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STUDY GUIDE

WHAT BIBLE?

*life
groups*

WHAT BIBLE?

Q. WHICH TRANSLATION SHOULD YOU USE?

"Some may ask, why are there so many translations of the Bible? Well, why are there so many brands of dictionaries? Is it because we recognise the value of different approaches, but ultimately trust that each dictionary will still bring across the same basic meaning of each word? The same applies for the different versions of the Bible. So rest assured that any of the various translations of the Bible are to an even greater extent as accurate as your copy of a dictionary, and that is why you, with billions of others, can trust the information from the Bible as being true". – Born 4 BC

There are three basic approaches to translation including:

Literal Translation (word for word)

Striving to stay as close as possible to the original wording, even if some of the meaning or understanding is lost (NASB, NRSV, KJV). i.e. The translators try to be very literal to the words and sentence structure of the Greek and Hebrew. That's why they can be difficult to read, as sentence structure is attempting to remain true to the original.

Paraphrases

More conceptual – do not try to translate word for word (e.g. New Living Translation (NLT), The Message) adds interpretive comments within the text. It is not an accurate word-for-word reflection of the original but tries to convey the meaning of the text even if new words have to be added in order to ensure that the meaning is understood. This is why they are much easier to read than other styles.

It is not wise to take theology just from paraphrases as often meaning shifts slightly in translation. They tend to be written in the street language of the day (slang) and words change meaning, so it's easy to misinterpret.

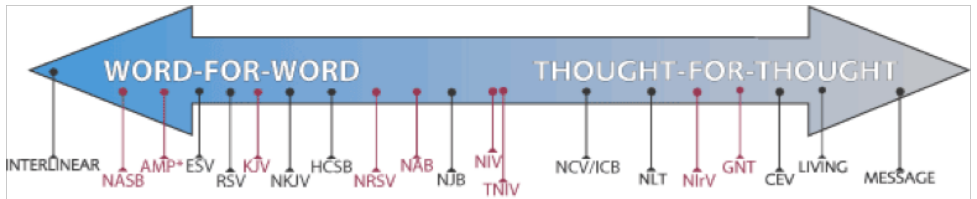
Dynamic Equivalents (thought for thought)

Between a literal translation and a paraphrase, staying close to the original text but translating figures of speech unique to the Biblical languages into equivalent figures of speech in the new language. They try to be faithful to the ideas being conveyed and feel it is acceptable to change the words to greater or lesser degrees.

(Adapted from <http://www.tecmalta.org/tft101.htm>)12005

Literal Translations	Dynamic Equivalents	Paraphrases
King James Version (KJV)	New International Version	The Living Bible
New King James Version (NKJV)	New Jerusalem Bible	The Message
New American Standard (NASB)	Revised English Bible	
Revised Standard Version (RSV)	New Jewish Version	
	Today's English Version/GNB	





NASB	<i>New American Standard Bible</i>	NJB	<i>New Jerusalem Bible</i>
AMP	<i>Amplified Bible</i>	NIV	<i>New International Version</i>
ESV	<i>English Standard Version</i>	TNIV	<i>Todays New International Version</i>
RSV	<i>Revised standard version</i>	NCV	<i>New Century Version</i>
KJV	<i>King James Version</i>	NLT	<i>New Living Testament</i>
NKJV	<i>New king James Version</i>	NirV	<i>New international readers Version</i>
HCSB	<i>Holman Christian Standard Bible</i>	GNT	<i>Good News Translation</i>
NRSV	<i>New Revised Standard Version</i>	CEV	<i>Contemporary English Version</i>
NAB	<i>New American Bible</i>		

ISBN: 978-0-310-94027-2 (from: <http://www.zondervanbibles.com/translations.htm>)



The Inspiration of the Bible

When we say the Bible is the “inspired word of God” do we mean:

- » *Naturalistic Inspiration* - like great writers and artists are inspired when they produce great works of literature or music or art.
- » *Partial Inspiration* - parts of the Bible may be inspired and other parts not inspired.
- » *Dynamic Inspiration* - the ‘thoughts’ are inspired, but not the words.
- » *Encounter Inspiration* - the Bible becomes “inspired” when, and only when, it “inspires” the reader.
- » *Full Inspiration* - both the words and thoughts of the Bible are inspired and convey exactly what God wanted to say. God has not allowed man to make any significant (doctrinal or theological) mistakes in its writing, hereby preserving exactly what he wanted to say to man.
- » *Verbal Plenary Inspiration* - both the words and thoughts are completely and literally inspired, absolutely free of any type (inc spelling, numbers etc) of mistake and conveying exactly what God wished to say to man.

Or maybe something else? (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

The Holy Scriptures are the unique and all-embracing revelation of God, coming from the Father of lights, and flowing through chosen pen-men to be received, believed and obeyed by the church, and indeed by all human beings (as is their duty as God’s creatures). The Holy Spirit breathed upon the human vessels the very thoughts and words He wanted written. This flowed through the human channels involving their emotions, character and personalities. In writing Scripture God did not use men as machines; He never violated their personality, but rather prepared them for such a high task.

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STUFF TO TALK ABOUT

– HEAD –

YOUNG	What translation of the bible should you read? Psalm 119:148
GROWING	What bible translation would you give a new Christian and why? 1 Peter 2:2
MATURE	What should you think about when choosing a translation?

– HEART –

YOUNG	What is your favourite verse and why?
GROWING	Where in the Bible have you been reading and what has God been saying to you through it? 2 Timothy 2:15
MATURE	How have you used the Bible to help someone recently? 2 Timothy 3:16

– HANDS –

YOUNG	How can you read the Bible so it is useful in your everyday life?
GROWING	How have you applied the Bible in your life over the last week?
MATURE	Pick a Biblical principle and explain 2 areas/ways in which you could apply it, E.g. sowing and reaping, dignity for all, unity, overcoming faith, excellence, celebrating, receiving counsel, multiplying talents, vision.



STUFF TO DO

With another person, read a passage from the Bible and discuss how you can apply it to your lives.

Pray together for the grace to do this in the coming week.

PRAYER POINTS & COMING UP

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday 17th April

PASSOVER PRAYER MEETING - Tuesday 19th April

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 22nd April

EASTER & FAMILY SUNDAY - Sunday 24th April

EASTER MONDAY - Monday 25th April





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