

Lost in Translations
Part #2 – The Word of God: Many Translations, One Truth

2 Peter 1:16-21

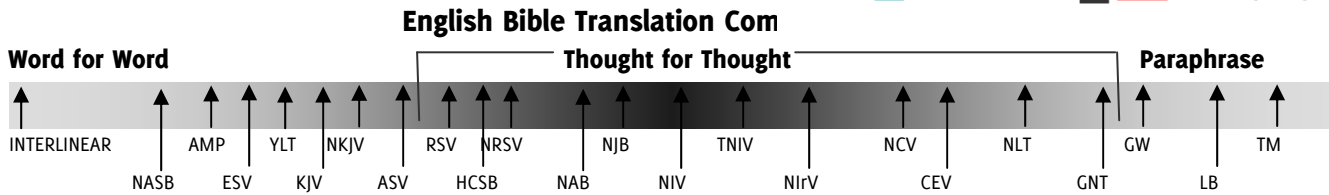
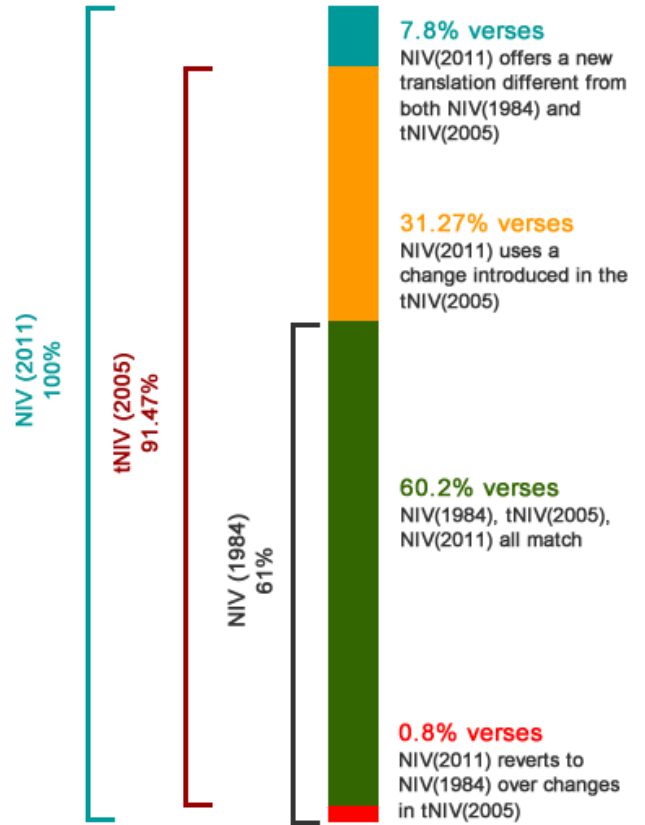
2 Timothy 3:16a (NASB) – All Scripture is inspired by God...

Another New NIV by Marvin Olasky

World Magazine January 01, 2011

More than 7,000 different Bible editions now exist. People read eBibles on computers, Kindles, iPads, or whatever. For the record, blogger John Dyer found that 91 percent of the words in the new NIV, expected to hit bookstores in March, are unchanged from the old version. Most-removed words: "He," "his," or "him" 2,700 times, "man" or "men" 1,600 times, and "fathers," "forefathers," or "brothers" 500 times.

"Person," "ancestor," and "they" are three of the gap-fillers, but this translation sometimes maintains the role of the individual and sometimes doesn't (Psalm 146:5). The most-criticized retranslated verse is 1 Timothy 2:12. The CMBW notes that virtually every translation, whether traditional or modern, has Paul writing that in church a woman is not to "have" or "exercise authority" over a man—but the new NIV has "assume authority." Critics argue that readers may conclude women can be pastors as long as they don't engage in a power grab.



Three Approaches of Translation

Approach #1 – Word for Word (Literal)

A literal or “word for word” translation seeks to represent the original Greek and Hebrew in a more word for word manner. This method assures that each English word is represented by a Greek or Hebrew word, not some expansion or interpretation by the translators. If a Hebrew or Greek word means to “run” then literal translators should render the word “run” in the target language instead of shuffle, amble, move, skip, prance, or stroll, because neither of these verbs convey the most literal sense of running. **Examples:** New American Standard Bible, King James Version, Revised Standard Bible, and the New King James Version.

