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Foreword

Welcome to “Deeper In God’s Word,” a devotional workbook designed to lead the believer into a deeper walk with God through His Word. This project has taken me a few years, to compile and assemble numerous Scriptures into eight separate subjects. I believe that you will find a beautiful and powerful blend and harmony of God’s Word knitted into a tapestry of wisdom and revelation. Primarily I have used the New International Version of the Bible, along with the King James Version and Amplified Bible. Occasionally I have interjected a few words of my own to help with transitions or to elaborate on a few key Scriptures- they will always be in *italics*. However, the overall format has been designed to allow the Holy Scriptures to speak for themselves.

At first glance you may feel overwhelmed at the volume of text used for each subject; even though, this is not an exhaustive list but is meant to be very comprehensive in nature in order to provide a resource for study and meditation. As a matter of fact, I only occasionally used a Bible concordance to assist me in finding these passages of Scripture. During my normal Bible devotions of reading through the New Testament, I had simply written down Bible references for the subject I was currently researching. Once all the raw data was compiled, I simply went through it and compiled them into related topics and sorted them again into the format you now see. My first version of this series was completed in 1991 by using a typewriter. A few years later, I had improved the format by using a word processor in 1995. The third version that you see now was further enhanced and improved in 2009.

Through this whole process, my life has been enriched and enhanced in a tremendous way. I believe that God’s Word will have the same affect on your life as well. Due to the layout and design of this devotional workbook, there are many approaches one could take in assimilating and absorbing God’s Word into your life; here are a few:

1) Daily Nuggets:

Read one page or more a day on a particular subject first thing in the morning or before bed. Allow the Word to resonate within your spirit as you meditate on it throughout the day or dream of it throughout the night. Each page is highly concentrated with Holy Spirit inspired words that will bring life to your spirit.

2) Powerful Meditation:

The Bible translates the word, “Meditation” to mutter, murmur, ponder, speak, study, talk and utter. In other words, it’s a spiritual exercise that involves speaking God’s Word out loud so you can hear yourself. Take the time to slowly ponder and feed on God’s Word and expect the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you into all truth. He will impart rich revelation and insight concerning God and His Kingdom. In Matthew 4:4 Jesus quoted Dueteronomy 8:3, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.’” As natural food is to our physical body, so the Word of God is to our spirit- John 6:63 states, “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”

3) Topical Study:

For the student and minister of God's Word, use "Deeper In God's Word" as a valuable resource and reservoir for your own personal study or sermon preparation. This study book is categorized in such a way as to provide an abundance of Bible text for over fifty Bible topics. On the back of each page I have provided a blank page with lines in order for you to record your own notes and comments. I have such a personal love and respect for God's Word that I would like to briefly remind you of the benefits and value that is received from studying and meditating on God's Word.

Knowledge Of The Truth Sets Us Free:

John 8:31-32, "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

Imparts The Knowledge Of Salvation:

2 Timothy 3:15-16, "And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Our Source For Spiritual Food:

1 Peter 2:2-3, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Builds Us Up Into Our Inheritance In Jesus Christ:

Acts 20:32, "Now I commit you to God and to the Word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

Reveals God's Precious Promises:

2 Peter 1:2-4, "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

Finally, I want to thank you for obtaining, "Deeper In God's Word." I am confident that God's Word will enrich and enhance your life as you make Bible reading and confession a lifestyle. As it is written in Joshua 1:8, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." and Psalms 1:1-3, "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 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, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Revelation 1:3

"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

Faith In God

In Hebrews 6:1, there are a list of Biblical doctrines referred to as “Elementary Teachings” that we all need to become acquainted with. There is one in particular, “Faith in God” that I would like to discuss briefly here. Having a solid understanding of faith in the Word of God would be appropriate for this devotional material. My hope is that we will approach the sacred Scriptures with an ever increasing appreciation in its application in our lives in order for us to grow up spiritually into the image of Jesus Christ.

It is clear that our Lord Jesus made frequent references to faith in God all throughout the Gospels. The apostles continued along the same theme in the epistles or letters to the churches. Hosea 4:6 declares, “My people are destroyed from a lack of knowledge.” Therefore, the Lord has revealed to mankind through His holy Word the things concerning salvation and revelation knowledge concerning God and His glory. Therefore, diving into God’s Word must be a priority for the serious disciple of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:10

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

Psalms 119:130- The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

As we acquire a knowledge of God’s Word, the next step is to apply and act on God’s Word in our life. That is really the whole reason for receiving revelation knowledge; so the Word can change us in our thinking, believing and behavior- this in turn affects our destiny. Our lives are transformed as our minds are renewed with the Word of God according to Romans 12:2.

John 8:31-32

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Matthew 7:24

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

James 1:22-25

Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does.

James 2:14

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

So with an open heart and mind, let’s approach God’s Word with a new found reverence and awe; that His Word is our final authority for all matters that pertain to life and conduct. We learn God’s Word so we can obey God’s Word for His glory and our ultimate good!

The Word of His Grace

The English word “Bible” comes from the Greek word *biblos*, meaning “a book”. The Bible is unlike any book in this world. It has been given to mankind by the Inspiration of God.

Definition Inspiration The supernatural action of the Holy Spirit on the mind of the sacred writers whereby the Scriptures were not merely their own, but the Word of God. Scripture not merely contains, but is, the Word of God. That makes the Bible, God speaking to you and me!

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, **the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.**

Inspiration is the process through which God, by means of the Holy Spirit, assured the existence of an exact and true record of the redeeming work of Christ, and the corresponding interpretation of the redemption story, produced in written form by holy men of God.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is the inspired, God-breathed Word of God. The Bible is an inherent, infallible book. It contains words, phrases, and sentences as it was originally written. The Word of God contains no errors. Doctrinally there is no error. The essence of the Word is still intact even when it is translated into other languages. God is more than able to preserve the integrity of his Word and to protect his eternal truths for all generations.

In 2 Timothy 3:16, in the New King James version, it starts off by saying, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” In the New International Version, the same passage reads, “All Scripture is God-breathed...” So Biblical inspiration speaks of the supernatural act of God breathing His life, power and grace into His Word. It reminds me of the account in Genesis when God created the first man and breathed into him apart of Himself, so that man, being created in God’s image as a spirit being that would live forever.

Genesis 2:7

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

That same life that God breathed into Adam, God has breathed into His Word to be life to our spirit, soul and body. It’s no wonder that Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3 in Matthew 4:4 said, “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.’” As natural food nourishes and sustains physical life, so the Word of God nourishes and sustains our spirit. It was through receiving and believing the Word of God that we were saved.

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

1 Peter 1:23-24

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.

Words are containers, and God's Word contains a supernatural substance called Grace! In John 1:1-2 we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." Jesus is known as the "Word of God" both here and in Revelation 19:13. In John 17:17, Jesus declared that God's Word is truth and it is knowing and acting on this truth that makes us free according to John 8:31-32. This is significant, for the more we appreciate, and come to fully grasp the power of God's Word, the more faith and expectancy we will have in its life changing affect upon our lives.

John 1:14, 16-17

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The connection I am trying to make, is that God's Grace is found in God's Word. If we want more of God's grace in our lives, then look no further than the Bible. That is where this devotional material becomes a powerful tool in the life of the believer- to hide God's Word in our heart.

Acts 20:32

Now I commit you to God and to the Word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Now that we have established the source of God's Grace, the next obvious question is what is God's Grace? A common definition for Grace goes as follows, "God's unmerited favor." I believe this definition would be better suited to describe God's Mercy. Therefore, I believe that "God's Grace is God's power at work in us who believe." Allow me to explain. Remember back in 1 Thessalonians 2:14, an important statement was made concerning God's Word, "The Word of God, which is at work in you who believe." Notice the same theme of power, change and transformation that God's Word brings to the lives of people:

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is **by grace you have been saved, **through faith** — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is **the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.**

Ephesians 3:7

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through **the working of his power.**

It was through the Word of God that the material world and the universe was first created and continues to be sustained and propelled for the ages to come. We have the distinct privilege of shaping and changing our world with His Mighty Word of Power- 2 Timothy 2:15; James 3:2-6; 2 Peter 1:2; 3:18.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 1:3 AMP

He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty Word of power.

The Word of Faith

Faith is not a Charismatic cliché, rather it is an eternal spiritual principle that has its origins in God and creation. This principle is first mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy and addressed the matter of obeying God's commands. Notice in this short passage that the phrase "So we may obey it" is used three times. The secret to obeying God's commands is found in the "Word of Faith" principle. The alternative would be for us to obey God through our own works and our own strength which is religion. The Bible pronounces that those who try to please God in their own strength and devices are under a curse.

Galatians 3:1-5, 10-11

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing — if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."

We had already read in Ephesians 2:8-10, that it is by God's grace and our faith in God's Word that gets us saved and as Christians, enables us to receive the promises of God in our lives. We are saved not by good works, but unto good works and to bear fruit once we are saved. This is so important for us to understand, the same principles that we acted upon, "By Grace through Faith" to receive salvation are meant to be continued for the rest of our Christian life. That is the "Rest" of God that we are to walk in according to Hebrews 4:1-3, allowing the power of God's grace in His Word to put us over in life by faith.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

The Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit makes reference to this spiritual law in Romans chapter ten. Notice that the context is righteousness and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:6-10

But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the Word of Faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

The means by which people come to have faith in God is through the "Word of Faith" principles. One simply needs to speak God's Word out of our mouth over a process of time until it gets into our heart. That is the point at which we believe and receive the promises of God.

- 1- First put the Word of God in your mouth
- 2- Then the Word will get in your heart

Bible Meditation

The means by which we put God's Word in our heart is through Bible meditation. To meditate on God's Word, was written down thousands of years ago in the Bible. It is not to be confused with eastern religions. The word "Meditate" in the Bible simple means to speak God's Word out loud so you can hear it. This agrees with Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Psalms 1:2- But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

David by the Spirit said in Psalms 119:11, "I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Now, this hiding of the Word is only done through Bible meditation and is the first step in the "Word of Faith" principle. Doing so first renews our mind in order to think in line with God's will. God's Word is God's will and faith begins where the will of God is known. Without God's Word, it would be impossible for us to have faith. For faith comes by hearing the Word of God according to Romans 10:17.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.

Speaking God's Word is the same as sowing God's Word as spiritual seed- the sowing is in the saying. Our spirit is the fertile ground in which the Word of God is to be sown. There it takes root and grows over the process of time and produces a multiplied harvest according to the type of seed sown. Jesus expounded on these all important principles in Mark chapter four.

Mark 4:15-20

Some people are like seed along the path, where the Word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the Word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the Word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the Word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

Mark 4:26-29

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

There are two important laws in the natural and spiritual realms mentioned in Genesis:

The Law of Reproduction- Everything produces after its own kind- Genesis 1:11-12

The Law of Sowing and Reaping- We reap exactly what we sow- Genesis 8:22; Galatians 6:8

The Spirit of Faith

Where the “Word of Faith” ends, the “Spirit of Faith” begins. When we have a need, we must find the specific seed that meets that need. For example, if you are sick in your body, find healing Scriptures. Meditating on patience Scriptures is the wrong seed for receiving healing. If one has a garden and they want a big harvest of corn, what kind of seed should they plant? That’s right corn seed, not cucumber seed. We must be specific on the kind of harvest we want in our lives by speaking the Scriptures that cover those areas. That is why this devotional is so effective, because it specifically covers many areas that we all face in life.

