

Learning English from Bible

Good morning, teachers and students. Today, I would like to share with you how I learn English through reading English Bible.

English Bible is in fact a good piece of literature. Through reading it, I learn a lot about English. Firstly, I learn a lot of complicated English words, vocabularies and phrases from Bible. Secondly, I learn how to write simple and short sentences from Bible. But in fact, such simple sentences can express complex and complicated ideas. I'll try to elaborate this in more details.

Firstly, I learn a lot of complicated English words, vocabularies and phrases from English Bible.

Example 1: In Chinese Bible, there is a saying called「從亙古到永遠」。Can you translate it into English? I have tried to translate it as: “from ancient times to eternal times”. But it is too clumsy and too complicated to understand. But I learn a good translation from English Bible. It is “from everlasting to everlasting”. 「從亙古到永遠」is a very complicated concept, but the English Bible has just used four simple English words as “from everlasting to everlasting” to translate it. This is really a surprise to me.

Example 2: In Gospel of John 14: 19, there is a saying「還有不多的時候」。Can you translate it into English? One more time, I have tried to translate it as: “Not too much time is left.” But one more time, it is clumsy and too complicated to understand. I learn from English Bible a good translation. It is “Before long”. Frankly, speaking, it is not easy to make this translation, but the English Bible has just used two simple words as “Before long” to complete the task.

In addition, I learn how to write simple and short sentences from English Bible and such simple sentences can express complex and complicated ideas. I'll offer you three examples.

Example 1: In Genesis 1: 9, the Chinese version of the Scripture is 「事就這樣成了」. One more time, I have tried to translate it as: “Things have been completed in this way.” To be honest, even I myself think that this is not a good translation. But the English Bible offers a good translation. It is just a simple sentence as “And it was so.” Can you imagine how 「事就這樣成了」 can be translated into a simple sentence as “And it was so”?

Example 2: In Psalms 1: 3, the Chinese version of the Scripture is 「凡他所作的，盡都順利。」 One more time, it is difficult to translate it into English, but the English Bible has just used a simple sentence as “Whatever he does prospers.” Boys and girls, can you imagine how 「凡他所作的，盡都順利。」 can be translated into a simple sentence as “Whatever he does prospers.” Frankly speaking, I learn it through reading English Bible.

Example 3: In Psalms 1: 4, the Chinese version of the Scripture is 「惡人並不是這樣。」 One more time, it is difficult to translate it into English, but the English Bible has again used a simple sentence as “Not so the wicked.” Through English Bible, I have really learnt how to write short, simple and good sentences.

Boys and girls, I strongly believe that through reading English Bible, you absolutely will have great improvement in your spiritual life. But apart from this, through reading English Bible, you can also have improvement in your English too. You can enrich your vocabularies, phrases and sentence making. Bible is NOT only for the growth of your spiritual life. It can also bring benefits to your English and academic study. So, try to read more English Bible.