

BIBLE TRANSLATION GUIDE

Translation (Abbreviation)	Translation Method	Reading Level	Translators	Date	Theological Perspective	Sample Bible Verse (Romans 3:28)
The Amplified Bible	Verbal equivalence amplification of word meanings	NA	Frances Siewert and Lockman Foundation Editorial Board	1965; updated 1987	Conservative, evangelical	For we hold that a man is justified <i>and</i> made upright by faith independent of <i>and</i> distinctly apart from good deeds (works of the Law). [The observance of the Law has nothing to do with justification.]
The Contemporary English Version (CEV)	Dynamic equivalence; contemporary common language	5	American Bible Society; more than 100 translators and reviewers	1995	Conservative, evangelical, mainline	We see that people are acceptable to God because they have faith, and not because they obey the law.
English Standard Version (ESV)	Verbal equivalence	8	Evangelical Revision of RSV; 100 members "publishing team"	2001	Conservative, evangelical	For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.
Good News Bible: The Bible in Today's English version (TEV/GNT)	Dynamic equivalence; common language	7	American Bible Society; Robert Bratcher, NT, Bratcher and 6 other, OT	1976	Conservative	For we conclude that a person is put right with God only through faith, and not by doing what the Law commands.
King James Version (KJV)	Verbal equivalence	12	54 English Scholars	1611	Church of England	Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without deeds of the law.
The Message	Paraphrase	6	Eugene H. Peterson	NT 1993; OT 2002	NA	We've finally figured it out. Our lives get in step with God and all others by letting him set the pace, not by proudly or anxiously trying to run the parade.
The New American Bible (NAB)	Dynamic equivalence; 1970; verbal equivalence, 1986	7	55 scholars, including some Protestants	1970; NT revised 1986	Roman Catholic	For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	Verbal equivalence	11	61 evangelical scholars (Original and update), sponsored by Lockman Foundation	1971; update 1995	Conservative, evangelical	For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.
New Century Version (NCV)	Dynamic equivalence	5.6	World Bible Translation Center	1991	NA	A person is made right with God through faith, not through obeying the law.
New International Reader's Version (NIRV)	Verbal equivalence with dynamic balance and some simplification	3	40, including stylists	1996	Conservative, evangelical	We firmly believe that people are made right with God because of their faith. They are not saved by obeying the law
New International Version (NIV)	Verbal equivalence, with dynamic balance	8	115 scholars from various countries	1978	Conservative, evangelical	For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)	Verbal equivalence, with dynamic tendencies	8	Approximately 30	1985	Roman Catholic	Since, as we see it, a man is justified by faith and not by doing something the Law tells him to do.
New King James (NKJV)	Verbal equivalence	9	119 scholars	1982	Conservative	Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law
New Living Translation (NLT)	Dynamic equivalence	6	90 scholars from various countries	1966	Conservative, evangelical	So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	Verbal equivalence	10	National Council of Churches; 30 scholars	1990	Mainline	For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.
Revised English Bible (REB)	Verbal equivalence	NA	Scholars from principal churches of British Isles	1989	NA	For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of law.
Today's New International Version (TNIV)	Verbal equivalence with dynamic balance	8	115 scholars from various countries	NT 2003	NA	For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

*** Translation Method**

Verbal equivalence attempts to reproduce the modern English equivalent of each ancient word, word for word, keeping integrity to the grammar, words, rhythm, and order of the ancient languages as possible. Dynamic equivalence is more concerned to reproduce the ancient thoughts and ideas in the modern equivalent. These translations render each phrase rather than each word of the ancient text. Thought for thought, keeping integrity and meaning of the original words. Paraphrase attempts to convey to modern readers the same meaning in ancient text conveyed to ancient readers. The paraphrase usually makes little reference to ancient texts, beginning instead with an already established English translation. The resulting version is easy to read but runs the risk of losing its connection with the biblical text.