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How are new versions hurting Christians?

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The Old Testament records many times when the nation of Israel was just one generation away from total apostasy. King James verses are still widely quoted by a generation of pastors and teachers who have memorized its passages. Many salvations are resulting from this. The new birth occurs from the KJV seed. First Peter 1:23 says: *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

Step 1. *"The sower soweth the word"* (Mark 4:14, KJV).

Step 2. *"Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word"* (Mark 4:15).

Some pastors are unwisely handing new converts versions like the NIV, in which sixty-four thousand words have been *taken away*. What did we just read? *"Satan cometh immediately,"* as soon as *"the sower soweth the word"* *"and taketh away the word."* The spirit is reborn, but the spiritual growth is going to be aborted.

Please consider the possible parallelism of these two events. The year is 1973. With *Roe vs. Wade*, the Supreme Court legalizes abortion. The NIV New Testament is published. The first attacked the babe in the womb; the second attacked the babe in scripture. The womb was once the safest place for the baby; the church was once the safest place for the teachings of Christ to babes in Christ. But once again, he is "*wounded in the house of my friends*" (Zech. 13:6).

I maintain there is no need to contend for NIV crumbs when the master's table is laden with "*the children's bread*" (Matt. 15:26). Many people are being born again through this KJV seed, but we are seeing a body of Christ starving and withering on the vine. We may see some new births, but there are eight things we are not seeing:

- 1. We are not seeing personal spiritual growth. Acts 20:32 talks about "*the word of his grace, which is able to build you up.*" Christians are not being built up.**
- 2. We do not see a clean church. John 15:3 says, "*Ye are clean through the word.*"**
- 3. We see confusion in terms of doctrine. New versions are not easier to understand; they are much easier to *misunderstand* doctrinally. John 17:17 says, "*thy word is truth.*" We do not know what the truth is anymore in the church. There is so much confusion and contradiction.**
- 4. The church no longer has its offensive weapon. Ephesians 6:17 talks about "*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*" We can have on the rest of the armor of God, and the devil can walk**

up to us and knock us flat on our backs, unless we have the *"whole armour"* (Eph. 6:11), which includes the sword, our offensive weapon. With the sword we can *"resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7), just as Jesus did when Satan tempted him in Luke 4. Jesus said, *"It is written."*

5. The church is not expressing fruit. In John 6:63 Jesus said, *"the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit."* They are not ordinary words. The *"fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering"* (Gal. 5:22). (Christians will not have love, joy, and peace in their hearts, if they are not imbibing the true word of God daily. Our flesh cannot give us the fruit of the Spirit, but the word of God can.)
6. Christians wonder why prayer is not answered. In John 15:7 Jesus says, *"If...my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will."* Many people are praying and praying and praying, and since the word does not abide in them, their prayers are going unanswered.
7. Many Christians are anxious and comfortless. Psychological counseling moved into the church along with the new versions, because new versions strip the word of God of its comforting power. First Thessalonians 4:18 says, *"Comfort one another with these words."* Even the Comforter himself is omitted and replaced by the Jehovah Witnesses term, the Helper (NKJV, John 14:16). The omission in most new versions of Jesus' promise to *"heal the brokenhearted"* in Luke 4:18 is just one of scores of unsettling word changes.

8. **The church will not be prepared for the judgment seat of Christ. John 12:48 says, *"The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."* Without guidance from the true word of God, some Christians may miss rewards God would have liked to give them.**

However, there is one rather temporary advantage in using a "new" bible version: you will not be persecuted. Isaiah 66:5 indicates that those Christians who *"tremble at his word"* will be *"hated"* and *"cast"* out by their *"brethren."* The advantage is temporary, though, because these *"brethren"* will be *"ashamed"* at the coming of the LORD. *"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."* So, if someone takes your head off for standing for the word of God, know that it is merely a foreboding shadow of the coming tribulation when saints will be *"beheaded... for the word of God"* (Rev. 20:4) and *"slain for the word"* (Rev. 6:9).