

Key Bible Verses

3rd Edition

Strengthen Your Faith
With Bible Verses
On Key Topics

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Jason A. Krause



Title Page

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Strengthen Your Faith
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On Key Topics

Jason A. Krause

Anewtrek LLC



Key Bible Verses 3rd Edition (Scripture based on the King James Bible)

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DEDICATION

This is dedicated to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Thank you God, for your love. I am comforted by the thought that you know my heart, you are impartial, and you are my final judge.

Thank you Jesus, for your grace and truth. I confess you are my Lord and Savior, and I believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead. Through you I am redeemed and free.

Thank you Holy Spirit, for your comfort and guidance.



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INTRODUCTION

Most Christians want to strengthen their faith, to live a good life, and help their loved ones. Studying the Bible, or at least key Bible verses, might help. Many Christians feel like they don't have time to study the Bible, or even read it. In more than 10 years of studying the Bible I have put together what I believe are key Bible verses on important topics. This publication is meant to help you memorize important verses that help strengthen your faith, to better understand the world we live in, and hopefully get you interested in reading the Bible. This book is not meant to replace advice from people ordained in the Christian religion, or any certified expert advice. Why read this book? This book organizes important Bible verses in ways that reveal a biblical view about the world we live in. These verses, and the way they are organized have helped me to better examine and improve my life, and help other people by sharing key verses. I believe this book can help many more people. Maybe you? There is only one way to find out.

All respectable historians believe the Bible is a credible historical document and that Jesus of Nazareth was a real human. Many historians just do not believe the Bible is from God and Jesus is the Son of God. The Bible claims over 1,000 times that it is from God, if you search a free digital King James version Bible for phrases like, "the LORD said," and "saith the LORD. Most books in the New Testament of the Bible were written by eyewitnesses of the life of Jesus, or had personally experienced Jesus (like Paul). Not only did Jesus claim to be the Son of God (Jn 6:38-40 and 10:36-38), but His disciples claimed it (Mk 1:1), God (Mk 1:11), an angel (Lk 1:35), and demons Jesus rebuked (Mt 8:29 and 5:5-7). To me, Christianity is more about a relationship and fellowship with God and Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. I consider relationship with Jesus as believing in Him as my Lord and savior, and fellowship as regularly reading Bible verses and praying, and listening or feeling, for responses., and considering the responses with the Bible.

I believe guarantees in life include change and choices, and the change is mostly daily opportunities and challenges. New knowledge can help us better manage our opportunities and challenges, and make better choices. I believe some of our greatest opportunities are personal and spiritual growth. I believe our biggest challenges are desires of the flesh (Gal 5:16-21). I also believe that we are living in a spiritual war on earth, but it is set in a larger love story, with God's forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus (Jn 3:16, Ro 5:19, and 8:38-39). Jesus warned us that we will have trouble in the world, but with courage, we can still have peace and joy in Him (Jn 16:33). As Jesus was tempted by the devil, He used God's word as His defense, and said, people don't live on food alone, but on every word of God (Mt 4:4). Greater is the Holy Spirit in you than you in the world (1 Jn 4:4).

It seems that technology, specifically the internet, has increased our opportunities and challenges, and our ability to engage in our desires of the flesh or the desires of the Spirit. The deciding factor is often our standards and how we manage our environment. We have our immediate environment where we live, which we have more influence over, and there is our larger community environment, which we have less influence over. I have found it helpful to post some of my favorite Bible verses around my home. I have also found it helpful to download a digital Bible and the Key Bible Verses book, to have them as a quick reference for key topics. I have also created a computer wallpaper with The 12 Great Bible Verses, which can also be printed out as a reminder.

It seems there are some similarities in how the early Christian church grew despite oppression, and how the United States of America won its independence and grew to be the most powerful nation in the world. I believe some key principles included the values of truth, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, along with faith in God (reference the Declaration of Independence). It seems they also valued a sense of responsibility, and a pioneering spirit, that courageously balanced new ideas with truth and timeless principles. America's founders strongly believed in having checks and balances for power. They also believed in personal growth and self-education, as Ben Franklin cofounded the first public library, in hopes that it would help increase the knowledge of anyone who desired to learn and grow.

