>14</sup> Because we love our fellow believers, we know that God has made us to live forever with him. But God regards anyone who does not love their fellow believer as a person who is not living in life but is living under the power of death. <sup>15</sup> God treats anyone who hates their fellow believers as though they had done something just as bad as committing murder. Anyone who does not love his brother is living for death, not life.

**ULB:**

<sup>13</sup> Do not be amazed, my brothers, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup> Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. And you know that eternal life does not remain in a murderer.

**translationWords:**

- marvel, wonder, amazed, astonished
- brother
- world, worldly
- death, die, dead
- life, live, living, alive
- everlasting, eternal, eternity

**translationNotes:**

- **brothers** - “fellow believers”
- **if the world hates you** - Here the word “world” refers to the people who do not honor God. AT: “if those who do not honor God hate you who do honor God” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **we have passed out of death into life** - The conditions of living and of being dead are spoken of as if they were physical locations from which a person could leave and go to. AT: “we are no longer spiritually dead but are spiritually alive” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **life** - The word “life” throughout this letter refers to more than physical life. It stands here for Jesus, the eternal life. See how you translated this in [1:1-2](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **remains in death** - “is still spiritually dead”
- **Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer** - John speaks of a person who hates another believer as if he were a murderer. Since people commit murder because they hate other people, God considers anyone who hates to be as guilty as someone who kills a person. AT: “Whoever hates another believer is as guilty as someone who kills a person” (See: [Metaphor](#))

- **eternal life does not remain in a murderer** - “Eternal life” is something God gives believers after they die, but it is also a power God gives believers in this life to help them to stop sinning and to do what please him. Here eternal life is spoken of as if it were an object that could be in someone. AT: “a murderer does not have the power of spiritual life working inside of him” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 3:16-18****UDB:**

<sup>16</sup> The way that we now know how to truly love our fellow believers is by remembering that Christ died for us of his own free will. So in the same way, we should do anything for our fellow believers, even die for them. <sup>17</sup> Many of us have the things that are necessary for us to live in this world. If we become aware that any of our fellow believers do not have what they need and if we refuse to provide for them, it is clear that we do not love God as we claim to do. <sup>18</sup> I am saying to you whom I love dearly, let us not merely say we love each other; let us love each other by helping each other.

**ULB:**

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because Christ laid down his life for us. We also ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods, sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart of compassion from him, how does the love of God remain in him? <sup>18</sup> My dear children, let us not love in word nor in tongue, but in actions and truth.

**translationWords:**

- love
- Christ, Messiah
- heart
- compassion, compassionate
- word
- tongue
- true, truth, come true

**translationNotes:**

- **Christ laid down his life for us** - This expression means “Christ willingly gave his life for us” or “Christ willingly died for us” (See: **Idiom**)
- **the world's goods** - material possessions like money, food, or clothing
- **sees his brother in need** - “and realizes a fellow believer needs help”
- **and shuts up his heart of compassion from him** - “shuts up his heart of compassion” is a metaphor. AT: “but does not show him compassion” or “but does not willingly help him” (See: **Metaphor**)
- **how does the love of God remain in him?** - John uses a question to teach his audience. AT: “God's love is not in him” (See: **Rhetorical Question**)
- **My dear children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: “My dear children in Christ” or “You who are as dear to me as my own children.” See how you translated this in **2:1**. (See: **Metaphor**)

- **let us not love in word nor in tongue** - The phrases “in word” and “in tongue” both refer to what a person says. AT: “do not just say that you love people” (See: [Doublet](#) and [Metonymy](#))
- **but in actions and truth** - The verb “love” is assumed from the first half of this sentence. AT: “but show that you truly love people by helping them” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)



**1 John 3:19-22****UDB:**

<sup>19</sup> If we truly love our fellow believers, we can be sure that we are living according to the true message about Christ. As a result, we will not feel guilty in the presence of God. <sup>20</sup> We can pray confidently, because although we might feel guilty because we have done wrong, God deserves for us to trust him. He knows everything about us. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our minds do not accuse us of having sinned, then we can pray confidently to God. <sup>22</sup> When we confidently pray to him and request something from him, we receive it because we do what he commands us to do, and because we do what pleases him.

**ULB:**

<sup>19</sup> It is by this we know that we are from the truth, and we assure our hearts before him. <sup>20</sup> For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. <sup>22</sup> Whatever we ask we will receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing before him.

**translationWords:**

- true, truth, come true
- heart
- condemn, condemnation
- God
- beloved
- confidence, confident
- command, to command, commandment

**translationNotes:**

- **Connecting Statement:** - Here John probably means that believers' ability to love God and each other sincerely (see verse 18) is a sign that their new life has indeed originated from the truth about Christ.
- **we are from the truth** - "we belong to the truth" or AT: "we are living according the way Jesus taught us"
- **we assure our hearts** - The word "heart" here refers to feelings. AT: "we do not feel guilty" (See: **Metonymy**)
- **if our hearts condemn us** - This is a metaphor. AT: "if we know that we have sinned and as a result feel guilty" (See: **Metaphor**)

- **God is greater than our hearts** - God knows more than a person and judges better. The effect of this truth is probably that God is more merciful than our consciences would suppose. This quality of God is expressed by the term “greater.” AT: “God knows more than we do” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **Beloved** - “You people whom I love” or “Dear friends.” See how you translated this in [2:7](#).
- **and do the things that are pleasing before him** - God’s opinion is spoken of as if it depends on what he sees happen in front of himself. AT: “and we do what pleases him” (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 3:23-24

### UDB:

<sup>23</sup> I will tell you what he commands us to do: We must believe that Jesus Christ is his Son. We must also love each other, just as God commanded us to do. <sup>24</sup> Those who do what God commands are those who are joined with God, and God is joined with them. And it is because we have his Spirit, whom he gave to us, that we can be sure that God is joined with us.

### ULB:

<sup>23</sup> This is his commandment: that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he gave us this commandment. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commandments remains in him, and God remains in him. By this we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit whom he gave to us.

### translationWords:

- [command, to command, commandment](#)
- [believe, believe in, belief](#)
- [name](#)
- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)
- [Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus](#)
- [love](#)
- [Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord](#)

### translationNotes:

- **This is his commandment** - "This is what God wants us to do"
- **Son** - This is an important title for Jesus, the Son of God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **remains in him, and God remains in him** - The close union of believers is expressed by the terms "remains in him." See how "remains in God" was translated in [2:5-6](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 03 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 03 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 4 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Spirit

This single word is used in many different ways in this chapter. It is used to reference non-physical things, specifically “spirits” who bears witness in some way in “spiritual” or religious matters. The “Spirit of God” is God. The “spirit” of the antichrist is that which is typical of the Antichrist. This is the same way it is used in the phrases the “spirit of truth” and the “spirit of error.” (See: [antichrist](#))

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Loving God

If a person loves God, this should be displayed in the way they live their life and the way they treat other people. It is not necessary to conclude the christian’s salvation is dependent upon these behaviors. (See: [save](#), [safe](#))

#### Links:

- [1 John 04:01 Notes](#)

## 1 John 4:1-3

### UDB:

<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, many people who have a false message are teaching it to people. But you must think carefully about what you hear them teach, so that you may know whether they are teaching the truth that comes from God or not. <sup>2</sup> I will tell you how to know whether someone is teaching truth that comes from the Spirit of God. Those who affirm that Jesus Christ came from God to become a human like us are teaching a message that is from God. <sup>3</sup> But those who do not affirm that truth about Jesus are not teaching a message from God. They are teachers who oppose Christ. You have heard that people like that are coming among us. Even now they are already here.

### ULB:

4 <sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit. Instead, test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you will know the Spirit of God—every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world.[1]Some older versions read, *and every spirit that does not acknowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world.*

### translationWords:

- beloved
- believe, believe in, belief
- spirit, spiritual
- test
- false prophet
- Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord
- flesh
- antichrist

### translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - John gives a warning against false teachers who teach against Christ's having had a human body and teachers who talk the way those who love the world talk.
- **Beloved** - "You people whom I love" or "Dear friends." See how you translated this in [2:7](#).
- **do not believe every spirit** - Here, the word "spirit" refers to a spiritual power or being that gives a person a message or prophecy. AT: "do not trust every prophet who claims to have a message from a spirit" (See: [Metonymy](#))

- **test the spirits** - Here, the word “spirits” refers to a spiritual power or being that gives a person a message or prophecy. AT: “be sure to listen carefully to what the prophet says” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **test** - “prove”
- **has come in the flesh** - “has taken on human form” or “has come in a physical body” (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **This is the spirit of the antichrist** - “They are teacher who are against Christ” or “They are teachers who oppose Christ ” (UDB)
- **antichrist, which you have heard is coming** - “antichrist. You have heard that people like that are coming among us”
- **coming, and now is already in the world** - “coming. Even now they are already here” (UDB)

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 4:4-6****UDB:**

<sup>4</sup> As for you who are very dear to me, you belong to God, and you have refused to believe what those people teach, because God, who enables you to do what he wants, is greater. <sup>5</sup> As for those who are teaching what is false, they belong with all the people in the world who refuse to honor God. That is why what they say comes from those same people, and those same people listen to them. <sup>6</sup> As for us, we belong to God. Whoever knows God listens to what we teach, but whoever does not belong to God does not listen to what we teach. This is how we can distinguish between people who teach truth about God, and those who deceive others.

**ULB:**

<sup>4</sup> You are from God, dear children, and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Anyone who knows God listens to us. He who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**translationWords:**

- God
- children, child
- world, worldly

**translationNotes:**

- **dear children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: “my dear children in Christ” or “you who are as dear to me as my own children.” See how you translated this in 2:1. (See: **Metaphor**)
- **have overcome them** - “have not believed the false teachers”
- **the one who is in you** - “God, who is in you”
- **the one who is in the world** - Two possible meanings are 1)“those worldly teachers or 2) ”Satan, who is in the world.”
- **the world** - The term “the world” refers to all the people who do not obey God and to the system of evil that exists in the sinful world. (See: **Metaphor**)
- **They are from the world** - “Those false teachers are people who do not obey God” (See: **Metaphor**)
- **therefore what they say is from the world** - “therefore they teach ideas that are against God”
- **and the world listens to them** - “so the people who do not believe God listen to them” (See: **Metonymy**)

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)



## 1 John 4:7-8

### UDB:

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, we must love each other, because God enables us to love each other, and because those who love their fellow believers have become God's children and know him. <sup>8</sup> God shows his love to people. So those who do not love their fellow believers do not know God.

### ULB:

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The person who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

### translationWords:

- [beloved](#)
- [love](#)
- [born again, born of God, new birth](#)
- [God](#)

### translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - John continues to teach about the new nature. He teaches his readers about God's love and loving one another.
- **Beloved** - "You people whom I love" or "Dear friends." See how you translated this in [2:7](#).
- **let us love one another** - "believers are to love other believers"
- **and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God** - "because those who love their fellow believers have become God's children and know him" (UDB)
- **for love is from God** - "because God causes us to love each other"
- **born from God** - This is a metaphor which means someone has a relationship to God like a child to his father. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **The person who does not love does not know God, for God is love** - "God's nature is to love people. Those who do not love their fellow believers do not know God because the character of God is to love people."
- **God is love** - This is a metaphor which means "the character of God is love" (See: [Metaphor](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 4:9-10

### UDB:

<sup>9</sup> I will tell you how God has shown us that he loves us: He sent his only Son to live on the earth to enable us to live eternally because of him. <sup>10</sup> And God has shown us what it means to truly love another person: It does not mean that we loved God, but that God loved us. So he sent his Son to sacrifice himself, in order that he—God—may forgive us when we sin.

### ULB:

<sup>9</sup> Because of this the love of God was revealed among us, that God has sent his only Son into the world so that we would live because of him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and that he sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

### translationWords:

- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)
- [propitiation](#)
- [sin, sinful, sinner, sinning](#)

### translationNotes:

- **Because of this the love of God was revealed among us** - This can be made active. AT: “By this God showed that he loved us” (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **the love of God was revealed** - The fact that God loves everyone is spoken of as if it were an object that God could show to them. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **so that we would live because of him** - “to enable us to live eternally because of what Jesus did”
- **In this is love** - “God showed us what real love is”
- **love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and** - “love: true love is not the way we love God, but the way he loved us, and”
- **he sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins** - Here “propitiation” refers to the event in which the Son became the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. AT: “and sent his Son to sacrifice himself so that God could forgive our sins” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 4:11-14****UDB:**

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loves us like that, we certainly ought to love each other!

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. Nevertheless, if we love each other, it is clear that God lives within us and that we love others just like he intends us to do. <sup>13</sup> I will tell you how we can be sure that we are joined with God and that God is joined with us: He has put his Spirit within us. <sup>14</sup> We apostles have seen God's Son, and we solemnly tell others that the Father sent him to save the people in the world from suffering eternally for their sins.

**ULB:**

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also should love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us some of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Also, we have seen and have borne witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

**translationWords:**

- beloved
- Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord
- witness, eyewitness
- Savior

**translationNotes:**

- **Beloved** - "You people whom I love" or "Dear friends." See how you translated this in [2:7](#).
- **if God so loved us** - "since God loves us in this way"
- **love one another** - "believers are to love other believers"
- **God remains in us ... we remain in him and he in us** - "God has a relationship with us ... we have a relationship with God and he has a relationship with us." See how this was translated in [2:5-6](#).
- **his love is perfected in us** - "God's love is complete in us"
- **By this we know ... us, because he has given** - Your translation may be more clear if you omit either "by this" or "because." AT: "We know ... us because he gave" or "By this we know ... us: he gave"
- **because he has given us some of his Spirit** - "because he gave us his Spirit" or "because he has put his Holy Spirit in us" However, this phrase does not imply that God has less of his Spirit left after he has given us some.

- **Also, we have seen and have borne witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world** - “And we apostles have seen the Son of God and tell everyone that God, the Father, has sent his Son to save people on this earth”
- **Father ... Son** - These are important titles that describe the relationship between God and Jesus. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 4:15-16****UDB:**

<sup>15</sup> So God remains joined with those who say the truth about Jesus. They say, “He is the Son of God.” And so they remain joined with God. <sup>16</sup> We have experienced how God loves us and we believe that he loves us. As a result, we love others. Because God’s nature is to love people, those who continue to love others are joined with God, and God is joined with them.

**ULB:**

<sup>15</sup> Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> Also, we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in this love remains in God, and God remains in him.

**translationWords:**

- [Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus](#)
- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)
- [believe, believe in, belief](#)

**translationNotes:**

- **Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God** - “Those who say the truth about Jesus, that he is the Son of God”
- **Son of God** - This is an important title for Jesus that describes his relationship to God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **God remains in him and he in God** - “God has a relationship with him and he also has a relationship with God.” See how you translated this in [2:5-6](#).
- **God is love** - This is a metaphor which means “the character of God is love.” See how you translated this in [4:8](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))
- **the one who remains in this love remains in God, and God remains in him** - “those who continue to love others have a close relationship with God, and God has a close relationship with them”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 4:17-18****UDB:**

<sup>17</sup> We should love others completely. And if we do that, when the time comes for God to judge us, we will be confident that he will not condemn us. We will be confident of that because we are living in this world joined to God, as Christ himself is joined to God. <sup>18</sup> We will not be afraid of God if we truly love him, because those who love God completely cannot possibly be afraid of him. We would be afraid only if we thought that he would punish us. So those who are afraid of God certainly are not loving God completely.

**ULB:**

<sup>17</sup> Because of this, this love has been made perfect among us, so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because as he is, just so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love throws fear out, because fear has to do with punishment. But the one who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**translationWords:**

- love
- perfect
- confidence, confident
- day of the Lord, day of Yahweh
- fear, afraid, fear of Yahweh
- punish, punishment

**translationNotes:**

- **Because of this, this love has been made perfect among us, so that we will have confidence** - This can be stated in active form. Possible meanings are 1) “Because of this” refers back to 4:16. AT: “Because whoever lives in love is in God and God is in him, God has made his love for us complete, and so we may have complete confidence” or 2) “Because of this” refers to “we may have confidence.” AT: “We are confident that God will accept us on the day he judges everyone, so we know he has made his love for us complete” (See: [Active or Passive](#))
- **love has been made perfect among us** - “this is how God has made his love for us complete”
- **because as he is, just so are we in this world** - “because the relationship that Jesus has with God is the same relationship we have with God in this world”
- **perfect love throws fear out** - Here “love” is described as a person with the power to remove fear. God’s love is perfect. AT: “But when our love is complete, we are no longer afraid” (See: [Personification](#))

- **because fear has to do with punishment** - “because we are afraid if we think God will punish us when he comes to judge everyone”
- **But the one who fears has not been made perfect in love** - “When a person is afraid that God will punish him, that means his love is not complete”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 4:19-21

### UDB:

<sup>19</sup> We love God and our fellow believers because God loved us first. <sup>20</sup> So those who say “I love God” but hate a fellow believer are lying. Those who do not love one of their fellow believers, whom they have seen, certainly cannot be loving God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> Keep in mind that this is what God has commanded us: If we love him, we must also love our fellow believers.

### ULB:

<sup>19</sup> We love because God first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, “I love God” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> Also, this is the commandment we have from him: Whoever loves God must also love his own brother.

### translationWords:

- [God](#)
- [command, to command, commandment](#)

### translationNotes:

- **hates his brother** - “hates a fellow believer” (UDB)
- **the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen** - If two negative statements in a row are confusing, this can be translated differently. AT: “only he who loves his brother, whom he has seen, loves God, whom he has not seen” (See: [Double Negatives](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 04 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 04 Translation Questions](#)



## 1 John 5 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Christian living

There is a close connection in this chapter between a Christian's confession of faith in Jesus and the way they live their lives. Believing in Jesus requires one to live a godly life. (See: [faith](#), [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#) and [godly](#), [godliness](#))

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Death

John's usage of death in this chapter always references physical death. (See: [death](#), [die](#), [dead](#))

#### "The whole world lies under the control of the evil one"

Satan, the evil one, is the ruler of this world but ultimately God is in control over everything. Scripture describes Satan as the "prince" of this world and God as the "king" of all of creation. (See: [Satan](#), [devil](#), [evil one](#))

#### Links:

- [1 John 05:01 Notes](#)

## 1 John 5:1-3

### UDB:

<sup>1</sup> All those who believe that Jesus is the Christ are children of God, born from God. And whoever loves anyone who is a father certainly loves his child also. <sup>2</sup> The way we can be sure that we truly love God's children is when we love God and do what he commands us to do. <sup>3</sup> I am saying this because what loving God really means is that we do what he commands. Also, it is not difficult to do what he commands.

### ULB:

5 <sup>1</sup> Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born from God. And whoever loves a father also loves the child born from him. <sup>2</sup> Because of this we know that we love God's children: when we love God and do his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is love for God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

### translationWords:

- believe, believe in, belief
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- Christ, Messiah
- love
- ancestor, father, forefather
- children, child
- command, to command, commandment

### translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - John continues to teach his readers about God's love and the love believers are to have because they have this new nature from God.
- **is born from God** - "is a child of God"
- **Because of this we know that we love God's children: when we love God and do his commandments** - "When we love God and do what he commands, then we know that we love his children"
- **For this is love for God: that we keep his commandments** - "Because when we do what he commands, that is true love for God"
- **And his commandments are not burdensome** - "And what he commands is not difficult"
- **burdensome** - "heavy," "crushing," or "difficult"

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 5:4-5

### UDB:

<sup>4</sup> All of us whom God has caused to become his children have been able to refuse to do what unbelievers want us to do. We are stronger than everything that is against God. We are able to refuse to do wrong because we trust in Christ. <sup>5</sup> Who is the person who is stronger than everything that is against God? It is anyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

### ULB:

<sup>4</sup> For everyone who is born from God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

### translationWords:

- [born again, born of God, new birth](#)
- [world, worldly](#)
- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)

### translationNotes:

- **everyone who is born from God** - “all children of God”
- **overcomes the world** - “has victory over the world,” “succeeds against the world,” or “refuses to do the evil things unbelievers do”
- **And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith** - “Our faith gives us the power to resist whatever would lead us to sin against God”
- **Who is the one who overcomes the world?** - John used this question to introduce something he wanted to teach. AT: “I will tell you who overcomes the world” (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))
- **the world** - This passage uses “the world” to refer to all the sinful people and the evil systems in the world. AT: “everything in the world that is against God” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God** - This does not refer to a specific person but to anyone who believes this. AT: “Anyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”
- **Son of God** - This is an important title for Jesus that describes his relationship to God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 5:6-8

### UDB:

<sup>6</sup> Think about Jesus Christ. He is the one who came to earth from God. God showed that he had truly sent Jesus when John baptized Jesus in water, but also when Jesus' blood flowed from his body when he died. And God's Spirit declares truthfully that Jesus Christ came from God. <sup>7</sup> These three things are like three people who are witnesses: <sup>8</sup> God's Spirit, the water when John baptized Jesus, and Jesus' blood that flowed from his body when he died on the cross. These three things all tell us the same thing, that Jesus came from God.

### ULB:

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He came not only by water, but by water and blood. <sup>7</sup> For there are three who bear witness: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three are in agreement.[1]Some older versions read, *For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three are as one.* However, the best copies do not have this reading.

### translationWords:

- [blood](#)
- [Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus](#)
- [witness, eyewitness](#)
- [Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord](#)

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - John teaches about Jesus Christ and what God said about him.
- **This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ** - “Jesus Christ is the one who came by water and blood.” Here “water” is a metonym probably for the baptism of Jesus, and “blood” stands for Jesus' death on the cross. AT: “God showed that Jesus Christ is his son at Jesus' baptism and his death on the cross” (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **not only by water, but by water and blood** - Water refers to Jesus' baptism and blood refers to Jesus' death on the cross. AT: “God did not just show us Jesus was his son through his baptism, but through his baptism and his death on the cross” (See: [Metonymy](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)

- 1 John 05 General Notes
- 1 John 05 Translation Questions

**1 John 5:9-10****UDB:**

<sup>9</sup> We usually believe what other people tell us. But we can certainly trust much more in what God says. And he has certainly testified about his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who trust in the Son of God know within their inner beings what is true about him. But those who do not believe what God says call him a liar, because they have refused to believe what God has testified about his Son.

**ULB:**

<sup>9</sup> If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater. For the testimony of God is this, that he has borne witness concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup> Anyone who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the witness that God has given concerning his Son.

**translationWords:**

- receive
- witness, eyewitness
- testimony, testify
- Son of God, the Son, Son
- believe, believe in, belief

**translationNotes:**

- **If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater** - The translator can state more clearly the implied reason about why we should believe what God says: AT: “If we believe what people say, then we should believe what God says because he always tells the truth” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- **receive the witness of men** - The fact the people witness or testify about various things is spoken of here as if it were an object that others could receive. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **the witness of God is greater** - the witness of God is more important and more reliable
- **Son** - This is an important title for Jesus, the Son of God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **Anyone who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself** - “Whoever believes in Jesus knows for sure Jesus is the Son of God”
- **has made him out to be a liar** - “is calling God a liar”
- **because he has not believed the witness that God has given concerning his Son** - “because he does not believe that God told the truth about his Son”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)



**1 John 5:11-12****UDB:**

<sup>11</sup> This is what God says to us: “I have given you eternal life.” We will live forever if we are joined with his Son. <sup>12</sup> Those who are joined with God’s Son will live forever with God. Those who are not joined with him will not live forever.

**ULB:**

<sup>11</sup> And the witness is this: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**translationWords:**

- [everlasting, eternal, eternity](#)
- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)

**translationNotes:**

- **And the witness is this** - “This is what God says” (UDB)
- **life** - Here “life” stands for the right to live forever by God’s grace and love. See how you translated this in [1:1-2](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **this life is in his Son** - this life is through his Son,” “we will live forever if we are joined with his Son” (UDB) or “we will live forever if we are united with his Son”
- **Son** - This is an important title for Jesus, the Son of God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **The one who has the Son has life** - Being in a close relationship to the Son is spoken of as having the Son. AT: “He who believes in the Son of God has eternal life” (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 5:13-15

### UDB:

<sup>13</sup> I have written this letter to you who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, in order that you may know that you will live forever. <sup>14</sup> Because we are joined with him, we are very confident that he hears us when we ask him to do anything he approves of. <sup>15</sup> Also, if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—then we can be sure that we will receive whatever we asked from him.

### ULB:

<sup>13</sup> I have written to you these things so that you will know that you have eternal life—to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. <sup>14</sup> Also, this is the confidence we have before him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> Also, if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask of him—we know that we have whatever we have asked of him.

### translationWords:

- written
- everlasting, eternal, eternity
- believe, believe in, belief
- name
- Son of God, the Son, Son
- confidence, confident
- will of God

### translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - This begins the end of John’s letter. He tells his readers the last purpose for his letter and gives them some final teachings.
- **these things** - “this letter”
- **to you who believe in the name of the Son of God** - Here “name” is a metonym for the Son of God. AT: “to you who trust in the Son of God” (See [Metonymy](#))
- **Son of God** - This is an important title for Jesus that describes his relationship to God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **life** - Here “life” stands for the right to live forever by God’s grace and love. See how you translated this in [1:1-2](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **this is the confidence we have before him, that** - “we are confident in God’s presence because we know that” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **if we ask anything according to his will** - “if we ask for the things that God desires”
- **we know that we have whatever we have asked of him** - “we know that we will receive that for which we have asked God”

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 5:16-17

### UDB:

<sup>16</sup> Suppose you see one of our fellow believers sinning in a way that would not separate them from God, and when you see sinning, you should ask God and pray that God will give that person life—that is, to that person who is not committing a sin that would separate him from God. But there are some people who sin in a way that causes them to be separated from God forever. I am not saying you should ask God to help people who sin in that way. <sup>17</sup> Everything that is wrong is a sin against God, but not every bad thing we do can separate us from God forever.

### ULB:

<sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not result in death, he must pray, and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not result in death. There is a sin that results in death; I am not saying that he should pray about that. <sup>17</sup> All unrighteousness is sin, but there is sin that does not result in death.

### translationWords:

- [sin, sinful, sinner, sinning](#)
- [death, die, dead](#)
- [pray, prayer](#)
- [unrighteous, unrighteousness](#)

### translationNotes:

- **brother** - “fellow believer”
- **life** - Here “life” stands for the right to live forever by God’s grace and love. See how you translated this in [1:1-2](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **death** - This refers to eternal death, that is, eternity spent away from God’s presence.