Now, a great example of believing with the heart (Spirit of Faith) is found in the life of Abraham. He was 75 years old when God gave him the promise of becoming a great nation and a blessing to all of humanity. Of course that was in reference to God establishing the nation of Israel by which the coming Messiah would come to be the Savior of the world- Jesus. God in His wisdom changed Abram’s name to Abraham which means, “Father of many nations” to fit the promise. In this way, every time Abraham heard his name, he was reminded of the promise- faith comes by hearing the promises of God. It was not until he was 100 years old that the promise finally materialized. So for 25 years, God was developing Abraham’s faith in order to receive the promise of a son. During those 25 years, Abraham had doubts and made mistakes- consider Ishmael. However, when the promise of God finally reached Abraham’s heart, his doubts were transformed into faith and he became- fully persuaded! Note a person could develop great faith in one area but have many doubts in another. Just because I have great faith for healing, does not mean I automatically have great faith for walking in love. We have to build and develop the Word in as many areas of our life as possible-like exercising the human body.

Romans 4:16-22

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring — not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about a hundred years old — and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”**

There is a deceptive counterfeit to having faith in the heart, called “Mental Accent” which is really a façade. It is a mental acquiesce to the truth without a conviction of the heart on the matter. For example, many people subscribe to a historical Jesus, but they do not accept Him in their heart as Lord and Saviour. So how do we know that we believe the promise of God in our heart? Like Abraham, after hearing the Promise of God over a course of time, we come to place where the seed produces a harvest in our spirit- Hebrews 11:1, faith being the substance of what we hope for. We possess a supernatural revelation, an unshakable knowing, being fully persuaded that I believe that I have received. According to Jesus, before we receive the promise of God, we must first believe in our heart that we already have it by faith.

Mark 11:22-24

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone **says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and **does not doubt in his heart** but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”**

Luke 17:6

He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, **you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.”**

The cure to doubts is to just keep on meditating on God's Word by continually speaking it out of our mouths. We all start with doubts, but as our minds become renewed with God's Word, those doubts are transformed into faith. In Jude 22 it tells us to be merciful to those who doubt. Faith is a process, it is not a fad or something we try. It must become a lifestyle for it to bear fruit in our lives. The mountain and mulberry tree speak figuratively of the circumstances of life that are arrayed against us. Living by faith is a challenge, Satan will test our faith to see if we really believe what we say we do. But if we hold fast our confession of Faith and fight the good fight of faith, the Lord will always see us through- Hebrews 10:23; 1 Timothy 6:12.

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Hebrews 6:12

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Jesus said in Mark 9:23, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." God's Word cannot fail according to Isaiah 55:10-11. God's Word always works when we act on it according to directions. The Bible instructs us to walk as Jesus did and to do the works He did (1 John 2:6; John 14:12). But note this, Jesus is the "Word of God" and everything He said, came to pass. Jesus always operated in the "Spirit of Faith" but we have to first operate in the "Word of Faith" (Hide the Word in our Heart and believe) before we can operate in the "Spirit of Faith" - to just speak to those circumstances of life once and see them move out of the way.

2 Corinthians 4:13

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

I hope you enjoyed this brief expose on the subject of "Faith in God" in which we were able to explore some of the basic principles of mixing the Word of God with faith in order to release God's grace and power in our lives. Christianity is known as the "Great Confession" and this devotional tool will supply the believer with ample Scripture by which he/she can hide God's Word in their hearts and produce a harvest of fruit for God's glory!

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture Quotations in this study book are from the New International Version of the Bible.

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Prayers From The Word

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Prayer is such an important topic for the believer and it is important to understand that there are many kinds of prayers with unique principles that govern their operation. Sporting events make a good analogy to illustrate this point. Just as football, hockey and basketball all have specific rules, what would happen if folks were to apply football rules to basketball? In the area of prayer there is the "Prayer of Petition," "Prayer of Consecration" and "Prayer of Agreement" just to name a few. The Bible is our prayer manual in order to understand how these prayers operate.

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

One thing is for certain, for any form of prayer to be effective, it must be based on the Word of God. There is no higher form of prayer than to pray God's Word. Since God's Word is God's will, we can always be confident to pray the Scriptures and know that God will always honor His own Word.

Epistle Prayers

Father, I ask you in the name of Jesus, that you would fill me with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. Strengthen me with all might, according to your glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. I give thanks unto you Father, for you have made me able to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light: For you have delivered me from the power, authority and the dominion of darkness, and have translated me into the Kingdom of your dear Son: In whom I have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:9-14

Dear Holy Father, I ask you in Jesus name, that your love which has been shed abroad in my spirit by the Holy Spirit, would abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that I may approve things that are excellent and that I may be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Christ Jesus, unto the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

Father, I ask you in the name of Jesus that you would give unto me, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you and your Word. That the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of your calling, and what is the riches of the glory of your inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of your power to me who believes, according to the working of your mighty power, which you wrought in Christ, when you raised him from the dead, and set him at your own right hand in the heavenly places. You set him far above all principality, and power, and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

Ephesians 1:17-21

For this cause, I bow my knees unto the Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. Father in Jesus name I ask you according to the riches of your glory, that you would strengthen me with might by your Spirit in my inner man; that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; that I being rooted and grounded in love, would be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that I would be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto you Father who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I can ask or think, according to the power that works in me, unto you be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

The Lord's Prayers

Mt. 6:5-15

“**B**ut when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you openly. And when you pray do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’
For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Jn. 17:1-5

“**F**ather, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. **I** am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

vs 13-19

vs 20-26

“**M**y prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Praying For Believers

Ro. 1:9-10 God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. *Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints. I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.*

Philemon 4-6 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. *We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life.*

Gal. 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you. *He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, Col. 4:12 mature and fully assured. I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 1Tim. 2:1-4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without Eph. 6:18 anger or disputing. Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore 1Tim. 2:8 confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of Jas. 5:13-18 a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*

Praying For Ministers

Col. 4:2-4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Ro. 15:30-32 *I* urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I

2Cor. 1:10-11 may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. *H*e has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious

Eph. 6:19-20 favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. *P*ray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

Php. 1:19 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. *F*or I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has

2Th. 3:1-2 happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. *F*inally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith.

Admonitions & Exhortations

Ro. 16:25-27 *N*ow to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him- to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen. Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,

Col. 4:17 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.

1Th. 5:12-24 *N*ow we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

2Th. 3:16 *N*ow may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The

Heb.13:20-21 Lord be with all of you. *M*ay the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through

1Th. 3:12-13 Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. *M*ay the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

2Pe. 3:17-18 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. *To* him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God and Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

Jude 24-25 Amen. *May* the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. *May* the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you

Ro. 15:5-6 trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *May* our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed

vs 13 and word. *Peace* to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

2Th. 2:16-17

Eph. 6:23-24

Ro. 1:11-12 *I* long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—
15:29 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. *I* know that when I
2Th. 3:5 come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. *May* the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Greetings & Farewells

Gal. 1:3-5 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from

2Jn. 3 Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. *But* grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2Pet. 3:18 *To* those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. *To* all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *The* God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Jude 1-2

Ro. 1:7

16:20

1Cor. 1:2-9 *To* the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ — their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2Cor. 13:11 Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live
vs 14 in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. *May* the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Romans 15:33- The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

1 Corinthians 16:23- The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

2 Corinthians 1:2- Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6:18- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Ephesians 1:2- Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2- Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:23- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Colossians 1:2- Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Colossians 4:18- Grace be with you.

1 Thessalonians 1:1- Grace and peace to you.

1 Thessalonians 5:28- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2 Thessalonians 1:2- Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:18- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

1 Timothy 1:2- Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 6:21- Grace be with you.

2 Timothy 1:2- Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 4:22- The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Titus 1:4- Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Titus 3:15- Grace be with you all.

Philemon 3- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 25- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Hebrews 13:25- Grace be with you all.

1 Peter 1:2- Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

1 Peter 5:14- Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

2 Peter 1:2- Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

The Word Of Life

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If we fully appreciated what God's Word stands for and what it can do in us and for us, we would be reading it like there was no tomorrow. That is how we must approach the Bread of Life, with a ravenous appetite. God's Word is our final authority for all matters that pertain to life and conduct and God's Word is God's will. Therefore, faith begins, where the will of God is known. As the psalmist has said in Psalms 138:2, "For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." God's Word is above all things, the most important representation of the revelation of God to man on this earth.

Acts 20:32

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

So let's approach the Holy Bible with a new found reverence, awe and hunger to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. Let's not be satisfied with placing the family Bible on the mantel to collect dust. Rather let's dig into it, write in it, highlight it and study it through and though so we can know it, act on it and glorify God by walking in the truth!

Inspiration Of The Scriptures

- 2Ti. 3:15-16** For all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. The Holy Scriptures are able to make me wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Heb. 4:12** For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the
- Lk.1:37 AMP** heart. For with God nothing is impossible, and no word from God shall be without power or
- Isa. 55:10-11** impossible of fulfillment. For as the rain and snow come down from the heavens, and return not there again, but water the earth and make it bring forth and sprout that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth; it shall not return to me void- without producing any effect or useless- but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
- 2Pe. 1:19-21** And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and I will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in my heart. Above all I understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from
- vs 16** God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were
- 1Co. 15:1-6** eyewitnesses of his majesty. Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. *For God's Word is my final authority for all matters that pertain to life and conduct.*
- Ac. 17:11**
- Jn 17:17** I am sanctified by the truth; God's Word is truth. I accept the Word of God not as the
- 1Th. 2:13** word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in me who believes. For I
- Ro. 1:16-17** am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written; "The righteous will live by faith." For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us
- 1Co. 1:18** who are being saved it is the power of God. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of
- 1Co. 4:20** power. For God who said, " Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in my heart to
- 2Co. 4:6-7** give me the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But I have this treasure in a jar of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from
- Ro. 3:2** me. For I have been entrusted with the very words of God, because we have in the Word of
- Ro. 2:20** God, the embodiment of knowledge and truth.

Gal. 1:11

*I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. For I have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God- *I purify myself by obeying the truth.* The Word of the Lord stands forever. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's words will never pass away. Your Word, O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever. All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. Your statutes are forever right . Therefore, I have put my hope in your Word. The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my paths. Every Word of God is flawless; so do not add to his words or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. For he sent his Word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.**

Eph. 1:13

1Pe. 1:23

Ps. 119:89

Mt. 24:35

**Ps. 119:152
vs 160**

vs 144, 147

vs 130, 105

Pr. 30:5-6

4:20-22

Ps. 107:20

Jas. 1:18

1Co. 3:10

Ps. 119:165

vs 97

Jer. 23:29

Ps. 19:7-11

He chose to give us birth through the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. I have great peace because I love God's Word and nothing can make me stumble. Oh, how I love your Word! I meditate on it all day long. "Is not my Word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" The Word of God is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Jesus The

Word Of God

Jn. 1:1-2

vs 14

1Jn. 1:1-2

Eph. 5:26-27

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and lived for awhile among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched- this we proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and has appeared to us. Christ loves the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless.