There are many smart people who could disagree with many parts of this book, as it takes faith to believe in God, and to not believe in God. It is scientifically accepted that the universe is expanding, and back in time, it had a starting point. The scientists who do not believe in God, believe the universe just happened to materialize out of nothing. That is faith. There is wisdom in this book that can be considered as self-evident truths, as people will understand, they have experienced them. What really matters most is our identity and personal values and beliefs that motivate our words and actions. Because, after our life is done on this earth, God will judge us for all of our words and actions, and we will not be able to call on any "witness" to defend us. The good news is that God knows all, and is righteous and not partial. If you are a Christian, this book can help strengthen your faith and empower you with wisdom to live a better life. This book is not intended to push Christianity on anyone, I feel that it is important that all people be given the respect to be allowed to make their own choices, without manipulation. This was a major reason many people first came to America, they were fleeing from oppression, and pursuing freedom. If you dare to read the entire Bible for the first time, I recommend a study Bible, and starting with the New Testament, then the book of Proverbs, followed by the rest of the Old Testament.

The Bible is God's word, and it is helpful (2 Tim 3:16). Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by renewing your mind (Ro 12:2). Wisdom is better than wealth, as it helps with our health, peace, and happiness (Pro 3:13-18).



CHRISTIAN WISDOM GUIDE

SITUATION

Identity: We are made in God's image (Gen 1:27), His workmanship (Eph 2:10), as a spirit with a soul in a body (1Th 5:23). God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). We have power in our thoughts (2Cor 10:5), words (Pro 18:21), and actions (Pro 10:4). Have faith (Mk 11:22), God loved the world and gave His only Son, and whoever believes in Him will have eternal life (Jn 3:16). Greater is the Holy Spirit in us, than us in the world (1 Jn 4:4).

Our Headquarters (heart and head): Guard your heart, life flows from it (Pro 4:23). The heart can be selfish (Mark 7:21-22). God can give us a new heart and spirit (Ez 36:26). Keep God's word in an honest and good heart, and be patient for results (Lk 8:15). Be content (Php 4:11), courageous (Josh 1:9), and diligent (Pro 10:4, 21:5). God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, and exalts the humble in due time (1 Pt 5:5-6). The humble have wisdom (Pro 11:2). Wisdom is better than strength (Ecc 9:16). The wise seek knowledge (Pro 18:15), counsel (Pro 12:15), and God (Jas 1:5). We should sanctify our self, and control our bodies (1Th 4:3-8, Jn 17:17). Govern your thoughts (2Cor 10:5). Think on what is honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and practice them (Php 4:8). Do not conform to the world, but be transformed by renewing your mind (Ro 12:2). Knowledge is power (Pro 24:5). Knowledge should govern desires (Pro 19:2). Knowledge is better than gold and wisdom is better than jewels (Pro 8:10-11).

Circumstances

Truth: God is in all (Eph 4:6). God's word is truth (Jn 17:17). The truth will set you free (Jn 8:32). Truth helps us use time wisely (Ecc 8:5). Buy truth (Pro 23:23). Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). God's anger is against who suppresses truth (Ro 1:18). God hates arrogance, lies, shedding innocent blood, wicked plans, and who stirs up conflict (Pro 6:16-19).

Time: Prioritize and make the best use of time (Eph 5:16), tomorrow is unknown (Jas 4:14). Teach us to number our days so we apply our hearts to wisdom (Ps 90:12). Walk in wisdom around those who are without, redeeming time (Col 4:5). The hand of the diligent will rule (12:24). A diligent business person will stand before kings (Pro 22:29).

Health: Our body is the Holy Spirit's temple (1 Cor 6:19). God's words give life and health (Pro 4:20-22). Physical training is good (1Tim 4:8), many sweets are not (Pro 25:27). A joyful heart is good, like medicine (Pro 17:22). A plant based diet is good for some people (Gen 1:29, 9:3, Dan 1:11-15). Don't judge diets (Ro 14:2-3), God doesn't (1 Cor 8:8).

Emotions and Thoughts: Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (Jas 1:19). Being slow to anger gives understanding (Pro 14:29). A cool spirit gives understanding (Pro 17:27). Don't fear (Ps 23:4) or be anxious (Mt 6:34). Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest is love (1Cor 13:13). The wise are careful, the foolish are careless (Pro 14:16). Share feelings of other people (Ro 12:15). What we focus on influences us (Mt 6:22, Ro 8:5-6). Transform your mind (Ro 12:2). Think on important topics (Php 4:8). Manage your thoughts (2 Cor 10:5). We are not our emotions and thoughts, we are what we do with them (2 Tim 1:7, Gal 5:16, Eph 6:10-12).