Example of a Literal Translation Text: Revelation 3:20 (NASB)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Approach #2 – Paraphrase

A paraphrase translation is not as concerned with original word order or sentence structure as it is the idea of the passage. This type of translation seeks to translate the ideas in the original text as accurately as possible in the target language. Paraphrases are more than just translation, for by definition, the author tries to place besides the correct translation, “other words” which contain similar meanings. This frequently employs the use of a commentary to help translate it and becomes a pocket commentary instead of a true translation. **Examples:** The Living Bible & The Message.

Example of a Paraphrase Translation Text: Revelation 3:20 (The Message)

Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you.

Approach #3 – Thought for Thought (Dynamic)

A dynamic or “thought for thought” translation strives for a balance between the two mentioned above. The goal of this type of translation is to render the idea conveyed by the original language into that of the target language. **Examples:** New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, and New American Bible)

Example of a Dynamic Translation Text: Revelation 3:20 (NIV 2011)

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Series Summary

Is the Bible really the inspired Word of God? How did we get the Bible? Why are there so many translations and which one is best for me? If you have ever asked any of these questions then this series will speak to you. We will study the authority, inspiration, and reliability of the Bible as well as help each individual which translation is best for them.

Big Idea: The Word of God is Alive and Active**Main Passage**

2 Peter 1:16-21 (NASB) – ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"-- ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Four Testimonies of the Validity of the Word of God

Testimony #1 – The Apostles Testify With Eyewitness Accounts

- **2 Peter 1:16 (NASB)** – ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
- **Key Point** – The first key point that we examine in this text deals with the testimony of the Apostles with regard to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. Again here we observe that the Word of God is not just based on human myths but the inspired Word of God.

Testimony #2 – God Testifies to the Accuracy of His Word

- **2 Peter 1:17-18 (NASB)** – ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" -- ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text deals with the testimony of God with regard to His Son Jesus Christ. Again here we observe that the Word of God is not just based on human eyewitness accounts but also on the eyewitness account of God himself. He declares in Jesus Christ to be His Son thus declaring the reliability of the Word of God.

Testimony #3 – The Word of God Testifies to its Inspiration

- **2 Peter 1:19 (NASB)** – ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text deals with the testimony of the Word of God about itself. We observe that Word of God testifies about itself when it prophesies the coming Messiah in the Old Testament and shows the accuracy of that testimony in the fulfillment of those prophecies through Jesus Christ.

Testimony #4 – The Holy Spirit Testifies that the Word Comes from God

- **2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)** – ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text deals with the testimony of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit delivered the Word of God to the writers of each book and every letter inspiring them to write only what the Lord had given them to pass on to mankind. The Word of God comes from God alone.

Three Criteria

Criteria #1 – Accurate translation of the Hebrew and Greek Manuscripts

The first criteria brings out the clear point that in order to clearly understand that Word of God and His commands for our life, walk, and relationship with Him then we must have an accurate translation of His inspired Word. The word "translate" means: bearing or transferring the meaning of one language to another language. Remind yourself of the three different translation philosophies.

Criteria #2 – Translation that reflects a high view of Scripture

The second criteria brings out the clear point that the translation that you choose must reflect a high view of Scripture. This means that the translation believes and promotes the fundamental fact that the Word of God is inspired by God not meant to be manipulated by man to serve their own purpose.

Criteria #3 – Translations that Challenge You but that You Can Understand

The final criteria that we examine is extremely important. The KJV of the Bible is a good word-for-word translation but it utilizes words that might cause confusion for modern day readers. Some students of the bible love the KJV while others may get lost in some of the terminology. It is important that you ask yourself which Bible translation meets the previous two criteria and is still one that you can understand clearly in order to grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord.

Memory Verse

Psalm 119:11 (NIV 1984) – I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Application

Lost in Translation Challenge: Take a “Lost in Translations” booklet and read through each section. Study through each section with a small group or family members and learn more about the authority and reliability of the Word of God as well as which translation is best for you.

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