Ro. 1:1-4

Col. 1:15-17

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The Bread Of Life

1Pet.2:2
Mt. 4:4
Job 23:12
Jn. 6:35
vs 57-58

Like a newborn babe, I crave spiritual milk, so that by it I may grow up in my salvation, now that I have tasted that the Lord is good. *F*or I do not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God. *I* treasure the Word of God more than my daily bread. *T*hen Jesus declared, “ I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. *J*ust as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Our forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever. *I*f a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. *F*or whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. *I* tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. *I* am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

7:37-38
4:14

5:24

11:25-26

Heb.5:11-13

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s Word all over again. You need milk not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. *T*herefore, I will leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

6:1-2

1Co. 3:1-6

*B*rothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly- mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, “ I follow Paul,” and another, “ I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe- as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. *I* appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1:10

Col. 3:16
2:6-7

I let the Word of Christ dwell in me richly as I teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as I sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in my heart to God. *S*o then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. *I* will not let the Word of God depart from my mouth, but will meditate on it day and night.. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. *M*y delight is in God’s Word and on his Word I meditate day and night. I am like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither- whatever I do prospers. *H*ow can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word. I seek you with all my heart, do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Jos. 1:8-9

Ps. 1:2-3

119:9-11

Unlocking God's Promises

Jas. 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly*
2Cor. 1:20 *lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. For no matter how many promises God has*
Eph. 1:3 *made, they are "Yes" in Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, who has*
2Pet. 1:2-4 *blessed me in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Grace and peace is*
mine in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus my Lord. His divine power has
given me everything I need for life and godliness through my knowledge of him who called me
by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given me his very great and precious
promises, so that through them I may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in
the world caused by evil desires. I am committed to God and to the word of his grace, which is
Acts 20:32 *building me up and is giving me an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Your*
Ps. 119:140 *promises have been thoroughly tested and your servant loves them. How sweet are your*
vs 103 *promises to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Your statutes are my delight. They are*
vs 24,104 *my counselors. I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore, I hate every wrong path.*

Heb. 3:7-19 *So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as*
you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and
tried me and for forty years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation, and I
said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on
oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" See to it my brothers, that none of you has a
sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily,
as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We
have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has
just been said: "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the
rebellion." Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of
Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose
bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not
to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.
4:1-3 *Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be*
found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did;
but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it
with faith. Now we who have believed have entered that rest.

vs 6-11 *It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel*
preached to them did not go in because of their disobedience. Therefore, God again set a certain
day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before:
"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, God
would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the
people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did
from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by
Mt. 11:28-29 *following their example of disobedience. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and*
I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in
heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Heroes Of Faith

Heb. 11:3-7 *By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

vs 8-11 *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age- and Sarah herself was barren- was enabled to become a father because he considered him*

Ro. 4:17-18 *faithful who had made the promise. God gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead- since he was about a hundred years old- and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what he had promised. I will not become lazy, but will imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. Because God wanted the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*

**Heb. 6:12
vs 15,
vs 17-19**

Heb. 11:20-27 *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.*

vs 32-35

Principles Of Faith

- Heb. 11:1-3** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at
- Ro. 10:8-15** God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. *The* righteousness that is by faith says, "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Everyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *It* is written: "I
- vs 17** believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith I also believe and therefore
- 2Co. 4:13** speak- *God's Word in faith from my heart. I* will not think of myself more highly than I ought, but rather I will think of myself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given me.
- Ro. 12:3**
- Mk. 11:22-25** Jesus says to me today, "Have *the God kind of faith*, I tell you the truth, if you say to this mountain in your life, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and do not doubt but believe what you say will happen, it will be done for you. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."
- Jn. 14:12-14** *If* you have faith in me, you will do what I have been doing. You will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do
- 16:23** it. *I* tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be
- Mt. 7:11** complete. *If* you, then though you are natural, know how to give good gifts to your children, how
- vs 7** much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So I say unto you,
- Ro. 8:31-32** "ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." What shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
- Jn. 15:1-8** "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

- Mt. 8:18-20** “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. *If* you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. *For* everything is possible for him who believes and with God nothing is impossible. *For* heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”
- Mt. 21:22**
Mk. 9:23
13:31
- 1Jn. 5:14** This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us- whatever we ask- we know that we have what we asked of him. *For faith begins where the will of God is known- God’s Word Is God’s Will.* Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God, and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command; to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. “*If* you love me, you will obey what I command. Whoever has my commands and obeys them he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. And Jesus asked, “But what about you, who do you say I am?” and I answer, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” and Jesus replies, “... on this rock (*of revelation*) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”
- 3:21-23**
- Jn. 14:15**
- 1Jn. 5:3**
Mt. 16:15,18
- Jas. 1:22-25** I do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive myself, but I do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. However, I am the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues to do this, not forgetting what I have heard but doing it; therefore, I am blessed in what I do.
- 2:14** What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? I will show my faith by what I do- by acting on God’s Word. As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. Since I hear the Word of God and put it into practice, I am like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears the Word of God and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. I am blessed because I hear the Word of God and obey it.
- vs 18, 26**
Mt. 7:24-27
- Lk. 11:28**

Lessons On Faith

The Centurion’s Faith In Jesus

- Mt. 8:5-10** When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help, “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.” Jesus said to him, “I will go and heal him.” The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour.

*Jesus Calms
The Storm*

Mt. 8:23-27 Then Jesus got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

*Jesus Walks
On The Water*

Mt. 14:22-32 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

The Fig Tree

Mt. 21:18-21 Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked. Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

*The Woman
With The Issue*

Mt. 5:24-34 A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

*Raised From
The Dead*

Mk.5:21-24

vs 35-42

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him. While he was by the lake, one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. Some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said, "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid, just believe." He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around.

Faith vs Doubt

Mk. 6:56

Jn. 11:40

Mk. 6:1-5

And everywhere Jesus went- into villages, towns or country side- they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed. "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God." Jesus went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his home town, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

Blind

Bartimaeus

Mk. 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his beggars cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

The Sower

Mk. 4:14-20 “The Farmer sows the Word. Some people are like seed along the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop- thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

The Growing Seed

Mk. 4:26-29 Jesus also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain- first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” **Lk. 17:5-6** The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. **vs 20-21** Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come visibly, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”

The Traditions Of Men

Mk. 7:5-13 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?” He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that. **1Ti. 4:1-2** The Spirit clearly says that in latter times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

Signs And Wonders

Mk. 16:17-20 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by signs that accompanied it. “**I** have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. God exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 3:6-8 Then Peter said the crippled beggar, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. “Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. **vs 16** “By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.” “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you completely healed. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 5:12, 15 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city. As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you, Get up and take care of your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:39-42 Peter went with them to Joppa to pray for a disciple named Tabitha, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Tabitha had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

14:3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. **In** Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking, Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. **19:11-12** God did extraordinary miracles through Paul. Handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. **How** shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. **Heb. 2:3-4**

Follow The Way Of Love And Eagerly Desire Spiritual Gifts!
1Corinthians 14:1

Walking In Love

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The Bible declares that God is love, not that He has it or resembles it, but He is the very expression and definition of love. That love nature is ours through the New Birth which is a rebirth of the human spirit into the image and likeness of God. Not to sound like a 60's hippie, but we are love children of a love God. The love of God is supernatural and works by faith; it's an act of our will apart from feelings. In reality, love for God and for people is simply expressed through a strict obedience and adherence to the commands of God.

1 John 5:2-4

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

Spiritual maturity is measured by our love walk, the more we walk in love as defined by obeying the commands of God, the more we walk in the footsteps of Jesus- 1 John 2:6, "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did." To walk or live like Jesus is to walk in love. The essence of sin is selfishness, the essence of love is to give- "For God so loved the world that He gave..." So let's love like God does, it's our new spiritual nature to do so- only through faith in the Word.

The Nature Of Love

**1Co. 13:4-8
(AMP)**

*The Love of God is shed abroad in my spirit and love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited-arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. Love [God's love in us] does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it- pays no attention to a suffered wrong. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails- never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end. **A** fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult. **He** who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. **It** is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.*

**Pr. 12:16
17:9
20:3**

Gal. 5:22-26

*But the fruit of the spirit (*my re-created spirit*) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

**2Co. 5:17
Ro. 5:5
1Ti. 1:5
6:11-12**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. **The** goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. **But** you, man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. *Now* about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.*

1Th. 4:9-10

Jas. 4:11-12

*Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you- who are you to judge your neighbor? **Don't** grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! **My** brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.*

**5:9
2:1**

Jas. 2:12-13 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law [of love] that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.
1Pe. 2:1-2 Mercy triumphs over judgment! *Therefore, rid yourself of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer- rather we see people by their spirit and through the eyes of God’s Word.*

Eph. 4:29 (AMP) Let no foul or polluting language or evil word, nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth; but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace to those who hear it. *Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly, idle and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness [to God]. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, (do not offend, or vex, or sadden Him) by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God’s own, secured) for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) slander (evil speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will or baseness of any kind). And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ Jesus forgave you. When Angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath- your exasperation, your fury or indignation- last until the sun goes down.*

1Th. 1:2-3 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. *May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in darkness and walks around in darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.*

1Jn. 3:11 vs 14-18 *This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.*

1Jn. 4:7-11

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

vs 16-20

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. Love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The man who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. *Everyone* who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. *But* you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

5:1-3

Jude 20-21

The Beauty Of Humility

Eph. 4:1-3

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. *If* you have any

Php. 2:1-9

encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

Eph. 5:21

Ro. 15:7

Col. 3:12-17

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. *Accept* one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. *Therefore*, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Phm. 7** Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. **Who** is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.
- Jas. 3:13-18**
- 1Pe. 2:21-23** *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”* When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.
- 3:8-12** Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. *Finally*, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.
- 1Pe. 3:15** *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. My dear brothers, take note of this:* Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. **We** all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.
- Jas. 1:19**
- 3:2**
- Mt. 7:1-5** *Do not judge , or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge , my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I \ stand with the Father, who sent me. This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. As for those who seemed to be important — whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance.*
- Jn. 8:15-16**
- Ro. 2:16**
- Gal. 2:6**
- Jas. 5:9** Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Ro. 14:1-4 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything (*Believe everything in the Word*), but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables (*Believes only parts of the Word*). The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. **vs 10-11** You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

1Co. 4:1-7 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

2Co. 10:7-18 You are looking only on the surface of things. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he. For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present. We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory. But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Ro. 14:17-22 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

1Jn. 5:16
Jas. 5:16
vs 19-20

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. Excel in the grace of faith, giving, speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us.

2Co. 10:1
12:19

By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you- I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” when away! Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends is for your strengthening. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not be harsh in my use of authority- the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

13:8-10

2Co. 12:20

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. My dear friends, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.

Gal. 4:19
1Co. 16:13

The Heart Of A Servant

Jn. 15:12

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

Php. 1:8-11

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ- to the glory and praise of

Col. 2:2

God. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God,

1Th. 5:11

namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2Th. 1:3
3:13,5

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each is increasing. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Heb. 10:24
vs 25
12:14
13:1-3

Tit. 3:8, 14

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

Gal. 6:10

Heb. 6:10-12

Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Eph. 5:17

Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is, and find out what pleases him.

Jn. 14:15, 21

vs 23-24

15:10-12

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this:

Love each other as I have loved you!"

15:13-14

vs 17

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. This is my command:

Love Each Other!"

13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Ro. 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- 1Pe. 4:8-11** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. **5:5-6** Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
- Ro. 15:1-3** We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." **Jude 22-23** Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear- hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. **Gal. 6:1-5** Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.
- Pr. 3:1-4** My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. **10:12** Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.
- 1Co. 8:1-3** We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is known by God. **10:24** Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. **vs 31-33** So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God- even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. **9:19-23** Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.
- 2Co. 5:14** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and **5:18-20** therefore all died. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **1Pe. 2:16-17** Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

An Aroma Of Christ

**Eph. 5:1-2
vs 21-33**

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the Church- for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery- but I am talking about Christ and the Church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1Pe. 3:1-7

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Eph. 6:24

Rev. 2:4-5

Php. 4:5

1Pe. 1:22-23

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. *Yet* I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. *Let* your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1Co. 12:27

vs 21-26

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. *The* eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices

Php. 2:13-16

with it. *For* it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.