Money: Wisdom is better, and more beneficial, than wealth (Pro 3:13-18). Life is not in possessions (Lk 12:15). Better are the poor with integrity, than the rich without integrity (Pro 28:6). The rich rule over the poor and the borrower serves the lender (Pro 22:7). God, and diligent thoughts and hands, bring wealth (Deu 8:18, Pro 21:5, Pro 10:4). Honor God with your wealth (Pro 3:9) and invest (Mt 25:27). The love of money is the root of many evils (1Tim 6:10).

Allies

Holy Trinity: Our help comes from the Lord (Psa 121:2). All things are possible with God (Mk 10:27). God's love is steadfast and endures (Ps 117), and He delights in mercy (Mic 7:18). God sent Jesus to save our soul (Jn 3:16, Ro 5:19). Jesus is the way, truth, and life (Jn 14:6). Who abides in Jesus, and Jesus in them, will bear much fruit (Jn 15:5). Greater is the Holy Spirit in us, than us in the world (1Jn 4:4). The Holy Spirit is our comforter and teacher (Jn 14:26).

Angels: Can guard us and help us (Psa 91:11-12), warn us (Mt 1:20), and test us (Gen 18:1, 19:1, Heb 13:2).

Other People: Spiritual forces can influence other people (Eph 6:12, 2 Cor 10:3-5, Job). Love God and love people (Mt 22:37-40). Greater love has no one, than to lay down their life for their friends (Jn 15:13, Pro 18:24). Love people through action and truth (1 Jn 3:18). Think for yourself and speak truth in love (Eph 4:15). Help people as you have opportunity (Gal 6:10). Hate stirs up anger, but love covers offenses (Pro 10:12).

Adversaries

Our Flesh: Desires of the flesh are a daily concern because they are against the desires of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-17). The flesh wars against the soul (1Pt 2:11). The desires of the flesh include lust, idolatry, witchcraft, anger, envy, division, and drunkenness (Gal 5:19). Pride (Pro 11:2) and foolishness (Mt 25:1-13) also work against people.

Other Spiritual Forces: We struggle against wicked spiritual adversaries (Eph 6:12). Our adversary is the devil (1Pt 5:8) who tempts (Gen 3:1-5, Mt 4:3), lies (Jn 8:44), discourages (2 Cor 4:4), deceives and accuses (Rev 12:9-10). So, he can steal (fitness, fruit of the Spirit, fellowship, and freedom), kill (body), and destroy (legacy) (Jn 10:10). The devil can disguise himself (2Cor 11:14-15), and cause suffering (Job 1 and 2). Our best offense and defense are in Jesus (Jn 10:10).

Other People: All humans have free will (Gen 1:28), and are influenced by spiritual forces (Eph 6:12, Job). The world often promotes desires of the flesh, and pride (1Jn 2:16). We will have trouble in the world (Jn 16:33). Go and share the Gospel (Mk 16:15), but don't judge those who don't believe it (Jn 12:47).



CHRISTIAN WISDOM GUIDE (page 2)

STRATEGY to walk in the Spirit and live out the four core Christian values (faith, love, wisdom, and work)

Have faith in God (Mk 11:22-23), love (Mt 22:37-40), learn (Mt 4:4, Jn 17:17, Pro 3:13-17), and let your light shine, so people see your good works and glorify God (Mt 5:16, Jas 2:18).

TACTICS

Be: God's image bearer (Gen 1:27), as adopted sons and daughters (Ro 8:15) with a spirit not of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (2Tim 1:7). Be Christ like (Ro 12:9-21). Be virtuous, gain knowledge, and exercise temperance, patience, godliness, kindness, and love (2 Pt 1:5-7). Be wise (Pro 4:5), aware (Eph 5:15), humble (1Pt 5:6), honest (Pro 6:17), diligent (Pro 10:4, 21:5), patient (Ro 12:12), strong and courageous (Jos 1:9) and blessed (Lk 7:23). Be prepared to respectfully defend your faith (1Pt 3:15). Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger (Jas 1:19). Fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Gal 5:22).