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)

## 1 John 5:18-19

### UDB:

<sup>18</sup> We know that if a person is a child of God, he does not keep sinning again and again. Instead, the Son of God protects him so that Satan, the evil one, does not harm him. <sup>19</sup> We know that we belong to God, and we know that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

### ULB:

<sup>18</sup> We know that whoever is born from God does not sin. But the one who was born from God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. <sup>19</sup> We know that we are from God, and we know that the whole world lies in the evil one.

### translationWords:

- [born again, born of God, new birth](#)
- [evil, wicked, wickedness](#)
- [world, worldly](#)
- [Satan, devil, evil one](#)

### translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - John closes his letter, reviewing what he has said about the new nature of believers which cannot sin and reminds them to keep themselves from idols.
- **the whole world lies** - “World” is a way in which some biblical writers refer to the people living in the world who are in rebellion against God and to the world system that is affected in every way by the corrupting power of sin. (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **in the evil one** - That is, in the power of the evil one. (See: [Metonymy](#))

### Links:

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)
- [1 John 05 General Notes](#)
- [1 John 05 Translation Questions](#)

**1 John 5:20-21****UDB:**

<sup>20</sup> We also know that the Son of God has come among us and has enabled us to understand the truth; we are joined to him who is true, God's Son Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is truly God, and he is the one who enables us to have eternal life.

<sup>21</sup> I say to you who are very dear to me, guard yourselves from worshiping gods that have no real power.

**ULB:**

<sup>20</sup> But we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we know the one who is true. Also, we are in the one who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Children, keep yourselves from idols.

**translationWords:**

- Son of God, the Son, Son
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- everlasting, eternal, eternity
- children, child
- idol, idolatrous

**translationNotes:**

- **General Information:** - The words "him" and "He" refer to Jesus Christ.
- **Son of God** - This is an important title for Jesus that describes his relationship to God. (See: [Translating Son and Father](#))
- **has given us understanding** - "has enabled us to understand the truth" (UDB)
- **life** - Here "life" stands for the right to live forever by God's grace and love. See how you translated this in [1:1-2](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- **He is ... eternal life** - This stands for the thought that Christ gives us eternal life. (See: [Metonymy](#))
- **Children** - John was an elderly man and their leader. He used this expression to show his love for them. AT: "My dear children in Christ" or "You who are as dear to me as my own children." See how you translated this in [2:1](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

**Links:**

- [Introduction to 1 John](#)

- 1 John 05 General Notes
- 1 John 05 Translation Questions

## translationQuestions

### 1 John 1

**Q?** What does John say was from the beginning?

**A.** John says the Word of life was from the beginning. [1:1]

---

**Q?** By what means did John know about the Word of life?

**A.** John had heard, seen, contemplated, and handled the Word of life. [1:1]

---

**Q?** Where was the Word of life before it was manifested to John?

**A.** The Word of life was with the Father before it was manifested to John. [1:2]

---

**Q?** Why is John declaring what he has seen and heard?

**A.** John is declaring what he has seen and heard so that others may also have fellowship with him. [1:3]

---

**Q?** With whom does John already have fellowship?

**A.** John already has fellowship with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. [1:3]

---

**Q?** What message from God is John announcing to his readers?

**A.** John is announcing the message that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. [1:5]

---

**Q?** What does John say about a person who says he has fellowship with God, but walks in darkness?

**A.** John says that such a person is a liar and does not practice the truth. [1:6]

---



\_\_\_\_\_

**Q?** For those walking in the light, what cleanses them from all sin?

**A.** The blood of Jesus cleanses them from all sin. [1:7]

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q?** What does John say about a person who says they have no sin?

**A.** John says that such a person deceives himself and the truth is not in him. [1:8]

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q?** What will God do for those who confess their sins?

**A.** For those who confess their sins, God will forgive their sins and cleanse them from all unrighteousness. [1:9]

\_\_\_\_\_

## 1 John 2

**Q?** For whose sins is Jesus Christ the sacrifice for?

**A.** Jesus Christ is the sacrifice for the sins for the whole world. [2:2]

---

**Q?** How do we know if we know Jesus Christ?

**A.** We know if we know Jesus Christ if we keep his commandments. [2:3]

---

**Q?** What kind of person is someone who says they know God, but does not keep God's commandments?

**A.** Someone who says they know God, but does not keep God's commandments, is a liar. [2:4]

---

**Q?** How should a believer walk?

**A.** A believer should walk even as Jesus Christ walked. [2:6]

---

**Q?** What is the spiritual condition of someone who says he is in the light, but hates his brother?

**A.** Someone who says he is in the light, but hates his brother, is in the darkness. [02:9,11]

---

**Q?** Why does God forgive the sins of believers?

**A.** God forgives the sins of believers for Christ's name's sake. [2:12]

---

**Q?** What does John say a believer's attitude toward the things of the world must be?

**A.** He says the believer must not love the world nor the things of the world. [2:15]

---

**Q?** What are the three things in the world that John names as being not of the Father?

**A.** He names the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the vain glory of life as being in the world and not of the Father. [2:16]

---

**Q?** How does John say he knows it is the last hour?

**A.** He says he knows it is the last hour because many antichrists have come. [2:18]

---

**Q?** Who does John say is coming?

**A.** He says that the antichrist is coming. [2:18]

---

**Q?** What will the antichrist do that will enable us to recognize him?

**A.** The antichrist denies the Father and the Son. [2:22]

---

**Q?** Can someone who denies the Son have the Father?

**A.** No, someone who denies the Son cannot have the Father. [2:23]

---

**Q?** What does John tell the believers to do in order to remain in the Son and in the Father?

**A.** John tells the believers to remain in what they have heard from the beginning. [2:24]

---

**Q?** What promise has been given the believers by God?

**A.** God has promised the believers eternal life. [2:25]

---

**Q?** What attitudes will those who remain in the Son have when Christ appears at his coming?

**A.** Those who remain in the Son will have boldness and will not be ashamed when Christ appears at his coming. [2:28]

---

### 1 John 3

**Q?** What has the Father bestowed on believers because of his love?

**A.** The Father has bestowed on them the name children of God. [3:1-2]

---

**Q?** What will happen to believers when Christ appears?

**A.** When Christ appears, believers will be like Christ, and will see him as he is. [3:2]

---

**Q?** What does every believer who hopes in Christ do concerning himself?

**A.** Every believer who hopes in Christ purifies himself. [3:3]

---

**Q?** What does Christ not have in himself?

**A.** Christ has no sin in himself. [3:5]

---

**Q?** What relationship to God does someone have who continues in sin?

**A.** Whoever continues in sin has neither seen Christ, nor known him. [3:6]

---

**Q?** For what reason was the Son of God revealed?

**A.** The Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil. [3:8]

---

**Q?** How are the children of God and the children of the devil each revealed?

**A.** The children of God are revealed as they do righteousness, and the children of the devil are revealed as they sin. [3:9-10]

---

**Q?** How did Cain demonstrate that he was a child of the evil one?

**A.** Cain demonstrated that he was a child of the evil one when he murdered his brother. [3:12]

---

**Q?** At what does John say the believers should not marvel?

**A.** John says the believers should not marvel that the world hates them. [3:13]

---

**Q?** What attitude toward the believers demonstrates that someone is a child of God?

**A.** The attitude of love toward the believers demonstrates that someone is a child of God. [03:10-11,14]

---

**Q?** How do we know what love is?

**A.** We know what love is because Christ laid down his life for us. [3:16]

---

**Q?** When there is a brother in need, how does a believer demonstrate the love of God?

**A.** When there is a brother in need, a believer demonstrates the love of God by helping him with this world's goods. [3:17-18]

---

**Q?** When a believer demonstrates the love of God in deed and truth, what does he obtain for himself?

**A.** When a believer demonstrates the love of God in deed and truth, he obtains for himself assurance and confidence toward God. [03:19,21]

---

**Q?** Of what commandment from God does John remind the believers?

**A.** John reminds the believers of God's commandment to believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and to love one another. [3:23]

---

**Q?** What has God given believers so that they know God remains in them?

**A.** God has given believers the Spirit so that they know God remains in them. [3:24]

---

## 1 John 4

**Q?** Why does John warn the believers to not believe every spirit?

**A.** John warns the believers because there are many false prophets that have gone out into the world. [4:1]

---

**Q?** How can you know if the Spirit of God is speaking?

**A.** Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God. [4:2]

---

**Q?** What spirit does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?

**A.** The spirit of an antichrist does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. [4:3]

---

**Q?** Who does John say is the greater spirit?

**A.** The greater spirit is the one in believers, greater than the spirits of the world. [4:4-5]

---

**Q?** What do believers do, which shows they know God, and to be like he is?

**A.** Believers love one another, which shows they know God, because God is love. [4:7-8]

---

**Q?** How did God reveal his love for us?

**A.** God revealed his love for us by sending his only begotten Son into the world. [4:9]

---

**Q?** For what purpose did the Father send his Son?

**A.** The Father sent his Son that we might live through him. [4:9]

---

**Q?** What do true believers confess about Jesus?

**A.** True believers confess that Jesus is the Son of God. [4:15]

---

**Q?** Those who remain in love and in God will have what attitude on the day of judgment?

**A.** Those who remain in love and in God will have confidence on the day of judgment. [4:17]

---

**Q?** How are we able to love?

**A.** We love because God first loved us. [4:19]

---

**Q?** What relationship with God does someone have who hates his brother?

**A.** Someone who hates his brother cannot love God. [4:20]

---

**Q?** Those who love God must also love whom?

**A.** Those who love God must also love their brother. [4:21]

---

## 1 John 5

**Q?** How do we demonstrate that we love God?

**A.** We demonstrate that we love God when we keep his commandments. [5:3]

---

**Q?** What is the victory that has overcome the world?

**A.** The victory that has overcome the world is our faith. [5:4]

---

**Q?** By what two things did Jesus Christ come?

**A.** Jesus Christ came by water and by blood. [5:6]

---

**Q?** Which three things bear witness to Jesus Christ?

**A.** The Spirit, the water, and the blood all bear witness to Jesus Christ. [5:7-8]

---

**Q?** What does anyone who does not believe the testimony of God concerning his Son, make God?

**A.** Anyone who does not believe the testimony of God concerning his Son makes God a liar. [5:9-10]

---

**Q?** What has God given us in his Son?

**A.** God has given us eternal life in his Son. [5:11]

---

**Q?** What confidence do believers have before God?

**A.** Believers have confidence that if they ask anything according to God's will, he hears them. [5:14]

---



**Q?** What must a believer do who sees his brother committing a sin not to death?

**A.** A believer who sees his brother committing a sin not to death must pray that God will give his brother life. [5:16]

---

**Q?** What is all unrighteousness?

**A.** All unrighteousness is sin. [5:17]

---

**Q?** Where does the whole world lie?

**A.** The whole world lies in the evil one. [5:19]

---

**Q?** Who is the true God?

**A.** The true God is the Father of Jesus Christ. [5:20]

---

**Q?** From what must believers keep themselves?

**A.** Believers must keep themselves from idols. [5:21]

---

## translationWords

### marvel, wonder, amazed, astonished

#### Definition:

All these terms refer to being very surprised because of something extraordinary that happened.

- Some of these words are translations of Greek expressions that mean “struck with amazement” or “standing outside of (oneself).” These expressions express how very surprised or shocked the person was feeling. Other languages might also have expressions to express this.
- Usually the event that caused the wonder and amazement was a miracle, something only God could do.
- The meaning of these terms can also include feelings of confusion because what happened was totally unexpected.
- Other ways to translate these words could be, “extremely surprised” or “very shocked.”
- Related words include: “marvelous” (amazing, wonderful), “amazement,” and “astonishment.”
- In general, these terms are positive and express that the people were happy about what had happened.

(See also: [miracle](#), [sign](#) )

#### Bible References:

Waiting

## anoint, anointed

### Definition:

The term “anoint” means to rub or pour oil on a person or object. Sometimes the oil was mixed with spices, giving it a sweet, perfumed smell. The term is also used figuratively to refer to the Holy Spirit choosing and empowering someone.

- In the Old Testament, priests, kings, and prophets were anointed with oil to set them apart for special service to God.
- Objects such as altars or the tabernacle, were also anointed with oil to show that they were to be used to worship and glorify God.
- In the New Testament, sick people were anointed with oil for their healing.
- The New Testament records two times that Jesus was anointed with perfumed oil by a woman, as an act of worship. One time Jesus commented that in doing this she was preparing him for his future burial.
- After Jesus died, his friends prepared his body for burial by anointing it with oils and spices.
- The titles “Messiah” (Hebrew) and “Christ” (Greek) mean “the Anointed (One).”
- Jesus the Messiah is the one who was chosen and anointed as a Prophet, High Priest, and King.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term “anoint” could be translated as “pour oil on” or “put oil on” or “consecrate by pouring perfumed oil on.”
- To “be anointed” could be translated as “be consecrated with oil.” or “be appointed” or “be consecrated.”
- In some contexts the term “anoint” could be translated as “appoint.”
- A phrase like “the anointed priest,” could be translated as “the priest who was consecrated with oil” or “the priest who was set apart by the pouring on of oil.”

(See also: [Christ](#), [Messiah](#), [consecrate](#), [high priest](#), [King of the Jews](#), [priest](#), [priesthood](#), [prophet](#), [prophecy](#), [prophecy](#), [seer](#), [prophetess](#) )

### Bible References:

Waiting

## antichrist

### Definition:

The term “antichrist” refers to a person or teaching that is against Jesus Christ and his work. There are many antichrists in the world.

- The apostle John wrote that a person is the antichrist if he deceives people by saying that Jesus is not the Messiah or if he denies that Jesus is both God and human.
- The Bible also teaches that there is a general spirit of antichrist in the world which opposes Jesus’ work.
- The New Testament book of Revelation explains that there will be a man called “the antichrist” who will be revealed in the end times. This man will attempt to destroy God’s people, but he will be defeated by Jesus.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate this term could include a word or phrase that means, “Christ-opposer” or “enemy of Christ” or “person who is against Christ.”
- The phrase, “spirit of the antichrist” could also be translated as, “spirit that is against Christ” or “(someone) teaching lies about Christ” or “attitude of believing lies about Christ” or “spirit that teaches lies about Christ.”
- Also consider how this term is translated in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [Christ](#), [Messiah](#), [reveal](#), [revelation](#), [tribulation](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## **astray, go astray, led astray, stray**

### **Definition:**

The terms “stray” and “go astray” mean to disobey God’s will. People who are “led astray” have allowed other people or circumstances to influence them to disobey God.

- The word “astray” gives a picture of leaving a clear path or a place of safety to go down a wrong and dangerous path.
- Sheep who leave the pasture of their shepherd have “strayed.” God compares sinful people to sheep who have left him and “gone astray.”

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- The phrase “go astray” could be translated as, “go away from God” or “take a wrong path away from God’s will” or “stop obeying God” or “live in a way that goes away from God.”
- To “lead someone astray” could be translated as, “cause someone to disobey God” or “influence someone to stop obeying God” or “cause someone to follow you down a wrong path.”

(See: [disobey](#), [disobedient](#), [disobedience](#), [shepherd](#), [to shepherd](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## believe, believe in, belief

### Definition:

The terms “believe” and “believe in” are closely related, but have slightly different meanings:

#### 1. believe

- To believe something is to accept or trust that it is true.
- To believe someone is to acknowledge that what that person has said is true.

#### 2. believe in

- To “believe in” someone means to “trust in” that person. It means to trust that the person is who he says he is, that he always speaks the truth, and that he will do what he has promised to do.
- When a person truly believes in something, he will act in such a way that shows that belief.
- The phrase “have faith in” usually has the same meaning as “believe in.”
- To “believe in Jesus” means to believe that he is the Son of God, that he is God himself who also became human and who died as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. It means to trust him as Savior and live in a way that honors him.

### Translation Suggestions:

- To “believe” could be translated as to “know to be true” or “know to be right.”
- To “believe in” could be translated as, “trust completely” or “trust and obey” or “completely rely on and follow.”

(See also: [faith](#), [believer](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [03-04] Noah warned the people about the coming flood and told them to turn to God, but they did not **believe** him.
- [04-08] Abram **believed** God’s promise. God declared that Abram was righteous because he **believed** God’s promise.
- [11-02] God provided a way to save the firstborn of anyone who **believed in** him.
- [11-06] But the Egyptians did not **believe** God or obey his commands.
- [37-05] Jesus replied, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever **believes in** me will live, even though he dies. Everyone who **believes in** me will never die. Do you **believe** this?”

## **beloved**

### **Definition:**

The term “beloved” is an expression of affection that describes someone who is loved and dear to someone else.

- The term “beloved” literally means “loved (one)” or “(who is) loved.”
- God refers to Jesus as his “beloved Son.”
- In their letters to Christian churches, the apostles frequently address their fellow believers as “beloved.”

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- This term could also be translated as “loved” or “loved one” or “well-loved” or “very dear.”
- In the context of talking about a close friend, this could be translated as “my dear friend” or “my close friend.” In English it is natural to say, “my dear friend, Paul” or “Paul, who is my dear friend.” Other languages may find it more natural to order this in a different way.
- Note that the word “beloved” comes from the word for God’s love, which is unconditional, unselfish, and sacrificial.

(See also: [love](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## blood

### Definition:

The term “blood” refers to the red liquid that comes out of a person’s skin when there is an injury or wound. Blood brings life-giving nutrients to a person’s entire body.

- Blood symbolizes life and when it is shed or poured out, it symbolizes the loss of life, or death.
- When people made sacrifices to God, they killed an animal and poured its blood on the altar. This symbolized the sacrifice of the animal’s life to pay for people’s sins.
- Through his death on the cross, Jesus’ blood symbolically cleanses people from their sins and pays for the punishment they deserve for those sins.
- The expression “flesh and blood” refers to human beings.
- The expression “own flesh and blood” refers to people who are biologically related.

### Translation Suggestions:

- This term should be translated with the term that is used for blood in the target language
- The expression “flesh and blood” could be translated as “people” or “human beings.”
- Depending on the context, the expression “my own flesh and blood” could be translated as “my own family” or “my own relatives” or “my own people.”
- If there is an expression in the target language that is used with this meaning, that expression could be used to translate “flesh and blood.”

(See: [flesh](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[08-03]** Before Joseph’s brothers returned home, they tore Joseph’s robe and dipped it in goat’s **blood**.
- **[10-03]** God turned the Nile River into **blood**, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go.
- **[11-05]** All the houses of the Israelites had **blood** around the doors, so God passed over those houses and everyone inside was safe. They were saved because of the lamb’s **blood**.
- **[13-09]** The **blood** of the animal that was sacrificed covered the person’s sin and made that person clean in God’s sight.
- **[38-05]** Then Jesus took a cup and said, “Drink this. It is my **blood** of the New Covenant that is poured out for the forgiveness of sins.
- **[48-10]** When anyone believes in Jesus, the **blood** of Jesus takes away that person’s sin, and God’s punishment passes over him.



## **bold, boldly, boldness**

### **Definition:**

These terms all refer to having courage and confidence to speak the truth and do the right thing even when it is difficult or dangerous.

- A “bold” person is not afraid to say and do what is good and right, including defending people who are being mistreated. This could be translated as “courageous” or “fearless.”
- In the New Testament, the disciples continued to “boldly” preach about Christ in public places, in spite of the danger of being put in jail or killed. This could be translated as “confidently” or “with strong courage” or “courageously.”
- The “boldness” of these early disciples in speaking the good news of Christ’s redeeming death on the cross resulted in the gospel being spread throughout Israel and nearby countries and finally, to the rest of the world. “Boldness” could also be translated as “confident courage.”

(See also: [confidence](#), [confident](#), [good news](#), [gospel](#), [redeem](#), [redemption](#), [redeemer](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## **born again, born of God, new birth**

### **Definition:**

The term “born again” was first used by Jesus to describe what it means for God to change a person from being dead spiritually to being alive spiritually. the terms “born of God” and “born of the Spirit” also refer to a person being given new spiritual life.

- All humans are born spiritually dead and are given a “new birth” when they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- At the moment of the spiritual new birth, God’s Holy Spirit begins to live in the new believer and empowers him to produce good spiritual fruit in his life.
- It is God’s work to cause a person to be born again and become his child.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Other ways to translate “born again” could include, “born anew” or “born spiritually.”
- It is best to translate this term literally and use the normal word in the language that would be used for being born.
- The term “new birth” might be translated as “spiritual birth.”
- The phrase “born of God” could be translated as, “caused by God to have new life like a newborn baby” or “given new life by God.”
- In the same way, “born of the Spirit” could be translated as, “given new life by the Holy Spirit” or “empowered by the Holy Spirit to become God’s child” or “caused by the Spirit to have new life like a newborn baby.”

(See also: [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [salvation](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## brother

### Definition:

The term “brother” usually refers to a male person who shares at least one biological parent with another person.

- In the Old Testament, the term “brothers” is also used as a general reference to relatives, such as members of the same tribe, clan, or people group.
- In the New Testament, the apostles often used “brothers” to refer to fellow Christians, including both men and women, since all believers in Christ are members of one spiritual family, with God as their heavenly Father.
- A few times in the New Testament, the apostles used the term “sister” when referring specifically to a fellow Christian who was a woman, or to emphasize that both men and women are being included. For example, James emphasizes that he is talking about all believers when he refers to “a brother or sister who is in need of food or clothing.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term with the literal word that is used in the target language to refer to a natural or biological brother, unless this would give wrong meaning.
- In the Old Testament especially, when “brothers” is used very generally to refer to members of the same family, clan, or people group, possible translations could include, “relatives” or “clan members” or “fellow Israelites.”
- In the context of referring to a fellow believer in Christ, this term could be translated as, “brother in Christ” or “spiritual brother.”
- If both males and females are being referred to and “brother” would give a wrong meaning, then a more general kinship term could be used that would include both males and females.
- Other ways to translate this term so that it refers to both male and female believers could be, “fellow believers” or “Christian brothers and sisters.”
- Make sure to check the context to determine whether only men are being referred to, or whether both men and women are included.

(See also: [apostle](#), [the twelve](#), [the eleven](#), [God the Father](#), [Heavenly Father](#), [sister](#), [spirit](#), [spiritual](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## Cain

### Facts:

Cain and his younger brother Abel were the first sons of Adam and Eve mentioned in the Bible.

- Cain was a farmer who produced food crops while Abel was a sheep herder.
- Cain killed his brother Abel in a fit of jealousy, because God had accepted Abel's sacrifice, but had not accepted Cain's sacrifice.
- As punishment, God sent him away from Eden and told him that the land would no longer yield crops for him.
- God put a mark on Cain's forehead as a sign that God would protect him from being killed by other people as he wandered.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Abel](#), [Adam](#), [sacrifice](#), [offering](#) )

### Bible References:

Waiting

## children, child

### Definition:

In the Bible, the term “child” is often used to generally refer to someone who is young in age, including an infant. The term “children” is the plural form and also has several figurative uses.

- In the Bible, disciples or followers are sometimes called “children.”
- Often the term “children” is used to refer to a person’s descendants.
- The phrase “children of” can refer to being characterized by something. Some examples of this would be:
  - children of the light
  - children of obedience
  - children of the devil
- This term can also refer to people who are like spiritual children. For example, “children of God” refers to people who belong to God through faith in Jesus.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “children” could be translated as “descendants” when it is referring to a person’s great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren, etc.
- Depending on the context, “children of” could be translated as, “people who have the characteristics of” or “people who behave like.”
- If possible, the phrase, “children of God” should be translated literally since an important biblical theme is that God is our heavenly Father. A possible translation alternate would be, “people who belong to God” or “God’s spiritual children.”
- When Jesus calls his disciples “children,” this could also be translated as, “dear friends” or “my beloved disciples.”
- When Paul and John refer to believers in Jesus as “children,” this could also be translated as “dear fellow believers.”
- The phrase, “children of the promise” could be translated as, “people who have received what God promised them.”

(See also: [descendant](#), [promise](#), [son](#), spirit, spiritual, believer, beloved other)

### Bible References:

Waiting

## Christ, Messiah

### Facts:

The terms “Messiah” and “Christ” mean “Anointed One” and refer to Jesus, God’s Son.

- Both “Messiah” and “Christ” are used in the New Testament to refer to God’s Son, whom God the Father appointed to rule as king over his people, and to save them from sin and death.
- In the Old Testament, the prophets wrote prophecies about the Messiah hundreds of years before he came to earth.
- Often a word meaning “anointed (one)” is used in the Old Testament to refer to the Messiah who would come.
- Jesus fulfilled many of these prophecies and did many miraculous works that proved he is the Messiah; the rest of these prophecies will be fulfilled when he returns.
- The word “Christ” is often used as a title, as in “the Christ” and “Christ Jesus.”
- “Christ” also came to be used as part of his name, as in “Jesus Christ.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated using its meaning, “the Anointed One” or “God’s Anointed Savior.”
- Many languages use a transliterated word that looks or sounds like “Christ” or “Messiah.” (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))
- The transliterated word could be followed by the definition of the term as in, “Christ, the Anointed One.”
- Be consistent in how this is translated throughout the Bible so that it is clear that the same term is being referred to.
- Make sure the translations of “Messiah” and “Christ” work well in contexts where both terms occur in the same verse (such as John 1:41).

(See: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Son of God](#), [the Son](#), [Son](#), [David](#), [Jesus](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Christ Jesus](#), [anoint](#), [anointed](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[17-07]** The **Messiah** was God’s Chosen One who would save the people of the world from sin.
- **[17-08]** As it happened, the Israelites would have to wait a long time before the **Messiah** came, almost 1,000 years.

- [21-01] From the very beginning, God planned to send the **Messiah**.
- [21-04] God promised King David that the **Messiah** would be one of David's own descendants.
- [21-05] The **Messiah** would start the New Covenant.
- [21-06] God's prophets also said that the **Messiah** would be a prophet, a priest, and a king.
- [21-09] The prophet Isaiah prophesied that the **Messiah** would be born from a virgin.
- [43-07] "But God raised him to life again to fulfill the prophecy which says, "You will not let your **Holy One** rot in the grave."
- [43-09] "But know for certain that God has caused Jesus to become both Lord and **Messiah!**"
- [43-11] Peter answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus **Christ** so that God will forgive your sins."
- [46-06] Saul reasoned with the Jews, proving that Jesus was the **Messiah**.

## clean, cleanse

### Definition:

The term “clean” literally means to not have any dirt or stain. In the Bible, it is often used figuratively to mean, “pure,” “holy,” or “free from sin.”

