

A Description of Eight Recommended English Translations compiled by Jimmy Gentry who uses these eight most February 2010

***Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

Its simplicity is uncompromised. Grade schoolers, second language readers, and those who prefer a more contemporary form can easily read this text. It is not a paraphrase, but an accurate and faithful translation of the original manuscripts.

Published: 1995 Reading Level: Grade 5

English Standard Version (ESV)

An essentially "literal" translation that seeks, as far as possible, to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. It seeks to be transparent to the original text, letting the reader see as directly as possible the structure and meaning of the original.

Published: 2001, 2007 Reading Level: Grade 10

***Good News Translation (GNB)**

Formerly called the Good News for Modern Man, the Good News Bible, and/or Today's English Version. Published as a full Bible in 1976 as a "common language" Bible. Clear and simple language. Faithful to the Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, and Greek texts. Like the CEV, this is a faithful translation.

Published: 1976, 1992 Reading Level: Grade 7

■New American Standard Bible Update (NASB Update)

A revision of the American Standard Version (ASV) of 1901 and the New American Standard Bible of 1973. Preserves the literal accuracy of the ASV, rendering grammar and terminology in contemporary English. Verb tenses give a rendering as close as possible to the sense of the Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, and Greek texts.

Published: 1995 Reading Level: Grade 11

***New Century Version (NCV)**

Takes a pure "meaning for meaning" approach. Takes into account original language structure and Scriptural context to maintain accuracy and make the original message unmistakably clear. Expresses the Bible in everyday English making the Scriptures more readable and understandable.

Published: 1986, 2005 Reading Level: Grades 5 and 6

***New Living Translation (NLT)**

Based on scholarship in the theory of translation, translating entire thoughts (rather than just words) into natural, everyday English. Easy to read and understand. Accurately communicates the meaning of the original text. Not to be confused with *The Living Bible*, which is not a translation, but a paraphrase.

Published: 1996, 2004 Reading Level: Grade 6

***■New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

A fifth-generation descendant of the King James Version (KJV). A revision of the Revised Standard Version (RSV). In the New Testament, when Jesus' title is used among a Jewish audience it is rendered as "Messiah" rather than "Christ", providing a good witness to Jews. It is available with the Apocrypha, as a separate section. While these books are not inspired by the Holy Spirit, they are still useful for serious Bible study and interesting reading. Excellent for Christians familiar with the Bible. Tabernacle's pew Bibles in The Worship Center are the NRSV.

Published: 1989 Reading Level: Grade 10

***■Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

Built on the heritage of its predecessor, the New International Version (NIV), which was last updated in 1984. It clearly and accurately renders the English, which has evolved and changed since 1984. Due to unfortunate and unnecessary criticism of its gender inclusive language, the TNIV will not be published after 2011. Another revision of the NIV will be released in 2011, to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the 1611 KJV.

Published: 2001, 2005 Reading Level: Grade 7 and 8

***Gender Inclusive Language — "brothers and sisters" instead of "brothers" or "humankind" instead of "mankind."**

■Used consistently by Pastor Gentry.

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