Know: (Pro 1:5-7). Truth will set you free (Jn 8:32). One God of all, above all, through all, and in all (Eph 4:6). God's ways are higher than ours (Isa 55:9). The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps (Pro 16:9). Do not be distracted, God enlisted you (2Tim 2:4). We are of the household of God (Eph 2:19). God is slow to anger, and plentiful in steadfast love (Neh 9:17). God's love endures (Ps 117, 136), and nothing can separate us from it (Ro 8:37-39). Attitudes are contagious (Pro 15:1). The Holy Spirit can comfort and teach us (Jn 14:26, Acts 9:31). God can give wisdom (Jas 1:5). The Lord is our fortress, deliverer (Ps 91), and avenger (1Th 4:6). We can do all things through Christ (Ph 4:13). We are saved by grace, not works (Eph 2:8). Sin is an obstacle between us and God (Isa 59:2). Guarantees in life include change (Pro 27:1), opportunities (Gal 5:16, Eph 5:15-17, 6:11, Lk 8:15), challenges (Jn 10:10, 16:33, Eph 6:12), and choices (Gen 1:28, Pro 18:21, Ro 12:2, 2Cor 10:5). Communication skills are powerful (Pro 18:21, 15:1-4), and misunderstandings are dangerous (Job 4:1-42:7). Diligent thoughts and actions lead to plenty (Pro 10:4, 21:5).

Do: Stand and put on the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, the word of God (Eph 6:14-17). Have faith in God (Mk 11:22), submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee (Jas 4:7), and pray against temptation (Mt 26:41). Praise God (Mt 6:9) and worship Him (Lk 4:8). Remember God's word (Pro 3:1), it is helpful (Mt 4:4). Faith is assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1). We should supplement our faith with virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, kindness and love (2Pt 1:5). Love God and people (Mt 22:37-40). Who does not love does not know God (1Jn 4:8). Love is patient and kind, not envious or boastful (1Cor 13). Submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee (Jas 4:7). Respect authority (Ro 13:1-4) and pray for authority (1Tim 2:1-2). Walk as light, discern the Lord's will and avoid works of darkness (Eph 5:8-10). Pray constantly (Ro 12:12), confess (1Jn 1:9), repent (Acts 2:38), and forgive (Mk 11:25). Trust and acknowledge the Lord and He will guide you (Pro 3:5-6) and bless you (Jer 17:7). Wait for the Lord and He will renew your strength (Isa 40:31). Treat people how you want to be treated (Mt 7:12) and build each other up (Eph 4:29). Seek wise counsel (Pro 24:6). Caution, encourage, and help people (1Th 5:14). Share life's ups and downs (Ro 12:15). Speak life (Pro 18:21) and speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15), because friends sharpen friends (Pro 27:17). Walk in the light (1Jn 1:7) and in newness of Spirit (Ro 7:6). As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jos 24:15). Seek first the kingdom of God and needs will be met (Mt 6:33). Look forward and consider your path, do not turn from it (Pro 4:25-27).

Personal Growth: Get wisdom (Pro 3:13-35), learn (Pro 1:5-7, Php 4:8), and be sanctified (1 Th 5:12-24). Pray, intercede, and give thanks for people (1Tim 2:1). Repent (Mk 1:15). Respect people, and be fair and honest (Mt 7:12). Be courteous (Ti 3:2), and grow with other people (Eph 4:15), knowing all have sinned, and are justified by grace (Ro 3:23). If someone sins against you, first talk with them about it alone (Mt 18:15). Beware of dissension, blessed are peacemakers (Mt 5:9). Speak with grace and know how to answer each person (Col 4:6). Bad decisions will be made (Ro 7:15), wrong words will be said (Jas 3:2), but the gifts and calling of God remain (Ro 11:29). We all have a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7), and we tend to prioritize one or two of our inner worker/warrior, lover, and thinker.

Professional Growth: Obey leaders (Hb 13:17). Everyone has a gift for serving people (1Pt 4:10, Gal 5:13). Let people walk out the calling the Lord has given them (Eph 2:10, 4:1). The thoughts and hands of the diligent lead to plenty (Pro 10:4, 21:5). Those diligent in their work will stand before kings (Pro 22:29). Let no one despise you for your youth, but be an example in word, love, faith, and purity (1 Tim 4:12). All have influence (Pro 13:20). Groups often amplify desires.

Leadership Growth: To whom much is given, much is required (Lk 12:48). Mercy and truth preserve the king (Pro 20:28). Families will have challenges (Lk 12:52-53), husbands love your wives, and wives respect your husbands (Eph 5:33). Children are a blessing (Psa 127:3-5), raise them in discipline and instruction in the Lord (Eph 6:4). With many counselors there is safety (Pro 11:14). Where there is no vision the people perish (Pro 29:18). Provide for your people willingly, not with greed, and not controlling, but be an example (1 Pt 5:3). Look for people who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place them over people (Ex 18:21). Leaders are held to high standards (1Tim 3:1-7).