- “Cleanse” is the process of making something “clean.” It could also be translated as “wash” or “purify.”
- In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites which animals he had specified as ritually “clean” and which ones were “unclean.” Only the clean animals were permitted to be used for eating or for sacrifice. In this context, the term “clean” means that the animal was acceptable to God for use as a sacrifice.
- A person who had certain skin diseases would be unclean until the skin was healed enough to no longer be contagious. Instructions for cleansing the skin had to be obeyed in order for that person to be declared “clean” again.
- Sometimes “clean” is used figuratively to refer to moral purity.

### Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated with the common word for “clean” or “pure” (in the sense of being not dirty).
- Other ways to translate this could include, “ritually clean” or “acceptable to God.”
- “Cleanse” could be translated by “wash” or “purify.”
- Make sure that the words used for “clean” and “cleanse” can also be understood in a figurative sense.

(See also: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unclean](#), [sacrifice](#), [offering](#) )

### Bible References:

Waiting



## **command, to command, commandment**

### **Definition:**

The term “to command” means to order someone to do something. A “command” or “commandment” is what the person was ordered to do.

- Although these terms have basically the same meaning, “commandment” often refers to certain commands of God which are more formal and permanent, such as the “Ten Commandments.”
- A command can be positive (“Honor your parents”) or negative (“Do not steal”).
- To “take command” means to “take control” or “take charge” of something or someone.

### **Translation Suggestions**

- It is best to translate this term differently from the term, “law.” Also compare with the definitions of “decree” and “statute.”
- Some translators may prefer to translate “command” and “commandment” with the same word in their language.
- Others may prefer to use a special word for commandment that refers to lasting, formal commands that God has made.

(See [decree](#), [statute](#), [statutes](#), [law](#), [principle](#), [Ten Commandments](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## **compassion, compassionate**

### **Definition:**

The term “compassion” refers to a feeling of concern for people, especially for those who are suffering. A “compassionate” person cares about other people and helps them.

- The word “compassion” usually includes caring about people in need, as well as taking action to help them.
- The Bible says that God is compassionate, that is, he is full of love and mercy.
- In Paul’s letter to the Colossians, he tells them to “clothe themselves with compassion.” He is instructing them to care about people and to actively help others who are in need.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- The literal meaning of “compassion” is “bowels of mercy.” This is an expression that means “mercy” or “pity.” Other languages may have their own expression that means this.
- Ways of translating “compassion” could include, “a deep caring for” or “helpful mercy.”
- The term “compassionate” could also be translated as, “caring and helpful” or “deeply loving and merciful.”

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## condemn, condemnation

### Definition:

The terms “condemn” and “condemnation” refer to judging someone for doing something wrong.

- Often the word “condemn” includes punishing that person for what they did wrong.
- Sometimes “condemn” means to falsely accuse someone or to judge someone harshly.
- The term “condemnation” refers to the act of condemning or accusing someone.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, this term could be translated as “harshly judge” or “criticize falsely.”
- The phrase “condemn him” could be translated as, “judge that he is guilty” or “state that he must be punished for his sin.”
- The term “condemnation” could be translated as, “harsh judging” or “declaring to be guilty” or “punishment of guilt.”

(See also: [judge](#), [judgment](#), [punish](#), [punishment](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## confess, confession

### Definition:

To confess means to admit or assert that something is true. A “confession” is a statement or admission that something is true.

- The term “confess” can refer to boldly stating the truth about God. It can also refer to admitting that we have sinned.
- The Bible says that if people confess their sins to God, he will forgive them.
- James the apostle wrote in his letter that when believers confess their sins to each other, this brings spiritual healing.
- The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians that someday everyone will confess or declare that Jesus is Lord.
- Paul also said that if people confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead, they will be saved.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate “confess” could include, “admit” or “testify” or “declare” or “acknowledge” or “affirm.”
- Different ways to translate “confession” could be, “declaration” or “testimony” or “statement about what we believe” or “admitting sin.”

(See also: [faith](#), [testimony](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## confidence, confident

### Definition:

The term “confidence” refers to being sure that something is true or certain to happen.

- In the Bible, the term “hope” often means to wait expectantly for something that is sure to happen. The ULB often translates this as “confidence” or “confidence for the future” or “future confidence” especially when it means to be assured of receiving what God has promised to believers in Jesus.
- Often the term “confidence” refers especially to the certainty that believers in Jesus have that they will someday be with God forever in heaven.
- The phrase, “have confidence in God” means to fully expect to receive and experience what God has promised.
- Being “confident” means believing in God’s promises and acting with the assurance that God will do what he has said. This term can also have the meaning of acting boldly and courageously.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “confident” could be translated as “assured” or “very sure.”
- The phrase “be confident” could also be translated as “trust completely” or “be completely sure about” or “know for certain.”
- The term “confidently” could also be translated as “boldly” or “with certainty.”
- Depending on the context, ways to translate “confidence” could include, “complete assurance” or “sure expectation” or “certainty.”

(See also: [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#), [believer](#), [bold](#), [boldly](#), [boldness](#), [faithful](#), [faithfulness](#), [hope](#), [trust](#), [trustworthy](#), [trustworthiness](#) )

### Bible References:

- [1 John 03:19-22](#)
- [1 Peter 03:15-17](#)
- [Job 04:4-6](#)
- [Philippians 01:25-27](#)
- [Proverbs 14:26-27](#)
- [Romans 05:1-2](#)

## darkness

### Definition:

The term “darkness” literally means an absence of light. There are also several figurative meanings of this term:

- As a metaphor, “darkness” means “impurity” or “evil” or “spiritual blindness.”
- It also refers to anything related to sin and moral corruption.
- The expression, “dominion of darkness” refers to all that is evil and ruled by Satan.
- The term “darkness” can also be used as a metaphor for death. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- People who do not know God are said to be “living in darkness,” which means they do not understand or practice righteousness.
- God is light (righteousness) and the darkness (evil) cannot overcome that light.
- The place of punishment for those who reject God is sometimes referred to as “outer darkness.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term literally, with a word in the project language that refers to the absence of light. This could also be a term that refers to the darkness of a room with no light or to the time of day when there is no light.
- For the figurative uses, it is also important to keep the image of darkness in contrast to light, as a way to describe evil and deception in contrast to goodness and truth.
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could be, “darkness of night” (as opposed to “light of day”) or “not seeing anything, like at night” or “evil, like a dark place”.

(See also: [corrupt](#), [corruption](#), [dominion](#), [kingdom](#), [light](#), [redeem](#), [redemption](#), [righteous](#), [righteousness](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## **day of the Lord, day of Yahweh**

### **Description:**

The Old Testament term “day of Yahweh” is used to refer to a specific time(s) when God would punish people for their sin.

- The New Testament term “day of the Lord” usually refers to the day or time when the Lord Jesus will come back to judge people at the end of time.
- This final, future time of judgment and resurrection, is also sometimes referred to as the “last day.” This time will begin when the Lord Jesus comes back to judge sinners and will permanently establish his rule.
- The word “day” in these phrases may sometimes refer to a literal day or it may refer to a “time” or “occasion” that is longer than a day.
- Sometimes the punishment is referred to as a “pouring out of God’s wrath” upon those who do not believe.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate “day of Yahweh” could include, “time of Yahweh” or “time when Yahweh will punish his enemies” or “time of Yahweh’s wrath.”
- Other ways to translate “day of the Lord” could include “time of the Lord’s judgment” or “time when the Lord Jesus will return to judge people.”

(See also: [biblical time: day, judgment day, Lord, resurrection, Yahweh](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## death, die, dead

### Definition:

This term is used to refer to both physical and spiritual death. Physically, it refers to when the physical body of a person stops living. Spiritually, it refers to sinners being separated from a holy God because of their sin.

### 1. Physical death

- To “die” means to stop living. Death is the end of physical life.
- A person’s spirit leaves his body when he dies.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, physical death came into the world.
- The expression “put to death” refers to killing or murdering someone, especially when a king or other ruler gives an order for someone to be killed.

### 2. Spiritual death

- Spiritual death is the separation of a person from God.
- Adam died spiritually when he disobeyed God. His relationship with God was broken. He became ashamed and tried to hide from God.
- Every descendant of Adam is a sinner, and is spiritually dead. God makes us spiritually alive again when we have faith in Jesus Christ.

### Translation Suggestions:

- To translate this term, it is best to use the everyday, natural word or expression that refers to death in the target language.
- In some languages, “to die” may be expressed as “to not live.” The term “dead” may be translated as “not alive” or “not having any life” or “not living.”
- Many languages use figurative expressions to describe death, such as “to pass away” in English. However in the Bible it is best to use the most direct term for death that is used in everyday language.
- In the Bible, physical life and death are often compared to spiritual life and death. It is important in a translation to use the same word or phrase for both physical death and spiritual death.
- In some languages it may be more clear to say “spiritual death” when the context requires that meaning. Some translators may also feel it is best to say “physical death” in contexts where it is being contrasted to spiritual death.
- The expression, “the dead” is a nominal adjective that refers to people who have died. Some languages will translate this as, “dead people” or “people who have died.” (See: nominal adjective)
- The expression, “put to death” could also be translated as, “kill” or “murder” or “execute.”



(See also: [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#), [faith](#), [life](#), [live](#), [living](#), [alive](#), [spirit](#), [spiritual](#))

**Bible References:**

Waiting

**Examples from the Bible stories:**

- **[01-11]** God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he ate from this tree, he would **die**.
- **[02-11]** "Then you will **die**, and your body will return to dirt."
- **[07-10]** Then Isaac **died**, and Jacob and Esau buried him.
- **[37-05]** "Jesus replied, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he **dies**. Everyone who believes in me will never **die**."
- **[40-08]** Through his **death**, Jesus opened a way for people to come to God.
- **[43-07]** "Although Jesus **died**, God raised him from the dead."
- **[48-02]** Because they sinned, everyone on earth gets sick and everyone **dies**.
- **[50-17]** He (Jesus) will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, evil, pain, or **death**.
-

## deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive

### Definition:

The term “deceive” means to cause someone to believe something that is not true. The act of deceiving someone is called “deceit.”

- Another term, “deception” also refers to the act of causing someone to believe something that is not true.
- Someone who causes others to believe something false is a “deceiver.” For example, Satan is called a “deceiver.” The evil spirits that he controls are also deceivers.
- A person, action, or message that is not truthful can be described as “deceptive.”
- The terms “deceit” and “deception” have the same meaning, but there are some small differences in how they are used.
- The descriptive terms, “deceitful” and “deceptive” have the same meaning and are used in the same contexts.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “deceive” could include “lie to” or “cause to have a false belief” or “cause someone to think something that is not true.”
- The term “deceived” could also be translated as, “caused to think something false” or “lied to” or “tricked” or “fooled” or “misled.”
- “Deceiver” could be translated as, “liar” or “one who misleads” or “someone who deceives.”
- Depending on the context, the terms “deception” or “deceit” could be translated with a word or phrase that means “falsehood” or “lying” or “trickery” or “dishonesty.”
- The terms “deceptive” or “deceitful” could be translated by “untruthful” or “misleading” or “lying” to describe a person who speaks or acts in a way that causes other people to believe things that are not true.

(See: [true](#), [truth](#), [come true](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

{{tag>publish review}}

## everlasting, eternal, eternity

### Definition:

The terms “everlasting” and “eternal” have very similar meanings and refer to something that will always exist or that lasts forever.

- The term “eternity” refers to a state of being that has no beginning or end. It can also refer to life that never ends.
- After this present life on earth, humans will spend eternity either in heaven with God or in hell apart from God.
- The terms “eternal life” and “everlasting life” are used in the New Testament to refer to living forever with God in heaven.
- The phrase “forever and ever” has the idea of time that never ends and expresses what eternity or eternal life is like.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “eternal” or “everlasting” could include, “unending” or “never stopping” or “always continuing.”
- The terms “eternal life” and “everlasting life” could also be translated as “life that never ends” or “life that continues without stopping” or “the raising up of our bodies to live forever.”
- Depending on the context, different ways to translate “eternity” could include, “existing outside of time” or “unending life” or “life in heaven.”
- Also consider how this word is translated in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [forever](#), [life](#), [live](#), [living](#), [alive](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[27-01]** One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit **eternal life**?”
- **[28-01]** One day, a rich young ruler came up to Jesus and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to have **eternal life**?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have **eternal life**, obey God’s laws.”
- **[28-10]** Jesus answered, “Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or property for my name’s sake, will receive 100 times more and will also receive **eternal life**.”

## evil, wicked, wickedness

### Definition:

The terms “evil” and “wicked” both refer to anything that is opposed to God’s holy character and will.

- While “evil” may describe a person’s character, “wicked” may refer more to a person’s behavior. However, both terms are very similar in meaning.
- The term “wickedness” refers to the state of being that exists when people do wicked things.
- The results of evil are clearly shown in how people mistreat others by killing, stealing, slandering or being cruel and unkind.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the terms “evil” and “wicked” can be translated as “bad” or “sinful” or “immoral”
- Other ways to translate these could include, “not good” or “not righteous” or “not moral.”
- Make sure the words or phrases that are used to translate these terms fit the context that is natural in the target language.

(See also: [disobey](#), [disobedient](#), [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [good](#), [goodness](#), [righteous](#), demon, evil spirit, unclean spirit)

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-04]** “God just knows that as soon as you eat it, you will be like God and will understand good and **evil** like he does.”
- **[03-01]** After a long time, many people were living in the world. They had become very **wicked** and violent.
- **[03-02]** But Noah found favor with God. He was a righteous man living among **wicked** people.
- **[04-02]** God saw that if they all kept working together to do **evil**, they could do many more sinful things.
- **[08-12]** “You tried to do **evil** when you sold me as a slave, but God used the **evil** for good!”
- **[14-02]** They (Canaanites) worshiped false gods and did many **evil** things.
- **[17-01]** But then he (Saul) became a **wicked** man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who would one day be king in his place.
- **[18-11]** In the new kingdom of Israel, all the kings were **evil**.

- [29-08] The king was so angry that he threw the **wicked** servant into prison until he could pay back all of his debt.
- [45-02] They said, "We heard him (Stephen) speak **evil** things about Moses and God!"
- [50-17] He (Jesus) will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, **evil**, pain, or death.

## faith

### Definition:

In general, the term “faith” refers to a belief, trust or confidence in someone or something.

- To “have faith” in someone is to believe that what he says and does is true and trustworthy.
- To “have faith in Jesus” means to believe all of God’s teachings about Jesus. It especially means that people trust in Jesus and his sacrifice to cleanse them from their sin and to rescue them from the punishment they deserve because of their sin.
- True faith or belief in Jesus will cause a person to produce good spiritual fruits or behaviors because the Holy Spirit is living in him.
- Sometimes “faith” refers generally to all the teachings about Jesus, as in the expression, “the truths of the faith.”
- In contexts such as “keep the faith” or “abandon the faith,” the term “faith” refers to the state or condition of believing all the teachings about Jesus.

### Translation Suggestions:

- In some contexts, “faith” can be translated as “belief” or “conviction” or “confidence” or “trust.”
- For some languages these terms will be translated using forms of the verb “believe.” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))
- The expression, “keep the faith” could be translated by, “keep believing in Jesus” or “continue to believe in Jesus.”
- The sentence, “they must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith” could be translated by, “they must keep believing all the true things about Jesus that they have been taught.”
- The expression, “my true son in the faith” could be translated by something like, “who is like a son to me because I taught him to believe in Jesus” or “my true spiritual son, who believes in Jesus.”

(See also: [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#), [faithful](#), [faithfulness](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[05-06]** When Isaac was a young man, God tested Abraham’s **faith** by saying, “Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me.”
- **[31-07]** Then he (Jesus) said to Peter, “You man of little **faith**, why did you doubt?”
- **[32-16]** Jesus said to her, “Your **faith** has healed you. Go in peace.”

- **[38-09]** Then Jesus said to Peter, "Satan wants to have all of you, but I have prayed for you, Peter, that your **faith** will not fail.

## faithful, faithfulness

### Definition:

To be “faithful” to God means to consistently live according to God’s teachings. It means to be loyal to him by obeying him. The state or condition of being faithful is “faithfulness.”

- A person who is faithful can be trusted to always keep his promises and to always fulfill his responsibilities to other people.
- A faithful person perseveres in doing a task, even when it is long and difficult.
- Faithfulness to God is the consistent practice of doing what God wants us to do.

### Translation Suggestions:

- In many contexts, “faithful” can be translated as “loyal” or “dedicated” or “dependable.”
- In other contexts, “faithful” can be translated by a word or phrase that means, “continuing to believe” or “persevering in believing and obeying God.”
- Ways that “faithfulness” could be translated could include, “persevering in believing” or “loyalty” or “trustworthiness” or “believing and obeying God.”

(See also: [faith](#), [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [08-05] Even in prison, Joseph remained **faithful** to God, and God blessed him.
- [14-12] Even so, God was still **faithful** to His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- [15-13] The people promised to remain **faithful** to God and follow his laws.
- [17-09] David ruled with justice and **faithfulness** for many years, and God blessed him. However, toward the end of his life he sinned terribly against God.
- [18-04] God was angry with Solomon and, as a punishment for Solomon’s **unfaithfulness**, he promised to divide the nation of Israel into two kingdoms after Solomon’s death.
- [35-12]”The older son said to his father, ‘All these years I have worked **faithfully** for you!’
- [49-17] But God is **faithful** and says that if you confess your sins, he will forgive you.
- [50-04] If you remain **faithful** to me to the end, then God will save you.”



## **false prophet**

### **Definition:**

A false prophet is a person who wrongly claims that his message comes from God.

- The prophecies of false prophets are not usually fulfilled. That is, they do not come true.
- False prophets teach messages that partially or totally contradict what the Bible says.
- This term could also be translated as “person who falsely claims to be God’s spokesman” or “someone who falsely claims to speak God’s words.”
- The New Testament teaches that in the end times there will be many false prophets who will try to deceive people into thinking that they come from God.

(See also: [fulfill](#), [prophet](#), [prophecy](#), [prophesy](#), [seer](#), [prophetess](#), [true](#), [truth](#), [come true](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## ancestor, father, forefather

### Definition:

When used literally, the term “father” refers to a person’s male parent. There are also several figurative uses of this term.

- The terms “father” and “forefather” are often used to refer to the ancestors of a certain person or people group. This could also be translated as, “ancestor” or “ancestral father.”
- The expression “the father of” can figuratively refer to a person who is the leader a group of related people or the source of something. For example, in Genesis 4, “the father of all who live in tents” could mean, “the first clan leader of the first people who ever lived in tents.”
- The apostle Paul figuratively called himself the “father” of those he had helped to become Christians through sharing the gospel with them.

### Translation Suggestions

- When talking about a father and his literal son, this term should be translated using the usual term to refer to a father in the language.
- “God the Father” should also be translated using the usual, common word for “father.”
- When referring to forefathers, this term could be translated as “ancestor” or “ancestral father.”
- When Paul refers to himself figuratively as a father to believers in Christ, this could be translated as “spiritual father” or “father in Christ.”
- Sometimes the word “father” can be translated as “clan leader.”
- The phrase “father of all lies” could be translated as, “source of all lies” or “the one from whom all lies come.”

(See also: [God the Father](#), [heavenly Father](#), [Father](#), [son](#), [son of](#), [Son of God](#), [the Son](#), [Son](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## **fear, afraid, fear of Yahweh**

### **Definition:**

The terms “fear” and “afraid” refer to the unpleasant feeling a person has when there is a threat of harm to himself or others.

- The term “fear” can also refer to a deep respect and awe for a person in authority.
- The phrase “fear of Yahweh,” and related terms “fear of God” and “fear of the Lord,” refer to deeply respecting God and showing that respect by obeying him. This fear is motivated by knowing that God is holy and hates sin.
- The Bible teaches that a person who fears Yahweh will become wise.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Depending on the context, “to fear” can be translated as “to be afraid” or “to deeply respect” or “to revere” or “to be in awe of.”
- The term “afraid” could be translated as “terrified” or “scared” or “fearful.”
- The sentence, “The fear of God fell on all of them” could be translated as, “Suddenly they all felt a deep awe and respect for God” or “Immediately, they all felt very amazed and revered God deeply” or “Right then, they all felt very afraid of God (because of his great power).”
- The phrase “fear not” could also be translated as, “do not be afraid” or “stop being afraid.”
- Note that the phrase “fear of Yahweh” does not occur in the New Testament. The phrase “fear of the Lord” or “fear of the Lord God” would be used instead.

(See also: [marvel](#), [wonder](#), [amazed](#), [astonished](#), [awe](#), [awesome](#), [Lord](#), [power](#), [powers](#), [Yahweh](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## **fellowship**

### **Definition:**

In general, the term “fellowship” refers to friendly interactions between members of a group of people who share similar interests and experiences.

- In the Bible, the term “fellowship” usually refers to the unity of believers in Christ.
- Christian fellowship is a shared relationship that believers have with one another through their relationship with Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- The early Christians expressed their fellowship through listening to the teaching of God’s Word and praying together, through the sharing of their belongings, and eating meals together.
- Christians also have fellowship with God through their faith in Jesus and his sacrificial death on the cross which removed the barrier between God and people.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Ways to translate “fellowship” could include, “a sharing together” or “relationship” or “companionship” or “Christian community.”

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## flesh

### Definition:

In the Bible, the term “flesh” literally refers to the soft tissue of the physical body of a human being or animal.

- The Bible also uses the term “flesh” in a figurative way to refer to all human beings or all living creatures.
- In the New Testament, the term “flesh” is used to refer to the sinful nature of human beings. This is often used in contrast to their spiritual nature.
- The expression, “own flesh and blood” refers to someone who is biologically related to another person, such as a parent, sibling, child, or grandchild.
- The expression “flesh and blood” can also refer to a person’s ancestors or descendants.
- The expression, “one flesh” refers to the physical uniting of a man and woman in marriage.

### Translation Suggestions:

- In the context of an animal’s body, “flesh” could be translated as “body” or “skin” or “meat.”
- When it is used to refer generally to all living creatures, this term could be translated as “living beings” or “everything that is alive.”
- When referring in general to all people, this term could be translated as “people” or “human beings” or “everyone who lives.”
- The expression, “flesh and blood” could also be translated as “relatives” or “family” or “kin-folk” or “family clan.” There may be contexts where it could be translated as “ancestors” or “descendants.”
- Some languages may have an expression that is similar in meaning to “flesh and blood.”
- The expression, “become one flesh” could be translated as, “unite sexually” or “become as one body” or “become like one person in body and spirit.” The translation of this expression should be checked to make sure it is acceptable in the project language and culture. (See: [Euphemism](#)). It should also be understood that this is figurative, and does not mean that the man and woman literally become one person.

### Bible References:

Waiting

## **forgive, forgiveness**

### **Definition:**

To forgive someone means to not hold a grudge against a person who did something hurtful. “Forgiveness” is the act of forgiving someone.

- Forgiving someone often means not punishing that person for something he has done wrong.
- This term can be used figuratively to mean, “cancel” as in the expression, “forgive a debt.”
- When people confess their sins, God forgives them based on Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross.
- Jesus taught his disciples to forgive others as he has forgiven them.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Depending on the context, “forgive” could be translated as, “pardon” or “cancel” or “release” or “not hold against” (someone).
- The term “forgiveness” could be translated by a word or phrase that means, “practice of not resenting” or “declaring (someone) as not guilty” or “the act of pardoning.”

(See: [guilt](#), [guilty](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

### **Examples from the Bible stories:**

- [07-10] But Esau had already **forgiven** Jacob, and they were happy to see each other again.
- [13-15] Then Moses climbed the mountain again and prayed that God would **forgive** the people. God listened to Moses and **forgave** them.
- [17-13] David repented of his sin and God **forgave** him.
- [21-05] In the New Covenant, God would write his law on the people’s hearts, the people would know God personally, they would be his people, and God would **forgive** their sins.
- [29-01] One day Peter asked Jesus, “Master, how many times should I **forgive** my brother when he sins against me?”
- [29-08] I **forgave** your debt because you begged me.
- [38-05] Then Jesus took a cup and said, “Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that is poured out for the **forgiveness** of sins.

## God

### Facts:

In the Bible, the term “God” refers to the eternal being who created the universe out of nothing. God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God’s personal name is “Yahweh.”

- God has always existed; he existed before anything else existed, and he will continue to exist forever.
- He is the only true God and has authority over everything in the universe.
- God is perfectly righteous, infinitely wise, holy, sinless, just, merciful, and loving.
- He is a covenant-keeping God, who always fulfills his promises.
- People were created to worship God and he is the only one they should worship.
- God revealed his name as “Yahweh” which means, “he is” or “I am” or “the One who (always) exists.”
- The Bible also teaches about false “gods” which are nonliving idols that people wrongly worship.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “God” could include, “Deity” or “Creator” or “Supreme Being.”
- Other ways to translate “God” could be, “Supreme Creator” or “Infinite Sovereign Lord” or “Eternal Supreme Being.”
- Consider how God is referred to in a local or national language. There may also already be a word for “God” in the language being translated. If so, it is important to make sure that this word fits the characteristics of the one true God as described above.
- Many languages capitalize the first letter of the word for the one true God, to distinguish it from the word for a false god.
- Another way to make this distinction would be to use two different terms for “God” and “god.”
- The phrase, “I will be their God and they will be my people” could also be translated as, “I, God, will rule over these people and they will worship me.”

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [create](#), [creation](#), [Creator](#), [false god](#), [god](#), [God the Father](#), [Heavenly Father](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [idol](#), [Son of God](#), [the Son](#), [Yahweh](#).)

### Bible References:

Waiting

**Examples from the Bible stories:**

- [01-01]**God** created the universe and everything in it in six days.
- [01-15]**God** made man and woman in his own image.
- [05-03]"I am **God** Almighty. I will make a covenant with you."
- [09-14]**God** said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am Yahweh, the **God** of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name forever.'"
- [10-02] Through these plagues, **God** showed Pharaoh that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods.
- [16-01] The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the true **God**.
- [22-07] You, my son, will be called the prophet of the **Most High God** who will prepare the people to receive the Messiah!"
- [24-09] There is only one **God**. But John heard **God** the Father speak, and saw Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized Jesus.
- [25-07]"Worship only the Lord your **God** and only serve him."
- [28-01]"There is only one who is good, and that is **God**."
- [49-09] But **God** loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with **God** forever.
- [50-16] But some day **God** will create a new heaven and a new earth that will be perfect.



