

## Evaluation of “The Passion Translation”

By Pastor James

I spent 60 hours carefully considering the merits of The Passion Translation (TPT). There are many things I would rather have done with those hours. But, I felt it a necessary investment to protect others. I will state up front that my conclusion is unsettling, and I highly recommend staying away from this book. My notes barely scratch the surface of what could be said. There are many scholars out there, much smarter than myself, who have provided commentary detailing what is wrong with the TPT. People are being deceived, and most will resent my efforts to warn them. But, every true believer has a responsibility to sound the alarm when the Church is in danger.

*“Test and prove what pleases the Lord. Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Eph 5:10-11)*

This is a very deceptive time in history, and the most vulnerable works of deception come from inside the Church, where we assume we’re safe, and let our guard down.

*“I know that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number, men will rise up and distort the truth to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29-30)*

### Where is the TPT Coming From?

Brian Simmons authored The Passion Translation (TPT). He has a popular full time ministry, and certainly comes across as a likable person. He is very much a part of the hyper-charismatic crowd, often referred to as the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). The NAR crowd tends to be obsessed with spiritual manifestations and the pursuit of signs, wonders, and miracles...to a fault. Much of what is seen in this crowd is manufactured mumbo-jumbo full of false prophecy, and often amounts to christian witchcraft. Which is no small detail when considering the making of the TPT. The chart below compares the usage of popular, hyper-charismatic buzz words in different translations. Notice how pervasive they are in the TPT compared to other translations – this is blatant bias.

WORD	ESV	NKJV	NIV	NASB	TPT
Realm*	0	0	10	1	196
Prophetic	4	3	2	3	28
Anointed*	15	12	10	10	223
Activate*	0	0	0	0	6
Expression	0	0	1	2	18
Promise	71	74	78	70	128
Impart	6	3	4	5	35
Secret	22	23	24	21	57
Religious*	2	4	4	2	141
Religion*	5	5	5	5	14
Revelation	14	16	12	17	110
Passion	27	6	9	10	105
Miracle	7	14	19	25	126
Freedom	8	0	17	7	35
Free	56	53	76	62	147
Spiritual	25	34	21	26	87
Supernatural	0	0	0	0	37
Empower	2	0	0	0	40
Totals	264	247	292	266	1087

Chart provided by Mike Winger who has done extensive research on the TPT. (biblethinker.org)

Notice the word “activate” on the chart. Have you ever seen that word in the Bible before? No, it isn’t found in any other translation. The concept of activating your gifts is a popular man-made concept taught extensively in hyper-charismatic circles. Look at how he has added this terminology to the TPT:

### **Romans 12:6**

#### New International Version

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;”*

#### Berean Standard Bible

*“We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one’s gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith;”*

#### New American Standard Bible

*“However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly: if prophecy, in proportion to one’s faith;”*

#### TPT

*“God’s marvelous grace imparts to each one of us varying gifts. So if God has given you the grace-gift of prophecy, **activate your gift** by using the proportion of faith you have to prophesy. (Rom 12:6)*

Another phrase found in the TPT that is not found elsewhere is, “mountains of influence”. This is very significant, because the NAR crowd is also the source of a destructive false teaching called the “7 Mountains Mandate” (a redressed version of Dominionism). This teaching is completely unbiblical and cannot be backed by any scripture. Well...that is until Brian rewrote the Bible and added it!

### **Psalm 72:3**

#### New International Version

*“May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.”*

#### Berean Standard Bible

*“May the mountains bring peace to the people, and the hills bring righteousness.”*

#### New American Standard Bible

*“May the mountains bring peace to the people, And the hills, in righteousness.”*

#### TPT

*“Then the **mountains of influence** will be fruitful, and from your righteousness prosperity and peace will flow to all people.”*

He also uses this term in Psalm 80:10 and Proverbs 8:1. This is more than a bias, this is an agenda, and it’s playing into the hands of the Anti-Christ. Brian teaches these concepts, and we don’t have to look any further than the price tag on his website teachings (\$49-\$99), to understand why he would benefit from adding such things to the Bible.

Just to be clear, I am not picking on the hyper-charismatics because I have a particular theological ax to grind, or feel the need to take sides. Deception is rampant in every arm and leg of the Church, but this “Bible” has been birthed out of a particular church culture that is breeding a shocking amount of false teachers.