Organization Growth: God is not partial (Ro 2:11), be fair to your employees (Eph 6:9). God hates deceptive weights, and a false balance is not good (Pro 20:23). Better is a little with righteousness than great revenue with injustice (Pro 16:8). Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor 3:17). Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Ps 33:12).



SCRIPTURE FOUNDATION GUIDE

FOUNDATION

Salvation: For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (Jn 3:16). Confess that Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved (Ro 10:19).

Believe: Jesus was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification (Ro 4:25). By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one will many be made righteous (Ro 5:19). Don't fear, believe (Mk 5:36).

Prophecy: A virgin will bear a son (Isa 7:14 / Mt 1:23). Bethlehem will bear the ruler of Israel (Mic 5:2 / Lk 2:4-7). He was despised and rejected (Isa 53:3 / Jn 1:11). They pierced Him (Ps 22:16 / Mt 27:35). He was numbered with the transgressors (Isa 53:12 / Mk 15:27).

Relationship with God: We are a spirit with a soul in a body (1Th 5:23). God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2Tim 1:7). God knows our heart (Pro 21:2). Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He rewards them who diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6). Jesus answered them saying, Have faith in God (Mk 11:22).

Grace: Grace and peace to you (Ro 1:7). All have sinned (Ro 3:23). He saved us, not because of works (Ti 3:5), by grace are you saved through faith (Eph 2:8). The law was given by Moses, grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (Jn 1:17). Jesus fulfilled the law for us (Mt 5:17).

Truth: By God all things were created (Col 1:16). God's word is truth (Jn 17:17). God judges everyone equally (Ro 2:11), even our secrets (Ro 2:16). The wrath of God from heaven is against those who manipulate the truth (Ro 1:18). Worship in spirit and truth (Jn 4:24).

Sin: Christ Jesus has freed us from the law of sin and death (Ro 8:2). Let him who is without sin be the first to throw a stone (Jn 8:7).

Repent: Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:38).

Confess: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1Jn 1:9).

Baptism: He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Ac 10:48). Buried with Him through baptism, raised by faith (Col 2:12).

Holy Spirit: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, who the Father sent in the name of Jesus, He will teach you all things (Jn 14:26). You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:5). The Holy Spirit dwells in us (2Tim 1:14). The Spirit also helps our infirmities (Ro 8:26).

New Covenant: God spoke of a new covenant (Jer 31:31). If the ministry of condemnation has glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds it in glory (2Cor 3:9). If righteousness come by the law, Christ died in vain (Gal 2:21). Serve in newness of Spirit (Ro 7:6).

New Life: Put on a new self in the likeness of God in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24). Follow that which is good (3Jn 1:11).

Courage: Be strong and courageous. Do not be scared, or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Josh 1:9).

Trust: Blessed are those who trust in the LORD (Jer 17:7). Cast your cares upon Him (Php 4:6). Christ makes all things new (Rev 21:5).

Faith: Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Ro 10:17). Jesus answered them saying, Have faith in God (Mk 11:22). Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1). Our conversation is in heaven (Php 3:20).

Hope: Hope that is seen is not hope (Ro 8:24). With people this is impossible; but with God all things are possible (Mt 19:26). Be sober and hope to the end (1Pt 1:13). The LORD has plans for you, for peace not evil (Jer 29:11). Faith, hope, and love abide (1Cor 13:13).

Love: Nothing can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ro 8:38-39). Let us not love in word; but in deed and in truth (1Jn 3:18). No person has greater love than to lay down their life for their friends (Jn 15:13). Love suffers long and is kind; love envies not; love brags not, is not puffed up or behaves badly, is not demanding, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in truth (1Cor 13). Let all things be done with love (1Cor 16:14). Bear with one another in love, and maintain unity of the Spirit in peace (Eph 4:2-3).

Commandments: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all law (Mt 22:37-39).

Joy: God of hope fill you with joy and peace (Ro 15:13). The joy of the LORD is your strength (Neh 8:10). Your love gives me joy (Phm 7).

Peace: Grace and peace to you from God (Phm 3). Peace for whose mind is stayed on God (Isa 26:3). Blessed are the peacemakers (Mt 5:9).

Pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (Mt 6:9-13).

Praise and Worship: O praise the LORD, all you nations: praise Him, all you people! (Ps 117:1). In the midst of church will I sing praise unto God (Heb 2:12). Worship the Father in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24). It is written you shall only worship the Lord your God (Lk 4:8).