Moved With Compassion

- Ps. 86:15** *But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. **The LORD** is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.*
- 145:8-9**
- La. 3:22-24** *The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. **Because of the Lord's** great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."*
- 2Co. 1:3-4** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*
- Mt. 9:35-36** *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **Jesus** called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."*
- Mt. 15:32**
- Mk. 1:40-42** *A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. **When the Lord** saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*
- Lk. 7:13-15**

Jesus Christ Is The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever!
Hebrews 13:8

Praise, Worship & Thanksgiving

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Praise is known as the highest form of prayer; since prayer in essence is communing and fellowshiping with God. The deepest cry of our heart is to know God, the true and Living God, as Moses said to the Lord in Exodus 33:18, "Now, show me your glory!" Consider the vision that Daniel had of the Most High:

Daniel 7:9-10

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Jesus said in John 4:24, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." God created us for His glory and that His glory would be revealed in us. Let us go into the Holy of Holies, before His throne of grace and have sweet, intimate communion with our Lord. He may be God to the world, but He is Father to us. Better is one day in His courts than a thousand outside.

Praise

Ps. 103:1-5 Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His Holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not his benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; he redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion. He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's. *The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions and sins from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who reverence him with a holy awe. Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his Word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you servants who do his will. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL!*

108:1-5 My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.

111:1-10 Praise the Lord. I will exalt the Lord with all my heart, in the council of the upright and in the assembly of the righteous. Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate. He provides food for those who love him; he remembers his covenant forever. He has shown his Church the power of his works, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead. The works of His hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast forever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever- Holy and awesome is his name. To revere and love the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise!

113:1-9 Praise the Lord. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord!

57:5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth. *I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth!*

Ps. 36:5-9

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O Lord, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. You are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game.

76:4

145:1-13

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. Every day I will praise and exalt your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty; they will tell of your mighty acts, and I will meditate on your wonderful works all day long. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will exalt you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

vs 14-21

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who love him; he hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him but all the wicked he will destroy- *those who continually refuse his love towards them*. My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

148:1-14

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, you men and maidens. Old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. He has raised up for his people a horn (*Jesus Christ from the dead*), the praise of all his saints, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord!

149:1-6

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints. Let the Church rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with drums and piano. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds. May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double edged sword in their hands- *The Word Of God!*

- Ps. 4:7** You have filled my heart with greater joy than when grain and new wine abound.
- 5:11-12** Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. For surely, O Lord, you bless the
- 8:1-2** righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. **O** Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence and shut up the foe and
- 9:1-2** avenger. **I** will praise you, O Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High!
- 9:11** Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has
- 16:7** done, and rejoice in his salvation. **I** will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my
- vs 11** heart instructs me. You have made known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of
- 17:15** joy and at your right hand, pleasures forever more. **Lord**, in your righteousness I will see your
- 18:1-3** face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness. **I** love you, O Lord, my
- vs 49** strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. **Therefore**, I will praise you among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praise to your name.
- 19:1-4** The heavens declare the glory of the Lord; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the
- 24:1** ends of the world. **The** earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.
- 24:7-10** Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King Of Glory may come in. Who is the King Of Glory? The Lord *Jesus* strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in
- 25:1** battle he is the King Of Glory! **To** you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.
- 26:7-8** **I** proclaim aloud your praise and tell of all your wonderful deeds- your glory dwells within us,
- 30:4-5** *we are your temple in which you live by your Spirit*. Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise His Holy Name. For his rebuke lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; after
- 1Jn. 1:9** repentance comes rejoicing, *for* if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our
- Ps. 30:11-12** sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **You** turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sin and depression and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.
- 31:21** O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever, for you are great and greatly to be praise! **Praise** be to the Lord, for he showed his wonderful love to me.
- 32:11** Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous, sing, all you who are upright in heart!
- 33:1-3** Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the keyboard; make music to him on the electric guitar. Sing to him a new song; play
- 35:28** skillfully, and shout for joy. **My** tongue will speak of your righteousness and of your praises all
- 40:3** day long. **He** put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. **Praise** be to the Lord,
- 41:13** the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

Ps. 42:5 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God,
vs 8 for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. **By** day the Lord directs his love towards me, at
43:3-5 night his song is with me. **He** sends his light and truth to guide me and I will go to the altar of
God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. Why are
46:10 you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet
praise him, my savior and my God. **Be** still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the
nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

47:1-2 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the
vs 5-9 Lord Most high, the great king over all the earth! **God** has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord
amid the sounding of trumpets. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing
praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the
48:1-2 nations; God is seated in His Holy throne. For the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly
exalted. **Great** is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.
It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is
vs 9-10 Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. **Within** your temple O God, we meditate on your
unfailing love. Like your name, O God, your praises reach to the ends of the earth, your right
hand is filled with righteousness.

55:22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.
56:10-11 *In* God, whose Word I praise, in the Lord whose Word I praise- in God I trust; I will not be
71:6 afraid. What can man do to me? **From** birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my
vs 8 mother's womb. I will ever praise you. **My** mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your
vs 14-19 splendor all day long. **But** as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long, though I know not it's
measure. I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your
righteousness, yours alone. Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare
your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, you will not forsake me, O God, and I will
78:4 declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come. **We** will not hide
them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praise worthy deeds of the Lord, his
power, and the wonders he has done. *Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you who
have done great things. Who, O God, is like you? NO ONE !!!*

89:1-2 *I* will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness
known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you
vs 14-17 established your faithfulness in heaven itself. **Righteousness** and justice are the foundations of
your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim
you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long;
they exult in your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you
90:1-2 exalt our horn. **Lord**, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the
mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to
everlasting you are God!

*I will walk in the light of your love and bathe in the beauty of your holiness, for you are so good
and your mercy endures forever. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies, your goodness to the
ends of the earth. How pure and enduring forever is your love, I will rest in your arms forever!*

Ps. 106:1-4 Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise. Blessed are they who
92:1-5 maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. *It* is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your works O Lord, how
102:18 profound your thoughts! *Let* this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord!

96 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty, glory and power are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him all the earth. Say among the nations, “The Lord Reigns.” The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

97:1,6 The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. The heavens proclaim
vs 11-12 his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. *Light* is shed upon the righteous and joy on
98:1-8 the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done great and marvelous things; His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn- shout for joy before the Lord, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.

100 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name! For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his
72:18-19 faithfulness continues through all generations. *Praise* be to the Lord God, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen.

Ps. 116:5
vs 12-13
117:1-2
118:24
119:7
vs 12-16

vs 23-24
vs 47-48

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. *How* can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. *Praise* the Lord, all you nations; exalt him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! *This* is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *I* will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. *Praise* be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. With my lips I confess your Word. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and walk in your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your Word. *I* will meditate on your Word. Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. *For* I delight in your commands because I love them. I reach out my hand for your Word, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.

vs 89-90
vs 93
vs 96
vs 171-172
134

Your Word, O Lord is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth and it endures. *I* will never forget your precepts, for by them you have renewed my life. *To* all perfection I see a limit, but your Word is boundless! *My* lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. My tongue sings of your Word, for all your commands are righteous. *Praise* the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord. The Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth *has so richly blessed exceedingly, abundantly above all that I could ask or imagine.* *Praise* the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.

140:13
146:1-2
Isa. 12:2-6

Surely, the righteous will praise your name and the upright will live before you. *Praise* the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. With joy I will draw water from the wells of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of God, for great is the Holy One among you. *Arise*, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you as the brightness of the noon day. Unbelievers will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

vs 5
vs 19
61:3
Hab. 3:3-4

2Sa. 22:4

Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. *For* the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. *So* put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness and rejoice and be glad! *His* glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden. *I* call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

Worship

- Ps. 5:7**
18:1-3

vs 46
21:13
22:3
- I*, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your Holy Temple. *I* love you, O Lord my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the strength of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. *The* Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock. Exalted be God my Savior! *Be* exalted, O Lord, in your strength; we sing and praise your might. *Yet* you are enthroned as the Holy one; you are the praise of your saints!
- 27:4-5**

29:1-4

vs 9-11
- One* thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the presence of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him with all my heart. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his wings and set me high upon a rock. Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. And in his temple *Church* all cry, "GLORY!" The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.
- 34:1-3**

44:8
42:1-2
63:1-8
- I* will exalt the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. *In* God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever. *As* the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the True and Living God. When can I go and meet with God? *O* God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my spirit longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you, I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I stay close to you; your right hand upholds me.
- 68:4-6**

vs 17,19
84:1-2

92:8
vs 12-15
- Sing to God, sing praise to his name, exalt him who rides on the clouds- his name is the Lord- rejoice before him. A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun- scorched land. *The* chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands. Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. *How* lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God. *But* you, O Lord are exalted forever. *The* righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon, planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; He is my rock, and he is exalted forever."

Ps. 93

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. The seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea- the Lord on high is mighty. Your statutes stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days, O Lord. Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our Salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and exalt him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

99

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord in his Church; He is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name- He is holy. The King is mighty, he loves justice- you have established equity; in the Church you have done what is just and right. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy. Exalt the Lord our God and worship in his holy presence, for the LORD OUR GOD IS HOLY!

107:31-32
115:1

I give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders. Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.

vs 16-18
Isa. 25:1

*The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given dominion to man. It is we who exalt the Lord, both now and forevermore. Praise the Lord! *O* Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago. *The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. In that day we will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."**

vs 8-9

Rev. 4:8
vs 11
5:9

*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is and is to come. You are worthy our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. You are worthy *Lord Jesus* to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. *Worthy is the lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever!**

7:10
vs 12
11:15
vs 17
16:7

*Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the lamb. Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever Amen! *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever. We give thanks to you Lord God Almighty, who is, who was, and who is to come, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are all your judgments.**

Ex. 24:17
33:18-23

To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, THE LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. But, "he said," you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, " THE LORD, THE LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished." Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire!

34:5-7

40:34-35

Heb. 12:28-29

Ps. 145:1-14

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. Every day I will praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will exalt you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

vs 15-21

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who reverence him; he hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise and exalt his holy name forever and ever!

1Ch. 29:10-13

Praise be to you, O Lord, God Almighty, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name!

Thanksgiving

Ps. 13:5-6 *I will trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has been so good to me. I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. O Lord, I rejoice in your strength. How great is my joy in the victories you give! You have granted me the desires of my heart and have not withheld the request of my lips. You have welcomed me with rich blessings and placed a crown of life upon my head. Surely you granted me eternal blessings and made me glad with the joy of your presence.*

23:6 *Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid? The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me; he delivered me from all my fears. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who reverence him, and delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Reverence the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear (reverence) him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you!*

37:4-5 *Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare- LORD WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR US !!!*

52:8-9 *I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God; his unfailing love forever and ever. You are the calm at the center of the storm, my rock, shield and deliverer. I will praise and thank you forever for what you have done for me; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints. My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. My salvation and my honor depend on God. He is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. He cares and loves us beyond measure or human comprehension. He is a tender loving heavenly Father that is moved with compassion and care for his dearly loved children- to meet every need and heal every hurt. His love drives out all fears, and stills all anxiety and care- HIS IS OUR FATHER!*

65:5 *You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength.*

Ps. 66:1-6

Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing to the glory of his name; offer him glory and praise! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name." Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf! He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river on foot- come, let us rejoice in him. **I** will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. **We** give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds. **I** will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds. Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

69:30

75:1

77:11-14

84:7

vs 10-12

85:9-13

They go from strength to strength till each appears before God in Zion. **Better** is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you. Surely his salvation is near those who reverence him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

86:5

vs 10

vs 12-13

vs 15

2Co. 1:3

Ps. 102:18

You are kind and forgiving, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. **F**or you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God. **I** will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of hell. You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness, *for you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.* Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our trouble. **L**et this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.

vs 25

vs 27

Heb. 13:8

Ps. 104:1-5

vs 24

vs 33-34

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. **L**ord, you remain the same, and your years will never end. **J**esus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds his messenger, flames of fire his servants. He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. **H**ow many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. **I** will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to you O Lord, as I rejoice in you.