So, before we move on, let's ask this question: Is there anything about the TPT that I like? Actually, yes. For example, I love that Brian has chosen, in contrast to other translations, to use the word "religious/religion" multiple times. And, all but once, he uses this word in a negative context. I really like this a lot! But so what! Who cares what I like? Whether you and I find it appealing or not, has nothing to do with it. The Bible wasn't written to accommodate us or to satisfy any of our personal viewpoints. The word of God is our only safety net! The words in the Bible are the only way for us to know if we have strayed from the truth. We must guard the accuracy of the Bible with our life, or we have nothing solid to stand on.

### **Where is Brian Coming From?**

As I set out to verify Brian's credentials, sifting facts from hype was difficult, and the hole quickly got deeper. I will only touch on some major points for brevity's sake. I originally had no intention of disparaging Brian's credentials, but when the credentials you brag about are misleading, it becomes a pertinent piece of information that should be brought to light.

Brian and his wife served as church planting missionaries in Panama from July 1980 until May 1987, with a one year furlough in 1985. They were missionaries to the Paya-Kuna people, sponsored by Ethnos360, formerly known as "New Tribes". He worked as a liaison between Wycliffe Bible translators and his missionary subjects, providing feedback from the locals to the translation team. But, he now refers to himself as a linguist, even though he has no degree in linguistics, biblical languages, or any other related field that would qualify him to use that title.

In a television interview with Sid Roth, Brian detailed his work translating the Paya-Kuna Bible and expressed his joy at handing the finished New Testament to them. However, Wycliffe has verified that the Paya-Kuna New Testament translation was not finished until 1993...6 years after Brian left the mission!

([https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11403/CO](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11403/CO))

Wycliffe credits Keith and Wilma Forster as translators of the Paya-Kuna Bible in cooperation with Kuna Pastor Ricardo Bastidas; Brian is not listed as a co-translator.

([www.wycliffe.org/Resources/Publications/Infocus/issue19\\_6.pdf](http://www.wycliffe.org/Resources/Publications/Infocus/issue19_6.pdf)).

A complete Paya-Kuna language guide can be found in the archives of the Summer Institute of Linguistics International. This includes alphabet construction, pronunciation keys and learning guidelines which were published, copyrighted, and archived by Keith Forster.

(<https://www.sil.org/system/files/reapdata/>

[52/88/95/52889502165272309191140937197112082328/LCDD\\_14\\_Paya\\_Kuna.pdf](https://www.sil.org/system/files/reapdata/52/88/95/52889502165272309191140937197112082328/LCDD_14_Paya_Kuna.pdf))

Brian also refers to himself by the title Doctor. His doctorate degree is in "Practical Ministry" with a specialization in prayer, from a non-accredited online institution founded by another hyper-charismatic leader – C. Peter Wagner - Wagner University. Wagner was instrumental in popularizing the term "New Apostolic Reformation" (NAR). The curriculum at this school is not traditional in either the doctrinal or academic sense. Largely designed to train Apostles and Prophets, it's full of the same mumbo-jumbo that gets circulated and taught in overpriced NAR conferences. The Wagner University website claims that they are teaching toward a goal centered on that deceptive "7 Mountains Mandate" I mentioned earlier. This is the quote from their website: "...learn how to impact the seven mountains that influence our world...". Wagner university states on their website that all of their degree

programs, bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. can be completed in 24-30 months. By contrast, most doctorate programs at accredited colleges average 6 years to complete. These people are handing out very flimsy online diplomas that wouldn't be highly regarded by anyone other than their own crowd of insiders. And, as it turns out, Brian Simmons is listed on the staff of the this school, along with some of the highest ranking leaders in the NAR movement. And yes, they all have PH.D.'s from this school! Brian is part of an elite crowd of very wealthy teachers and false prophets who are patting each other on the back, and prospering off of the Church by peddling products. When it comes to Brian's experience and his credentials, I'm not sure where the line is between exaggerating and telling lies. But, the question of Brian's integrity becomes even more important when we consider his claims about TPT's origin.