## godly, godliness

### Definition:

The term “godly” is used to describe a person who acts in a way that honors God and shows what God is like. “Godliness” is the character quality of honoring God by doing his will.

- A person who has godly character will show the fruits of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self control.
- The quality of godliness shows that a person has the Holy Spirit and is obeying him.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase, “the godly” could be translated as, “godly people” or “people who obey God.” (See: [Nominal Adjectives](#))
- The adjective “godly” could be translated as “obedient to God” or “righteous” or “pleasing to God.”
- The phrase, “in a godly manner” could be translated as, “in a way that obeys God” or “with actions and words that please God.”
- Ways to translate “godliness” could include, “acting in a way that pleases God” or “obeying God” or “living in a righteous manner.”

(See also [honor](#), [to honor](#), [obey](#), [obedient](#), [obedience](#), [righteous](#), [righteousness](#), [ungodly](#), [godless](#), [ungodliness](#), [godlessness](#), [unrighteous](#), [unrighteousness](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## God the Father, heavenly Father, Father

### Facts:

The terms, “God the Father” and “heavenly Father” refer to Yahweh, the one true God. This term also occurs as “Father,” especially when Jesus is referring to him.

- God exists as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each one is fully God, and yet they are only one God. This is a mystery that mere humans cannot fully understand.
- God the Father sent God the Son (Jesus) into the world and he sends the Holy Spirit to his people.
- Anyone who believes in God the Son becomes a child of God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit comes to live in that person. This is another mystery that human beings cannot fully understand.

### Translation Suggestions:

- In the phrase “God the Father,” it is best to translate “Father” with the same word that the language naturally uses to refer to a human father.
- The term “heavenly Father” could be translated by “Father who lives in heaven” or “Father God who lives in heaven” or “God our Father from heaven.”
- Usually “Father” is capitalized, to show that this refers to God.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [father](#), [forefather](#), [God](#), [heaven](#), [sky](#), [heavens](#), [heavenly](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [Jesus](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Christ Jesus](#), [Son of God](#), [the Son](#), [Son](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [24-09] There is only one God. But John heard **God the Father** speak, and saw Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized Jesus.
- [29-09] Then Jesus said, “This is what my **heavenly Father** will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”
- [37-09] Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “**Father**, thank you for hearing me.”
- [40-07] Then Jesus cried out, “It is finished! **Father**, I give my spirit into your hands.”
- [42-10] “So go, make disciples of all people groups by baptizing them in the name of **the Father**, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
- [43-08] “Jesus is now exalted to the right hand of **God the Father**.”

- [50-10]”Then the righteous ones will shine like the sun in the kingdom of **God their Father.**”

## heart

### Definition:

In the Bible, the term “heart” is often used figuratively to refer to a person’s thoughts, emotions, desires, or will.

- To have a “hard heart” is a common expression that means a person stubbornly refuses to obey God.
- The expressions “with all my heart” or “with my whole heart” mean to do something with no holding back, with complete commitment and willingness.
- The expression, “take it to heart” means to treat something seriously and apply it to one’s life.
- The term “brokenhearted” describes a person who is very sad. They have been deeply hurt emotionally.

### Translation Suggestions

- Some languages use a different body part such as “stomach” or “liver” to refer to these ideas.
- Other languages may use one word to express some of these concepts and another word to express others.
- If “heart” or other body part does not have this meaning, some languages may need to express this nonfiguratively with terms such as “thoughts” or “emotions” or “desires.”
- Depending on the context, “with all my heart” or “with my whole heart” could be translated as, “with all my energy” or “with complete dedication” or “completely” or “with total commitment.”
- The expression “take it to heart” could be translated as “treat it seriously” or “carefully think about it.”
- The expression “hard-hearted” could also be translated as, “stubbornly rebellious” or “refusing to obey” or “continually disobeying God.”
- Ways to translate “brokenhearted” could include, “very sad” or “feeling deeply hurt.”

(See also: [hard](#), [hardness](#), [harden](#) other)

### Bible References:

Waiting

## Holy One

### Definition:

The term “Holy One” is a title in the Bible that almost always refers to God.

- In the Old Testament, this title often occurs in the phrase “Holy One of Israel.”
- In the New Testament, Jesus is also referred to as the “Holy One.”
- The term “holy one” is sometimes used in the Bible to refer to an angel.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The literal term is, “the Holy” (with “One” being implied.) Many languages (like English) will translate this with the implied noun included (such as “One” or “God”).
- This term could also be translated as, “God, who is holy” or “the Set Apart One.”
- The phrase, “the Holy One of Israel” could be translated as, “the Holy God whom Israel worships” or “Holy One who rules Israel.”
- It is best to translate this term using the same word or phrase that is used to translate “holy.”

(See also: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [God](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord

### Facts:

These terms all refer to the Holy Spirit, who is God. The one true God exists eternally as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is also referred to as, “the Spirit” and “Spirit of Yahweh” and “Spirit of truth.”
- Because the Holy Spirit is God, he is absolutely holy, infinitely pure, and morally perfect in all his nature and in everything he does.
- Along with the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit was active in creating the world.
- When God’s Son, Jesus, returned to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to his people to lead them, teach them, comfort them, and enable them to do God’s will.
- The Holy Spirit guided Jesus and he guides those who believe in Jesus.

### Translation Suggestions:

- This term could simply be translated with the words used to translate “holy” and “spirit.”
- Ways to translate this term could also include, “Pure Spirit” or “Spirit who is Holy” or “God the Spirit.”

(See also: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [spirit](#), [spiritual](#), [God](#), [Lord](#), [God the Father](#), [heavenly Father](#), [Father](#), [Son of God](#), [the Son](#), [Son](#), [gift](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[01-01]** But **God’s Spirit** was there over the water.
- **[24-08]** When Jesus came up out of the water after being baptized, **the Spirit of God** appeared in the form of a dove and came down and rested on him.
- **[26-01]** After overcoming Satan’s temptations, Jesus returned in the power of **the Holy Spirit** to the region of Galilee where he lived.
- **[26-03]** Jesus read, “God has given me **his Spirit** so that I can proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to captives, recovery of sight for the blind, and release to the oppressed.”
- **[42-10]** “So go, make disciples of all people groups by baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and **the Holy Spirit** and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
- **[43-03]** They were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and they began to speak in other languages.
- **[43-08]** “And Jesus has sent the **Holy Spirit** just as he promised he would do. The **Holy Spirit** is causing the things that you are now seeing and hearing.”

- **[43-11]** Peter answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that God will forgive your sins. Then he will also give you the gift of the **Holy Spirit.**"
- **[45-01]** He (Stephen) had a good reputation and was full of the **Holy Spirit** and of wisdom.

## idol, idolatrous

### Definition:

An idol is an object that people make so they can worship it. Something is described as “idolatrous” if it involves giving honor to something other than the one true God.

- People make idols to represent the false gods that they worship.
- These false gods do not exist; there is no God besides Yahweh.
- Sometimes demons work through an idol to make it seem like it has power, even though it does not.
- Idols are often made of valuable materials like gold, silver, bronze, or expensive wood.
- An “idolatrous kingdom” means a “kingdom of people who worship idols” or a “kingdom of people who worship earthly things.”
- The term “idolatrous figure” is another word for a “carved image” or an “idol.”

(See also: [false god](#), [foreign god](#), [god](#), [goddess](#), [image](#), [carved image](#), [carved figure](#), [cast metal figure](#), [kingdom](#), [worship](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[13-05]** ”Do not make **idols** or worship them, because I, Yahweh, am a jealous God.”
- **[13-12]** Aaron made a golden **idol** in the shape of a calf. The people began to wildly worship the **idol** and make sacrifices to it!
- **[14-03]** ”You must completely destroy all of their **idols**. If you do not obey me, you will worship their **idols** instead of me.”
- **[18-12]** All of the kings and most of the people of the kingdom of Israel worshiped **idols**. This kind of worship often included sexual immorality and sometimes even child sacrifice.
- **[19-16]** They (the prophets) all told the people to stop worshipping **idols** and to start showing justice and mercy to others.



## **in Christ, in Jesus, in the Lord, in him**

### **Definition:**

The phrase “in Christ” and related terms refer to the state or condition of being in relationship with Jesus Christ through faith in him.

- Other related terms include, “in Christ Jesus, in Jesus Christ, in the Lord Jesus, in the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Possible meanings for the term, “in Christ” could include, “because you belong to Christ” or “through the relationship you have with Christ” or “based on your faith in Christ.”
- These related terms all have the same meaning of being in a state of believing in Jesus and being his disciple.
- Note: Sometimes the word “in” belongs with the verb. For example, “share in Christ” means to “share in” the benefits that come from knowing Christ. To “glory in” Christ means to be glad and give praise to God for who Jesus is and what he has done. To “believe in” Christ means to trust him as Savior and know him.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Depending on the context, different ways to translate “in Christ” and “in the Lord” (and related phrases) could include:
  - “who belong to Christ”
  - “because you believe in Christ”
  - “because Christ has saved us”
  - “in service to the Lord”
  - “relying on the Lord”
  - “because of what the Lord has done.”
- People who “believe in” Christ or who “have faith in” Christ believe what Jesus taught and are trusting him to save them because of his sacrifice on the cross that paid the penalty for their sins. Some languages may have one word that translates verbs like “believe in” or “share in” or “trust in.”

(See also: [Christ](#), [Messiah](#), [Lord](#), [Jesus](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Christ Jesus](#), [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#), [faith](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus

### Facts:

Jesus is God's Son. The name "Jesus" means, "Yahweh saves." The term "Christ" is a title that means "anointed one" and is another word for the Messiah.

- The two names are often combined as "Jesus Christ" or "Christ Jesus." These names emphasize that God's Son is the Messiah who came to save people from being punished eternally for their sins.
- In a miraculous way, the Holy Spirit caused the eternal Son of God to be born as a human being. His earthly parents were told by an angel to call him "Jesus" because he was destined to save people from their sins.
- Jesus did many miracles that revealed that he is God and that he is the Christ, or Messiah.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Many languages spell "Jesus" and "Christ" in a way that keeps the sounds or spelling as close to the original as possible. For example, "Jesucristo," "Jezus Christus," "Yesus Kristus", and "Hesukristo" are some of the ways that these names are translated into different languages.
- For the term, "Christ," some languages may prefer to use some form of the term "Messiah" throughout.
- Also consider how these names are spelled in a nearby local or national language.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Christ](#), [Messiah](#), [God](#), [God the Father](#), [Heavenly Father](#), [high priest](#), [kingdom of God](#), [kingdom of heaven](#), [Mary](#), [Savior](#), [Son of God](#), [the Son](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[22-04]** The angel said, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him **Jesus** and he will be the Messiah."
- **[23-02]** "Name him **Jesus** (which means, 'Yahweh saves'), because he will save the people from their sins."
- **[24-07]** So John baptized him (Jesus), even though **Jesus** had never sinned.
- **[24-09]** There is only one God. But John heard God the Father speak, and saw **Jesus** the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized **Jesus**.
- **[25-08]** **Jesus** did not give in to Satan's temptations, so Satan left him.

- [26-08] Then **Jesus** went throughout the region of Galilee, and large crowds came to him. They brought many people who were sick or handicapped, including those who could not see, walk, hear, or speak, and **Jesus** healed them.
- [31-03] Then **Jesus** finished praying and went to the disciples. He walked on top of the water across the lake toward their boat!
- [38-02] He (Judas) knew that the Jewish leaders denied that **Jesus** was the Messiah and that they were plotting to kill him.
- [40-08] Through his death, **Jesus** opened a way for people to come to God.
- [42-11] Then **Jesus** was taken up to heaven, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **Jesus** sat down at the right hand of God to rule over all things.
- [50-17] **Jesus** and his people will live on the new earth, and he will reign forever over everything that exists. He will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, evil, pain, or death. **Jesus** will rule his kingdom with peace and justice, and he will be with his people forever.

## joy, joyful

### Definition:

Joy is a feeling of delight or deep satisfaction that comes from God. The related term, “joyful” describes a person who feels very glad and full of deep happiness.

- A person feels joy when he has a deep sense that what he is experiencing is very good.
- God is the one who gives true joy to people.
- Having joy does not depend on pleasant circumstances. God can give people joy even when very difficult things are happening in their lives.
- Sometimes places are described as joyful, such as houses or cities. This means that the people who live there are joyful.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “joy” could also be translated as “gladness” or “delight” or “great happiness.”
- The phrase, “be joyful” could be translated as “rejoice” or “be very glad” or with a phrase that means, “be very happy in God’s goodness.”
- A person who is joyful could be described as “very happy” or “delighted” or “deeply glad.”
- A phrase such as “make a joyful shout” could be translated as “shout in a way that shows you are very happy.”
- A “joyful city” or “joyful house” could be translated as “city where joyful people live” or “house full of joyful people” or “city whose people are very happy.” **Metonymy**)

(See also: [rejoice](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[33-07]**”The rocky ground is a person who hears God’s word and accepts it with **joy**.”
- **[34-04]**”The kingdom of God is also like hidden treasure that someone hid in a field.. Another man found the treasure and then buried it again. He was so filled with **joy**, that he went and sold everything he had and used the money to buy that field.”
- **[41-07]** The women were full of fear and great **joy**. They ran to tell the disciples the good news.

## **last day, last days, latter days**

### **Definition:**

The term “last days” or “latter days” refers generally to the time period at the end of the current age.

- This time period will be an unknown length of time.
- The “last days” are a time of judgment upon those who have turned away from God.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- The term, “last days” can also be translated as “final days” or “end times.”
- In some contexts, this could be translated as, “end of the world” or “when this world ends.”

(See also: [day of the Lord](#), [day of Yahweh](#), [judge](#), [judgment](#), [turn](#), [turn away](#), [turn back](#), [world](#), [worldly](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## lawless, lawlessness

### Definition:

The term “lawless” describes a person who does not obey laws or rules. When a country or group of people are in a state of “lawlessness” it means there is widespread disobedience, rebellion, or immorality.

- A lawless person is rebellious and does not obey God’s laws.
- The apostle Paul wrote that in the last days there will be a “man of lawlessness,” or a “lawless one,” who will be influenced by Satan to do evil things.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “lawless” could also be translated as, “rebellious” or “disobedient” or “law-defying”.
- The term “lawlessness” could be translated as, “not obeying any laws” or “rebellion (against God’s laws).”
- The phrase, “man of lawlessness” could be translated as, “man who does not obey any laws” or “man who rebels against God’s laws.”
- It is important to keep the concept of “law” in this term, if possible.
- Note that the term “unlawful” has a different meaning from this term.

(See also: [law](#), [principle](#), [lawful](#), [lawfully](#), [unlawful](#), [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [God’s law](#), [law of Yahweh](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## law, law of Moses, God's law, law of Yahweh

### Definition:

All these terms refer to the commandments and instructions that God gave Moses for the Israelites to obey. The terms “law” and “God’s law” are also used more generally to refer to everything God wants his people to obey.

- Depending on the context, the “law” can refer to:
  - the Ten Commandments that God wrote on stone tablets for the Israelites.
  - all the laws given to Moses
  - the first five books of the Old Testament.
  - the entire Old Testament (also referred to as “scriptures” in the New Testament).
  - all of God’s instructions and will.
- The phrase “the law and the prophets” is used in the New Testament to refer to the Hebrew scriptures (or “Old Testament”).

### Translation Suggestions:

- These terms could be translated using the plural, “laws” since they refer to many instructions.
- The “law of Moses” could be translated as “the laws that God told Moses to give to the Israelites.”
- Depending on the context, “the law of Moses” could also be translated as, “the law that God told to Moses” or “God’s laws that Moses wrote down” or “the laws that God told Moses to give to the Israelites.”
- Ways to translate “the law” or “law of God” or “God’s laws” could include: “laws from God” or “God’s commands” or “laws that God gave” or “everything that God commands” or “all of God’s instructions”
- The phrase, “law of Yahweh” could also be translated as, “Yahweh’s laws” or “laws that Yahweh said to obey” or “laws from Yahweh” or “things Yahweh commanded.”

(See also: [instruct](#), [instruction](#), [Moses](#), [Ten Commandments](#), [lawful](#), [lawfully](#), [unlawful](#), [Yahweh](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[13-07]** God also gave many other **laws** and rules to follow. If the people obeyed these **laws**, God promised that he would bless and protect them. If they disobeyed them, God would punish them.

- **[13-09]** Anyone who disobeyed **God's law** could bring an animal to the altar in front of the Tent of Meeting as a sacrifice to God.
- **[15-13]** Then Joshua reminded the people of their obligation to obey the covenant that God had made with the Israelites at Sinai. The people promised to remain faithful to God and follow **his laws**.
- **[16-01]** After Joshua died, the Israelites disobeyed God and did not drive out the rest of the Canaanites or obey **God's laws**.
- **[21-05]** In the New Covenant, God would write **his law** on the people's hearts, the people would know God personally, they would be his people, and God would forgive their sins.
- **[27-01]** Jesus answered, "What is written in **God's law**?"
- **[28-01]** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me 'good?' There is only one who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have eternal life, obey **God's laws**."



## life, live, living, alive

### Definition:

All these terms refer to being physically alive, not dead. They are also used figuratively to refer to being alive spiritually. The following discusses what is meant by “physical life” and “spiritual life.”

### 1. Physical life

- Physical life is the presence of the spirit in the body. God breathed life into Adam’s body, and he became a living being.
- A “life” can also refer to an individual person, as in, “a life was saved”.
- Sometimes the word “life” refers to the experience of living, as in, “his life was enjoyable.”
- It can also refer to a person’s lifespan as in the expression, “the end of his life.”
- The term “living” may refer to being physically alive as in, “my mother is still living.” It may also refer to dwelling somewhere as in, “they were living in the city.”
- In the Bible, the concept of “life” is often contrasted with the concept of “death.”

### 2. Spiritual life

- A person has spiritual life when he believes in Jesus and God gives that person a transformed life with the Holy Spirit living in him.
- This life is also called “eternal life” to indicate that it does not end.
- The opposite of spiritual life is spiritual death, which means being separated from God and experiencing eternal punishment.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “life” can be translated as “existence” or “person” or “soul” or “being” or “experience.”
- The term “live” could be translated by “dwell” or “reside” or “exist.”
- The expression “end of his life” could be translated as, “when he stopped living.”
- The expression “spared their lives’ could be translated as, “allowed them to live” or “did not kill them.”
- The expression “they risked their lives” could be translated as, “they put themselves in danger” or “they did something that could have killed them.”
- When the Bible text talks about being alive spiritually, “life” could be translated as “spiritual life” or “eternal life,” depending on the context.
- The concept of “spiritual life” could also be translated as, “God making us alive in our spirits” or “new life by God’s Spirit” or “being made alive in our inner self.”
- Depending on the context, the expression “give life” could also be translated as, “cause to live” or “give eternal life” or “cause to live eternally.”

(See also: [death](#), [die](#), [dead](#), [everlasting](#), [eternal](#), [eternity](#))

**Bible References:**

Waiting

**Examples from the Bible stories:**

- [01-10] So God took some dirt, formed it into a man, and breathed **life** into him.
- [03-01] After a long time, many people were **living** in the world.
- [08-13] When Joseph's brothers returned home and told their father, Jacob, that Joseph was still **alive**, he was very happy.
- [17-09] However, toward the end of his [David's] **life** he sinned terribly before God.
- [27-01] One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal **life**?"
- [37-05] Jesus replied, "I am the Resurrection and the **Life**."
- [44-05] "You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus. You killed the author of **life**, but God raised him from the dead."

## light

### Definition:

There are several figurative uses of the term “light” in the Bible. It is often used as a metaphor for righteousness, holiness, and truth. (See: [Metaphor](#))

- Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” to express that he brings God’s true message to the world and rescues people from the darkness of their sin.
- Christians are commanded to “walk in the light,” which means they should be living the way God wants them to and avoiding evil.
- The apostle John stated that “God is light,” and there is no darkness in him.
- Light and darkness are completely opposite. Darkness is the absence of all light.
- Jesus said that he is “the light of the world” and that his followers should shine like lights in the world, by living in a way that clearly shows how great God is.
- “Walking in the light” represents living in a way that pleases God, doing what is good and right. Walking in darkness represents living in rebellion against God, doing evil things.

### Translation Suggestions:

- When translating, it is important to keep the literal terms “light” and “darkness” even when they are used figuratively.
- It may be necessary to explain the comparison in the text. For example, “walk as children of light” could be translated as, “live openly righteous lives, like someone who walks in bright sunlight.”
- Make sure that the translation of “light” does not refer to an object that gives light, such as a lamp. The translation of this term should refer to the light itself.

(See also: [darkness](#), [holy](#), [holiness](#), [righteous](#), [righteousness](#), [true](#), [truth](#), [come true](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## love

### Definition:

To love another person is to care for that person and do things that will benefit him. There are different meanings for “love” which some languages may express using different words:

1. The kind of love that comes from God is focused on the good of others, even when it doesn’t benefit oneself. This kind of love cares for others, no matter what they do. God himself is love and is the source of true love.

- Jesus showed this kind of love by sacrificing his life in order to rescue us from sin and death. He also taught his followers to love others sacrificially.
- When people love others with this kind of love, it involves actions that show that someone is thinking of what will cause the other person to thrive. This kind of love especially includes forgiving others.
- In the ULB, the word “love” refers to this kind of sacrificial love, unless a Translation Note indicates a different meaning.

2. Another word in the New Testament refers to brotherly love or love for a friend or family member.

- This term refers to natural human love between friends or relatives.
- It can also be used in such contexts as, “They love to sit in the most important seats at a banquet.” This means that they “like very much” or “greatly desire” to do that.

3. The word “love” can also refer to romantic love between a man and a woman.

4. In the figurative expression, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated,” the term “loved” refers to God’s choosing of Jacob to be in a covenant relationship with him. This could also be translated as “chosen.” Although Esau was also blessed by God, he wasn’t given the privilege of being in the covenant. The term “hated” is used figuratively here to mean “rejected” or “not chosen.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- Unless indicated otherwise in a Translation Note, the word “love” in the ULB refers to the kind of sacrificial love that comes from God.
- Some languages may have a special word for the kind of unselfish, sacrificial love that God has. Ways to translate this might include, “devoted, faithful caring” or “care for unselfishly” or “love from God.” Make sure that the word used to translate God’s love can include giving up one’s own interests to benefit others and loving others no matter what they do.
- Sometimes the English word “love” describes the deep caring that people have for friends and family members. Some languages might translate this with a word or phrase that means, “like very much” or “care for” or “have strong affection for.”
- In contexts where the word “love” is used to express a strong preference for something, this could be translated by “strongly prefer” or “like very much” or “greatly desire.”

- Some languages may also have a separate word that refers to romantic or sexual love between a husband and wife.
- Many languages must express “love” as an action. So for example, they might translate “love is patient, love is kind” as, “when a person loves someone, he is patient with him and kind to him.”

(See also: [covenant](#), [death](#), [die](#), [dead](#), [sacrifice](#), [offering](#), [save](#), [safe](#), [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

### **Examples from the Bible stories:**

- [27-02] The law expert replied that God’s law says, “**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And **love** your neighbor as yourself.”
- [33-08] “The thorny ground is a person who hears God’s word, but, as time passes, the cares, riches, and pleasures of life choke out his **love** for God.”
- [36-05] As Peter was talking, a bright cloud came down on top of them and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son whom I **love**.”
- [39-10] “Everyone who **loves** the truth listens to me.”
- [47-01] She (Lydia) **loved** and worshiped God.
- [48-01] When God created the world, everything was perfect. There was no sin. Adam and Eve **loved** each other, and they **loved** God.
- [49-03] He (Jesus) taught that you need to **love** other people the same way you love yourself.
- [49-04] He (Jesus) also taught that you need to **love** God more than you **love** anything else, including your wealth.
- [49-07] Jesus taught that God **loves** sinners very much.
- [49-09] But God **loved** everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with God forever.
- [49-13] God **loves** you and wants you to believe in Jesus so he can have a close relationship with you.

## **lust**

### **Definition:**

Lust is a very strong desire, usually in the context of wanting something sinful or immoral.

- In the Bible, “lust” usually refers to sexual desire for someone other than one’s own spouse.
- Sometimes this term is used in a figurative sense to refer to worshiping idols.
- Depending on the context, “lust” could also be translated as “wrong desire” or “strong desire” or “wrongful sexual desire” or “strong immoral desire” or “to strongly desire to sin.”
- The phrase “to lust after” could also be translated as “to wrongly desire” or “to think immorally about” or “to immorally desire.”

(See also: [adultery](#), [adulterous](#), [adulterer](#), [adulteress](#), [idol](#), [idolatrous](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## name

### Definition:

In the Bible, the word “name” is used in several figurative ways.

- In some contexts, “name” can refer to a person’s reputation, as in, “let us make a name for ourselves.”
- The term “name” can also refer to the memory of something. For example, “cut off the names of the idols” means to destroy those idols so that they are no longer remembered or worshiped.
- Speaking “in the name of God” means speaking with his power and authority, or as his representative.
- The “name” of someone can refer to the entire person, as in “there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” (See: [Metonymy](#))

### Translation Suggestions:

- An expression like, “his good name” could be translated as “his good reputation.”
- Doing something “in the name of” could be translated as, “with the authority of” or “with the permission of” or “as the representative of” that person.
- The expression, “make a name for ourselves” could be translated, “cause many people to know about us” or “make people think we are very important.”
- The expression, “call his name” could be translated as, “name him” or “give him the name.”
- The expression, “those who love your name” could be translated as, “those who love you.”
- The expression, “cut off the names of idols” could be translated as “get rid of pagan idols so that they are not even remembered” or “cause people to stop worshiping false gods” or “completely destroy all idols so that people no longer even think about them.”

(See: [call](#), [calling](#), [called](#), [call out](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

**perfect****Definition:**

In the Bible, the term “perfect” means to be mature in our Christian life. To perfect something means to work at it until it is excellent and without flaws.

- Being perfect and mature means that a Christian is obedient, not sinless.
- The term “perfect” also has the meaning of being “complete” or “whole.”
- The New Testament book of James states that persevering through trials will produce completeness and maturity in the believer.
- When Christians study the Bible and obey it, they will become more spiritually perfect and mature because they will be more like Christ in their character.

**Translation Suggestions:**

- This term could be translated as “without flaw” or “without error” or “flawless” or “without fault.” or “not having any faults.”

