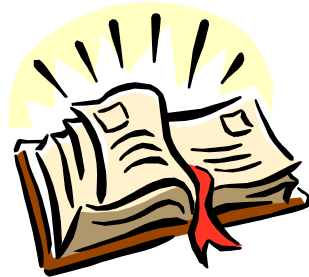


Pastor Phair's Bible Translation Recommendations



There are many beneficial English translations of the Bible. Pastor Phair especially recommends the New American Standard (NAS) and the New Living Translation (NLT).

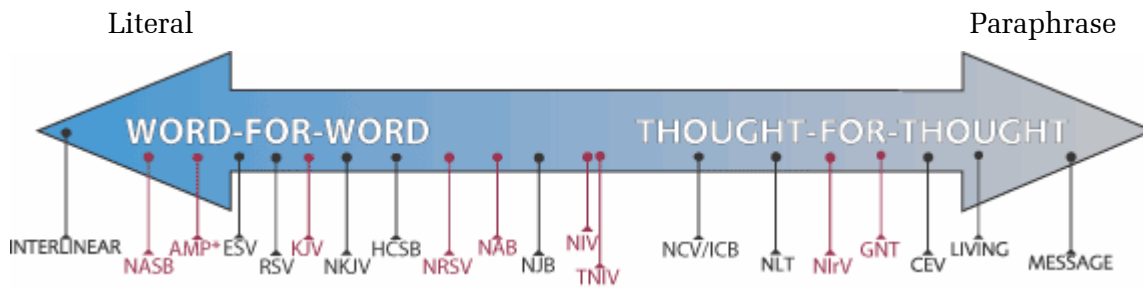
◆ **New American Standard Bible** (updated edition) is the most literally accurate Bible in the English language. It attempts to translate the original text word for word and to follow the original sentence structure with a minimum of interpretation in its translation (known as "formal equivalence": word-for-word). When conducting detailed Bible study in English, always consult the NASB. Its primary disadvantage is that it is more difficult to understand than some translations.

◆ **New Living Translation**, is an accurate and reliable translation of the original languages but is much clearer and more readable than many translations. The NLT translates (but does not paraphrase) entire thoughts (rather than just words) into natural, everyday English. It attempts to have the same impact on modern readers as the original text had on its initial audience (known as "dynamic/functional equivalence": thought-for-thought). Its primary disadvantage is that at times, it

engages in interpretation in order to make it clearer. I recommend this translation to my own family for their personal everyday reading and study.

Older children, new believers, and most teens, will usually only need to make use of the NLT. More mature Christ-followers will benefit from using both the NAS and the NLT in tandem. Pastor Phair believes it is preferable to choose either the most accurate translation for accuracy (NAS) or the most responsibly understandable translation for clarity (NLT). The best approach is to use not just one, but both a "Word-for-Word" translation and a "Thought-for-Thought" translation to achieve the best possible grasp of God's truth.

◆ The New International Version (NIV) is also a good translation. It is not as literally accurate as the NASB and not as clear as the NLT. It is the most popular among evangelicals. There is also Today's New International Version (TNIV). This translation moves the NIV a step further in the direction of the NLT, but still straddles between the strengths of the NASB & the NLT.



Translation	Reading Level	Readability	Translation Philosophy	Notes
NASB	11.0	Formal, difficult, highly accurate	Priority to word translation & word order	Highly respected for accuracy
NLT	6.3	Very readable, clear, reasonably accurate	Priority to meaning	Attempt at closest natural equivalent
NIV	7.8	Reasonably accurate, & smooth reading	Balance between word for word & thought for thought	Best selling
God's Word	5.8	Readable, reasonably accurate	Priority to meaning	Many Lutheran scholars
KJV	12.0	Difficult to read due to 17 th century English	Priority to word translation	Poetically beautiful, yet archaic
CEV	5.40	Simple, yet mature style	Meaning (thus interpretation) all important	Elementary-school level
The Message	4.8	Very modern paraphrase	Meaning (thus interpretation) all important, coupled with common, informal language	A bit flip, yet shock & freshness awakens reflection
Good News or TEV	7.29	Very simple	Meaning (thus interpretation) is all important	More of a paraphrase
HCSB				Southern Baptist

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