



## Class notes - Week 1: Attitudes and Attributes

**Big Idea:** Our approach to studying the Bible is impacted by our attitude towards Scripture, and by the attributes of Scripture. Both need to be examined closely in order to deepen our faith.

### Attitudes:

Knowing God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 4:8)

Knowing God's Word enables us \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Knowing God's Word will cause us to carefully \_\_\_\_\_. (Hebrews 4:12)

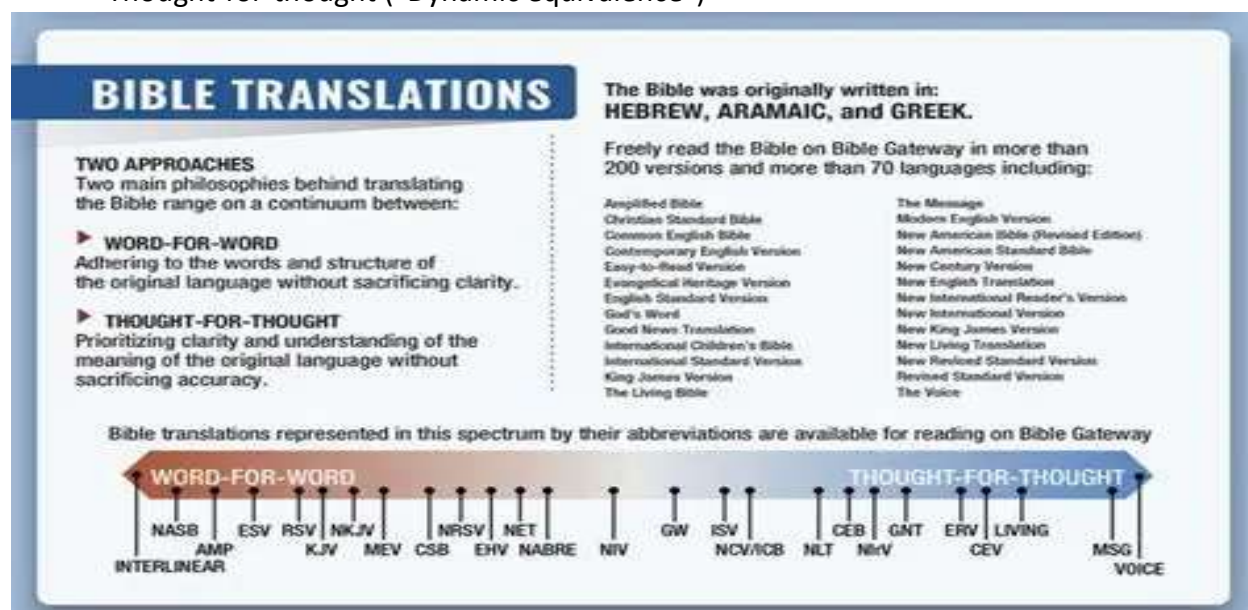
Knowing God's Word requires \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 5:5-6)

Knowing God's Word leads us to \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 12:1-2)

**Attributes:** Two important parts of the discussion of the Bible: translations of the Bible and the types of genres that are in the Bible. Both play a key role in how we approach the Bible.

### Translations:

- Word-for-word ("Formal equivalence")
- Thought-for-thought ("Dynamic equivalence")



<https://www.biblegateway.com/learn/bible-101/about-the-bible/bible-versions-guide/>

**Genre:** The type of literature found in the Bible influences our interpretative decisions.

Genre	Description	Examples & References
Law (Torah)	God's covenant instructions and commands	Genesis–Deuteronomy (Exod. 20; Deut. 6:4–9)
Historical Narrative	God's work in history through His people	Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1–2 Samuel; Acts
Poetry	Worship, lament, praise using imagery	Psalms; Song of Songs; Lamentations (Ps. 23)
Wisdom Literature	Practical instruction for godly living	Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Job
Prophecy	Warning, repentance, and hope	Isaiah; Ezekiel; Amos
Gospels	Life and ministry of Jesus	Matthew; Mark; Luke; John
Epistles (Letters)	Instruction to churches and individuals	Romans; Ephesians; 1 Corinthians; James
Apocalyptic	Symbolic visions of God's victory	Daniel 7–12; Revelation

Examples:

"You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:1-3)

There is gold and abundance of costly stones, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. (Proverbs 20:15)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

**For more information:** [https://biblehub.com/q/bible\\_genres\\_and\\_literary\\_forms.htm](https://biblehub.com/q/bible_genres_and_literary_forms.htm)

### Exercise

Pick a passage that you are familiar with. Read it in two or three translations and answer the following questions:

What genre is it? How does the genre affect your interpretation?

What are the key words in the passage? Why are they important?

What differences do you notice between translations?

How would you summarize the meaning of the passage in your own words?