Respect: Whatever you want done to you, do to other people (Mt 7:12). Let nothing be done through conflict or pompous pride; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other people better than themselves (Php 2:3). Do not grumble against one another (Jas 5:9).

Authority: Obey God (Acts 5:29). One God and Father of all, above all, in all (Eph 4:6). Jesus gave us spiritual authority (Lk 10:19).

Wisdom: The wise seek knowledge (Pro 18:15). Wisdom is better than gold (Pro 3:15). Wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good works, without partiality or hypocrisy (Jas 3:17). God can give wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (Jas 1:5). A fool is right in his eyes: but the wise seek counsel (Pro 12:15). You will be judged by how you judge (Mt 7:2).

Forgive: Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God has forgiven you (Eph 4:32).

Be: Be strong and of good courage (Jos 1:9). Be humble (Jas 4:6). Be transformed (Ro 12:2). Be doers of the Word (Jas 1:22). Fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, faith, and temperance (Gal 5:22-23). Be prepared to respectfully defend your faith (1 Pt 3:15).

Know: Know the truth, and the truth will set you free (Jn 8:32). Jesus said; I have not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it (Mt 5:17). Jesus came so we can have life, and have it more abundantly (Jn 10:10). Greater is He who is in me, than he who is in the world (1Jn 4:4).

Do: Keep God's commandments in your heart (Pro 3:1). Trust in the LORD with all your heart (Pro 3:5). Jesus said; he who believes on me will do the works I do (Jn 14:12). By works is faith made perfect (Jas 2:22). Go therefore make disciples and baptize (Mt 28:19).



OPPORTUNITIES

Allies: Jesus and God (Jn 10:29-30). Holy Spirit (Ac 1:8). Angels (Ps 91:11). There is a friend closer than a family member (Pro 18:24).

Heart: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me (Ps 51:10, Ez 36:26). Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life (Pro 4:23). A joyful heart does good like medicine (Pro 17:22). The LORD considers the heart (Pro 21:2).

Mind: Be not conformed to this world: be transformed by renewing your mind (Ro 12:2) Be not easily shaken in mind (2Th2:2).

Emotional Intelligence: Govern your spirit (Pro 25:28). Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger (Jas 1:19). Who is slow to anger has great understanding (Pro 14:29). Rejoice with those who rejoice (Ro 12:15). Know how to answer each person (Col 4:6).

Freedom: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2Cor 3:17). Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16).

Words: Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Pro 18:21). A soft answer turns away wrath (Pro 15:1). A person has joy by their answer (Pro 15:23). Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). Speak evil of no one (Ti 3:2). Let your yes be yes; and your no, no (Jas 5:12).

Thank: Giving thanks always for all things unto God (Eph 5:20). Every good gift and every perfect gift are from above (Jas 1:17).

Think: Take all thoughts captive (2Cor 10:5). Think on what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, commendable, virtuous, of praise (Php 4:8).

Discern: Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits to see if they are of God (1Jn 4:1). That you may prove what is good (Ro 12:2).

Plan: Thoughts of the diligent lead to plenty (Pro 21:5). Who, desiring to build, does not first count the cost to complete it? (Lk 14:28).

Prepare: If we purge our self from sin we will be ready for good work (2 Tim 2:21). Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him and He will act (Ps 37:5). Put on the armor of God (Eph 6:14-17). May God sanctify you and preserve your spirit, soul and body (1Th 5:23).

Focus: We are His workmanship (Eph 2:10). Everyone has a gift (1Pt 4:10). Look forward, consider your path and turn not (Pro 4:25-27).

Be Aware: Wisdom is better than strength (Ecc 9:16). Be careful, not foolish (Eph 5:15). Good behavior is rewarded, bad behavior punished (Mt 24:45-51). Fear not who kills the body, fear who can kill the soul (Mt 10:28). No one knows when the end will come (Mt 24:36).

Be Honest: The LORD hates arrogance, lies, shedding innocent blood, who plans wickedness, and who stirs up conflict (Pro 6:16-19).

Be Humble: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time (1Pt 5:6, Jas 4:10).

Be Diligent: Thoughts of the diligent lead to plenty (Pro 21:5). Add to your faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience (2Pt 1:5-6).

Be Patient: Who is hasty with their feet sins (Pro 19:2). Rejoice in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing in prayer (Ro 12:12).

Be Blessed: (Mt 5:3-9). Blessed is he who is not offended by Jesus (Lk 7:23). Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD (Ps 33:12).

