

2L: *Pneuma & the NWT*

A cursory glance through verses that include *pneuma* in the NWT reveals that the NWT sometimes translates *pneuma* as spirit and other times, varies the translation of *pneuma* by using other words and/or phrases. Since the NWT does not claim to be a paraphrase Bible, I endeavored to study these differentiations, comparing the NWT translation against 3 other Bibles: the KJV, NASB, and NIV. I included the transliterated Greek, noted differences related to *pneuma* in the greek texts (the Nestle Aland 26, 1991 Byzantine and 1894 Textus Receptus) and noted whether or not *pneuma* applied to the Holy Spirit in each specific verse.

Other than those occasions in which the 1894 Textus Receptus includes *pneuma*, whereas earlier texts do not as well as variations between "Spirit" and "Ghost," the KJV (a formal equivalent or word-for-word Bible translation) varies its translation of *pneuma* 6 times, 5 of which are occasions in which the KJV adds the word "Holy". Of the total occurrences of *pneuma*, the KJV varies its translation by **1.6%**

The NASB (also a formal equivalent Bible translation) does not vary its translation of *pneuma* at all – **0%** of total occurrences.

The NIV (a dynamic equivalent or thought-for-thought Bible translation) varies its translation of *pneuma* 13 times, or about **3.5%** of total occurrences.

The NWT varies its translation of *pneuma* 48 times, or about **12.9%** of total occurrences – nearly 10% more than the dynamic equivalent, thought-for-thought Bible translation chosen for comparison purposes.

The NWT very obviously paraphrases its translation of *pneuma*.

Please see Appendix D for charts showing all occurrences of *pneuma* by New Testament book as well as the NWT's 48 *pneuma* variants.