**Bible References:**

Waiting



## pray, prayer

### Definition:

The terms “pray” and “prayer” refer to talking with God. This term is also used to refer to people trying to talk to a false god.

- People can pray silently, talking to God with their thoughts or they can pray aloud, speaking to God with their voice. Sometimes prayers are written down, such as when David wrote his prayers in the book of Psalms.
- Prayer can include asking God for mercy, for help with a problem, for wisdom in making decisions.
- Often people ask God to heal people who are sick or who need his help in other ways.
- People also thank and praise God when they are praying to him.
- Praying includes confessing our sins to God and asking him to forgive us.
- Talking to God is sometimes called “communing” with him as our spirit communicates with his spirit, sharing our emotions and enjoying his presence.
- This term could be translated as “talking to God” or “communicating with God.” The translation of this term should be able to include praying that is silent.

(See: [false god](#), [foreign god](#), [god](#), [goddess](#), [forgive](#), [forgiveness](#), [praise](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [06-05] Isaac **prayed** for Rebekah, and God allowed her to get pregnant with twins.
- [13-12] But Moses **prayed** for them, and God listened to his **prayer** and did not destroy them.
- [19-08] Then the prophets of Baal **prayed** to Baal, “Hear us, O Baal!”
- [21-07] Priests also **prayed** to God for the people.
- [38-11] Jesus told his disciples to **pray** that they would not enter into temptation.
- [43-13] The disciples continually listened to the teaching of the apostles, spent time together, ate together, and **prayed** with each other.
- [49-18] God tells you to **pray**, to study his word, to worship him with other Christians, and to tell others what he has done for you.

## propitiation

### Definition:

The term “propitiation” refers to a sacrifice that is made to satisfy or fulfill the justice of God and to appease his wrath.

- The offering of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ is the propitiation to God for mankind’s sins.
- Jesus’ death on the cross appeased God’s wrath against sin. This provided a way for God to look on people with favor and offer them eternal life.

### Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated as “appeasement” or “causing God to forgive sins and grant favor to people.”
- The word “atonement” is close in meaning to “propitiation.” It is important to compare how these two terms are used.

(See also: [atonement](#), [atone](#), [everlasting](#), [eternal](#), [eternity](#), [forgive](#), [forgiveness](#), [sacrifice](#), [offering](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## **punish, punishment**

### **Definition:**

The term “punish” means to cause someone to suffer a negative consequence for doing something wrong. The term “punishment” refers to the negative consequence that is given as a result of that wrong behavior.

- Often punishment is intended to motivate a person to stop sinning.
- God punished the Israelites when they disobeyed him, especially when they worshiped false gods. Because of their sin, God allowed their enemies to attack and capture them.
- God is righteous and just, so he has to punish sin. Every human being has sinned against God and deserves punishment.
- Jesus was punished for all the evil things that every person has ever done. He received each person’s punishment on himself even though he did nothing wrong and did not deserve that punishment.
- The expressions “go unpunished” and “leave unpunished” mean to decide not to punish people for their wrongdoing. God often allows sin to go unpunished as he waits for people to repent.

(See also: [just](#), [justice](#), [justly](#), [repent](#), [repentance](#), [righteous](#), [righteousness](#), [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

their

### **Examples from the Bible stories:**

- **[13-07]** God also gave many other laws and rules to follow. If the people obeyed these laws, God promised that he would bless and protect them. If they disobeyed them, God would **punish** them.
- **[16-02]** Because the Israelites kept disobeying God, he **punished** them by allowing their enemies to defeat them.
- **[19-16]** The prophets warned the people that if they did not stop doing evil and start obeying God, then God would judge them as guilty, and he would **punish** them.
- **[48-06]** Jesus was the perfect high priest because he took the **punishment** for every sin that anyone has ever committed.
- **[48-10]** When anyone believes in Jesus, the blood of Jesus takes away that person’s sin, and God’s **punishment** passes over him.
- **[49-09]** But God loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be **punished** for his sins, but will live with God forever.

- [49-11] Jesus never sinned, but he chose to be **punished** and die as the perfect sacrifice to take away your sins and the sins of every person in the world.

## **pure, purify, purification**

### **Definition:**

To be “pure” means to have no flaw or to have nothing mixed in that is not supposed to be there. To purify something is to cleanse it and remove anything that contaminates or pollutes it.

- In regard to Old Testament laws, “purify” and “purification” refer mainly to the cleansing from things that make an object or a person ritually unclean, such as disease, body fluids, or childbirth.
- The Old Testament also had laws telling people how to be purified from sin, usually by the sacrifice of an animal. This was only temporary and the sacrifices had to be repeated over and over again.
- In the New Testament, to be purified often refers to being cleansed from sin.
- The only way that people can be completely and permanently purified from sin is through repenting and receiving God’s forgiveness, through trusting in Jesus and his sacrifice.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- The term “purify” could be translated as “make pure” or “cleanse” or “cleanse from all contamination” or “get rid of all sin.”
- A phrase such as, “when the time for their purification was over” could be translated as, “when they had purified themselves by waiting the required number of days.”
- The phrase, “provided purification for sins” could be translated as, “provided a way for people to be completely cleansed from their sin.”
- Other ways to translate “purification” could include, “cleansing” or “spiritual washing” or “becoming ritually clean.”

(See: [atonement](#), [atone](#), [clean](#), [cleanse](#), [spirit](#), [spiritual](#) )

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## receive

### Definition:

The term “receive” generally means to get or accept something that is given, offered, or presented.

- To “receive” can also mean to suffer or experience something, as in “he received punishment for what he did.”
- There is also a special sense in which we can “receive” a person. For example, to “receive” guests or visitors means to welcome them and to treat them with honor in order to build a relationship with them.
- To “receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” means we are given the Holy Spirit and welcome him to work in and through our lives.
- To “receive Jesus” means to accept God’s offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- When a blind person “receives his sight” means that God healed him and enabled him to see.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “receive” can be translated as “accept” or “welcome” or “experience” or “be given.”
- The expression, “you will receive power” could be translated as, “you will be given power” or “God will give you power” or “power will be given to you (by God)” or “God will cause the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in you.”
- The phrase “received his sight” could also be translated as, “was able to see” or “became able to see again” or “God healed him so that he was able to see.”

(See also: [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [Jesus](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Christ Jesus](#), [lord](#), [master](#), [sir](#), [save](#), [safe](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [21-13] The prophets also said that the Messiah would be perfect, having no sin. He would die to **receive** the punishment for other people’s sin. His punishment would bring peace between God and people.
- [45-05] As Stephen was dying, he cried out, “Jesus, **receive** my spirit.”
- [49-06] He (Jesus) taught that some people will receive him and be saved, but others will not.
- [49-10] When Jesus died on the cross, he **received** your punishment.
- [49-13] God will save everyone who believes in Jesus and **receives** him as their Master.

## resurrection

### Definition:

The term “resurrection” refers to the act of becoming alive again after having died.

- To resurrect someone means to bring that person back to life again. Only God has the power to do this.
- The word “resurrection” often refers to Jesus’ coming back to life after he died.
- When Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life” he meant that he is the source of resurrection, and the one who causes people to come back to life.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The word “resurrection” could also be translated as, “coming back to life” or, “becoming alive again after being dead.”
- The literal meaning of this word is “a rising up” or “the act of being raised (from the dead).” These would be other possible ways to translate this term.

(See also: [life](#), [live](#), [living](#), [alive](#), [death](#), [die](#), [dead](#), [raise](#), [rise](#), [risen](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [21-14] Through the Messiah’s death and **resurrection**, God would accomplish his plan to save sinners and start the New Covenant.
- [37-05] Jesus replied, “I am the **Resurrection** and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies.

## reveal, revelation

### Definition:

The term “reveal” means to cause something to be known. A “revelation” is something that has been made known.

- In the Bible, the term “reveal” is often used to describe how God has made himself known to people.
- God has revealed himself through everything he has created and through his communication with people by spoken and written messages.
- God also reveals himself through dreams or visions.
- When Paul says that he received the gospel by “revelation from Jesus Christ,” he means that Jesus himself explained the gospel to him.
- The New Testament book “Revelation” is about God revealing events that will happen in the end times. He revealed this to the apostle John through visions.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “reveal” could include, “make known” or “disclose” or “show clearly.”
- Depending on the context, possible ways to translate “revelation” could be, “communication from God” or “things that God has revealed” or “teachings about God.” It is best to keep the meaning of “reveal” in this word.
- The phrase, “where there is no revelation” could be translated as, “when God does not reveal himself to people” or “when God has not spoken to people” or “among people whom God has not communicated to.”

(See also: [good news, gospel](#), [good news, gospel](#), [dream](#), [vision](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting



## righteous, righteousness

### Definition:

The terms “righteous” and “righteousness” refer to God’s absolute goodness, justice, faithfulness, and love. Because God is righteous, he must condemn sin.

- These terms are also often used to describe a person who obeys God and is morally good. However, because all people have sinned, no one except God is completely righteous.
- Examples of people who the Bible calls “righteous” include Noah, Job, Abraham, Zachariah, and Elisabeth.
- When people trust in Jesus to save them, God cleanses them from their sins and declares them to be righteous based on Jesus’ righteousness.

### Translation Suggestions:

- When referring to God, the term “righteous” could be translated as “perfectly good and just” or “always acting rightly.”
- God’s “righteousness” could also be translated as, “perfect faithfulness and goodness.”
- When referring to people who are obedient to God, the term “righteous” could also be translated as “morally good” or “just” or “living a God-pleasing life.”
- The phrase, “the righteous” could also be translated as, “righteous people” or “God-fearing people.”
- Depending on the context, “righteousness” could also be translated with a word or phrase that means, “goodness” or “being perfect before God” or “acting in a right way by obeying God” or “doing perfectly good
- Sometimes “the righteous” is used figuratively and refers to “people who think they are good” or “people who seem to be righteous.”

(See also: [good](#), [goodness](#), [holy](#), [holiness](#), [evil](#), [wicked](#), [wickedness](#), [just](#), [justice](#), [justly](#), [faithful](#), [faithfulness](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [03-02] But Noah found favor with God. He was a **righteous** man, living among wicked people.
- [04-08] God declared that Abram was **righteous** because he believed in God’s promise.
- [17-02] David was a humble and **righteous** man who trusted and obeyed God.
- [23-01] Joseph, the man Mary was engaged to, was a **righteous** man.
- [50-10] Then the **righteous** ones will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God their Father.”

## Satan, devil, evil one

### Facts:

The devil is a spirit being that God created, but he rebelled against God and became God's enemy. The devil is also called "Satan" and "the evil one."

- The devil hates God and all that God created, because he wants to take the place of God and be worshiped as God.
- Satan tempts people to rebel against God.
- God sent his Son, Jesus to rescue people from Satan's control.
- The name "Satan" means "adversary" or "enemy."
- The word "devil" means "accuser."

### Translation Suggestions:

- The word "devil" could also be translated as "the accuser" or "the evil one" or "the king of evil spirits" or "the chief evil spirit."
- "Satan" can be translated as "Opponent" or "Adversary" or some other name that shows that he is the devil.
- These terms should be translated differently from demon and evil spirit.
- Consider how these terms are translated in a local or national language. (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [demon](#), [evil spirit](#), [unclean spirit](#), [evil](#), [wicked](#), [wickedness](#), [kingdom of God](#), [kingdom of heaven](#), [tempt](#), [temptation](#), )

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[21-01]** The snake who deceived Eve was **Satan**. The promise meant that the Messiah who would come would defeat **Satan** completely.
- **[25-06]** Then **Satan** showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all their glory and said, "I will give you all this if you bow down and worship me."
- **[25-08]** Jesus did not give in to **Satan's** temptations, so **Satan** left him.
- **[33-06]** So Jesus explained, "The seed is the word of God. The path is a person who hears God's word, but does not understand it, and the **devil** takes the word from him."
- **[38-07]** After Judas took the bread, **Satan** entered into him.

- **[48-04]** God promised that one of Eve's descendants would crush **Satan's** head, and **Satan** would wound his heel. This meant that **Satan** would kill the Messiah, but God would raise him to life again, and then the Messiah will crush the power of **Satan** forever.
- **[49-15]** God has taken you out of **Satan's** kingdom of darkness and put you into God's kingdom of light.
- **[50-09]** "The weeds represent the people who belong to the **evil one**. The enemy who planted the weeds represents the **devil**."
- **[50-10]** "When the world ends, the angels will gather together all the people who belong to the **devil** and throw them into a raging fire, where they will cry and grind their teeth in terrible suffering."
- **[50-15]** When Jesus returns, he will completely destroy **Satan** and his kingdom. He will throw **Satan** into hell where he will burn forever, along with everyone who chose to follow him rather than to obey God.

## save, safe

### Definition:

The term “save” refers to keeping someone from experiencing something bad or harmful. To “be safe” means to be protected from harm or danger.

- In a physical sense, people can be saved or rescued from harm, danger, or death.
- In a spiritual sense, if a person has been “saved,” it means that through Jesus’ death on the cross, God has forgiven him and rescued him from being punished in hell for his sin.
- People can save or rescue people from danger, but only God can save people from being punished eternally for their sins.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “save” could include, “deliver” or “keep from harm” or “take out of harm’s way” or “keep from dying.”
- In the expression, “whoever would save his life,” the term “save” could also be translated as “preserve” or “protect.”
- The term “safe” could be translated as “protected from danger” or “in a place where nothing can harm.”

(See also: [cross](#), [deliver](#), [deliverer](#), [deliverance](#), [punish](#), [punishment](#), [salvation](#), [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [09-08] Moses tried to **save** his fellow Israelite.
- [11-02] God provided a way to **save** the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him.
- [12-05] Moses told the Israelites, “Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and **save** you.”
- [12-13] The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to praise God because he **saved** them from the Egyptian army.
- [16-17] This pattern repeated many times: the Israelites would sin, God would punish them, they would repent, and God would send a deliverer to **save** them.
- [44-08] “You crucified Jesus, but God raised him to life again! You rejected him, but there is no other way to be **saved** except through the power of Jesus!”
- [47-11] The jailer trembled as he came to Paul and Silas and asked, “What must I do to be **saved**?” Paul answered, “Believe in Jesus, the Master, and you and your family will be **saved**.”

- [49-12] Good works cannot **save** you.
- [49-13] God will **save** everyone who believes in Jesus and receives him as their Master. But he will not **save** anyone who does not believe in him.

## Savior

### Facts:

The term “Savior” refers to a person who saves or rescues others from danger. It can also refer to someone who gives strength to others or provides for them.

- In the Old Testament, God is referred to as Israel’s Savior because he often rescued them from their enemies, gave them strength, and provided them with what they needed to live.
- In the New Testament, “Savior” is used as a description or title for Jesus Christ because he saves people from being eternally punished for their sin. He also saves them from being controlled by their sin.

### Translation Suggestions:

- If possible, “Savior” should be translated with a word that is related to the words “save” and “salvation.”
- Ways to translate this term could include, “the One who saves” or “God, who saves” or “who delivers from danger” or “who rescues from enemies” or “Jesus, the one who rescues (people) from sin.”

(See also: [deliver](#), [Jesus](#), [Jesus Christ](#), [Christ Jesus](#), [salvation](#), [save](#), [safe](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## seed

### Definition:

A seed is the part of a plant that gets planted in the ground to reproduce more of the same kind of plant. It also has several figurative meanings.

- The term “seed” is used figuratively and euphemistically to refer to the tiny cells inside a man or woman that combine to cause a baby to grow inside the woman.
- Related to this, “seed” is also used to refer to a person’s offspring or descendants.
- This word often has a plural meaning, referring to more than one seed grain or more than one descendant.
- In the parable of the farmer planting seeds, Jesus compared seeds to the Word of God being planted in people’s hearts in order to produce good spiritual fruit.
- The apostle Paul also uses the term “seed” to refer to the Word of God.

### Translation Suggestions:

- For a literal seed, it is best to use the literal term for “seed” that is used in the target language for what a farmer plants in his field.
- The literal term should also be used in contexts where it refers figuratively to God’s Word.
- For the figurative use that refers to people who are of the same family line, it may be more clear to use the word “descendant” or “descendants” instead of seed. Some languages may have a word that means “children and grandchildren.”
- For a man or woman’s “seed,” consider how the target expresses this in a way that will not offend or embarrass people. (See: [euphemism](#))

(See also: [descendant](#), [offspring](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## sin, sinful, sinner, sinning

### Definition:

The term “sin” refers to actions, thoughts, and words that are against God’s will and laws. Sin can also refer to not doing something that God wants us to do.

- Sin includes anything we do that does not obey or please God, even things that other people don’t know about.
- Thoughts and actions that disobey God’s will are called “sinful.”
- Because Adam sinned, all human beings are born with a sinful nature that controls them.
- A “sinner” is someone who sins, so every human being is a sinner.
- Sometimes the word “sinners” was used by religious people like the Pharisees to refer to people who didn’t keep the law as well as the Pharisees thought they should.
- The term “sinner” was also used for people who were considered to be worse sinners than other people. For example, this label was given to tax collectors and prostitutes.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “sin” could be translated with a word or phrase that means, “disobedience to God” or “going against God’s will” or “evil behavior and thoughts” or “wrongdoing.”
- “To sin” could also be translated as “to disobey God” or “to do wrong.”
- Depending on the context, “sinful” could be translated as “full of wrongdoing” or “wicked” or “immoral” or “evil” or “rebellious against God.”
- Depending on the context, the term “sinner” could be translated with a word or phrase that means, “person who sins” or “person who does wrong things” or “person who disobeys God” or “person who disobeys the law.”
- The term “sinners” could be translated by a word or phrase that means, “very sinful people” or “people considered to be very sinful” or “immoral people.”
- Ways to translate “tax collectors and sinners” could include, “people who collect money for the government, and other very sinful people” or “very sinful people, including (even) tax collectors.”
- In expressions like “slaves to sin” or “ruled by sin,” the term “sin” could be translated as “disobedience” or “evil desires and actions.”
- Make sure the translation of this term can include sinful behavior and thoughts, even those that other people don’t see or know about.
- The term “sin” should be general, and different from the terms for “wickedness” and “evil.”

(See also: [disobey](#), [disobedient](#), [disobedience](#), [evil](#), [wicked](#), [wickedness](#), [flesh](#), [tax collector](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting



**Examples from the Bible stories:**

- \* **[03-15]** God said, "I promise I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are **sinful** from the time they are children."
- \* **[13-12]** God was very angry with them because of their **sin** and planned to destroy them.
- \* **[20-01]** The kingdoms of Israel and Judah both **sinned** against God. They broke the covenant that God made with them at Sinai.
- \* **[21-13]** The prophets also said that the Messiah would be perfect, having no **sin**. He would die to receive the punishment for other people's **sin**.
- \* **[35-01]** One day, Jesus was teaching many tax collectors and other **sinner**s who had gathered to hear him.
- \* **[38-05]** Then Jesus took a cup and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that is poured out for the forgiveness of **sins**."
- \* **[43-11]** Peter answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that God will forgive your **sins**."
- \* **[48-08]** We all deserve to die for our **sins**!
- \* **[49-17]** Even though you are a Christian, you will still be tempted to **sin**. But God is faithful and says that if you confess your **sins**, he will forgive you. He will give you strength to fight against **sin**.

## Son of God, the Son, Son

### Facts:

The term “Son of God” refers to Jesus, the Word of God who came into the world as a human being. He is also often referred to as “the Son.”

- The Son of God has the same nature as God the Father, and is fully God.
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all of one essence.
- Unlike human sons, the Son of God has always existed.
- In the beginning, the Son of God was active in creating the world, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Because Jesus is God’s Son, he loves and obeys his Father, and his Father loves him.

### Translation Suggestions:

- For the term, “Son of God,” it is best to translate “Son” with the same word the language would naturally use to refer to a human son.
- Make sure the word used to translate “son” fits with the word used to translate “father” and that these words are the most natural ones used to express a true father-son relationship in the project language.
- Using capital letters to begin “Son” will help show that this is talking about God.
- The phrase “the Son” is a shortened form of “the Son of God”, especially when in the same context as “the Father.”

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Christ](#), [Messiah](#), [ancestor](#), [father](#), [forefather](#), [God](#), [God the Father](#), [heavenly Father](#), [Father](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [en:obe:kt:jesus]], [son](#), [son of](#), [sons of God](#)))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- [22-05] The angel explained, “The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of God will overshadow you. So the baby will be holy, the **Son of God**.”
- [24-09] God had told John, “The Holy Spirit will come down and rest on someone you baptize. That person is **the Son of God**.”?
- [31-08] The disciples were amazed. They worshiped Jesus, saying to him, “Truly, you are **the Son of God**.”
- [37-05] Martha answered, “Yes, Master! I believe you are the Messiah, the **Son of God**.”

- **[42-10]** So go, make disciples of all people groups by baptizing them in the name of the Father, **the Son**, and the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
- **[46-06]** Right away, Saul began preaching to the Jews in Damascus, saying, ”Jesus is the **Son of God!**”
- **[49-09]** But God loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only **Son** so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with God forever.

## spirit, spiritual

### Definition:

The term “spirit” refers to the non-physical part of people which cannot be seen. When a person dies, his spirit leaves his body. “Spirit” can also refer to an attitude or emotional state.

- The term “spirit” can refer to a being that does not have a physical body, especially an evil spirit.
- A person’s spirit is the part of him that can know God and believe in him.
- In general, the term “spiritual” describes anything in the non-physical world.
- In the Bible, it especially refers to anything that relates to God, specifically to the Holy Spirit.
- For example, “spiritual food” refers to God’s teachings that give nourishment to a person’s spirit, “spiritual wisdom” refers to the knowledge and righteous behavior that come from the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God is a spirit and he created other spirit beings who do not have physical bodies.
- Angels are spirit beings, including those who rebelled against God and became evil spirits.
- The term “spirit of” can also mean “having the characteristics of,” such as in, “spirit of wisdom” or “in the spirit of Elijah.”
- Examples of “spirit” as an attitude or emotion would include “spirit of fear” or “spirit of jealousy.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, some ways to translate “spirit” might include, “non-physical being” or “inside part” or “inner being.”
- In some contexts, the term “spirit” could be translated as “evil spirit” or “evil spirit being.”
- Sometimes the term “spirit” is used to express the feelings of a person as in, “my spirit was grieved in my inmost being.” This could also be translated as, “I felt grieved in my spirit” or “I felt deeply grieved.”
- The phrase “spirit of” could be translated as, “character of” or “influence of” or “attitude of” or “thinking (that is) characterized by.”
- Depending on the context, “spiritual” could be translated as, “non-physical” or “from the Holy Spirit” or “God’s” or “part of the non-physical world.”
- The figurative expression “spiritual milk” could also be translated as, “basic teachings from God” or “God’s teachings that nourish the spirit (like milk does).”
- The phrase “spiritual maturity” could be translated as “godly behavior that shows obedience to the Holy Spirit.”
- A “spiritual gift” could be translated as, “special ability that the Holy Spirit gives.”

(See also: [angel](#), [archangel](#), [demon](#), [evil spirit](#), [unclean spirit](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [soul](#))

**Bible References:**

Waiting

**Examples from the Bible stories:**

- [13-03] Three days later, after the people had prepared themselves **spiritually**, God came down on top of Mount Sinai with thunder, lightning, smoke, and a loud trumpet blast.
- [40-07] Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished! Father, I give my **spirit** into your hands." Then he bowed his head and gave up his **spirit**.
- [45-05] As Stephen was dying, he cried out, "Jesus, receive my **spirit**."
- [48-07] All the people groups are blessed through him, because everyone who believes in Jesus is saved from sin, and becomes a **spiritual** descendant of Abraham.

## test

### Definition:

The term “test” refers to a difficult or painful experience that reveals a person’s strengths and weaknesses.

- God tests people, but he does not tempt them. Satan, however, tempts people to sin.
- God sometimes uses tests to expose people’s sin. A test helps a person to turn away from sin and to draw closer to God.
- Gold and other metals are tested with fire to find out how pure and strong they are. This is a picture of how God uses painful circumstances to test his people.
- To “put to the test” can mean, “challenge something or someone to prove its value.”
- In the context of putting God to the test, it means to keep disobeying him, taking advantage of his mercy.
- Jesus told Satan that it is wrong to put God to the test. He is the almighty, holy God who is above everything and everyone.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “to test” could also be translated as, “to challenge” or “to cause to experience difficulties” or “to prove.”
- Ways to translate “a test” could be, “a challenge” or “a difficult experience.”
- To “put to the test” could be translated as “to test” or “to set up a challenge” or “to force to prove oneself.”
- In the context of testing God, this could be translated as, “trying to force God to prove his love.”
- In some contexts, the term “test” can mean “tempt.”

(See also: [tempt](#), [temptation](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## testimony, testify

### Definition:

The terms “testimony” and “testify” refer to making a statement about something that one knows to be true.

- Often a person “testifies” about something he has experienced directly.
- A witness who gives “false testimony” does not tell the truth about what happened.
- Sometimes the term “testimony” refers to a prophecy that a prophet has stated.
- In the New Testament, this term is often used to refer to how Jesus’ followers testified about the events of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “testify” or “give testimony” could also be translated as, “tell the facts” or “tell what was seen or heard” or “tell from personal experience” or “give evidence” or “tell what happened.”
- Ways to translate “testimony” could include, “report of what happened” or “statement of what is true” or “evidence” or “what has been said” or “prophecy.”
- The phrase, “as a testimony to them” could be translated as, “to show them what is true” or “to prove to them what is true.”
- The phrase, “as a testimony against them” could be translated as, “which will show them their sin” or “exposing their hypocrisy” or “which will prove that they are wrong.”
- To “give false testimony” could be translated as “say false things about” or “state things that are not true.”

(See: [ark of the covenant](#), [ark of the covenant decrees](#), [ark of the testimony](#), [ark of Yahweh](#), [prophet](#), [prophecy](#), [prophesy](#), [seer](#), [prophetess](#), [witness](#), [eyewitness](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## tongue

### Definition:

There are several figurative meanings of “tongue” in the Bible.