Ps. 105:1-5

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

107:1-3

vs 8-9

vs 15-16

vs 20-22

109:30-31

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. *Let* them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. *Let* them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron. *He* sent forth his word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. I will proclaim his mighty acts with thanksgiving and tell of his works with songs of joy. *With* my mouth I will greatly exalt the Lord; in the great throng I will praise him. For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save his life from those who condemn him.

118:14-15

vs 19-21

vs 28-29

121:1-8

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things! *Open* for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give thanks for you answered me; you have become my salvation. *You* are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. *I* lift up my eyes to the hills (*Lord*)- where my help comes from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let my foot slip- he who watched over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over me- the Lord is my shade at my right hand; the sun will not harm me by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep me from all harm- he will watch over my life; the Lord will watch over my coming and going both now and forevermore!

125:1-2

136:1-4

vs 26

138:1-8

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good (His love endures forever). Give thanks to the God of gods (His love endures forever). To him who alone does great wonders (His love endures forever). Give thanks to the God of heaven (His love endures forever). *I* will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your Word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted. May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth. May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great. Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord endures forever- you will not abandon the work of your hands.

Ps. 139:1-7

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in- behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? You will never leave me nor forsake me, you're with me always even to the end of the age. *If* I go up to the heavens, you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Mt. 28:20

Ps. 139:8-14

1Ch. 16:8-11

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever. *I* will tell of the kindness of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us- yes, the many kindnesses. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2Ch. 20:21

Isa. 63:7

1Th. 5:18

Ps. 150:1-6

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with the resounding cymbals. LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD!

PRAISE THE LORD!

Qualifications Of The Ministry

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Please don't let the title of this section fool you, it is not just for those who are called to the five-fold vocational ministry of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher position. If you are a Christian, then according to the Bible, you are an ambassador of Christ and a minister of reconciliation. We are all called to fulfill the "Great Commission" on this earth. Therefore, it is our responsibility to prepare ourselves to be people of excellence, integrity and to be equipped.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

It is required that those who have been given a trust, must prove faithful. There is so much that we have in Christ, freely you have received, freely give. One day we will all have to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ and give an account for what we did on earth with what He gave us. My prayer is that we all hear from Jesus, "Well done, good and faithful servant..."

Gifts & The Call

Eph .4:7-13

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When He ascended on high, he led captives in His train and gave gifts to men." What does he ascended mean except that he also descended to the lower earthly regions. He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens in order to fill the whole universe. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ro. 12:4-8

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the Church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healings, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

1Co. 12:27-31

1Co. 4:1-2

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

3:5-15

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe- as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

1Co. 4:5-7 Therefore, judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another. For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

1Pe. 4:10-11 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. **A** man can receive only what is given him from heaven. **I** am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. "**D**o not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. **B**ut you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Jn. 3:27

Lk. 24:49

Ac. 1:4-5

vs 8

Ro. 15:17-19 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done- by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. Since, you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you. **F**or the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. **B**eing confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **F**or it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. **Eph. 2:10** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **B**ut each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. **B**y the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

1Co. 4:20

Php. 1:6

2:13

Eph. 2:10

1Co. 7:7

15:10

Ro. 11:29

Jer. 29:11

1:5-8

For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. "**F**or I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. "**B**efore I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a minister of the gospel." "Ah, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

Ethics & Excellence

Conduct:

2Co. 1:12-14

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace. For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm. Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

vs 24

3:1-6

2Co. 4:1-2

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

vs 5-7

5:9-12

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then we know what is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Through we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

vs 16

6:3-7

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left. Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you.

7:1-4

2Ti. 2:20-22 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desire of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **But** you, man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. **If** anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

3:1-2 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

Money:

1Co. 9:11-14 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? **In** the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. The ministers who direct the affairs of the Church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor.

1Ti. 6:6-10 **But** godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. **Keep** your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Php. 4:11-13 **I** am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. **And** my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. **We** want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men. **Unlike** so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

Work Hard:

Col. 3:23-25

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no

1Th. 5:12-14

favoritism. Now we ask you, brothers to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their

Heb. 13:7

vs 17-18

work. Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

2Th. 3:6-15

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. If anyone does not obey our instructions in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

1Th. 4:11-12

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so

1Ti. 5:8

that you will not be dependent on anybody. If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Th. 2:1-12

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed- God is our witness. We were no looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

vs 17

2 Co. 12:14-18 Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you? I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did he not act in the same spirit and follow the same course.

Pride:

Ro. 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought; but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. **“This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my Word. For God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. For those who walk in pride, God is able to humble. We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is known by God. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

Isa. 66:2

Jas. 4:6

Pr. 16:18

Da. 4:37

1Co. 8:1-3

Gal. 6:3-5

vs 14

2Co. 10:8-18 For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. For some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.” Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present. We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man’s territory. But, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

2Co. 12:6 *Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. *Therefore, whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

Mt. 20:25-28

Php. 2:5-11

1Jn. 2:6

Mt. 23:12

Stumbling Block

Ro. 14:14-22 *As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil . For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. So be careful, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. When you sin against your brother in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.*

1Co. 8:9 vs 12-13

10:31-35 *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God- even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Therefore, if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.*

11:31

Eze. 34:1-11 *The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: woe to the shepherds (*Leaders*) of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them. Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them. For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.’”*

Jn. 10:11-13 *I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.*

Qualifications

1Ti. 3:1-15 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap. Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

Tit. 1:6-9 *A minister must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since a pastor is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless- not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

1Pe. 5:1-6

To the ministers among you, I appeal as a fellow minister of the gospel, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Fear Of Man

**Ac. 4:19-20
5:29**

Gal. 1:10

Pr. 29:25

Ps. 56:4

Heb. 13:6

2Ti. 1:6-9

But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." We must obey God rather than men. Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of fear and timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

2Ti. 3:12

1Pe. 4:12-19

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Exhortations:

1Ti. 4:7-16

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

5:19-22

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning. I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

Tit. 2:1-8

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Tit. 3:1-2

**vs 14
vs 8**

*Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. **Our** people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. **This** is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

2Ti. 2:1-7

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs- he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hard working farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

1Co. 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be

1Ti. 1:18-20

*disqualified for the prize. **I** give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.*

Col. 4:17

SEE TO IT THAT YOU COMPLETE THE WORK YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN THE LORD!

Gal. 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we
Heb. 6:10-12 do not give up. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy,
Php. 3:12-16 but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Jos. 1:6-9 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land (*In Christ and the redemption that was provided by his death, burial and resurrection*). Be strong and very courageous. Be diligent to obey (*and be a doer of*) the Word of God; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let the Word of God depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be STRONG and COURAGEOUS. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

2Pe. 1:5-11 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2Ti. 4:1-8 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: PREACH THE WORD! Be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage- with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardships, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Ac. 20:18-35

You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:

**‘It Is More Blessed To Give
Than To Receive.’**

Words Of Wisdom

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It is said that wisdom is the application of knowledge. It is true that wisdom like love is supernatural, of God. One thing that we need desperately in this day and age is the wisdom of God, because we know from the Scriptures the consequences of folly. God's Word from our spirit, emits spiritual light that illuminates our minds with understanding according to Psalms 119:130, "The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Ephesians 1:17-19

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

As children of God, we have in Scriptures, the embodiment of knowledge and truth. Why should we look to the world for answers that only God has. Jesus has given us the "Great Counselor," the mighty Holy Spirit and He uses the Word of God to lead us into all truth for every area of our lives if we will just listen to Him.

Pr. 1:1-7

For attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young- let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The respect and reverence for the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

4:1-23

Listen, my son, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor." Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

**Wisdom
Calls Forth****1:20-23**

*Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you. *For* the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.*

vs 32-33**8:1-9**

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; besides the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud; To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.

Pr. 8:10-21

Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; by me princes govern and all nobles who rule on earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

8:22-35

The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord, but whoever fails to find me harms himself.

3:13-20

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

5:1-2

7:1-4

13:14

16:16

19:8

24:13-14

23:12

My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver. He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers. Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

Pr. 24:3-6

*By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers. **Four** things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise; Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; conies are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings palaces. **The** fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **If** any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

30:24-28

9:10

Jas. 1:5-6

3:13-18

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. **The** fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.*

Isa. 32:17

Discernment & Judgment

Pr. 3:21-26

*My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared. **Let** your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil. **You** will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast upon thee, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.*

4:25-27

Isa. 26:3-4

28:23-29

Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cummin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cummin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it. All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.

Pr. 11:22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion. *Folly*
15:21-22 delights a man who lacks judgment, but a man of understanding keeps a straight course. Plans
20:18 fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. *Make plans by seeking advice; if*
18:15 you wage war; obtain guidance. *The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the*
19:2 wise seek it out. *It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.*
28:2 *When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge*
maintains order.

12:3 A man cannot be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted.
18:10 *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. To do what is right*
21:3 and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. *Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings*
1Sa. 15:22-23 and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and
to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft, and arrogance like
Pr. 25:28 the evil of idolatry. *Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.*
Jas. 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. *And everything that*
Ro. 14:23 does not come from faith is sin.

17:24 A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the
24:27 earth. *Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready, after that, build your house. The*
27:12 prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it. *A simple man*
14:15 believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. *A man lacking in judgment*
17:18 strikes hands in pledge and puts up security for his neighbor.

17:9 *He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates*
vs 14 close friends. *Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute*
20:3 breaks out. *It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. What you*
25:7-10 have seen with your eyes do not bring hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your
neighbor puts you to shame? If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's
26:17 confidence, or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation. *Like*
2Ti. 2:14 one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own. *Warn them*
Tit. 3:9 before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value and only ruins those who listen.
2Ti. 2:23-26 Avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the Word,
because these are unprofitable and useless. *Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid*
arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel;
instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must
gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of
the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has
taken them captive to do his will.

Pr. 16:21-22 *The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.*
20:5 Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it. *The purposes of a man's heart are deep*
25:15 waters, but a man of understanding draws them out. *Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,*
vs 20 and a gentle tongue can break a bone. *Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like*
vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

Prv. 22:24-25 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,
1Co. 15:33-34 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared. **Do** not be misled: “Bad company corrupts
1Ti. 5:22 good character.” Come back to your senses as you ought. **Do** not share in the sins of others. Keep
Pr. 12:26 yourself pure. **A** righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them
vs 26 astray. **A** fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

18:17 The first to present his case seems right till another comes forward and questions him.
28:23 **He** who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue. **It** is a
20:25 trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows. **A** man who
11:25 lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. **A** gentle
15:1 answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Honesty & Integrity

Isa. 33:15-16 **He** who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and
keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his
eyes against contemplating evil- this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will
Pr. 3:3-4 be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him. **Let** love and
faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
10:9 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. **The** man of integrity
11:3 walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. **The** integrity of the upright
12:3 guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. **A** man cannot be established
13:6 through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted. **Righteousness** guards the man of
14:2 integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. **He** whose walk is upright fears the Lord, but he
vs 26-27 whose ways are devious despises him. **He** who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his
children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the
snares of death.

14:34 **Righteousness** exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. **Kings** detest
16:12 wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness. **Love** and faithfulness keep a king
20:28 safe; through love his throne is made secure. **The** righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed
20:7 are his children after him. **He** who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and
21:21 honor. **An** honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. **He** who conceals his sins does not prosper, but
24:26 whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. **As** water reflects a face, so a man’s heart
28:13 reflects the man. **For** out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings
27:19 good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil
Mt. 12:33-35 stored up in him. Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will
Pr. 11:13 be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. **A** gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man
25:4-5 keeps a secret. **Remove** the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith;
remove the wicked from the king’s presence, and his throne will be established through
righteousness.

