

FINISHING THE BIBLE IN 365 DAYS

Have you heard of this plan of finishing the Bible in 365 days? Sounds awesome, isn't it?

As a child, I could do that easily using the Good News Bible. Those easy-to-understand English and those drawings! That Bible enthralled me as a kid. Now that I am an adult and have graduated from using a kid's Bible, completing the reading of the Bible in the New International Version within a year is something I always plan to do. Imagine starting the beginning of the year with Genesis and ending the year with Revelation! However, throughout the years, I found it difficult to keep up with the reading plan and would fail in my new year resolutions. I don't have any problems with daily devotions though. Just the part of reading books of the Bible systematically from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Once, I even confessed to my care group that I never seem to be able to walk out of Exodus the way the Israelites were able to walk out of Egypt!



Photo taken from one of the pages of the Good News Bible

How about this year?

Yay! A marked improvement! I've finally gotten out of Deuteronomy and into Joshua! What a marked improvement! However, I must make a disclaimer. The progress is made over a period of two years.

Shocking, huh?

Actually, I figured out the reason why I never seem to be able to finish the Bible in one year is that sometimes, a certain verse or chapter is so arresting that I can meditate on it for as long as a week. I remember sharing Deuteronomy 10:12-13 to my WhatsApp care group earlier this year on Mon, 27 March.

Fear the Lord

12 And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your

God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

The entire chapter arrested my attention. I COULD NOT MOVE AWAY FROM IT even though my plan for the day was to finish reading at least 3 chapters. As I reread the chapter over and over again, the words from Proverbs 9:10 came to mind: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

In the Bible, the word translated as 'fear' can mean several things. It can refer to the terror one feels in a frightening situation (Deuteronomy 2:25). It can mean 'respect' in the way a servant fears his master and serves him faithfully (Joshua 24:14). Fear can also denote the reverence or awe a person feels in the presence of greatness (Isaiah 6:5). The fear of the Lord is a combination of all of these.

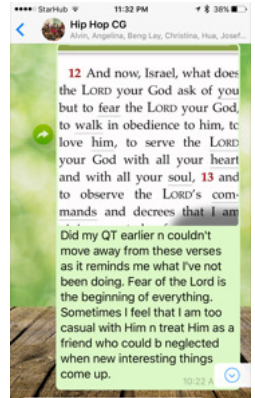
The link between the fear of God and wisdom means we cannot possess wisdom if we decide to recreate God in our own image, putting Him into the role of a non-threatening nobody or simply, just a 'friend'.

God Has 3,243,158,604 New Friend Requests

The word 'friend' used to mean something really specific. It was more than an acquaintance. They are people who have important things in common with you.

However, in our Facebook/social media world, the word 'friend' suddenly means a lot more. A 'friend' doesn't really need to have a relationship with you at all. The most remote, six-degrees-of-separation-relationships can now easily be promoted to 'friends.' All it takes to be someone's 'friend' is to 'friend' them. And to think that the word 'friend' was never a verb before.

If we redefine our Lord as a god that makes us feel comfortable, a permissive 'buddy/friend' who exists simply to bless us and give us what we want, we will not fear Him in the way He deserves to be feared. Without fear, we run the risk of treating His Commandments as a buffet where we can pick and choose according to our personal preferences.



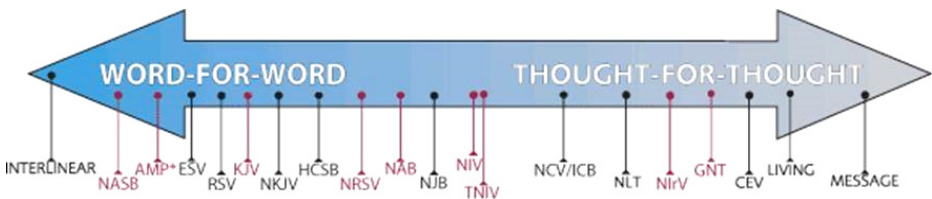
Screenshot of the sharing of my reading that day

I come to the realisation that without the fear of the Lord, I may gain knowledge of earthly things and proceed to making some practical choices based on my faulty human understanding. The question that follows is this: Am I wise?

Pray for our hearts to be in a right relationship with God. Else, we will be unable to have the wisdom that the Bible says:

“the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” (James 3:17).

Alicia Wong



It is widely known that the Bible’s original Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic manuscripts have words and phrases for which there is no English equivalent. Translating these texts into the English language is a painstaking process of rendering the intended meaning with a balance of accuracy and ease of understanding.

An important distinction between modern Bibles has to do with the translation philosophy chosen by their team of scholars. Traditionally, some have placed a higher value on word-for-word accuracy (Formal Equivalence) and others have emphasized a thought-for-thought approach—striving for a greater level of readability (Dynamic Equivalence). But as the scholars who have worked on Bibles using different approaches have said, no English translation can be fully Formal or fully Dynamic. All translations are a balance of both.

Source:

<https://www.quora.com/Which-English-language-Bible-translation-is-most-true-to-the-Hebrew-Old-Testament-text-and-Greek-New-Testament-text-respectively>