It is not completely unheard of for a single individual to do Bible translation work, but it is rare, and demands an extraordinary level of scrutiny. Bible translation is normally undertaken by a large team of language experts, many of which have decades of study in very specific areas of language specialties. Having a diverse team provides multiple layers of accountability in the translation process. Then, there is normally a process of peer review by a much larger group of scholars to debate the merits of how things were translated. For example, more than 100 scholars worked for ten years on the NIV translation, and if you include peer reviewers and outside advisers, the number is about twice that high. Fifty scholars on the translation team for the New American Standard Bible were doctorate level experts on Biblical languages, and most were tenured professors at the most prestigious colleges in the world. In modern Bible translation, much thought goes into assuring a translation team has a diversity of skills, theological perspectives, and denominational backgrounds. This helps cancel out bias and self imposed agendas. The only commonly expected deviation from this standard is translation work for indigenous tribes, where the language is so obscure that only a few know it.

It is virtually impossible for a single individual to translate the Bible without imposing their own human and doctrinal bias. There are some notable exceptions in history who's works are highly valued, such as William Tyndale, Martin Luther, and N.T. Wright. However, these men had exceptionally high levels of training and competence in the original languages, something Brian doesn't possess. After much criticism for pursuing his work solo, Brian posted a list of professionals who have supposedly reviewed his work and given it the stamp of approval. There are some obvious problems with the names on that list, but it seems unnecessary at this point to labor over that issue.

### **Where Did Brian Get His Inspiration For This Project?**

Brian claims to have named this work "Passion", after an encounter with an angel by the same name. He asserts that he had a personal manifestation of Jesus Christ who commissioned and largely dictated this new Bible. He claims that in the process, he was given secret revelations known only to him, which helped him rewrite the Bible. Here's a quote from Brian: "he promised me that he would give me secrets of the Hebrew language". The word "secrets" is a red flag. And once again, this aligns with the hyper-charismatic Gnostic mindset, a need for secret knowledge that hasn't already been made freely available to everyone, through the revelation of Jesus Christ. Brian has also stated that he went to God's library in Heaven and saw an extra chapter to the Gospel of John, which was promised to him for a later time. Everything about this should set off alarm bells! This is EXACTLY how the false translations

of the major cults were birthed. This is a repeat of the Joseph Smith story, when he authored the Book of Mormon. A new secret revelation which the angel of light declared was superior to the existing Holy Bible. The Bible itself warns us about this deception:

*“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”*  
(2 Cor 11:14)

*“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse!”* (Gal 1:8)

All of the above claims from Brian are found in many different interviews and online statements, but the following interview is fairly comprehensive: ([sidroth.org/television/tv-archives/brian-simmons](http://sidroth.org/television/tv-archives/brian-simmons)).

Brain makes a big deal out of the uniqueness of the TPT, based on his work translating much of the New Testament from Aramaic. And, he does accurately assert that Jesus would have spoken Aramaic while walking the Earth. However, here's the problem: There are no known copies of the New Testament in 1st Century Galileean Aramaic. There is a 5th Century Syriac Aramaic Bible called the Peshitta. But, it's from 400-500 years after the Greek New Testament was written, and Jesus did not speak Syriac Aramaic. Although the Aramaic translation has merit, and is more commonly accepted amongst Eastern Orthodox churches, the oldest original NT manuscripts that exist are written in Koine Greek. If Brian is translating from Aramaic, he is translating from a translation, or a translation of a translation, that is further removed from the original text. Further more, the quality of a translation derived from Greek would be exponentially superior over Aramaic. Greek is the oldest recorded living language, and one of the most influential and wide spread in history. Most respected scholars are rolling their eyes at the idea of improving the Bible with the Aramaic manuscripts. This is just more Gnostic nonsense about discovering **secret** knowledge that can make the Bible better. Brian has spoken extensively about his “god given revelation” to unlock secret mysteries found in homonyms throughout the Bible – total nonsense!

Currently, the TPT is not recognized as a valid translation on biblehub.com and was removed from gateway.com after further scrutiny. The provided examples below should serve as a warning, and help you make an informed decision. Let us have a careful look at the TPT together, but first, let us ask: is there even a need for a new English translation?

### **Is a New Translation Needed?**

There are 2 billion people in the world that do not have a fully translated Bible in their language ([wycliffe.net/resources/statistics](http://wycliffe.net/resources/statistics)). And yet, since William Tyndale's first English language Bible, there have been approximately 900 printed translations and variations of the Bible in the English language. The current availability of English Bibles in print, phone app, and on-line format, is huge. And, many of those available, such as the NIV, are on a 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading level, with some at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading level. Since there is such a wide array of highly regarded English Bibles to choose from, it's hard to see how another English translation could benefit us, even one that was well executed. Quite frankly, another English translation feels a little spoiled and self-indulgent, when there are others without any translation.