Pr. 11:18 *The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare. A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight. “It’s no good, it’s no good!” says the buyer; then off he goes and boasts about his purchase.*

19:23 *The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content untouched by trouble. Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for: through the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil. When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him. My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad; my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.*

16:2 *All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart. All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice and service. There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*

The Tongue

Pr. 10:19 *When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. He who guards his lips guards his soul, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity. A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue. A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly. He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame. A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much. Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, “I was only joking!” Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*

Pr. 4:24 *Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word, nor unwholesome or worthless talk ever come out of your mouth; but only such speech as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace to those who hear it.*

Eph. 4:28

5:4 *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.*

Jas. 3:2

1:19

Pr. 12:14 From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with *and enjoys* good things as surely as the
15:4 work of his hands reward him. *The* tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful
vs 7 tongue crushes the spirit. *The* lips of the wise spread knowledge. *A* man finds joy in giving an
vs 23 apt reply- and how good is a timely word! *The* mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life. *The*
10:11 mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom. The lips of the righteous know what is fitting to say.
vs 31-32 *The* tongue of the righteous is choice silver. The lips of the righteous nourish many. *From* the
vs 20-21 fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The
18:20-21 tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

20:15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel. *A*
25:11 word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. *My* mouth will speak words of
Ps. 49:3 wisdom; the utterance from my heart will give understanding. *The* mouth of the righteous man
37:30 utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just. *A* wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his
Pr. 16:23-24 lips promote instruction. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the
15:1 bones. *A* gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Hard Work

Pr. 22:29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve
21:5 before obscure men. *The* plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.
13:4 *The* sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. *Lazy*
10:4-5 hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a
12:24 wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. *Diligent* hands will rule, but
vs 11 laziness ends in slave labor. *He* who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases
14:23 fantasies lacks judgment *and will have his fill of poverty*. All hard work brings a profit, but mere
27:23 talk leads only to poverty. *Be* sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention
18:9 to your herds. *One* who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

Eph. 6:5-9 Employees, obey your employers with respect and fear, and sincerity of heart, just as you
would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as
employees for Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Work wholeheartedly, as if you
were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for
whatever good he does. And employers, treat your employees in the same way. Do not threaten
them, since you know that he who is both their Lord and yours is in heaven, and there is no
Col. 3:23-25 favoritism with him. *Whatever* you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not
for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the
Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is
4:1 no favoritism. *Employers*, provide your employees with what is right and fair, because you know
Tit. 2:9-10 that you also have a Master in heaven. *Employees* are to be subject to their employers in
everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to
show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God
our Savior attractive.

Pr. 6:6-11

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. **L**aziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry. **19:15** **D**o not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare. **20:13** **T**he way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway. **15:19** **A** sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing. **20:4** **T**he sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing. **21:25-26** **H**e who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich. **21:17** **D**o not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. **23:20-21** **I** went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. **24:30-34**

Material Goods

Pr. 3:9-10

Mal. 3:10-12

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. **B**ring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, "says the Lord Almighty," and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty, "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. **Pr. 10:22** **T**he blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. **11:24-25** **O**ne man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. **18:16** **A** gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

22:4

13:22

3:27-28

19:17

22:9

28:27

13:11

11:28

25:16

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life. **A** good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. **D**o not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow"- when you now have it with you. **H**e who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done. **A** generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. **H**e who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. **D**ishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow. **W**hoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. **I**f you find honey, eat just enough- too much of it, and you will vomit.

- Pr. 30:8-9** Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, “Who is the Lord?” Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God. **But** godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. **Do** not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 1Ti. 6:6-10**
- Mt. 6:19-21**
- Pr. 23:4-5** Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.
- 20:21** An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning will not be blessed at the end. **Of** what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom. **Those** who buy something, should treat it as though it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. I would like you to be free from concern. Be concerned about the Lord’s affairs- how you can please the Lord. **I** am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.
- 17:16**
- 1Co. 7:30-32**
- vs 35**

Discipline & Correction

- Heb. 12:5-11** Do not forget that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Endure chastening as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us with his Word for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.
- Pr. 10:17** He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. **Whoever** loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.
- 12:1**
- 15:32** He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.
- 13:18** He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored. **Whoever** gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.
- 16:20** He who obeys instructions guards his soul, but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die.
- 19:16** Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge. **Listen** to advice and accept instruction and in the end you will be wise. **Stern** discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die. **A** mocker resents correction, he will not consult the wise.
- vs 27**
- vs 20**
- 15:10**
- vs 12**

Pr. 15:31
19:25
25:12
27:5-6
28:23
29:1
9:7-9
23:9
10:8

He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. *Flog* a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge. *Like* an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear. *Better* is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but the kisses of an enemy is deceitful. *He* who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue. *A* man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed-without remedy. *Whoever* corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. *Do* not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words. *The* wise in heart accept commands.

13:24
19:18
22:15
23:13-14
29:15
vs 17
22:6
20:11

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. *Discipline* your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. *Folly* is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him. *Do* not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from hell. *The* rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to itself disgraces his mother. *Discipline* your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. *Train* a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. *Even* a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.

1:8-9
23:22-25

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. *Listen* to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding. The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice! Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise- "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them

Eph. 6:1-4

Col. 3:20-21
13:1
15:5
vs 20

up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. *A* wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke. *A* fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence. *A* wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

Wise vs The Fool

13:20
9:12
10:14
vs 23-25
vs 30

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. *If* you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. *Wise* men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. *A* fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom. What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted. When a storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever. *The* righteous will never be uprooted, but the wicked will not remain in the land.

Pr. 11:29
12:15
13:16
14:8
vs 16
vs 29
29:11
29:22
16:32

He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise. *The* way of the fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. *Every* prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly. *The* wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. *A* wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. *A* patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly. *A* fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control. *An* angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins. *Better* a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

15:28
20:3
26:4-5
21:20
9:13-18

The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. *It* is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. *Do* not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes. *In* the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has. *The* woman folly is loud; she is undisciplined and without knowledge. She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way. "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment. "Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!" But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell. *A* fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions. *A* fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating. *A* fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

18:2
vs 6-7

19:3
28:26
20:1
14:12
1:18-19
Mt. 26:52
Heb. 4:13
Pr. 5:21-23

A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord. *He* who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. *Wine* is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. *There* is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. *Violent* men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it. *For* all who draw the sword will die by the sword. *Nothing* in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. *For* a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly. *When* a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing. *All* men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, *their* life is but a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes, *but* the Word of the Lord stands forever.

11:7
1Pe. 1:24
Jas. 4:14
1Pe. 1:25

Pr. 17:13
26:27
Gal. 6:7-9

If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house. *If* a man digs a pit, he will fall into it; if a man rolls a stone, it will roll back on him. *Do* not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. *A* man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his fleshly nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. *No* harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble. *For* though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity. *Through* the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

Pr. 12:21
24:16
11:11

11:30-31
18:22
19:14
12:4

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner! **H**e who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord. **H**ouses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord. **A** wife of noble character is her husband's crown.*

31:10-31

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She gets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Pride **vs Humility**

Ob. 1:3-4
Isa. 14:9-17

*The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights. **H**ell below is astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you- all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones- all those who were kings over nations. They will respond, they will say to you, "You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us." All your pomp has been brought down to hell, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to hell, the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate. "**I** saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."*

Lk. 10:18-19

Mt. 23:12

Pr. 29:23

Ro. 12:3

1Pe. 5:5

For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you; Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another because, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Pr. 5:6

27:2

25:27

26:12

27:1

Jas. 4:13-16

Mt. 6:33

Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips. It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor. Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil." But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Pr. 11:2

15:33

16:5

vs 18

28:26

18:12-13

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor. The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor. He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame.

Eph. 5:21

Ph. 2:3-11

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself. You should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Guidance

Pr. 3:5-6

16:3

18:24

17:17

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.

Pr. 27:17
29:18
20:27
28:1
Ro. 8:14
Jer. 29:11

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. **Where** there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law. **The** lamp of the Lord searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being. **The** wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. **Because** those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. “**For** I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Health & Longevity

Pr. 4:20-23
3:7-8
14:30
15:13
vs 30
vs 15
25:25
13:12
17:22
18:14-15

My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight. Keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. **Do** not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. **A** heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. **A** happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. **A** cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. **A** cheerful heart has a continual feast. **Like** cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land. **Hope** deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. **A** cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. **A** man’s spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear? The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Isa. 53:4
1Pe. 2:24
Pr. 3:1-2
9:10-11
10:27
28:16
12:28
16:31
17:6
Ps. 91:14-16

Jesus himself took up our infirmities and carried our diseases. **By** his stripes I was healed. **My** son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. **The** fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. **The** fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. **A** tyrannical ruler lacks judgment, but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life. **In** the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality. **Gray** hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life. **Children’s** children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. “**Because** you love me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue you; I will protect you, for you acknowledge my name. You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble, I will deliver you and honor you. With long life will I satisfy you and show you my salvation.”

Lord, Thy Word Is Truth!

Sanctification

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Some folks have made the case to explain their moral failures that it was the devil that made them do it. No doubt the enemy will seek to energize our body of sin against us, but ultimately we yield to sin through an act of our will. No greater challenge faces the disciple of Christ than to learn to offer their body unto God as a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

What robs the believer of their joy and peace more than anything, is condemnation, guilt and shame when we fall into sin. Until Jesus returns, we have to sanctify (set apart as holy unto God) our minds and our bodies. The Grace of God found in His Word gives us the power to bring our natural appetites under control in order to live a life pleasing to the Lord.

Dead To Sin

Ro. 6:1-11

Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Eph. 2:4-10

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions- it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ro. 6:16-23

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of ? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8:9-10

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of

7:4-6

righteousness. So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. *Jesus himself* bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we would die to sins and live for righteousness. *For* I have been washed, I was sanctified, I was justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of my God.

1Pe. 2:24

1Co. 6:11

The Blood Of Jesus

Ro. 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. *For* God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we have become the righteousness of God. *So*, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. **BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!!! THE LAMB SLAIN BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH!!!**

**2Co. 5:21
Heb. 9:28**

Jn. 1:29

Heb. 9:11-15

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance- now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

vs 22

10:4

Eph. 1:7

Col. 1:13-14

For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins; *but* it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. *In* Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. *For* he has rescued us from the dominion and authority of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins.

Heb. 10:12-14

But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. For by God's will we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. *We* have a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. *For* the ministry Jesus has received is superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. *For* Christ did not enter a man made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. *For* we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet was without sin. *For* this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

8:1-2

vs 6

9:24-26

4:15

2:17-18

A Living Sacrifice

**Ro. 12:1
6:12-14**

I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- which is your spiritual worship. *Therefore*, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. *Therefore*, brothers, we have an obligation- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. *For* to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. *Whatever* happens, I will conduct myself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

8:12-13

**Php. 1:21
vs 27**

2:12-16

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the Word of Life. *Let* us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. *Do* you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. *Therefore* I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. *Have* nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. *Therefore*, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. *No* one born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. *We* know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one does not touch him.

