

Title: Questions about Bible Translations Part #2

Last week, we began considering Bible translations. This week, we will continue answering questions people have regarding Bible translations.

Question #5: Has the Bible come through several translations?

Answer:

- Some think that all current translations have come from a previous translation. For example, the King James Translation was done in 1611. It could be that people sometimes think all current translations have come from the translation of the King James.
- However, translations of the New Testament come from the Greek New Testament documents that we have. Our current translations are not from a long string of previous ones. While scholars may consider past work that has already been done, translations still must go back to the original text.

Question #6: *Why don't we translate a literal word for word where the sentence structure is exactly the same?*

Answer:

- Every language has a certain sentence structure. Sometimes, the order of the words is different. One example of this is with English and Spanish.
- As we consider translations, it's important to note that the text must be translated into the English language, and not merely English words.
- It is important to note one kind of translation known as the formal equivalence. This is when translators take the words in the Greek text, and translate it in a more word for word and phrase for phrase translation. They seek to use terms and phrases that are equivalent to the text being translated. Formal equivalence seeks to keep the sentence structure as closely as it can. When there is something that would be awkward or confusing in the target language, a note is typically given in the margin so the reader can see what's been done.

- Benjamin Lee