Perhaps there is merit in keeping up with our ever evolving English language, but blatant attempts to add or take away from what was originally written, is at best grossly irresponsible, at worst nefarious, but either way, it is deceptive. The Lord takes this very serious for reasons that should be obvious.

*I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book. (Rev 22:18-19)*

*“Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.” (Deut 4:2)*

*“Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar.”  
(Prov 30:5-6)*

### **Could a New Translation Benefit You?**

Let us also stop and consider what a Translation should and should not do for us. One cannot deny that Bible translation presents some uniquely difficult challenges, that are not present when translating secular books. It seems noble to reduce God’s words to a form most easily digested by the human mind, but God’s word is not intended to provide intellectual knowledge. Even though we filter everything we read through our mind, the Bible is intended to be a revelation to your spirit, challenging your spirit to spiritual maturity. In fact, most of what’s written in the Bible is not supposed to be understood without divine revelation.

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor 1:18)*

Revelations about Jesus Christ, that involve the likes of drinking his blood, eating his flesh, carrying around his death in our body, or being born again, will never make proper sense to the human mind, unless it is understood in your spirit.

*“So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man, you have no life in you’...On hearing this, many of His disciples said, ‘This is a difficult teaching. Who can accept it?’...From that time on many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him.” (Jn 6:56-66)*

Our efforts to make the Bible more accessible will never remove the overwhelming majesty of the truth. The Bible is revealing the very personality and essence of the eternal, ever-present, all-knowing, all-powerful God. This is inherently mysterious and difficult for mere humans, and the desire to dumb it down is usually a mistake. Our expectation should be on the hope that Christ reveals himself to us through his word, but unless he does, the translation won’t matter:

*“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”  
(Lk 24:45)*



In fact, Jesus tells us that he deliberately obscures the truth from those who are curious, but not sincere in their desire to be obedient:

*“...all the people crowded along the shore. And, he taught them many things in parables...then Jesus said, ‘He who has ears, let him hear’.*

*Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Why do You speak to the people in parables?”*

*He replied, “The knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been **given to you, but not to them**. Whoever has, will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.”*

*(Mt 13, Lk 8, Mk 4)*

Why would God hide the truth from those who are not sincere?

*“Do not give dogs what is holy; do not throw your pearls before swine. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.” (Mt 7:6)*

The things revealed through the Bible are God’s pearls. The Lord is literally sharing his most personal inward thoughts and desires through his word. There are many things that only my wife knows and understands about me, and likewise, it is the same with Christ and his bride. And, no translation, regardless of how modern or how embellished, will ever reveal anything about Jesus that he doesn’t want to reveal to you personally. There is no perfect translation, only a perfect revelation. And, it is important to note that even those who hear the word and understand it, but refuse to act on it, end up deceived anyway.

*“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.” (Jms 1:22)*

Hearing the word, but refusing to repent can leave you in a worse condition than the first:

*If indeed they have escaped the corruption of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, only to be entangled and overcome by it again, their final condition is worse than it was at first. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and then to turn away from the holy commandment passed on to them.” (2 Pet 2:20-21)*

### **What Do We Find In The TPT If We Dig Deeper?**

The problem with “The Passion Translation”, is found in the name. This book is not, by any traditional standard, a translation. In fact, so much has been arbitrarily added to the scriptures, that it hardly even qualifies as a properly executed paraphrase. The Passion is a

rewrite of the Bible with many words, phrases and ideas added, which are not found in the original text. Some have likened this work to a “Targum”. A Targum is a type of Jewish translation that rewrites Books of the Bible with commentary, explanations, and artistic or poetic embellishments added. Now let’s take a close look at what Brian has written, starting with these quotes from him, as stated in the FAQ’s on his website:

“... the meaning of a passage took priority over the form of the original words. Sometimes in order to communicate the correct intended meaning, words needed to be changed.”

“The Passion Translation is more in favor of prioritizing God’s original message over the words’ literal meaning.”