2Co. 7:1

1Co. 9:24-27

1Ti. 4:7-8

1Pe. 4:1-2

1Jn. 3:9

5:18

1Pe. 1:13-16

Eph. 4:17-24

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." *So* I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the gentiles do in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Ro. 13:11-14** And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the
- 1Th. 5:1-8** Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. *Now*, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
- Eph. 5:8-16** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. That is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Be very careful, then, how you live- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. *For* the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “NO” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. *Dear* friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. *Therefore*, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so
- Tit. 2:11-14** prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. *But* thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand
- 1Jn. 3:2** firm. Let nothing move you. *May* God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.
- Jas. 1:21**
- 1Co. 15:57-58**
- 1Th. 5:23-24**

The Mind Of Christ

- Ro. 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will. *Those* who live according to the sinful nature *in the body* have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. *For* though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- 8:5-7**
- 2Co. 10:3-5**

Eph. 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus,
Col. 3:1-4 the apostle and high priest whom we confess. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
1Co. 2:16 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **But** we have
Pr. 23:7 the mind of Christ. As a man thinks in his heart so is he. **Finally**, brothers, whatever is true,
Php. 4:8-9 whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things.

Works Of The Flesh

Gal. 5:1,13 vs 16-26 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another in love. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit in our lives is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Eph. 4:30-31 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of salvation. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **But** among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person- such a man is an idolater- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them.

1Co. 10:5-13 God was not pleased with most of the Israelites who came out of Egypt; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples, to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did- and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did- and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did- and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Col. 3:5-10 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator. **1Pe. 2:1-3** Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. **Eph. 4:25-28** Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

2Ti. 2:19-22 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Jas. 4:1-3 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. **3:14-16** But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. **1Pe. 2:11-12** As an alien and stranger in the world, I abstain from the sensual urges, evil desires, the passions of my flesh that wage war against my soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Tit. 3:3-7

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions- it is by grace you have been saved. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

Eph. 2:1-5

Ro. 5:6-9

1Th. 4:1-8

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. You know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be holy; that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

Heb. 13:4

Mt. 5:27-28

6:22-23

1Co. 6:12-20

"Everything is permissible for me"- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"- but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"- but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

3:16-17

Therefore honor God with your body. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

Evil
Associations

- 1Co. 15:33-34** *Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and the devil? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said; “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord! Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure and from being polluted by the world. Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does- comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us tends toward envy.*
- 1Ti. 5:22**
Jas. 1:27
1Jn. 2:15-17
- Jas. 4:4-5**
- 1Co. 5:9-13** *I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the Church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked man from among you.” Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. But the cowardly, the unbelievers, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*
- 6:9-11**
- Rev. 21:8**
- Mt. 18:15-17** *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses’. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church; and if he refuses to listen even to the Church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you brothers, never tire in doing what is right. If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*
- 2Th. 3:6**
vs 10-15
Tit. 3:10-11

False Teachers

2Co. 11:2-6 *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!*

Gal. 2:11-14 *When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" *If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments that result in envy, quarreling, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. Guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.**

1Ti. 6:3-6 *If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments that result in envy, quarreling, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. Guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.*

vs 20-21

1:18-20 *My son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme. Command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work- which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.*

vs 3-7

2Ti. 2:16-18 *Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.*

- 2Ti. 2:23-26** *Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. **But** avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.*
- Tit. 3:9** *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them- bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. **For** they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.*
- 2Pe. 2:1-3** *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them- bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. **For** they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.*
- vs 18-19**
- Jude 3-4** *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. **These** dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. **Woe** to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. **These** men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. **The** Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.*
- vs 8**
- vs 11**
- vs 16**
- 1Ti. 4:1-3** *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. **These** dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. **Woe** to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. **These** men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. **The** Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.*
- 1Jn. 4:1-3** *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. **Then** we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. **Do** not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. **Now** the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*
- Eph. 4:14**
- Heb. 13:9**
- Acts 17:11**

Judgment In The House Of God

1Pe. 4:17-18 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the
1Co. 11:31-32 righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" **But** if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being
2Co. 5:9-11 disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. **So** we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade
Mt. 12:36 men. And Jesus said, "For I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be saved, and by your
Jas. 3:1 words you will be condemned." **Not** many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

1Co. 3:11-15 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one
1Pe. 1:17-19 escaping through the flames. **Since** you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in the last times for your sake.

Heb. 12:1-11 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. "Endure chastening as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those
vs 14 who have been trained by it. **Make** every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

2Co. 7:8-11

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it- I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while- yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

Php. 3:3

vs 7-8

vs 10-16

*For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh- though I myself have reasons for such confidence. **But** whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. **I** want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. **But** one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already obtained. **But** our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

3:20-21

Heb. 2:1

3:14

6:11-12

10:35-39

*We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. **We** have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at first. **We** want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. **So** do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, “He who is coming will come and will not delay. **But** my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. **But** we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but those who believe and are saved.”*

2Pe. 3:7-14

*By God’s own words, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day judgment and destruction of ungodly men. **But** do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. **But** the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be. You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **But** in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. **So** then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace*

Heb. 12:28-29 *with him. **Therefore**, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire!*

In Him

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There are literally thousands of promises from God in His Word for us to receive and enjoy in our lives. However, there are also conditions of obedience associated with them. At a minimum, the requirements of faith, hope and love must be observed for them to manifest in our lives. God gave us an inheritance, redemption and precious promises through the Lord Jesus Christ for a reason. It pleases the Father when His will in heaven becomes a reality in our lives on earth.

2 Corinthians 1:18-21

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

The promises of God are not sometimes “Yes” and sometimes “No”, but in reality they belong to all of God’s children all of the time. Let us not be guilty to have fallen short of the Grace of God and allow these exceedingly great and precious promises go in vain in our lives because of ignorance, disobedience or a lack of faith.

Precious Promises

Acts 17:28
2Pe. 1:3-4

For in him we live and move and have our being. *His* divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. *Praise* be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. *The* promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. *But* the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, would be given to those who believe. *If* you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Eph. 1:3
Gal. 3:13-14

vs 16

vs 22

vs 29

2Co. 1:18-20

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. *But* as for you, continue in what you have learned and become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. *I* always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way- in all your speaking and in all your knowledge- because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore, you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God who has called you into fellowship with his son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2Ti. 3:14-15

1Co. 1:4-9

Jas. 1:16-17

Jn. 10:10-11

3Jn. 2

Ro. 8:31-32

Mt. 7:10-12

vs 7-8

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. *The* thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. *Beloved,* I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. *If* God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? “*Which* of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened.

Acts 20:32
Jn. 8:31-32
vs 36
Heb. 4:1-3

vs 9-11

6:12

11:6

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. *Jesus* said, “If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. *So* if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” *Therefore*, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest. *There* remains, then a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. *We* do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

6:16-19

Tit. 1:1-2

Phm. 6

Jas. 1:5

1Jn. 5:20

Col. 2:2-3

Lk. 17:21

Jer .29:11

Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. *I* have a faith and knowledge of the truth, resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time. *I* am active in sharing my faith; therefore, I have a full understanding of every good thing I have in Christ. *If* any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. *We* know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true- even in his Son Jesus Christ. *We* are encouraged in heart and united in love, so that we may have, the full riches of complete understanding, in order that we may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. “*The kingdom of God does not come visibly, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.*” “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

The New Birth

Eze. 36:26

Jn. 3:3

vs 5-8

Tit. 3:4-7

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. *Jesus* declared, “I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. *I* tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to *our* spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. *But* when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

2Co. 5:16-17 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Through we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old man has gone, the new man has come! *You* were washed, you were sanctified, **1Co. 6:11** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. *For* we **12:13** were all baptized by one Spirit into one body- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free- and we **Gal. 3:26-28** were all given the one Spirit to drink. *You* are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also a heir.

1Jn. 3:1-3 *How* great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **Ro. 8:15-17** Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. *For* you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1Pe. 1:3-5 *Praise* be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade- kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **vs 8-9** *Though* you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **vs 18-21** *For* you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

vs 23 *For* you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. **Jas. 1:18** *He* chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. **2Co. 1:21-22** *Now* it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. **Eph. 1:13-14** *And* you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s Possession- to the praise of his glory. **1Co. 6:19-20** *Do* you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. **Jn. 1:12-13** *Yet* to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

Glorious Redemption

Ro. 8:29-30

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. *For* he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Eph. 1:4-12

2:4-9

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions- it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. *For* the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *But* now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus.

**Ro. 6:23
3:21-26**

What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." *The* words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. *For* God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we have become the righteousness of God. *He* himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. *It* is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. *Therefore*, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. *Since* we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *For* God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

**4:3
vs 23-25**

What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." *The* words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. *For* God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we have become the righteousness of God. *He* himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. *It* is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. *Therefore*, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

**2Co. 5:21
1Pe. 2:24
1Co. 1:30
Ro. 5:1-2**

vs 9-11

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. *Since* we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *For* God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

vs 8

- Co. 1:19-22** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Jesus, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. And joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- vs 11-14**
- Eph. 2:19-22** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. As you come to him, the living Stone- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him- you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **But** you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **Through** Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise- the fruit of lips that confess his name.
- 1Pe. 2:4-5**
- vs 9**
- Heb. 13:15**
- Isa. 53:1-5** Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities (*pains*) and carried our sorrows (*sickness*), yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities (*sins*); the chastisement that brought us peace (*of mind*) was upon him, and by his stripes (*on his back*) we are healed. **He** was oppressed and afflicted; yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.
- vs 7, 10-12**
- Jn. 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" **From** the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus
- vs 16-17**
- 1Jn. 5:11-12** Christ. And this is the testimony of God: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
- Acts 4:12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. **That** if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Ro. 10:4**
- vs 9**

- Ro. 8:1 vs 10** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Since Christ is in me, my body is dead because of sin, yet my spirit is alive because of righteousness.
- Gal. 1:3-4 2:20-21** Jesus gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. *For* I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing! *For* we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. *For* it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. *Being* confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. *But* we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Eph. 2:10**
- Php. 2:13 1:6**
- 2Th. 2:13-15**
- 2Ti. 1:8-10** So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am the least of all God's people, this grace was given me to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- Eph. 3:2-12**
- Heb. 10:19-23** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. *Therefore*, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we confess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- 4:14-16**

1Jn. 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us*
2:1-2 *from all unrighteousness. **My** dear friends, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if*
anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense- Jesus Christ the
4:9-10 *Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only ours but also for the sins of*
*the whole world. **This** is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into*
Ps. 103:12 *the world that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved*
Isa. 43:25 *us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **As** far as the east is from the west, so far*
*has he removed my transgressions from me. **I**, even I, am he that blots out your transgressions*
for mine own sake, and will not remember your sins.

The Holy Spirit
In The Believer

Joel 2:28-32 *And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will*
prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my
servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in
the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to
Isa. 28:11-12 *darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*
*And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **For** with stammering lips and*
strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the
weary rest”; and, “This is the place of refreshing.”

Jn. 4:10 *If you knew the gift of God (New Birth) and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would*
vs 13-14 *have asked him and he would have given you living water. **For** everyone who drinks this water*
will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water
Jn. 14:15-17 *I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life (*1st Dimension- Born**
*of the Spirit). **If** you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he*
will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-the Spirit of truth. The world cannot
Jn. 14:26-27 *accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you*
Jn. 16:7 *and will be in you. **But** the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,*
*will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **But** I tell you the*
vs 13-15 *truth: it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Comforter will not come to*
*you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **But** when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you*
into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you
what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known
Jn. 20:22 *to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is*
mine and make it known to you. And he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Gal. 5:22 *The fruit of the Holy Spirit (*His work within us*) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,*
Ro. 8:9 *goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law. And if anyone*
vs 14-16 *does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. **Because** those who are led by the*
Spirit of God are the sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to
Gal. 4:6 *fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba Father.” The Spirit*
3:26-27 *himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. **Because** you are sons, God sent the*
1Co. 12:13 *Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” **You** are all sons of God*
*through faith in Christ Jesus, **for** all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed*
yourselves with Christ.