Relations: Iron sharpens iron (Pro 27:17). Walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another (1Jn1:7). You are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God (Eph2:19).

Spouse: Every one of you in particular love his wife as himself and the wife see that she respects her husband (Eph 5:33).

Parents: Train children (Pro 22:6). Discipline children (Pro 13:24). Do not provoke them to anger (Eph 6:4), or leave them to their self (Pro 29:15).

Children: Honor your father and your mother (Ex 20:12), listen to their teaching (Pro 1:8), and obey them (Eph 6:1).

Habits: In an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keep it, and bear fruit with patience (Lk 8:15).

Build Up: Do not speak corrupting talk, only what is good to build up (Eph 4:29). Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth (Ps 141: 3).

Submit and Resist: Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee (Jas 4:7). Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me (Ps 27:11).

Seek Help: My help comes from the LORD (Ps 121:2). I can do all things through Christ (Php 4:13) and the Holy Spirit (Ro 8:11). God did not give us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2Tim 1:7). Be strong in the Lord and in His power (Eph 6:10). Why do you sit alone (Exo 18:14)? Where no counsel is, people fall (Pro 11:14). Grow up into Him in all things (Eph 4:15).

Help People: Bear other's burdens (Gal 6:2). Visit fatherless and widows (Jas 1:27). Plea, pray, intercede, give thanks, for all (1Tim 2:1).

Give: Glory to God (1Cor 10:31). It is more blessed to give than receive (Ac 20:35). We do not receive if we ask for our flesh (Jas 4:3).

Persevere: Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1Cor 15:58). Do not be weary in well doing (Gal 6:9).

Serve: As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Jos 24:15). Use your gifts to serve people, as good stewards (1Pt 4:10).

Save: Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Lk 19:10). Go into all the world, and proclaim the gospel (Mk 16:15).

CHALLENGES

Adversaries: Desires of the flesh, like envy, anger, lust, and idolatry (Gal 5:17-21). The devil (1Pt 5:8) and spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6:12).

Conflict: If someone sins against you, tell them their fault, between you and them alone (Mt 18:15). Save people (Jude 23).

Do Not Fear: I will fear no evil, God is with me (Ps 23:4). Be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart (Ps 27:14). All things work together for good to them who love God (Ro 8:28). The LORD is my refuge and fortress (Ps 91:2). In the world you will have trouble, be of good cheer; Jesus overcame the world (Jn 16:33). Have no fellowship with darkness (Eph 5:11). Be not afraid, believe (Mk 5:36).

Respect Your Body: Your body is a temple (1Cor 3:16). Bodily exercise is profitable (1Tim 4:8). Much honey is not good (Pro 25:27).

Respect Alcohol: Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whoever is deceived by them is not wise (Pro 20:1).

Respect Anger: Let not the sun set on your wrath (Eph 4:26). Put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil talk, malice (Eph 4:31)

Respect Sex: Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled (Heb 13:4). For this cause will a man leave his father and mother, and will unite with his wife: and they will be one flesh (Mt 19:5). How fair and how pleasant are you, O love, for delights (Sng 7:6).

Respect Money: The hand of the diligent makes rich (Pro 10:4). Love of money is the root of all evil (1Tim 6:10). Better is the poor that walks in integrity, than a rich person who is perverse in their ways (Pro 28:6). The borrower is servant to the lender (Pro 22:7).

Delay Gratification: Who has no rule over their own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls (Pro 25:28).

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CHRISTIAN DAILY PRAYER

I believe in the Holy Triune of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and I believe the Bible is God's word. The Bible says, God spoke the world into existence, God made us in His image, and there is power in our thoughts, words, and actions. I have faith in God, I know I am saved by His grace, in Jesus, who fulfilled the law for us. I know God gave us a spirit of power, love, and self-control, and offers the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, and that our desires of our flesh are against the Spirit. I know life guarantees us change, opportunities, challenges, and choices. I repent of my sins, humble myself, pray, draw near to God, cleanse my hands, purify my heart, and ask for wisdom and willpower. I will be strong and courageous, submit to God, resist my flesh and adversary, and sanctify myself in truth.

