

# 1 John 4:16 – RVR95 vs NVI

## Complete Study Conversation Record (Vocabulary, Grammar, Theology, Cross-linguistic)

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### 1. Initial Comparison: RVR95 vs NVI (Spanish)

#### Texts

##### RVR95 (Reina-Valera 1995):

> Y nosotros hemos conocido y creído el amor que Dios tiene para con nosotros. Dios es amor, y el que permanece en amor permanece en Dios y Dios en él.

##### NVI (Nueva Versión Internacional):

> Y nosotros hemos llegado a saber y creer que Dios nos ama. Dios es amor. El que permanece en amor, en Dios permanece y Dios en él.

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### 2. Vocabulary Comparison: conocer vs saber

#### conocer

- Experiential, relational knowledge
- Knowing through encounter, relationship, lived experience
- Closely reflects Greek γινώσκω (ginōskō)
- Common in biblical and theological contexts for “knowing God”

#### In RVR95:

- hemos conocido ... el amor
  - Emphasis: believers have **experienced** God’s love
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#### saber

- Factual, propositional knowledge
- Knowing information or recognizing a truth
- Common in everyday modern Spanish

**In NVI:**

- hemos llegado a saber que Dios nos ama
  - Emphasis: believers have **come to recognize as true** that God loves them
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**Key Insight**

- RVR95 focuses on **relational knowledge**
  - NVI focuses on **recognized truth**
  - Both are faithful, but they highlight different dimensions of knowing
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### **3. Grammar Comparison**

**RVR95**

- Two perfect verbs: hemos conocido y creído
- Direct object noun phrase: el amor
- Preserves Greek syntax and object focus
- Formal-equivalence translation philosophy

**NVI**

- Periphrastic construction: hemos llegado a saber
  - Content clause: que Dios nos ama
  - Adds a sense of process (“arriving at knowledge”)
  - Dynamic-equivalence translation philosophy
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### **4. Theological Nuance**

**RVR95**

- Love treated as a **theological reality**
- Emphasizes covenantal, lived relationship
- Aligns strongly with Johannine theology of “knowing God”

**NVI**

- Love expressed as a **personal assurance**
- Emphasizes clarity and accessibility for modern readers
- The relational aspect is present but implicit

**Shared theology:**

- God's essence = love
  - Abiding in love = abiding in God
  - Mutual indwelling between God and believer
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## 5. English Parallels

English lacks two separate verbs, but uses constructions:

**Fact-based (saber)**

- I know that God loves me.
- I realize that God loves me.

**Relational / experiential (conocer)**

- I know God.
- I have come to know God's love.
- I have experienced God's love.

**Key English tool:**

> “come to know”

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## 6. Chinese Vocabulary Comparison

**知道 (zhīdào)**

- Factual knowledge
- Information-based
- Equivalent to **saber**

Example:

- 我知道神爱我

I know that God loves me.

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**認識 / 认识 (rènshi)**

- Relational, experiential knowledge
- Standard biblical term for “knowing God”
- Equivalent to **conocer**

Example:

- 我認識神

I know God.

**Chinese Bible usage:**

- Consistently prefers 認識 in 1 John 4:16

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### Additional Chinese Terms

- 明白 – intellectual understanding (not relational enough)
  - 體會 / 体会 – deep experience (used more in commentary)
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## 7. Japanese Vocabulary Comparison

知る / 知っている

- Knowing facts or being aware
- Can refer to people, but often shallow acquaintance
- Closest to **saber**

Example:

- 神が私を愛していると知っている

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分かる

- To understand
  - Cognitive comprehension, not relational
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体験する

- To experience deeply
  - Strong experiential meaning
  - Rarely used in Bible translations, common in explanation
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### Japanese Bible Strategy

- Relational meaning often carried by **context**, not verb choice
- Heavy use of:
  - 信じる (believe)

– 住む / とどまる (abide, remain)

**Key shift:**

- From knowing → believing → abiding

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## 8. Cross-linguistic Mapping

Meaning	Spanish	English	Chinese	Japanese
Fact knowl- edge	saber	know that	知道	知っている
Relational knowing	conocer	know / come to know	認識	(contextual 知る)
Experiential emphasis	conocer pro- fundamente	experience	體會	体験する
Covenant knowing	conocer a Dios	know God	認識神	神を知る (文脈)

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## 9. Core Johannine Insight

Across languages, 1 John 4:16 consistently moves through:

**Knowing → Believing → Abiding**

The verse is not primarily about information,  
but about **living in a relationship defined by divine love**.

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End of full conversation record.