- Tit. 3:5-7** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by his
- 2Th. 2:13-14** grace, we would become heirs having the hope of eternal life. God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this
- 1Co. 6:11** through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **But** you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- Jn. 7:37-39** If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (*2nd Dimension- Baptized with the Spirit*). By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. **I** am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. **Do** not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (*In other words- GET DRUNK ON THE NEW WINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*)
- Lk. 24:49**
- Eph. 5:18**
- Mk. 16:17** And these signs will accompany those who believe: they will speak in new tongues. **On** one occasion, while Jesus was eating with the disciples, he gave them this COMMAND: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “YES” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. “But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my WITNESSES in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- Acts 1:4-5**
- Acts 2:1-4** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance- we hear them declaring the wonders of God. These men are not drunk as you suppose (*not because of tongues, they were staggering from the power of God that was resting upon them*). It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly.
- vs 11,15**
- Acts 4:31**
- Acts 8:14-21** When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God (*they were born again*), they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the Apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.”

Acts 10:44-48 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized

11:13-17 in the name of Jesus Christ. *The* angel appeared to Cornelius and said, “Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring a message through which you and all your household will be saved.” Then Peter continued and said, “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God.”

19:1-7 And Paul said, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit since you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

Ro. 8:26-27 *The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself (strengthening, encouragement & comfort). For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

1Co. 14:2 vs 4 vs 14-15

Eph. 6:18

Jude 20

1Jn. 2:27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit- just as it has taught you remain in him. *We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”- but GOD HAS REVEALED IT TO US BY HIS SPIRIT. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritual discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment: “For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*

1Co. 2:6-16

More Than A Conqueror

Ro. 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **2Co. 2:14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and **1Co. 15:57-58** through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. **Thanks be to God!** He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ *over death, sin and the curse of the law.* Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. **Gal. 6:9** Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **Heb. 10:36** So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that **1Co. 16:30** when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **Be** on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.

Ro. 5:17 *Having received God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness, I*
Lk. 10:19-20 reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. **Jesus** replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. **Mk. 16:17-20** And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. **Mt. 28:18** Then Jesus came and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go *with this authority* and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.

Eph. 1:17-21 *I* keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the age to come. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Php. 2:6-11

Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **We** have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power, rule and authority- of every angelic principality and power. **When** you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed, stripped and spoiled the principalities, powers, and authorities ranged against us and made a bold display, a public spectacle and example of them, triumphing over them by the cross. **I** have died with Christ to the basic principles of this world. **It** is for freedom that Christ has set me free.

Col. 2:10
vs 13-15

vs 20

Gal. 5:1

1Jn. 5:4-5

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. **We** know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. **However**, we have overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. **Grace** and peace to you from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father- to him be the glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

vs 19

Rev. 12:11

1:4-6

Heb. 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death- that is the devil- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. **For** God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind. **Submit** yourselves then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. **Be** self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **Resist** him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the whole world are undergoing the same kind of suffering. **For** greater is he that is in you than he who is in the world. **But** the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. **With** your help I can advance against a troop; **with** my God I can scale a wall. **He** gives me great victories and shows me his unfailing kindness forever. **The** wicked man flees though no one pursues him, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. **And** it has come to pass, the burden has been removed from off my shoulders, and the yoke from off my neck, because it was destroyed by the anointing.

2Ti. 1:7

Jas. 4:7

1Pe. 5:8-9

1Jn. 4:4

Da. 11:32

Ps. 18:29, 50

Pr. 28:1

Isa. 10:27

2Co. 10:3-5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ- with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and the left. **I** can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **For** I labor with the Lord's energy which so powerfully works in me.

Php. 4:13

Christ
The Healer

Acts 10:37-38 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God
Mt. 18:14-17 was with him. When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirit with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." **BY HIS STRIPES WE WERE HEALED!!!** He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.
1Pe. 2:24
Ps. 107:20 **Mal. 4:2** But as for you who revere my name, the Son of righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

Ps. 103:1-5 Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; he redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion. He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's. Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it. For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.
Ex. 23:25
Nu. 23:19 For Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."
2Co. 1:20
Gal. 3:13

Ex. 15:22-26 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood (*Type & Shadow of the cross of Jesus Christ*). He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not permit any of the diseases to come on you that were brought on the Egyptians, for I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU!!!"

Nu. 21:4-9 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the Lord permitted venomous snakes to come among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us. "So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived (*Jesus became sin for us in order to redeem us from its consequences*). God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of
2Co. 5:21 God. In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.
Eph. 4:26

Mt. 9:35-38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. **Mk. 16:17-18** And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. **Mt. 12:15** Many followed him, and he healed all their sick. **14:14** When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed all their sick.

Mt. 15:29-31 Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up into the hills and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the dumb and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the dumb speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. And everywhere he went- into villages, towns or countryside- they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Jn. 14:12-13 I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO HAS FAITH IN ME WILL DO WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING. HE WILL DO EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO THE FATHER. AND I WILL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, SO THAT THE SON MAY BRING GLORY TO THE FATHER!!!

Prosperity

Php. 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
3Jn. 2 Dear friends, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. **Ecc. 11:1** Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days, you will find it again. **Lk. 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will men pour into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Mk. 11:23-24** "I tell you the truth, if you say to this mountain *of debt*, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will happen, it will be done for you. Therefore, I tell you whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." **Heb. 4:2** Therefore I enter into God's rest by mixing the Word with faith.

Mal. 3:10-12 So bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit, says the Lord Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty. **Remember this:** Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. **Now** he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.

8:1-7 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian Churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us- see that you also excel in this grace of giving. **For** you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Dt. 28:1-3 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. **The** Lord will grant you abundant prosperity- in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. **For** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. **For** no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

Gal. 3:13-14

2Co. 1:20

Heb. 6:12 vs 17-19 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. **Because** God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Jer. 17:7-8 “**B**ut blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought (*recession*) and never fails to bear fruit.” **B**lessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 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, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. **H**e will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. “**C**ome, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Pr. 6:10-11 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come
11:18 on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. **A** wicked man earns deceptive wages, but
11:24-25 he who sows in righteousness reaps a sure reward. **O**ne man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. **D**ishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow. **A** good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children, but a sinner’s wealth is stored up for the righteous. **A**ll hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. **H**e who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor. **I** went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like a armed man.
13:11
vs 22
14:23
21:21
24:30-34

Dt .8:17-18 You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.
1Ti. 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. “**I**f you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” The mouth of the Lord has spoken.
Isa. 1:19-20

Ps. 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your
16:2 possession. **I** said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” **T**aste
34:8-10 and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. **N**o good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. **Y**ou still the hunger of those you cherish; their sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children. **I** was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.
84:11
17:14
37:25

Protection

Jn. 10:18-19 Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from, heaven. I have given you authority to
1Jn. 5:18 trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God
2Th. 3:3 keeps him safe, and the evil one does not touch him. **But** the Lord is faithful, and he will
2Ti. 4:16-18 strengthen and protect you from the evil one. **At** my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. **But** the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever.
Ge. 15:1 Amen. **I** will not be afraid, for God is my shield and my very great reward.

2Co. 1:8-11 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. **But** this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. **But** when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. **When** they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **For** God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" **For** God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. **There** is no fear in love. **But** perfect love drives out fear.

Isa. 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **For** I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you. **When** you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. **When** you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. **For** I am the Lord, your God, your savior. You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.

Dt. 23:20-23 I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it. "No misfortune is seen in my life, no misery observed in my family. The Lord my God is with me; the shout of your King is in my life. God has brought me up out of the world; I have the strength of a wild ox. There is no sorcery against me, no divination against my family. It will now be said of my life,

‘ SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE!’

Ps. 3:3-6

*But you are a shield around me, O Lord, my Glorious One, who lifts up my head. To the Lord I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. **I** will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

4:8

5:11-12

*But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. **I** love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.*

18:1-3

27:1

28:6-9

*The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid? **Praise** be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever. **You** are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. **I** sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. **God** is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. **Cast** your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. **Praise** be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.*

32:7-8

34:4

46:1-3

55:22

68:19

Ps. 91

***He** who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save me from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover me with his feathers, and under his wings I will find refuge; his faithfulness will be my shield and rampart. I will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at my side, ten thousand at my right hand, but it will not come near me. I will only observe with my eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If I make the Most High my dwelling- even the Lord, who is my refuge- then no harm will befall me, no disaster will come near my tent. For he will command his angels concerning me to guard me in all my ways; they will lift me up in their hands, so that I will not strike my foot against a stone. I will tread upon the lion and the cobra; I will trample the great lion and the serpent. "Because you love me," says the Lord, "I will rescue you; I will protect you, for you acknowledge my name. You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble, I will deliver you and honor you. With long life will I satisfy you and show you my salvation."*

Peace & Joy

Php .4:6-9

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you, I do not give to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!”

1Pe. 5:7

Jn. 14:27

Lk. 10:5-6

Jn. 16:33

Ro. 5:1

8:6

14:17

15:13

1Co. 14:33

Gal. 5:22-23

Eph. 4:3

Col. 3:15

2Th. 3:16

Jas. 3:17-18

2Pe. 1:2

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. But 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. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Isa. 26:3

Jer. 33:3

Isa. 54:13

Zep. 3:17

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is stayed on thee. Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children’s peace. The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

Ps. 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gal. 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. At that time Jesus, full of joy through the*
Lk. 10:21 *Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because you have hidden these*
Ps. 16:11 *things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was*
32:11 *your good pleasure." You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in*
42:5 *your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you*
righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart. Why so downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed
within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Isa. 35:8-10 *And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not*
journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No
61:1-3 *lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only*
the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion
with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and
12:3 *sorrow and sighing will flee away. The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord*
has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the
Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for
those who grieve in Zion- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy
instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness. They will be
called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. With joy you
will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Ps. 126:1-3 *When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our*
mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the
Job 8:21 *nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and*
5:19-27 *we are filled with joy. He will yet fill my mouth with laughter and my lips with shouts of joy.*
From six calamities he will rescue you; in seven no harm will befall you. In famine he will
ransom you from death, and in battle from the stroke of the sword. You will be protected from
the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes. You will laugh at destruction
and famine and need not fear the beasts of the earth. For you will have a covenant with the stones
of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you. You will know that your children
will be many, and your descendants like the grass of the earth. You will come to the grave in full
vigor, like sheaves gathered in season. We have examined this, and it is true,
SO HEAR IT AND APPLY IT TO YOURSELF!

The World To Come

Ro. 8:18-25 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be*
revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the
creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who
subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and
brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has
been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we
ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our
adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is
seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet
have, we wait for it patiently.

Php. 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. **1Th. 4:13-18** Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1Co. 15:39-55 All flesh is not the same; Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Col. 3:4 When Christ who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1Th. 5:9-10 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him- **1:10** Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. **Tit. 2:11-13** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope- **Jn. 14:1-3** the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Rev. 1:7-8

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." *I* saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on them that no one but he himself knows. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the WORD OF GOD! The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these sins he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

19:11-21

Isa. 66:15-16

See, the Lord is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire and with his sword the Lord will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the Lord. "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the Lord. "And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

Rev. 20:1-6

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Isa. 65:17-25

“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard no more. Never again will there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendents with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

Rev. 20:7-10

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth-Gog and Magog- to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

2Pe. 3:3-7

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this coming he promised? Every since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water. By water also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

1Th. 5:1-3

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying “Peace and Safety,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

2Pe. 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Rev. 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the lamb of God down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever. "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" whoever is thirsty, let him come:

vs 12-14

vs 17

**AND WHOEVER WISHES, LET HIM
TAKE THE FREE GIFT OF THE WATER
OF LIFE!**