- In the Bible, the most common figurative meaning for this term is “language” or “speech.”
- Sometimes “tongue” may refer to a human language spoken by a certain people group.
- Other times it refers to a supernatural language that the Holy Spirit gives believers in Christ as one of the “gifts of the Spirit.”
- The expression, “tongues” of fire refers to “flames” of fire.
- In the expression “my tongue rejoices,” the term “tongue” refers to the whole person. (See: [Synecdoche](#))
- The phrase “lying tongues” refers to a person’s voice or speech. (See: [Metonymy](#))

### Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, the term “tongue” can be translated by “language” or “spiritual language.” If it is not clear which one it is referring to, it is better to translate it as “language.”
- When referring to fire, this term could be translated as, “flames.”
- The expression “my tongue rejoices” could be translated as, “I rejoice and praise God” or “I am joyfully praising God.”
- The phrase, “tongue that lies” could be translated as, “person who tell lies” or “people who lie.”
- Phrases such as “with their tongues” could be translated as, “with what they say” or “by their words.”

(See also: [gift](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [joy](#), [joyful](#), [praise](#), [rejoice](#), [spirit](#), [spiritual](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting



## true, truth, come true

### Definition:

The terms “true” and “truth” refer to concepts that are facts, events that actually happened, and statements that were actually said.

- True things are real, genuine, actual, rightful, legitimate, and factual.
- The truth is an understanding, belief, fact, or statement that is true.
- The expression “come true” or “came true” is an expression that means that a prophecy actually happened as it was predicted that it would.
- Truth includes the concept of acting in a way that is reliable and faithful.
- Jesus revealed God’s truth in the words that he spoke.
- God’s word is truth. It tells about things that actually happened and teaches what is true about God and about everything he has made.

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context and what is being described, the term “true” could also be translated by “real” or “factual” or “correct” or “right” or “certain” or “genuine.”
- Ways to translate the term “truth” could include, “what is true” or “fact” or “certainty” or “principle.”
- The expression “come true” could also be translated as, “actually happen” or “be fulfilled” or “happen as predicted.”
- The expression “tell the truth” or “speak the truth” could also be translated as, “say what is true” or “tell what really happened” or “say things that are reliable.”
- To “accept the truth” could be translated as, “believe what is true about God.”
- In an expression such as, “worship God in spirit and in truth,” the expression “in truth” could also be translated by, “faithfully obeying what God has taught us.”

(See also: [believe](#), [believe in](#), [belief](#), [faithful](#), [faithfulness](#), [fulfill](#), [obey](#), [obedient](#), [obedience](#), [prophet](#), [prophecy](#), [prophesy](#), [seer](#), [prophetess](#), [understand](#), [understanding](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-04]** The snake responded to the woman, “That is not **true**! You will not die.”
- **[14-06]** Immediately Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies, said, “It is **true** that the people of Canaan are tall and strong, but we can certainly defeat them!”
- **[16-01]** The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the **true** God.

- [31-08] They worshiped Jesus, saying to him, "**Truly**, you are the Son of God."
- [39-10] "I have come to earth to tell the **truth** about God. Everyone who loves the **truth** listens to me." Pilate said, "What is **truth**?"

## **unrighteous, unrighteousness**

### **Definition:**

The term “unrighteous” means to be sinful and morally corrupt. “Unrighteousness” refers to sin or the condition of being sinful.

- These terms especially refer to living in a way that disobeys God’s teachings and commands.
- Unrighteous people are immoral in their thoughts and actions.
- Sometimes “the unrighteous” refers specifically to people who do not believe in Jesus.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- This term could simply be translated as “not righteous.”
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could include, “wicked” or “immoral” or “people who rebel against God” or “sinful.”
- The phrase “the unrighteous” could be translated as “unrighteous people.”
- The term “unrighteousness” could be translated as “sin” or “evil thoughts and actions” or “wickedness.”
- If possible, it is best to translate this in a way that shows its relationship to “righteous, righteousness.”

(See also: [righteous](#), [righteousness](#), [unjust](#), [unjustly](#), [injustice](#), [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#), [unlawful](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## walk

### Definition:

The term “walk” is often used in a figurative sense to mean “live.”

- “Enoch walked with God” means that Enoch lived in a close relationship with God.
- To “walk by the Spirit” means to be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we do things that please and honor God.
- To “walk in” God’s commands or God’s ways means to “live in obedience to” his commands, that is, to “obey his commands” or “do his will.”
- When God says he will “walk among” his people, it means that he is living among them or closely interacting with them.
- To “walk contrary to” means to live or behave in a way that is against something or someone.
- To “walk after” means to seek or pursue someone or something. It can also mean to act in the same way as someone else.

### Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate “walk” literally, as long as the correct meaning will be understood.
- Otherwise, figurative uses of “walk” could also be translated by “live” or “act” or “behave.”
- The phrase “walk by the Spirit” could be translated by, “live in obedience to the Holy Spirit” or “behave in a way that is pleasing to the Holy Spirit” or “do things that are pleasing to God as the Holy Spirit guides you.”
- To “walk in God’s commands” could be translated by “live by God’s commands” or “obey God’s commands.”
- The phrase “walked with God” could be translated as, “lived in close relationship with God by obeying and honoring him.”

(See also: [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [honor](#), [to honor](#), [\[:en:obe:other:obey\]](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## **will of God**

### **Definition:**

The “will of God” refers to God’s desires and plans.

- God’s will especially relates to his interactions with people and how he wants people to respond to him.
- It also refers to his plans or desires for the rest of his creation.
- The term “to will” means “to determine” or “to desire.”

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- The “will of God” could also be translated as, “what God desires” or “what God has planned” or “God’s purpose” or “what is pleasing to God.”

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

## witness, eyewitness

### Definition:

The term “witness” refers to a person who has personally experienced something that happened. Usually a witness is also someone who testifies about they know is true. The term “eyewitness” emphasizes that the person was actually there and saw what happened.

- “To witness” something means to see it happen.
- At a trial, a witness “gives witness” or “bears witness.” This has the same meaning as “testify.”
- Witnesses are expected to tell the truth about what they have seen or heard.
- A witness who does not tell the truth about what happened is called a “false witness.” He is said to “give false witness” or to “bear false witness.”
- The expression, “be a witness between” means that something or someone will be evidence that a contract has been made. The witness will make sure each person does what he has promised to do.

### Translation Suggestions:

- The term “witness” or “eyewitness” could be translated with a word or phrase that means, “person-seeing-it” or “the one who saw it happen” or “those who saw and heard (those things).”
- Something that is “a witness” could be translated as, “guarantee” or “sign of our promise” or “something that testifies that this is true.”
- The phrase “you will be my witnesses” could also be translated as, “you will tell other people about me” or “you will teach people the truth that I taught you” or “you will tell people what you have seen me do and heard me teach.”
- “To witness to” could be translated as, “to tell what was seen” or “to testify” or “to state what happened.”
- “To witness” something could be translated as “to see something” or “to experience something happen.”

(See also: [guilt](#), [guilty](#), [judge](#), [judgment](#), [true](#), [truth](#), [testimony](#), [testify](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

### Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[39-02]** Inside the house, the Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial. They brought many **false witnesses** who lied about him.

- [39-04] The high priest tore his clothes in anger and shouted, "We do not need any more **witnesses**. You have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your judgment?"
- [42-08]"It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to receive forgiveness for their sins. They will do this starting in Jerusalem, and then go to all people groups everywhere. You are **witnesses** of these things."
- [43-07]"We are **witnesses** to the fact that God raised Jesus to life again."

## **word**

### **Definition:**

A “word” refers to something that someone has said.

- An example of this would be when the angel told Zechariah, “You did not believe my words,” which means, “You did not believe what I said.”
- This term almost always refers to an entire message, not just one word.
- Often in the Bible “the word” refers to everything God has said or commanded, as in “the word of God” or “the word of truth.”
- Sometimes “word” refers to speech in general, such as “powerful in word and deed” which means “powerful in speech and behavior.”
- A very special use of this term is when Jesus is called “the Word.”

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Different ways of translating “word” or “words” include, “teaching” or “message” or “news” or “a saying” or “what was said.”
- When it refers to Jesus as “the Word,” this term could be translated as “the Message” or “the Saying.”

(See also: [word of God](#), [God’s word](#), [scripture](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting



## **word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture**

### **Definition:**

In the Bible, the term “word of God” refers to anything that God has communicated to people. This includes spoken and written messages. Jesus is also called “the Word of God.”

- The term “scriptures” means “writings.” It is only used in the New Testament and refers to the Hebrew scriptures or “Old Testament.” These writings were God’s message that he had told people to write down so that many years in the future people can still read it.
- The related terms “word of Yahweh” and “word of the Lord” often refer to a specific message from God that was given to a prophet or other person in the Bible.
- Sometimes this term occurs as simply “the word” or “my word” or “your word” (when talking about God’s word).
- In the New Testament, Jesus is called “the Word” and “the Word of God.” These titles mean that Jesus fully reveals who God is, because he is God himself.

### **Translation Suggestions:**

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this term could include, “the message of Yahweh” or “God’s message” or “the teachings from God.”
- It may be more natural in some languages to make this term plural and say “God’s words” or “the words of Yahweh.”
- The expression “the word of Yahweh came” is often used to introduce something that God told his prophets or his people. This could be translated as, “Yahweh spoke this message” or “Yahweh spoke these words.”
- The term “scripture” or “scriptures” could be translated as “the writings” or “the written message from God.” This term should be translated differently from the translation of the term “word.”
- When “word” occurs alone, it could be translated as “message” or “God’s word” or “teachings,” depending on the context. Also consider the alternate translations suggested above.

(See also: [prophet](#), [prophecy](#), [prophesy](#), [word](#), [Yahweh](#))

### **Bible References:**

Waiting

### **Examples from the Bible stories:**

- **[25-07]** In **God’s word** he commands his people, ‘Worship only the Lord your God and only serve him.’”
- **[33-06]** So Jesus explained, ”The seed is the **word of God**.

- [42-03] Then Jesus explained to them what **God's word** says about the Messiah.
- [42-07] Jesus said, "I told you that everything written about me in **God's word** must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds so they could understand **God's word**.
- [45-10] Philip also used other **scriptures** to tell him the good news of Jesus.
- [48-12] But Jesus is the greatest prophet of all. He is the **Word of God**.
- [49-18] God tells you to pray, to study his **word**, to worship him with other Christians, and to tell others what he has done for you.

## works, deeds, work, acts

### Definition:

In the Bible, the terms “works,” “deeds,” and “acts” are used to refer generally to things that God or people do.

- The term “work” refers to doing labor or anything that is done to serve other people.
- God’s “works” and the “work of his hands” are expressions that refer to all the things he does or has done, including creating the world, saving sinners, providing for the needs of all creation and keeping the entire universe in place. The terms “deeds” and “acts” are also used to refer to God’s miracles in expressions such as, “mighty acts” or “marvelous deeds.”
- The works or deeds that a person does can be either good or evil.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to do good works, which are also called “good fruit.”
- People are not saved by their good works; they are saved through faith in Jesus.
- A person’s “work” can be what he does to earn a living or to serve God. The Bible also refers to God as “working.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “works” or “deeds” could be, “actions” or “things that are done.”
- When referring to God’s “works” or “deeds” and the “work of his hands,” these expressions could also be translated as, “miracles” or “mighty acts” or “amazing things he does.”
- The expression, “the work of God” could be translated as, “the things that God is doing” or “the miracles God does” or “the amazing things that God does” or “everything God has accomplished.”
- The term “work” can just be the singular of “works” as in, “every good work” or “every good deed.”
- The term “work” can also have the broader meaning of “service” or “ministry.” For example, the expression, “your work in the Lord” could also be translated as, “what you do for the Lord.”
- The expression, “examine your own work” could also be translated as, “make sure what you are doing is God’s will” or “make sure that what you are doing pleases God.”
- The expression “the work of the Holy Spirit” could be translated as, “the empowering of the Holy Spirit” or “the ministry of the Holy Spirit” or “the things that the Holy Spirit does.”

(See: [fruit](#), [fruitful](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [Spirit of God](#), [Spirit of the Lord](#), [miracle](#), [wonder](#), [sign](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

## world, worldly

### Definition:

The term “world” usually refers to the part of the universe where people live: the earth. The term “worldly” describes the evil values and behaviors of people living in this world.

- In its most general sense, the term “world” refers to the heavens and the earth, as well as everything in them.
- In many contexts, “world” actually means, “people in the world.”
- Sometimes it is implied that this refers to the evil people on earth or the people who do not obey God.
- The apostles also used “world” to refer to the selfish behaviors and corrupt values of the people living in this world. This can include self-righteous religious practices which are based on human efforts.
- People and things characterized by these values are said to be “worldly.”

### Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “world” could also be translated as, “universe” or “people of this world” or “corrupt things in the world” or “evil attitudes of people in the world.”
- The phrase “all the world” often means “many people” and refers to the people living in a certain region. For example, “all the world came to Egypt” could be translated as, “many people from the surrounding countries came to Egypt” or “people from all the countries surrounding Egypt came there.”
- Another way to translate “all the world went to their hometown to be registered in the Roman census” would be, “many of the people living in regions ruled by the Roman empire went...”
- Depending on the context, the term “worldly” could be translated as, “evil” or “sinful” or “selfish” or “ungodly” or “corrupt” or “influenced by the corrupt values of people in this world.”
- The phrase “saying these things in the world” can be translated as “saying these things to the people of the world.”
- In other contexts, “in the world” could also be translated as, “living among the people of the world” or “living among ungodly people.”

(See also: [corrupt](#), [corruption](#), [heaven](#), [sky](#), [heavens](#), [heavenly](#), [Rome](#), [Roman](#), [ungodly](#), [godless](#), [ungodliness](#), [godlessness](#))

### Bible References:

Waiting

**written****Definition:**

The phrase “as it is written” or “what is written” occurs frequently in the New Testament and usually refers to commands or prophecies that were written in the Hebrew scriptures.

- Sometimes “as it is written” refers to what was written in the Law of Moses.
- Other times it is a quote from what one of the prophets wrote in the Old Testament.
- This could be translated: “as it is written in the Law of Moses” or “as the prophets wrote long ago” or “what it says in God’s laws that Moses wrote down long ago”.
- Another option is to keep “It is written” and give a footnote that explains what this means.

(See also: [command](#), [to command](#), [commandment](#), [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [God’s law](#), [law of Yahweh](#), [prophet](#), [prophecy](#), [prophesy](#), [seer](#), [prophetess](#), [word of God](#), [word of Yahweh](#), [word of the Lord](#), [scripture](#))

**Bible References:**

Waiting

## translationAcademy

### Abstract Nouns

*This answers the question: What are abstract nouns and how do I deal with them in my translation?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Parts of Speech*
- *Sentences*

Abstract nouns are nouns that refer to attitudes, qualities, events, situations, or even to relationships among these ideas. These are things that cannot be seen or touched in a physical sense, such as happiness, weight, injury, unity, friendship, health, and reason. This is a translation issue because some languages may express a certain idea with an abstract noun, while others would need a different way to express it. For example, "What is its *weight*?" could be expressed as "How much does it *weigh*?" or "How *heavy* is it?"

#### Description

Remember that nouns are words that refer to a person, place, thing, or idea. **ABSTRACT NOUNS** are nouns that refer to attitudes, qualities, events, situations, or even to relationships among these ideas. These are things that cannot be seen or touched in a physical sense, such as joy, peace, creation, goodness, contentment, justice, truth, freedom, vengeance, slowness, length, and weight.

Abstract nouns allow us to express thoughts about ideas in fewer words than if we did not have those nouns. For example, we can say, "I believe in the forgiveness of sin." But if English did not have the two abstract nouns "forgiveness" and "sin," then we would have to make a longer sentence to express the same meaning. We would have to say, for example, "I believe that God is willing to forgive people after they have sinned."

Abstract nouns also allow us to refer to a situation without telling more details about it than we want to tell. For example, we can say "I got here late because there was an accident on the highway." "Accident" is an abstract noun. If it does not matter whose accident it was, or what kind of accident it was, then it can be better if I do not have to say these things about it.

**Reason this is a translation issue:** The Bible that you translate from may use abstract nouns to express certain ideas. Your language might not use abstract nouns for some of those ideas; instead, it might use phrases to express those ideas. Those phrases will have other kinds of words such as adjectives, verbs, or adverbs, that express some of the meaning in the abstract noun.

#### Examples from the Bible

from *childhood* you have known the sacred writings (2 Timothy 3:15 ULB)

The abstract noun "childhood" refers to when someone is a child.

But *godliness with contentment* is great *gain*. (1 Timothy 6:6 ULB)

The abstract nouns “godliness” and “contentment” refer to being godly and content. The abstract noun “gain” refers to something that benefits or helps someone.

Today *salvation* has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. (Luke 19:9 ULB)

The abstract noun “salvation” here refers to being saved.

The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider *slowness* to be (2 Peter 3:9 ULB)

The abstract noun “slowness” refers how slowly something is done.

He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the *purposes* of the heart. (1 Corinthians 4:5 ULB)

The abstract noun “purposes” refers to the things that people want to do and the reasons they want to do them.

### Translation Strategies

If an abstract noun would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

1. Reword the sentence with a phrase that expresses the meaning of the abstract noun.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Reword the sentence with a phrase that expresses the meaning of the abstract noun.

- **from *childhood* you have known the sacred writings** (2 Timothy 3:15 ULB)
  - ”Ever since *you were a child* you have known the sacred writings.”
- **But *godliness with contentment* is great *gain*.** (1 Timothy 6:6 ULB)
  - ”But *being godly* and *content* is very *beneficial*.”
  - ”But we *benefit* greatly when we *are godly* and *content*.”
  - ”But we *benefit* greatly when we *honor and obey God* and when we are *happy with what we have*.
- **Today *salvation* has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.** (Luke 19:9 ULB)
  - ”Today the people in this house *have been saved*...”
  - ”Today God *has saved* the people in this house...”

- **The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider *slowness* to be** (2 Peter 3:9 ULB)
  - "The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider *moving slowly* to be"
  
- **He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the *purposes* of the heart.** (1 Corinthians 4:5 ULB)
  - "He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal *the things that people want to do and the reasons they want to do them.*"



## Active or Passive

*This answers the question: What do active and passive mean, and how do I translate passive sentences?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Sentence Structure*
- *Verbs*

Some languages have both active and passive sentences. In active sentences, the subject does the action. In passive sentences the subject is the one that the action is done to. Here are some examples with their subjects underlined:

- ACTIVE: *My father* built the house in 2010.
- PASSIVE: *The house* was built in 2010.

Translators whose languages do not have passive sentences will need to know how they can translate passive sentences that they find in the Bible. Other translators will need to decide when to use a passive sentence and when not to.

### Description

Some languages have both active and passive forms of sentences.

- In the **ACTIVE** form, the subject does the action and is always mentioned.
- In the **PASSIVE** form, the action is done to the subject and the one who does the action is *not always* mentioned.

In the examples of active and passive sentences below, we have underlined the subject.

**ACTIVE:** *My father* built the house in 2010.

**PASSIVE:** *The house* was built by my father in 2010.

**PASSIVE:** *The house* was built in 2010. (This does not tell who did the action.)

All languages have active forms. Some languages have passive forms, and some do not. The passive form is not used for the same reasons in all of the languages that have it.

### Purposes for the passive:

- The speaker is talking about the person or thing the action was done to, not about the person who did the action.
- The speaker does not want to tell who did the action.
- The speaker does not know who did the action.

## Translation Principles Regarding the Passive

- Translators whose language does not use passive forms will need to find another way to express the idea.
- Translators whose language has passive forms will need to understand why the passive is used in a particular sentence in the Bible and decide whether or not to use a passive form for that purpose in his translation of the sentence.

## Examples from the Bible

And their shooters shot at your soldiers from off the wall, and some of the king's servants *were killed*, and your servant Uriah the Hittite *was killed* too. (2 Samuel 11:24 ULB)

This means that the enemies shooters shot and killed some of the king's servants, including Uriah. The point is what happened to the king's servants and Uriah, not who shot them.

In the morning when the men of the town got up, the altar of Baal *was broken down* ... (Judges 6:28 ULB)

The men of the town saw what had happened to the altar of Baal, but they did not know who broke it down.

No stonework *was seen* there. (1 Kings 6:18 ULB)

This means that no one saw stonework there. The point is that no stonework was done there.

## Translation Strategies

If you decide that it is better to translate without a passive form, here are some strategies you might consider.

1. Use the same verb in an active sentence and tell who or what did the action.
2. Use the same verb in an active sentence, and do not tell who or what did the action.
3. Use a different verb.

## Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use the same verb in an active sentence and tell who did the action.

- **A loaf of bread *was given* him every day from the street of the bakers.** (Jeremiah 37:21 ULB)
  - *The king's servants gave* Jeremiah a loaf of bread every day from the street of the bakers.

2. Use the same verb in an active sentence, and do not tell who did the action. Instead use a generic expression like "they," or "people," or "someone."

- **It would be better for him if a millstone *were put* around his neck and he *were thrown* into the sea** (Luke 17:2 ULB)
  - It would be better for him if *they were to put* a millstone around his neck and *throw* him into the sea.
  - It would be better for him if *someone were to put* a heavy stone around his neck and *throw* him into the sea.

3. Use a different verb in an active sentence.

- **A loaf of bread *was given* him every day from the street of the bakers.** (Jeremiah 37:21 ULB)
  - He *received* a loaf of bread every day from the street of the bakers.

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Abstract Nouns*
- *Word Order*

## Double Negatives

*This answers the question: What are double negatives?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Parts of Speech*
- *Sentences*

A double negative occurs when a clause has two words that express the meaning of “not.”

It is *not* that we do *not* have authority (2 Thessalonians 3:9)

Be sure of this—wicked people will *not* go *unpunished* (Proverbs 11:21)

Double negatives mean very different things in different languages. To translate sentences that have double negatives accurately and clearly, you need to know what a double negative means in the Bible and how to express this idea in your language.

### Description

Most languages express the negative near the verb or at the beginning or end of the sentence. Some languages also have prefixes or suffixes that express the negative as in “*unhappy*,” “*impossible*,” and “*useless*.” Some languages can also express the negative with pronouns like “none,” “nothing,” and “no one,” with adverbs like “nowhere,” and with prepositions like “without.”

A double negative occurs when a sentence has two words that express the meaning of “not.”

It is *not* that we do *not* have authority (2 Thessalonians 3:9 ULB)

And this better confidence did *not* happen *without* the taking of an oath, (Hebrews 7:20 ULB)

Be sure of this—wicked people will *not* go *unpunished* (Proverbs 11:21 ULB)

### Reason this is a translation issue

Double negatives mean very different things in different languages.

- In some languages, such as Spanish, a double negative emphasizes the negative. The following Spanish sentence *No ví a nadie* is literally “I did not see no one.” It has both the word ‘no’ next to the verb and ‘nadie,’ which means “no one.” It emphasizes the negative, and means “I did not see anyone.”
- In some languages a double negative simply means a positive. So “She is not unattractive” means “She is attractive.”
- In some language the double negative weakens the adjective. So “She is not unattractive” means “She is a little bit attractive.”
- In some languages, such as the languages of the Bible, the double negative often strengthens the adjective. So “She is not unattractive” means “She is very attractive.”

To translate sentences with double negatives accurately and clearly in your language, you need to know what a double negative means in the Bible and how to express the same idea in your language.

### Examples from the Bible

so that they may *not* be *unfruitful*. (Titus 3:14 ULB)

This means “so that they will be fruitful.”

All things were made through him and *without* him there was *not* one thing made that has been made. (John 1:3 ULB)

By using a double negative John emphasized that the Son of God created absolutely everything.

### Translation Strategies

If double negatives are natural and are used to express the positive in your language, consider using them. Otherwise, you could consider these strategies:

1. If the double negative simply expresses the positive, remove the two negatives.
2. If the double negative emphasizes the positive, remove the two negatives and put in a strengthening word or phrase such as “very” or “surely.”

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. If the double negative simply expresses the positive, remove the two negatives.
  - **For we do *not* have a high priest who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses** (Hebrews 4:15 ULB)
    - “For we have a high priest who can feel sympathy for our weaknesses”
  - **so that they may *not* be *unfruitful*** (Titus 3:14 ULB)
    - “so that they may be fruitful”
2. If the double negative emphasizes the positive, remove the two negatives and put in a strengthening word or phrase such as “very” or “certainly.”
  - **Be sure of this—wicked people will *not* go *unpunished*** (Proverbs 11:21 ULB)
    - “Be sure of this—wicked people will *certainly* be punished”
  - **All things were made through him and *without* him there was *not* one thing made that has been made.** (John 1:3 ULB)

- "All things were made through him. He made *absolutely* everything that has been made."

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Verbs*

## Doublet

*This answers the question: What are doublets and how can I translate them?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

A doublet is a pair of words used together that mean nearly the same nearly thing. In some languages people do not use doublets, or they may use them only in certain situations. Translators may need to find some other way to express the meaning.

King David was *old* and *advanced in years*. (1 Kings 1:1 ULB)

The underlined words mean the same thing. Together they mean “very old.”

### Description

We are using the word doublet to refer to two words or very short phrases that mean the same thing and that are used in the same phrase. Often they are joined with the word “and.” Often they are used to emphasize or intensify the idea expressed by the two words.

### Reason this is a translation issue

In some languages people do not use doublets. Or they may use doublets, but they may do it for a reason that would not fit in a particular verse.

### Examples from the Bible

King David was *old* and *advanced in years*. (1 Kings 1:1 ULB)

This means that he was “very old.”

he attacked two men *more righteous* and *better* than himself (1 Kings 2:32 ULB)

This means that they were “much more righteous” than he was.

You have decided to prepare *false* and *deceptive* words (Daniel 2:9 ULB)

This means that they had prepared “many false things to say.”

as of a lamb *without blemish* and *without spot*. (1 Peter 1:19 ULB)

This means that he was like a lamb that did not have any blemish—not even one.

### Translation Strategies

If a doublet would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using one. If not, consider these strategies.

1. Translate only one of the words.
2. If the doublet is used to intensify the meaning, translate one of the words and add a word that intensifies it such as “very” or “great” or “many.”
3. If the doublet is used to intensify or emphasize the meaning, use your culture’s way of doing that.

### Translation Strategies Applied

1. Translate only one of the words.

- **You have decided to prepare *false* and *deceptive* words** (Daniel 2:9 ULB)

- “You have decided to prepare *false* things to say.”

2. If the doublet is used to intensify the meaning, translate one of the words and add a word that intensifies it such as “very” or “great” or “many.”

- **King David was *old* and *advanced in years***. (1 Kings 1:1 ULB)

- “King David was *very old*.”

3. If the doublet is used to intensify or emphasize the meaning, use one of your language’s ways of doing that.

- **a lamb *without blemish* and *without spot***. (1 Peter 1:19 ULB) - English can emphasize this with “any” and “at all.”