When the author tells us that he had to change the wording of the Bible to get “the correct intended meaning”, he is signaling to us that he has provided, at least to some degree, interpretation instead of translation. Many of the words that were changed are blatantly problematic, but equally alarming is how many words have been added, sometimes entire paragraphs! The Psalms as written in the TPT contain 30% more text. Look at Colossians, it’s 81% longer than the original Greek, and he’s added 43% more to Ephesians. This is not just a few clarifying words, this is someone expounding on the text according to his own whims. Psalm 23:1 is a simple example to start with (In my examples, text that was added by Brian, will be highlighted in red).

### **Psalm 23:1**

New International Version

*“A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”*

Berean Standard Bible

*“A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*

New American Standard Bible

*“A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need.”*

TPT

*“The Lord is **my best friend** and my shepherd. I always have more than enough.”*

Notice that he added the phrase, “my best friend”, which is not what King David wrote. That phrase is not found in the original Hebrew text. Yes, it sounds lovely, and there is no doubt that this was written to be likable. But, we cannot put words into God’s mouth and change what he said to suit our own desires. We cannot even take true statements and just add them anywhere we want. Woe to anyone who thinks they can rewrite the Bible to make it better! We were warned this would happen, but people are falling for it anyway.

*“For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” (2 Tim 4:4)*



## 2 Tim 4:2

### New International Version

*“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”*

### Berean Standard Bible

*“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction.”*

### New American Standard Bible

*“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”*

### TPT

*“proclaim the word of God and stand upon it no matter what! Rise to the occasion and preach when it is convenient and when it is not. Preach in the full expression of the Holy Spirit - with wisdom and patience as you instruct and teach the people.”*

Are you seeing this? He completely leaves out the phrase, *“correct, rebuke and encourage”* which is the core meaning of the verse, and then adds completely random phrases.

## Song of Solomon 2:13

### New International Version

*“The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. ‘Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.’”*

### Berean Standard Bible

*“The fig tree ripens its figs; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. ‘Arise, come away, my darling; come away with me, my beautiful one.’”*

### New American Standard Bible

*“The fig tree has ripened its figs, And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance. ‘Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along!’”*

### TPT

*“Can you not discern this new day of destiny breaking forth around you? The early signs of my purposes and plans are bursting forth. The budding vines of new life are now blooming everywhere. The fragrance of their flowers whispers, ‘There is change in the air.’ Arise, my love, my beautiful companion, and run with me to the higher place. For now is the time to arise and come away with me.”*

This scripture is normally translated in 23-26 words, but Brian uses 72 words...and, he doesn't even mention the Fig tree! The fig tree is a meaningful symbol that God has chosen to use throughout the Bible, and yet Brian chose to just leave it out? This entire book in the TPT is just like this, it doesn't even remotely read like what God spoke. This is shameful!

## Matthew 7:19

New International Version

*“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

Berean Standard Bible

*“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

New American Standard Bible

*“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

TPT

*“So if the tree is good, it will produce good fruit; but if the tree is bad, it will bear only rotten fruit and **deserves to be** cut down and burned.”*

What? He changes “is cut down” to “deserves to be cut down”. The Bible warns us over and over that those who do not bear good fruit are counterfeit Christians. They will be cut off and cast into The Lake of Fire. Brian wants to soften it and make it more likable. Look what he does in the next example from John 15, where Christ again speaks of not bearing good fruit.

## John 15:2

New International Version

*“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”*

Berean Standard Bible

*“He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, and every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes to make it even more fruitful.”*

New American Standard Bible

*“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.”*

TPT

*“**He cares for the branches connected to me by lifting and propping up the fruitless branches and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest.**”*

Oh, what has he done! Read the entire chapter of Matthew 7 (in a real Bible). Jesus is speaking to his chosen people who are religious but don’t live holy lives. Brian wants you to be comfortable and feel good. But Jesus is clear on this, he’s going to cut off hypocrites who’ve been sitting in the pews for decades without actually producing *“fruit in keeping with repentance”* (Mt 3:10).