- “a lamb *without any blemish at all*”



## Ellipsis

*This answers the question: What is ellipsis?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*
- *Sentences*

Ellipsis is where a speaker or writer leaves one or more words out of a sentence because he knows that the hearer or reader will understand the meaning of the sentence and fill in the words in his mind when he hears or reads the words that are there.

### Description

Ellipsis is where one or more words are left out of the sentence because the sentence can be understood without them. The information that is omitted has usually already been stated in a preceding sentence or phrase.

the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous  
(Psalm 1:5)

This is ellipsis because “sinners in the assembly of the righteous” is not a complete sentence. The speaker assumes that the hearer will understand what it is that sinners will not do in the assembly of the righteous.

**Reason this is a translation issue:** Readers who see incomplete sentences or phrases may not know what the missing information is.

### Examples from the Bible

when the blind man was near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”  
He said, “Lord, *that I might receive my sight.*” (Luke 18:40-41 ULB)

The man answered in an incomplete sentence because he wanted to be polite by giving Jesus only as much information as necessary. He did not say that he wanted Jesus to heal him, because he knew that Jesus would understand that if he wanted to receive his sight, Jesus would have to heal him.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf *and Sirion like a young ox.* (Psalm 29:6 ULB)

The writer wants his words to be few and to make good poetry. He did not say that Yahweh makes Sirion skip like a young ox because he knew that his readers could fill in the information themselves.

## Translation Strategies

If ellipsis would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

1. Add the missing words to the incomplete phrase or sentence.

## Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Add the missing words to the incomplete phrase or sentence.

- **the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor *sinner*s in the assembly of the righteous** (Psalm 1:5)
  - "the wicked will not stand in the judgment, and *sinner*s will not stand in the assembly of the righteous"
- **when the blind man was near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, *that I might receive my sight.*"** (Luke 18:40-41)
  - "when the blind man was near, Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, I want you to heal me that I might receive my sight.'"
- **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young ox.** (Psalm 29:6)
  - "He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and he makes Sirion skip like a young ox."

## Euphemism

*This answers the question: What is a Euphemism?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

A euphemism is a mild or polite way of referring to something that is unpleasant, embarrassing, or socially unacceptable, such as death or activities usually done in private. Its purpose is to avoid offending the people who hear or read it.

### Description

A euphemism is a mild or polite way of referring to something that is unpleasant, embarrassing, or socially unacceptable. Its purpose is to avoid offending the people who hear or read it.

they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. (1 Chronicles 10:8 ULB)

This means that Saul and his sons were dead. It is euphemism because the important thing was not that Saul and his sons had fallen but that they were dead. Sometimes people do not like to speak directly about death because it is unpleasant.

**Reason this is a translation issue:** Readers may think that the writer means only what the words literally say.

### Examples from the Bible

where there was a cave. Saul went inside to relieve himself (1 Samuel 24:3 ULB)

The original hearers would have understood that Saul went into the cave to use it as a toilet, but the writer wanted to avoid offending or distracting them, so he does not say specifically what Saul did or what he left in the cave.

whether we are awake or asleep (1 Thessalonians 5:10 ULB)

Paul refers to being dead as being “asleep” so that instead of thinking that they will never see their loved ones again in this life, his readers will remember that they will see them again when Jesus establishes his kingdom.

### Translation Strategies

If euphemism would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are other options:

1. Use a euphemism from your own culture.
2. State the information plainly without a euphemism if it would not be offensive.

**Examples of Translation Strategies Applied**

1. Use a euphemism from your own culture.

- **where there was a cave. Saul went inside to relieve himself** (1 Samuel 24:3 ULB) - Some languages might use euphemisms like these:
  - “where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to use it as a toilet”
  - “where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to dig a hole”
  - “where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to have some time alone”

2. State the information plainly without a euphemism if it would not be offensive.

- **whether we are awake or asleep** (1 Thessalonians 5:10 ULB)
  - “whether we are alive or dead”

## Exclusive “We”

This answers the question: What is exclusive “we”?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Pronouns*

Some languages have more than one form of “we”: an inclusive form that means “I and you” and an exclusive form that means “I and someone else but not you.” Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms for “we” will need to understand what the speaker meant so they can decide which form of “we” to use.

### Description

Some languages have more than one form of “we”: an **inclusive** form that means “I and you” and an **exclusive** form that means “I and someone else but *not* you.” The exclusive form excludes the person being spoken to. This is also true for “us,” “our,” “ours,” and “ourselves.” Some languages have inclusive forms and exclusive forms for each of these.

See the pictures. The people on the right are the people that the speaker is talking to. The yellow



highlight shows who the inclusive “we” and the exclusive “we” refer to.



**Reason this is a translation issue** - The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. Like English, these languages do not have separate exclusive and inclusive forms for “we”. Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms of “we” will need to understand what the speaker meant so they can decide which form of “we” to use.

### Examples from the Bible

Forgive *us our* sins (Luke 11:4 ULB)

God has no sins to forgive; so languages that have exclusive forms of “we” and “us” would use the exclusive forms in this verse.

*we* have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us (1 John 1:2 ULB)

John is telling people who have not seen Jesus what he and the other apostles have seen. So languages that have exclusive forms of “we” and “us” would use the exclusive forms in this verse.

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Inclusive “We”*

## Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information

*This answers the question: What are assumed knowledge, implicit information, and explicit information?*

**Assumed knowledge** is whatever a speaker assumes his audience knows before he speaks and gives them some kind of information. There are two types information.

- **Explicit information** is what the speaker states directly.
- **Implicit information** is what the speaker does not state directly because he expects his audience to be able to learn it from what he says.

### Description

When someone speaks or writes, he has something specific that he wants people to know. He normally states this directly. This is **explicit information**.

The speaker assumes that his audience already knows certain things that they will think about in order to understand this information. Normally he does not tell people these things, although what he says may remind them. This is called **assumed knowledge**.

The speaker does not always directly state everything that he expects his audience to learn from what he says. Information that he expects people to learn from what he says even though he does not state it directly is **implicit information**.

### Examples from the Bible

Then a scribe came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes *have holes*, and the birds of the sky *have nests*, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20 ULB)

Jesus did not say what foxes and birds use holes and nests for, because he assumed that the scribe would have known that foxes sleep in holes in the ground and birds sleep in their nests. This is **assumed knowledge**. Jesus did not directly say here "I am the Son of Man" but, if the scribe did not already know it, then that fact would be **implicit information** that he could learn because Jesus referred to himself that way. Jesus did not state explicitly that he travelled a lot and did not have a house that he slept in every night. That is **implicit information** that the scribe could learn when Jesus said that he had nowhere to lay his head.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the mighty deeds had been done in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. (Matthew 11:21, 22 ULB)

Jesus assumed that the people he was speaking to knew that Tyre and Sidon were very wicked, and that the day of judgment is a time when God will judge every person. Jesus also knew that the

people he was talking to believed that they were good and did not need to repent. Jesus did not need to tell them these things. This is all **assumed knowledge**.

An important piece of **implicit information** here is that because the people he was speaking to did not repent, they would be judged more severely than the people of Tyre and Sidon would be judged.

Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For *they do not wash their hands when they eat*. (Matthew 15:2 ULB)

One of the traditions of the elders was a ceremony in which people would wash their hands in order to be ritually clean before eating. People thought that in order to be righteous, they had to follow all the traditions of the elders. This was **assumed knowledge** that the Pharisees who were speaking to Jesus expected him to know. They were accusing his disciples of not following the traditions. This is **implicit information** that they wanted him to understand from what they said.

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Making Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information Explicit*



## Hyperbole

*This answers the question: What is hyperbole?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which the speaker shows that something is very important by describing it as larger or greater than it really is. He may greatly exaggerate something in order to show his strong feeling or opinion about it, or he may generalize the situation by using words like “every” or “all” to mean “many.”

### Description

Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which the speaker shows that something is very important by describing it as larger or greater than it really is. There are two kinds of hyperbole:

1. Exaggeration: This is when a speaker deliberately describes something by an extreme or even unreal statement, usually to show his strong feeling or opinion about it.

Whoever does not *carry his own cross* and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27 ULB) - This is an exaggeration. It means that whoever wants to be Jesus’ disciple must be determined to follow him faithfully, even if his enemies were to kill that person.

2. Generalization: This is when a speaker uses words like “every” or “all” to mean something like “very many,” but not “every one.” (Some people may not call generalization like this “hyperbole.”)

Moses was educated in *all the learning of the Egyptians* (Acts 7:22 ULB) - This is a generalization. It means that he had learned much of what the Egyptians knew and taught.

### Reason this is a translation issue

If readers do not understand that a statement is a hyperbole, they may either think that something happened that did not happen, or they may think that the speaker or writer was saying something that is not true.

### Examples from the Bible

#### Examples of Exaggeration

If your hand causes you to stumble, *cut it off*. It is better for you to enter into life maimed... (Mark 9:43 ULB)

When Jesus said to cut off your hand, he meant that we should do whatever extreme things we need to do in order not to sin. He used this hyperbole to show how extremely important it is to try to stop sinning.

If anyone comes to me and does not *hate* his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters—yes, and his own life also—he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:26 ULB)

Because of many other things that Jesus said, we know that his use of the word “hate” here is hyperbole. He meant that we must not love even our own family members more than we love him. We must love him more than we love ourselves or anyone else.

The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand men to drive the chariots, and troops *as numerous as the sand on the seashore*. (1 Samuel 13:5 ULB)

The underlined phrase is an exaggeration. It means that there were many, many soldiers in the Philistine army.

### Examples of Generalization

They found him, and they said to him, “*Everyone* is looking for you.” (Mark 1:37 ULB)

The disciples told Jesus that everyone was looking looking for him. They probably did not mean that everyone in the city was looking for him, but that many people were looking for him, or that all of Jesus closest friends there were looking for him.

But as his anointing teaches you about *all things* and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, remain in him. (1 John 2:27 ULB)

This is a generalization. God’s Spirit teaches us about all things that we need to know.

### Caution

Do not assume that something is hyperbole just because it seems to be impossible. God does miraculous things.

... they saw Jesus *walking on the sea* and coming near the boat ... (John 6:19 ULB)

This is not hyperbole. Jesus really walked on the water. It is a literal statement.

... for *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 ULB)

The word “all” here is not hyperbole. All humans have sinned. The only human who has never sinned is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

### Translation Strategies

If the hyperbole would be natural and people would understand it and not think that it is a lie, consider using it. If not, here is another option.

1. Express the meaning without the hyperbole. For example “all the people” could be translated as “large crowds of people.”

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Express the meaning without the hyperbole.

- **If anyone comes to me and does not *hate* his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters—yes, and his own life also—he cannot be my disciple.** (Luke 14:26 ULB)
  - “If anyone comes to me and does not *love me much more than* he loves his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters—yes, and his own life also—he cannot be my disciple.”
- **The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand men to drive the chariots, and troops *as numerous as the sand on the seashore*.** (1 Samuel 13:5 ULB)
  - “The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand men to drive the chariots, and *a great number of troops*.”

## Idiom

*This answers the question: What are idioms and how can I translate them?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

An idiom is a certain kind of figure of speech, the kind that usually cannot be correctly understood without being told its true meaning. Every language has them. Some English examples are:

- You are pulling my leg (This means, “You are telling me a lie”)
- Do not push the envelope (This means, “Do not take a matter to its extreme”)
- This house is under water (This means, “The debt owed for this house is greater than its actual value”)
- We are painting the town red (This means, “We are going around town tonight celebrating very intensely”)

## Description

An idiom is a phrase that has a special meaning to the people of the language or culture that uses it. Its meaning may be different from what a person would understand from the meanings of the individual words that form the phrase.

he resolutely *set his face* to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51 ULB)

The words “set his face” is an idiom that means “decided.”

Sometimes people may be able to understand an idiom from another culture, but it might sound like a strange way to express the meaning.

I am not worthy that you should *enter under my roof*. (Luke 7:6 ULB)

The words “enter under my roof” is an idiom that means “enter my house.”

Let these words go deeply into your ears (Luke 9:44 ULB)

This idiom means “Listen carefully and remember what I say.”

**Purpose:** An idiom is created in a culture probably somewhat by accident when someone describes something in an unusual way. But, when that unusual way communicates the message powerfully and people understand it clearly, other people start to use it.

## Reasons this is a translation issue

- People can easily misunderstand idioms in the original languages of the Bible if they do not know the cultures that originally wrote the Bible.
- People can easily misunderstand idioms that are in the source language Bibles if they do not know the cultures that made those translations.

### Examples from the Bible

“Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, ”Look, we are your flesh and bone.”  
(1 Chronicles 11:1 ULB)

This means, “We and you belong to the same race, the same family.”

The kings of the earth take their stand together (Psalm 2:2 ULB)

This means, “The kings on earth plan together.”

the one who lifts up my head” (Psalm 3:3 ULB)

This means, “the one who helps me.”

### Translation Strategies

If the idiom would be clearly understood in your language, consider using it. If not, here are some other options.

1. Translate the meaning plainly without using an idiom.
2. Use a different idiom that people use in your own language that has the same meaning.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Translate the meaning plainly without using an idiom.

- **Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Look, we are your flesh and bone.”** (1 Chronicles 11:1 ULB)
  - “...Look, we all belong to the same nation.”
- **he resolutely set his face to go to Jerusalem.** (Luke 9:51 ULB)
  - “He started to travel to Jerusalem, determined to reach it.”
- **I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.** (Luke 7:6 ULB)
  - “I am not worthy that you should enter my house.”

2. Use an idiom that people use in your own language that has the same meaning.

- **Let these words go deeply into your ears** (Luke 9:44 ULB)
  - “Be all ears when I say these words to you.”
- **”My eyes grow dim from grief** (Psalm 6:7ULB)
  - “I am crying my eyes out”

## Inclusive “We”

*This answers the question: What is inclusive “we”?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Pronouns*

Some languages have more than one form of “we”: an **inclusive** form that means “I and you” and an **exclusive** form that means “I and someone else but not you.”

### Description

Some languages have more than one form of “we”: an **inclusive** form that means “I and you” and an **exclusive** form that means “I and someone else but not you.” The inclusive form includes the person being spoken to and possibly others. This is also true for “us,” “our,” “ours,” and “ourselves.” Some languages have inclusive forms and exclusive forms for each of these.

See the pictures. The people on the right are the people that the speaker is talking to. The yellow highlight shows who the inclusive “we” and the exclusive “we” refer to.



**Reason this is a translation issue** - The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. Like English, these languages do not have separate exclusive and inclusive forms for “we.” Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms of “we” will need understand what the speaker meant so they can decide which form of “we” to use.

### Examples from the Bible

... the shepherds said one to each other, “Let *us* now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to *us*.” (Luke 2:15 ULB)

The shepherds were speaking to one another. When they said “us”, they were including the people they were speaking to - one another.

Now it happened on one of those days that Jesus and his disciples entered into a boat, and he said to them, “Let *us* go over to the other side of the lake.” Then they set sail. (Luke 8:22 ULB)

When Jesus said “us,” he was referring to himself and to the disciples he was speaking to.

Watch the video for computer (see <http://youtu.be/PrMC2jdqY0A> ) or tablet/phone (see <http://youtu.be/2K2gFIPMFVk> ).

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Exclusive “We”*

## Metaphor

*This answers the question: What is a metaphor and how can I translate a sentence that has one?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- [Figures of Speech](#)
- [Simile](#)

### Description

A metaphor is the use of words to speak of one thing as if it were a different thing. Sometimes a speaker does this in ways that are very common in the language. At other times, a speaker does this in ways that are less common in the language and that might even be unique.

1. First we will discuss very common metaphors.

The metaphors that are very common in a language are usually not very vivid. They may even be “dead.” Examples in English are “table leg,” “family tree,” and “the price of food is going up.” Examples in biblical languages are “hand” to mean “power,” “face” to mean “presence,” and “clothing” to mean emotions or moral qualities.

Metaphors like these are in constant use in the world’s languages, because they serve as convenient ways to organize thought. In general, languages speak of abstract qualities, such as power, presence, emotions, and moral qualities, as if they were objects that can be seen or held, or as if they were body parts, or as if they were events that you can watch happen.

When these metaphors are used in their normal ways, the speaker and audience do not normally even regard them as figurative language. This is why, for example, it would be wrong to translate the English expression, “The price of petrol is going up” into another language in a way that would draw undeserved attention to it, because English speakers do not view it as a vivid expression, that is, as an unusual expression that carries meaning in an unusual manner.

For a description of important patterns of this kind of metaphor, please see [Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns](#) and the pages it will direct you to.

2. Next we will discuss the less common metaphors, metaphors that are sometimes even unique in a language.

The speaker usually produces metaphors of this kind in order to emphasize the importance of what he is talking about. For example,

For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.  
(Malachi 4:2 ULB)

Here God speaks about his salvation as if it were the sun rising to shine its rays on the people whom he loves. And he speaks of the sun’s rays as if they were wings. Also, he speaks of these wings as if they were bringing medicine that would heal his people.

We call this kind of metaphor “live.” It is unique in the biblical languages, which means that it is very memorable.



## Parts of a Metaphor

When talking about metaphors, it can be helpful to talk about their parts. The thing someone speaks of is called the **topic**. The thing he calls it is the **image**. The way that they are similar is the **point of comparison**.

In the metaphor below, the speaker describes the woman he loves as a rose. The woman (his “love”) is the topic and the red rose is the image. Both are beautiful and delicate.

- My love is a red, red rose.

1. Sometimes the **topic** and the **image** are both stated clearly.

Jesus said to them. *“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes on me will never thirst.”* (John 6:35 ULB)

Jesus called himself the bread of life. The topic is “I” and the image is “bread.” Bread is a food that people ate all the time. Just as people need to eat food in order to have physical life, people need to trust in Jesus in order to have spiritual life.

2. Sometimes only the **image** is stated clearly.

Produce *fruits* that are worthy of repentance (Luke 3:8 ULB)

The image here is “fruits”. The topic is not stated, but it is actions or behavior. Trees can produce good fruit or bad fruit, and people can produce good behavior or bad behavior. Fruits that are worthy of repentance are good behavior that is appropriate for people who have repented.

## Purposes of this second kind of metaphor

- One purpose of metaphor is to teach people about something that they do not know (the **topic**) by showing that it is like something that they already know (the **image**).
- Another purpose is to emphasize that something has a particular quality or to show that it has that quality in an extreme way.
- Another purpose is to lead people to feel the same way about one thing as they would feel toward another.

## Reasons this is a translation issue

- People may not realize that a word is being used as an image in a metaphor.
- People may not be familiar with the thing that is used as an image.
- If the topic is not stated, people may not know what the topic is.
- People may not know how the topic and the image are alike.

## Translation Principles

- Make the meaning of a metaphor as clear to the target audience as it was to the original audience.

- Do not make the meaning of a metaphor more clear to the target audience than it was to the original audience.

### Examples from the Bible

And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *clay*. You are our *potter*; and we all are the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8 ULB)

The example above has two metaphors. The topics are “we” and “you” and the images are “clay and ”potter.” Just as a potter takes clay and forms a jar or dish out of it, God makes us into what he wants us to be.

Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of *the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees*.” The disciples reasoned among themselves and said, “It is because we took no bread.” (Matthew 16:6-7 ULB)

Jesus used a metaphor, but his disciples did not realize it. When he said “yeast,” they thought he was talking about bread, but “yeast” was the image in his metaphor about the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Since the disciples did not understand what Jesus meant, it would not be good to state clearly here what Jesus meant.

### Translation Strategies

If people would understand the metaphor in the same way that the original readers would have understood it, go ahead and use it. If not, here are some other strategies.

1. If the metaphor is common and seems to be a normal way to say something in the biblical language, express the main idea in the simplest way preferred by your language.
2. If the target audience would think that the phrase should be understood literally, change the metaphor to a simile. Some languages do this by adding words such as “like” or “as.”
3. If the target audience would not know the **image**, see [Translate Unknowns](#) for ideas on how to translate that image.
4. If the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, use an image from your own culture instead. Be sure that it is an image that could have been possible in Bible times.
5. Or, if the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, simply state the truth that the metaphor was used to communicate.
6. If the target audience would not know what the **topic** is, then state the topic clearly. (However, do not do this if the original audience did not know what the topic was.)
7. If the target audience would not know how the topic is like the image, state it clearly.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. If the metaphor is common and seems to be a normal way to say something in the biblical language, express the main idea in the simplest way preferred by your language.

- **For after David had in his own generation served the desires of God, *he fell asleep*, was laid with his fathers, and saw decay,** (Acts 13:36 ULB)

- "For after David had in his own generation served the desires of God, *he died*, was laid with his fathers, and saw decay."

2. If the target audience would think that the phrase should be understood literally, change the metaphor to a simile. Some languages do this by adding "like" or "as."

- **And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *clay*. You are our *potter*; and we all are the work of your hand.** (Isaiah 64:8 ULB)

- "And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are *like* clay. You are *like* a potter; and we all are the work of your hand."

3. If the target audience would not know the **image**, see [Translate Unknowns](#) for ideas on how to translate that image.

- **Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to *kick a goad*.** (Acts 26:14 ULB)

- "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against a pointed stick."

4. If the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, use an image from your own culture instead. Be sure that it is an image that could have been possible in Bible times.

- **And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *clay*. You are our *potter*; and we all are the work of your hand.** (Isaiah 64:8 ULB)

- "And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *wood*. You are our *carver*; and we all are the work of your hand."

- "And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *string*. You are the *weaver*; and we all are the work of your hand."

5. Or, if the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, simply state the truth that the metaphor was used to communicate.

- **I will make you become *fishers of men*.** (Mark 1:17 ULB )

- "I will make you become *people who gather men*."

- "Now you gather fish. I will make you *gather people*."

6. If the target audience would not know what the **topic** is, then state the topic clearly. (However, do not do this if the original audience did not know what the topic was.)

- **Yahweh lives; may *my rock* be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.** (Psalm 18:46 ULB)

- "Yahweh lives; *He is my rock*. May he be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.

7. If the target audience would not know how the topic is like the image, state it clearly.

- **Yahweh lives; may *my rock* be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.** (Psalm 18:46 ULB)
  - "Yahweh lives; may he be praised because like a huge rock, *he shields me from my enemies*. May the God of my salvation be exalted."
- **Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you *to kick a goad*.** (Acts 26:14 ULB)
  - "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? You *fight against me and hurt yourself* like an ox that kicks against its owner's pointed stick."

To learn more about common metaphors read:

- [Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns](#)

## Metonymy

*This answers the question: What is a metonymy?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

Many times the Bible uses metonymy. If you do not recognize it as a metonymy you will not understand the passage or worse yet, get the wrong understanding of the passage.

### Description

**Metonymy** is a figure of speech in which a thing or idea is called not by its own name, but by the name of something closely associated with it. A **metonym** is a word or phrase used as a substitute for something it is associated with.

and *the blood* of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 ULB)

The blood represents Christ's death.

He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, "*This cup* is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. (Luke 22:20 ULB)

The cup represents the wine that is in the cup.

### Metonymy can be used

- as a shorter way of referring to something
- to make an abstract idea more meaningful by referring to it with the name of a concrete object associated with it.

### Reason this is a translation issue

- If a metonym is used, people need to be able to understand what it represents.

### Examples from the Bible

The Lord God will give him *the throne* of his father, David. (Luke 1:32 ULB)

A throne represents the authority of a king. Throne is a metonym for "kingly authority," "kingship" or, "reign." This means that God would make him become the king who was to follow King David.

Immediately his mouth was opened (Luke 1:64 ULB)

The mouth here represents the power to speak. This means that he was able to talk again.

who warned you to flee from *the wrath* that is coming? (Luke 3:7 ULB)

The word “wrath” or “anger” is a metonym for “punishment.” God was extremely angry with the people and, as a result, he would punish them.

### Translation Strategies

If people would easily understand the metonym, consider using it. Otherwise, here is an option.

1. Use the metonym along with the name of the thing it represents.
2. Use the name of the thing the metonym represents.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use the metonym along with the name of the thing it represents.

- **He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, “*This cup* is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.** (Luke 22:20 ULB)
  - “He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, “*The wine in this cup* is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

2. Use the name of the thing the metonym represents.

- **The Lord God will give him *the throne* of his father, David.** (Luke 1:32 ULB)
  - “The Lord God will give him *the kingly authority* of his father, David.”
  - “The Lord God will *make him king* like his ancestor, King David.”
- **who warned you to flee from *the wrath* to come?** (Luke 3:7 ULB)
  - “who warned you to flee from God’s coming *punishment*?”

To learn about some common metonymies, we suggest you read:

- [Biblical Imagery - Common Metonymies](#)

## Nominal Adjectives

*This answers the question: How do I translate adjectives that act like nouns?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Parts of Speech*

Many times in the Bible adjectives are used as nouns to describe a group of people.

### Description

In some languages an adjective can be used to refer to a class of things that the adjective describes. When it does, it acts like a noun. For example, the word “rich” is an adjective. Here are two sentences that show that “rich” is an adjective.

*The rich man* had huge numbers of flocks and herds, (2 Samuel 12:2 ULB)

The adjective “rich” comes before the word “man” and describes “man.”

*He will not be rich*; his wealth will not last; (Job 15:29 ULB)

The adjective “rich” comes after the verb “be” and describes “He.”

*...the rich* must not give more than the half shekel, and *the poor* must not give less.  
(Exodus 30:15 ULB)

In Exodus 30:15, the word “rich” acts as a noun in the phrase “the rich,” and it refers to rich people. The word “poor” also acts as a noun and refers to poor people.

### Reason this is a translation issue

- Some languages do not use adjectives this way.
- Readers may think that the text is talking about one particular person when it is really talking about many people whom the adjective describes.

### Examples from the Bible

The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of *the righteous*. (Psalms 125:3 ULB)

“The righteous” here are people who are righteous, not one particular righteous person.

Blessed are *the meek* (Matthew 5:5 ULB)

“The meek” here are people who are meek, not one particular meek person.

### Translation Strategies

If your language uses adjectives as nouns to refer to a class of people, consider using the adjectives this way. If it would sound strange, or if the meaning would be unclear or wrong, here is another option:

1. Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes.
  - **The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of *the righteous*.** (Psalms 125:3 ULB)
    - "The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of *righteous people*."
  - **Blessed are *the meek*** (Matthew 5:5 ULB)
    - "Blessed are *people who are meek*"



## Parallelism

*This answers the question: What is parallelism?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

### Description

In **parallelism** two phrases or clauses that are similar in structure or idea are used together. There are different kinds of parallelism. Some of them are the following:

1. The second clause or phrase means the same as the first.
2. The second clarifies or strengthens the meaning of the first.
3. The second completes what is said in the first.
4. The second says something that contrasts with the first.

Parallelism is most commonly found in Old Testament poetry, such as in the books of Psalms and Proverbs. It also occurs in Greek in the New Testament, both in the four gospels and in the apostles' letters.

### Reason this is a translation issue

Some languages would not use the kind of parallelism in which the two phrases mean the same thing. They would either think it odd that someone said the same thing twice, or they think that the two phrases must have some difference in meaning.

### Examples from the Bible

1. The second clause or phrase means the same as the first.

You make him to rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:6 ULB)

Both lines say that God made man the ruler of everything.

2. The second clarifies or strengthens the meaning of the first.

The eyes of Yahweh are everywhere,  
keeping watch over the evil and the good. (Proverbs 15:3 ULB)

The second line tells more specifically what Yahweh watches.

3. The second completes what is said in the first.

I lift up my voice to Yahweh,  
and he answers me from his holy hill. (Psalm 3:4 ULB)

The second line tells what Yahweh does in response to what the person does in the first clause.

4. The second says something that contrasts with the first.

For Yahweh approves of the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish. (Psalm 1:6 ULB)

This contrasts what happens to righteous people with what happens to wicked people.

A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1 ULB)

This contrasts what happens when someone gives a gentle answer with what happens when someone says something harsh.

### **Translation Strategies**

1. For most kinds of parallelism, it is good to translate both of the clauses or phrases.
2. When the two clauses or phrases mean the same thing, some languages would not translate them both. (See [Parallelism with the Same Meaning](#))

### **Examples of Translation Strategies Applied**

(See [Parallelism with the Same Meaning](#))

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- [Parallelism with the Same Meaning](#)

## Personification

*This answers the question: What is personification?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

Personification is a figure of speech in which someone speaks of something as if it could do things that animals or people can do. People often speak this way because it makes it easier to talk about things that we cannot see, such as wisdom and sin.

Does not Wisdom call out? (Proverbs 8:1 ULB)

sin crouches at the door (Genesis 4:7 ULB)

Some languages do not use personification, and some languages use it only in certain situations.

### Description

Personification is a figure of speech in which someone speaks of something as if it could do things that animals or people can do. People often do this because it makes it easier to talk about things that we cannot see, such as wisdom, sin, and wind. For example:

Does not Wisdom call out? (Proverbs 8:1 ULB)

sin crouches at the door (Genesis 4:7 ULB)

People also do this because it is sometimes easier to talk about relationships between people and other people than about relationships between people and non-human things, such as wealth.

You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24 ULB)

### Reason this is a translation issue

- Some languages do not use personification.
- Some languages use personification only in certain situations.

### Examples from the Bible

You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24 ULB)

Jesus speaks of wealth as if it were a master whom people might serve. Loving money and basing one's decisions on it is like serving it as a slave would serve his master.

Does not Wisdom call out? Does not Understanding raise her voice? (Proverbs 8:1 ULB)

The author speaks of wisdom and understanding as if they are a woman who calls out to teach people. They are not something hidden, but something obvious that people should pay attention to.

## Translation Strategies

If the personification would not be understood clearly, here are some strategies for dealing with it.

1. Add words or phrases to make it clear.
2. Use the words “like” or “as” to show that the sentences is not to be understood literally.
3. Find a way to translate it without the personification.

## Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Add words or phrases to make it clear.

- **sin crouches at the door** (Genesis 4:7 ULB) - God speaks of sin as a wild animal that is waiting for the chance to attack. This shows how dangerous sin is. An additional phrase can be added to make this danger clear.
  - “sin is at your door, waiting to attack you”

2. Use the words “like” or “as” to show that the sentences is not to be understood literally.

- **sin crouches at the door** (Genesis 4:7 ULB) - This can be translated with the word “as.”
  - ”sin is about to destroy you, just *as* a wild animal could harm a person.”

3. Find a way to translate it without the personification.

- **even the winds and the sea obey him** (Matthew 8:27 ULB) - The men speak of the wind and the sea as if they are able to hear and obey Jesus as people can. This could also be translated without the idea of obedience by speaking of Jesus controlling them.
  - “He even controls the winds and the sea.”

**Note:** We have broadened our definition of “personification” to include “zoomorphism” (speaking of other things as if they had animal characteristics) and “anthropomorphism” (speaking of other things as if they had human characteristics).

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Apostrophe*
- *Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns*

## Rhetorical Question

*This answers the question: What are rhetorical questions and how can I translate them?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*
- *Sentences*

A rhetorical question is a question to which the speaker does not expect an answer because he is not looking for information. Speakers use rhetorical questions to express deep emotion or to encourage hearers to think deeply about something. The Bible contains many rhetorical questions, often to express sarcasm or to rebuke or scold the hearer. Speakers of some languages use rhetorical questions for other reasons as well.

### Description

A rhetorical question is a question to which the speaker does not expect an answer because he is not looking for information. Speakers often use rhetorical questions to rebuke or scold people.

Those who stood by said, *Is this how you insult God's high priest?*" (Acts 23:4 ULB) The people did not ask this question in order to get information. Rather they used it to scold Paul because they did not think he should have spoken as he did to the high priest.

The Bible contains many rhetorical questions. Some of the purposes of these rhetorical questions are to remind people of something that they already know, to express strong emotion, to say something in a strong way, or to introduce something they want to talk about.

### Reasons this is a translation issue

- Some readers may think that a question is a request for information.
- Some languages use rhetorical questions only for scolding.
- Some readers might think that the purpose of a question is something other than what it really is.

### Examples from the Bible

Do you not still rule the kingdom of Israel? (1 Kings 21:7 ULB)

Jezebel used the question above to remind King Ahab of something he already knew: he still ruled the kingdom of Israel. She did this in order to rebuke him for being unwilling to take over a poor man's property. She was implying that since he was the king of Israel he should feel free to take the man's property.

*Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number!* (Jeremiah 2:32 ULB)

God used the question above to remind his people of something they already knew: a woman would never forget her jewelry and veils. He then rebuked his people for forgetting him, who is so much greater than those things.

Why did I not die when I came out from the womb? (Job 3:11 ULB)

Job used the question above to show how sad he was that he did not die as soon as he was born. He wished that he had not lived.

And why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43 ULB)

Elizabeth used the question above to show how surprised and happy she was that the mother of her Lord came to her.

Or what man among you is there who, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9 ULB)

Jesus used the question above to remind the people of something they already knew: a good father would never give his son something bad to eat.

Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father from heaven give good things to those who ask him? (Matthew 7:11 ULB)

Jesus used this question to teach the people in an emphatic way that God gives good things to those who ask him.

What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed which a man took and threw into his garden... (Luke 13:18-19 ULB)

Jesus used the question above to introduce what he was going to talk about. He was going to compare the kingdom of God to something.

### **Translation Strategies**

Be sure you know that you are dealing with a rhetorical question and not an information question. Then be sure you know what the purpose of the rhetorical question is. Is it to encourage or rebuke or shame the hearer? Is it to bring up a new topic? Is it to do something else?

If using the rhetorical question would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider doing so. If not, here are other options:

1. Add the answer after the question.
2. Change the rhetorical question to a statement or exclamation.
3. Change the rhetorical question to a statement, and then follow it with a short question.

## Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Add the answer after the question.

- **Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number!** (Jeremiah 2:32 ULB)
  - *Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Of course not! Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number!*
- **Or what man among you is there who, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone?** (Matthew 7:9 ULB)
  - *”Or what man among you is there who, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? None of you would do that!”*

2. Change the rhetorical question to a statement or exclamation.

- **What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed...** (Luke 13:18-19 ULB)
  - *“This is what the kingdom of God is like. It is like a mustard seed...”*
- **Is this how you insult God’s high priest?** (Acts 23:4 ULB)
  - *You should not insult God’s high priest!”*
- **Why did I not die when I came out from the womb?** (Job 3:11 ULB)
  - *I wish I had died when I came out from the womb!”*
- **And why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** (Luke 1:43 ULB)
  - *“How wonderful it is that the mother of my Lord has come to me!”*

3. Change the rhetorical question to a statement, and then follow it with a short question.

- **Do you not still rule the kingdom of Israel?** (1 Kings 21:7 ULB)
  - *”You still rule the kingdom of Israel, don’t you?”*

## Synecdoche

*This answers the question: What does the word synecdoche mean?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Figures of Speech*

Synecdoche is when a speaker uses a part of something to refer to the whole or uses the whole to refer to a part.

### Description

Synecdoche is when a speaker uses a part of something to refer to the whole or uses the whole to refer to a part.

*My soul* exalts the Lord. (Luke 1:46 ULB)

Mary was very happy about what the Lord was doing, so she said “my soul”, the part of herself that has emotions, to refer to her whole self.

*the Pharisees* said to him, “Look, why are they doing something that is not lawful ...?”  
(Mark 2:24 ULB)

The Pharisees who were standing there did not all say the same words at the same time. Instead, it is more likely that one man representing the group said those words.

### Reasons this is a translation issue

- Some readers may understand the words literally.
- Some readers may realize that they are not to understand the words literally, but they may not know what the meaning is.

### Example from the Bible

I looked on all the deeds that *my hands* had accomplished (Ecclesiastes 2:11 ULB)

“My hands” is a synecdoche for the whole person, because clearly the legs and the rest of the body and the mind were also involved.

### Translation Strategies

If the synecdoche would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

1. State specifically what the synecdoche refers to.



**Examples of Translation Strategies Applied**

1. State specifically what the synecdoche refers to.

- **My soul exalts the Lord.** (Luke 1:46 ULB)
  - "I exalt the Lord."
- **the Pharisees said to him** (Mark 2:24 ULB)
  - "a representative of the Pharisees said to him"
- **I looked on all the deeds that my hands had accomplished** (Ecclesiastes 2:11 ULB)
  - "I looked on all the deeds that I had accomplished"

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Metonymy*
- *Biblical Imagery - Common Metonymies*

## Forms of You

*This answers the question: What are the different forms of you?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Forms of 'You' - Singular*
- *Forms of 'You' - Dual/Plural*

### Singular, Dual, and Plural

Some languages have more than one word for “you” based on how many people the word “you” refers to. The **singular** form refers to one person, and the **plural** form refers to more than one person. Some languages also have a **dual** form which refers to two people, and some have other forms that refer to three or four people.

Watch the video for Singular, Dual, and Plural “you” for computer (see <http://youtu.be/cPtjzJ2Advk>) or tablet/phone (see <http://youtu.be/AVITfDEk8nc>).

Sometimes in the Bible a speaker uses a singular form of “you” even though he is speaking to a crowd.

- *Forms of 'You' - Singular to a Crowd*

### Formal and Informal

Some languages have more than one form of “you” based on the relationship between the speaker and the person he is talking to. People use the **formal** form of “you” when speaking to someone who is older, or has higher authority, or is someone they do not know very well. People use the **informal** form when speaking to someone who is not older, or does not have higher authority, or is a family member or close friend. Watch the video on Formal and Informal ‘You’ on the **computer** or on the **tablet/phone**. For help with translating these, we suggest you read:

- *Forms of “You” - Formal or Informal*

## Translating Son and Father

*This answers the question: Why are these concepts important in referring to God?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Create Faithful Translations*
- *Son of God and God the Father*

unfoldingWord supports only Bible translations that represent these concepts when they refer to God.

### **“Father” and “Son” are names that God calls himself in the Bible.**

The Bible shows that God called Jesus his Son.

After he was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water, and... a voice came out of the heavens saying, *“This is my beloved Son. I am very pleased with him.”* (Matthew 3:16-17 ULB)

The Bible shows that Jesus called God his Father.

Jesus said, *“I praise you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,... no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son”* (Matthew 11:25-27 ULB) (See also: John 6:26-57 ULB)

Christians have found that “Father” and “Son” are the ideas that most essentially describe the eternal relationship of the First and Second Persons of the Trinity to each other. The Bible indeed refers to them in various ways, but no other terms reflect the kind of eternal love and intimacy between these Persons, nor the interdependent eternal relationship between them.

Jesus referred to God in the following terms:

Baptize them into *the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* (Matthew 28:19 ULB)

The intimate, loving relationship between the Father and the Son is eternal.

no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son. (Luke 10:22 ULB)

Jesus said, *“Father, glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you... I glorified you on the earth,... Now Father, glorify me... with the glory that I had with you before the world was created.”* (John 17:1-5 ULB)

The Father *loves* the Son. (John 3:35-36; 5:19-20 ULB)

I *love* the Father, I do what the Father commands me, just as he gave me the commandment. (John 14:31 ULB)

**Human fathers and sons are not perfect, but the Bible still uses those terms for the Father and Son, who are perfect.**

Just as today, human father-son relationships during Bible times were never as loving or perfect as the relationship between Jesus and his Father. But this does not mean that the translator should avoid the concepts of father and son. The scriptures use these terms to refer to God, the perfect Father and Son, as well as to sinful human fathers and sons. In referring to God as Father and Son, choose words in your language that are widely used and refer to a human “father” and “son.”

**Translation Strategies**

1. Think through all the possibilities that your language has to translate the words “son” and “father.” Determine which words in your language best represent the divine “Son” and “Father.”
2. If your language has more than one word for “son,” use the word that has the closest meaning to “only son” (or “first son” if necessary).
3. If your language has more than one word for “father,” use the word that has the closest meaning to “birth father,” rather than “adoptive father.”

The following pages will help you with translating “Father” and “Son.”

- [God the Father, heavenly Father, Father](#)
- [Son of God, the Son, Son](#)

## How to Translate Names

*This answers the question: How can I translate names that are new to my culture?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Translate Unknowns*

The Bible has names of many people, groups of people, and places. Some of these names may sound strange and be hard to say. Sometimes readers may not know what a name refers to, and sometimes they may need to understand what a name means. This page will help you see how you can translate these names and how you can help people understand what they need to know about them.

### Description

The Bible has names of many people, groups of people, and places. All names in the Bible have meaning. Most of the time, names in the Bible are used simply to identify the people and places they refer to. But sometimes the meaning of a name is especially important.

It was this *Melchizedek*, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him. (Hebrews 7:1ULB)

Here the writer uses the name “Melchizedek” simply to refer to a man who had that name, and the title “king of Salem” simply to tell us something about Melchizedek.

His name “Melchizedek” means “king of righteousness,” and also “king of Salem,” that is, “king of peace. (Hebrews 7:2 ULB)

Here the writer explains the meanings of Melchizedek’s name and title.

### Reasons this is a translation issue

- Readers may not know some of the names in the Bible. They may not know whether a name refers to a person or place or something else.
- Readers may need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand the passage.
- Some names may have different sounds or combinations of sounds that are not used in your language or are unpleasant to say in your language.
- Some people and places in the Bible have two names. Readers may not realize that two names refer to the same person or place.

### Examples from the Bible

You went over the *Jordan* and came to *Jericho*. The leaders of Jericho fought against you, along with the *Amorites* (Joshua 24:11 ULB)

Readers might not know that “Jordan” is the name of a river, “Jericho” is the name of a city, and “Amorites” is the name of a group of people.

she said, “Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?” Therefore the well was called *Beerlahairoi*; (Genesis 16:13-14 ULB)

Readers may not understand the second sentence if they do not know that “Beerlahairoi” means “Well of the the Living One who sees me.”

She named him *Moses* and said, “Because I drew him from the water.” (Exodus 2:11 ULB)

Readers may not understand why she said this if they do not know that the name *Moses* sounds like the Hebrew words “pull out.”

*Saul* was in agreement with his death (Acts 8:1 ULB)

It came about in Iconium that *Paul* and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue (Acts 14:1 ULB)

Readers may not know that the names *Saul* and *Paul* refer to the same person.

### Translation Strategies

1. If readers cannot easily understand from the context what kind of a thing a name refers to, you can add a word to clarify it.
2. If readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, copy the name and tell about its meaning either in the text or in a footnote.
3. Or if readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, and that name is used only once, translate the meaning of the name.
4. If a person or place has two different names, use one name all of the time and write a footnote when the source text uses the name that is used less frequently.
5. Or use whatever name is given in the source text, and add a footnote that explains who or what the name refers to.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. If readers cannot easily understand from the context what kind of a thing a name refers to, you can add a word to clarify it.

- **You went over the *Jordan* and came to *Jericho*. The leaders of *Jericho* fought against you, along with the *Amorites*** (Joshua 24:11 ULB)
  - “You went over the *Jordan River* and came to the city of *Jericho*. The leaders of *Jericho* fought against you, along with *the tribe of the Amorites*”
- **Shortly after, some *Pharisees* came and said to him, “Go and leave here because *Herod* wants to kill you.”** (Luke 13:31 ULB)

- “Shortly after, some Pharisees came and said to him, “Go and leave here because *King Herod* wants to kill you.”

2. If readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, copy the name and tell about its meaning either in the text or in a footnote.

- **She named him *Moses* and said, “Because I drew him from the water.”** (Exodus 2:11 ULB)
  - “She named him *Moses*, which sounds like ‘drawn out,’ and said, “Because I drew him from the water.”

3. Or if readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, and that name is used only once, translate the meaning of the name.

- **she said, “Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?” Therefore the well was called *Beerlahairoi*;** (Genesis 16:13-14 ULB)
  - “she said, “Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?” Therefore the well was called *Well of the One who sees me*;

4. If a person or place has two different names, use one name most of the time and the other name only when the text talks about that name. Write a footnote when the source text uses the name that is used less frequently.

For example, Paul is called “Saul” before Acts 13 and “Paul” after Acts 13. You could translate his name as “Paul” all of the time, except in Acts 13:9 where it talks about him having both names.

- **a young man named *Saul*** (Acts 7:58 ULB)
  - “a young man named *Paul*”<sup>1</sup> The footnote would look like:
    - ◇ <sup>[1]</sup>Most versions say Saul here, but most of the time in the Bible he is called Paul.

- **But *Saul*, who is also called *Paul*, was filled with the Holy Spirit;** (Acts 13:9 ULB)
  - “But *Saul*, who is also called *Paul*, was filled with the Holy Spirit;”

5. Or if a person or place has two names, use whatever name is given in the source text, and add a footnote that explains who or what the name refers to.

For example, you could write “Saul” where the source text has “Saul” and “Paul” where the source text has “Paul.”

- **a young man named *Saul*** (Acts 7:58 ULB)
  - “a young man named *Saul*”
- **But *Saul*, who is also called *Paul*, was filled with the Holy Spirit;** (Acts 13:9 ULB) \*  
 “But \_\_Saul\_\_, who is also called \_\_Paul\_\_, was filled with the Holy Spirit;” \* \*\*It came about in Iconium that \_\_Paul\_\_ and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue\*\*  
 ([[en:bible:notes:act:14:01 | Acts 14:1 ULB)

- "It came about in Iconium that *Paul*<sup>1</sup> and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue"  
(Acts 14:1 ULB) The footnote would look like:
  - ◇ <sup>[1]</sup>This is the man that was called Saul before Acts 13.

*Next we recommend you learn about:*

- *Copy or Borrow Words*



## Textual Variants

*This answers the question: Why does the ULB have missing or added verses, and should I translate them?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Choosing a Source Text*
- *Original Manuscripts*

Thousands of years ago, people wrote the books of the Bible. Other people then copied them by hand and translated them. Sometimes the copiers added sentences by mistake or because they wanted to explain something. Modern Bibles are translations of the old copies. Some modern Bibles have some of these sentences that were added. In the ULB, these added sentences are usually written in footnotes.

### Description

Thousands of years ago, people wrote the books of the Bible. Other people copied them by hand and translated them. They did this work very carefully, and over the years many people made thousands of copies. However people who looked at them later saw that there were small differences between them. Some copiers accidentally left out some words, and some mistook a word for another that looked like it. Occasionally they added words or even whole sentences, either by accident, or because they wanted to explain something.

Bible scholars have read many old copies and compared them with each other. For each place in the Bible where there was a difference, they have figured out which wordings are most likely correct. The translators of the ULB based the ULB on wordings that scholars say are most likely correct. Because people who use the ULB may have access to Bibles that are based on other copies, the ULB translators included footnotes that tell about some of the differences between them.

Translators are encouraged to translate the text in the ULB and to write about added sentences in footnotes, as is done in the ULB. However, if the local church really wants those sentences to be included in the main text, translators may put them in the text and include a footnote about them.

### Examples from the Bible

Matthew 18:10-11 ULB has a footnote about verse 11.

<sup>10</sup>See that you do not despise any of these little ones. For I say to you that in heaven their angels always look on the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>[<sup>1</sup>]

[<sup>1</sup>] Many authorities, some ancient, insert v. 11. *For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.*

John 7:53-8:11 is not in the best earliest manuscripts. It has been included in the ULB, but it is marked off with square brackets ([ ]) at the beginning and end, and there is a footnote after verse 11.

<sup>53</sup>[Then every man went to his own house.... <sup>11</sup>She said, “No one, Lord.” Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way; from now on sin no more.”]<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[2]</sup>The best earliest manuscripts do not have John 7:35-8:11

## Translation Strategies

When there is a textual variant, you may choose to follow the ULB or another version that you have access to.

1. Translate the verses that the ULB does and include the footnote that the ULB provides.
2. Translate the verses as another version does, and change the footnote so that it fits this situation.

## Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

The translation strategies are applied to Mark 7:15-16 ULB, which has a footnote about verse 16.

- <sup>14</sup>He called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing from outside of a person that can defile him when it enters into him. It is what comes out of the person that defiles him.” <sup>16</sup>[<sup>1</sup>

- <sup>[1]</sup>Many ancient authorities insert v. 16. *If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.*

1. Translate the verses that the ULB does and include the footnote that the ULB provides.

- <sup>14</sup>He called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing from outside of a person that can defile him when it enters into him. It is what comes out of the person that defiles him.” <sup>16</sup>[<sup>1</sup>

- <sup>[1]</sup>Many ancient authorities insert verse 16. *If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.*

2. Translate the verses as another version does, and change the footnote so that it fits this situation.

- <sup>14</sup>He called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing from outside of a person that can defile him when it enters into him. It is what comes out of the person that defiles him. <sup>16</sup>If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.” <sup>[1]</sup>

- <sup>[1]</sup>Some ancient authorities do not have verse 16.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Chapter and Verse Numbers*

- *Original Manuscripts*
- *Terms to Know*
- *The Original and Source Languages*

## Translate Unknowns

*This answers the question: How can I translate ideas that my readers are not familiar with?*

*In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:*

- *Sentences*

How do I translate words like lion, fig tree, mountain, priest, or temple when people in my culture have never seen these things and we do not have a word for them?

### Description

Unknowns are things that occur in the source text that are not known to the people of your culture. The translationWords pages and the translationNotes will help you understand what they are. After you understand them, you will need to find ways to refer to those things so that people who read your translation will understand what they are.

We have here only five loaves of *bread* and two fish (Matthew 14:17 ULB)

Bread is a particular food made by mixing finely crushed grains with oil, and then cooking the mixture so that it is dry. (Grains are the seeds of a kind of grass.) In some cultures people do not have bread or know what it is.

### Reason this is a translation issue

- Readers may not know some of the things that are in the Bible because those things are not part of their own culture.
- Readers may have difficulty understanding a text if they do not know some of the things that are mentioned in it.

### Translation Principles

- Use words that are already part of your language if possible.
- Keep expressions short if possible.
- Represent God's commands and historical facts accurately.

### Examples from the Bible

I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for *jackals* (Jeremiah 9:11 ULB)

Jackals are wild animals like dogs that live in only a few parts of the world. So they are not known in many places.

Beware of false prophets, those who come to you in sheep's clothing, but are truly ravenous *wolves*. (Matthew 7:15 ULB)

If wolves do not live where the translation will be read, the readers may not understand that they are fierce, wild animals like dogs that attack and eat sheep.

Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with *myrrh*. But he refused to drink it. (Mark 15:23 ULB)

People may not know what *myrrh* is and that it was used as a medicine.

to him who made *great lights* (Psalm 136:7ULB)

Some languages have terms for things that give light, like the sun and fire, but they have no general term for lights.

your sins ... will be white like *snow* (Isaiah 1:18 ULB)

People in many parts of the world have not seen snow, but they may have seen it in pictures.

### Translation Strategies

Here are ways you might translate a term that is not known in your language:

1. Use a phrase that describes the part of the meaning that is important in the particular verse being translated.
2. Substitute something similar from your language if doing so does not falsely represent a historical fact.
3. Copy the word from another language, and add a general word or descriptive phrase to help people understand it.
4. Use a word that is more general in meaning.
5. Use a word or phrase that is more specific in meaning.

### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use a phrase that describes the part of the meaning that is important in the particular verse being translated.

- **Beware of false prophets, those who come to you in sheep's clothing, but are truly ravenous wolves.** (Matthew 7:15 ULB)
  - "Beware of false prophets, those who come to you in sheep's clothing, but *are truly hungry and dangerous animals.*"
- **We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish** (Matthew 14:17 ULB)
  - "We have here only five *loaves of baked grain seeds* and two fish"

2. Substitute something similar from your language if doing so does not falsely represent a historical fact.

- **your sins ... will be white like snow** (Isaiah 1:18 ULB) This verse is not about snow. It uses snow in a figure of speech to help people understand how white something will be.
  - "your sins ... will be white like *milk*"
  - "your sins ... will be white like *the moon*"

3. Copy the word from another language, and add a general word or descriptive phrase to help people understand it.

- **Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with myrrh. But he refused to drink it.** (Mark 15:23 ULB) - People may understand better what myrrh is if it is used with the general word "medicine."
  - "Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with *a medicine called myrrh*. But he refused to drink it."
- **We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish** (Matthew 14:17 ULB) - People may understand better what bread is if it is used with a phrase that tells what it is made of (seeds) and how it is prepared (crushed and baked).
  - "We have here only five loaves of *baked crushed seed bread* and two fish"

4. Use a word that is more general in meaning.

- **I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for jackals** (Jeremiah 9:11 ULB)
  - "I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for *wild dogs*"
- **We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish** (Matthew 14:17 ULB)
  - "We have here only five *loaves of baked food* and two fish"

5. Use a word or phrase that is more specific in meaning.

- **to him who made great lights** (Psalm 136:7 ULB)
  - "to him who made *the sun and the moon*"

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Copy or Borrow Words*
- *How to Translate Names*