Matt 7 tells us, *“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!’”* (Mt 7:23)

## Mark 1:15

### New International Version

*“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

### Berean Standard Bible

*“The time is fulfilled,” He said, “and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel!”*

### New American Standard Bible

*and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

### TPT

*“His message was this: “At last the fulfillment of the age has come! It is time for God’s kingdom to be experienced in its fullness! Turn your lives back to God and put your trust in the hope-filled gospel!”*

Notice he takes the word “repent” out of the verse, and replaces it with “turn your lives back to God”. By doing that, he is leaving out half of what the original Greek word demands. Repentance is more than turning to God, it is changing your mind about sin. This is why Peter says, *“Repent, then, **and** turn to God” (Acts 3:19)*. Likewise, Paul says, *“they should repent **and** turn to God” (Acts 26:20)* and again in Acts 20, *“they must turn to God **in** repentance” (Acts 20:21)*. When I preach on the streets, even worldly people know what the word repent means – abandon sin and get right with God. Of the 29 translations I looked up, 28 use the word “repent” and 1 says, “stop sinning **and** turn to God”. False teachers don’t want to mention sin, repentance, or holiness because it doesn’t fill seats or offering buckets.

## Psalms 19:9

### New International Version

*“He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”*

### Berean Standard Bible

*“He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”*

### New American Standard Bible

*“He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”*

### TPT

*“You’ve trained me **with the weapons of warfare-worship**; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”*

Once again, this sounds great, but it’s not what God said. I don’t know how to say this any clearer – we can’t put words into God’s mouth. Even if it’s words that sound good, feel good or accurately portray things we know are true.

### **Psalm 13:6**

New International Version

*"I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me."*

Berean Standard Bible

*"I will sing to the LORD, for He has been good to me."*

New American Standard Bible

*"I will sing to the LORD, Because He has looked after me."*

TPT

*"I will sing my song of joy to you, YAHWEH, for in all of this you have strengthened my soul. My enemies say that I have no savior, but I know that I have one in you!"*

### **Psalm 39:13**

New International Version

*"Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again before I depart and am no more."*

Berean Standard Bible

*"Turn Your gaze away from me, that I may again be cheered before I depart and am no more."*

New American Standard Bible

*"Turn Your eyes away from me, that I may become cheerful again Before I depart and am no more."*

TPT

*"Don't let me die without restoring joy and gladness to my soul. May your frown over my failure become a smile over my success."*

What on earth? I'm not trying to be tacky, but this literally sounds like something from a motivational poster on a kindergarten wall.

### **John 19:30**

New International Version

*"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

Berean Standard Bible

*"When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished.' And bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit."*

New American Standard Bible

*"Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."*

TPT

*“When he had sipped the sour wine, he said, “it is finished, **my bride!**” Then he bowed his head and surrendered his spirit to God.”*

These scriptures are so holy, I’m shocked that someone would be deceived enough to brazenly tamper with them!

### **John 1:1**

New International Version

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

Berean Standard Bible

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

New American Standard Bible

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

TPT

*“In the beginning the **Living Expression** was already there. And the **Living Expression** was with God, yet fully God.”*

Obviously, “word” has been replaced with “living expression”. The Greek word is “logos” (λόγος, ου, ό). It’s one of the most common words in the NT, used 330 times. I looked at 46 English translations of this scripture and they all translate the same. The phrase “living expression” undermines a very important theme in the Bible. The phrase, “**God said**”, is repeated 9 times in the first Chapter of the Bible. Jesus tells us, “**my words will never pass away**” (Mt 24:35). Look at how often phrases like these are written in the Bible: “**Then the Lord spoke to Mosses**”, “**Then God spoke to Noah**”, “**He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud**”, “**As he spoke to me the Spirit entered me**”. Life comes out of God in his breath when he speaks, and Jesus is the incarnate “Word” of God. “**The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.**” (Jn 1:14) And now, “**in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**” (Heb 1:2). The term “living expression” isn’t necessarily a wrong statement, but it’s poor translating that complicates and distracts from a foundational Bible concept – Jesus Christ is the living **Word** of God!

### **2 Tim 3:1**

New International Version

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.”*

Berean Standard Bible

*“But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come.”*

New American Standard Bible

*“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.”*

TPT

*“But you need to be aware that in the final days **the culture of society will become extremely fierce.**”*

I could go on and on, but 14 examples should be enough. Brian has certainly accomplished the goal of writing something that has the honey of romance dripping off of every page. But, the Bible is God's expression to his bride, not Brian's. Can you imagine if you wrote a love letter to your spouse, and her response was to rewrite it the way she wanted it worded? Brian has great potential as a writer, I hope that he eventually repents, and uses his gift for something other than perverting God's Word.