Father God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Father God, I praise You, and want to glorify You. I love You, trust You, and worship You. You are my fortress, my refuge, and my avenger. I know I am Your workmanship, and I will be open to waiting on You. I will pursue knowledge of Your word, Your ways, and myself, for favor with You and other people, and to be healthy. I am a light in the world, and I will strive to be positive, calm, and clear. I will seek wisdom, with courage and caring. I know You give wisdom and from Your mouth come knowledge and understanding, and they are better than gold, and add years to my life, with peace. I know You feel that deceptive practices are terrible, and You hate arrogance, lies, who sheds innocent blood, who creates wicked plans, who does evil, a false witness, and who stirs up trouble between friends. I will guard my heart, thoughts, and words, knowing I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I will serve in the new way of the Spirit, for nothing can separate me from Your love through Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I declare You as my Lord and Savior, and I believe that You were raised from the dead by God. With Your crucifixion I put away my old self, and I crucify my pride, fear, and desires of the flesh. With Your resurrection I put on my new self with humility, courage, and desires of the Spirit. With Your ascension I accept my place and power in You. I am not condemned, but I am justified, redeemed, and free. As challenges arise, I will overcome and have peace in You, knowing You overcame the world. I will strive to do what's right, to apply love and discernment with humility, and a positive and grateful attitude, understanding light dawns in the darkness for the upright. In You, I am forgiven, and I am a citizen of heaven. I will strive to forgive, speak life, help build people up, be diligent, and work as if unto the Lord. I understand I am a spirit with a soul, in a body, and I am God's temple for the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, I accept your help to guide my choices. Greater is the Holy Spirit in me, than me in the world. I will grow myself and grow in fellowship with other people. I will strive to improve my thoughts, knowledge and emotions, being quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, which gives understanding. I understand the wise are careful but the foolish are careless, and desire without knowledge is not good. I understand people who hate stir up anger, but love covers offenses. I will strive to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, and exercise kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. I will strive to help people as I have opportunity, and walk in the light, with humility, guided by the golden rule and the silver rule. I am grateful for my life, and the good things to come. I am worthy.

I will be strong in the Lord and put on the armor of God. I understand our works reflect our faith, the diligent are rewarded, but the love of money is the root of many evils. I will strive to not be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by renewing my mind and discerning God's will. I am not fearful, I am powerful and loving, with a sound mind. I will strive to live with grace, truth, and integrity, and make good use of my time, pray, and keep alert with perseverance. I am hopeful and capable, and I will strive to strengthen my faith, spirit, mind, body, and fellowship, and seek the truth and speak the truth in love. I am loved by God and Jesus, and I am blessed. Great is God's steadfast love and faithfulness. I will love God and people, be steadfast, proclaim the gospel, and help people, including strangers, widows, the fatherless, and the poor. Father God, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, for your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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CHRISTIAN DAILY PRAYER (page 2, with Scripture)

I believe in the Holy Triune of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:26), and I believe the Bible is God's word (not just because 2 Timothy 3:16 says so, but there are hundreds of places in the Bible that claim, "says the LORD," "the LORD said," and "God said"). The Bible says, God spoke the world into existence (Gen 1), God made us in His image (Gen 1:27), and there is power in our thoughts (Pro 21:5, 2Cor 10:5), words (Pro 18:21, Mk 11:23), and actions (Pro 10:4). I have faith in God (Mk 11:22, Hb 11:1), I know I am saved by His grace (Eph 2:8), in Jesus (Jn 3:16) who fulfilled the law for us (Mt 5:17, Ro 5:19). I know God gave us a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2Tim 1:7), and offers the Holy Spirit (Ez 36:26) to teach and guide us (Jn 14:26, 16:13), and that our desires of our flesh are against the Spirit (Gal 5:19-21). I know life guarantees us change (Pro 27:1, Jas 4:14), opportunities (Pro 22:29, Eph 2:10, Lk 8:15, 21:13), challenges (Gal 5:17, Eph 6:12, Jn 16:33), and choices (Gen 1:28, Ro 8:28, 2Cor 10:5, Pro 18:21). I repent of my sins (Acts 3:19), humble myself (Mk 23:12, Jas 4:6), pray (Mt 5:44, 6:9-13, 1Th 5:17), draw near to God, cleanse my hands and purify my heart (Jas 4:8), and ask for wisdom (1Kings 3:7-9, Jas 1:5) and willpower (1Cor 10:13). I will be strong and courageous (Deu 31:6, Jos 1:9, 1Chr 28:20) submit to God and resist my flesh (Gal 5:17) and adversary (Jas 4:7), and sanctify myself in truth (Pro 8:10-11, 18:15, Mk 9:7, Jn 8:32, 17:17, 1Cor 1:30, Php 4:8).

Father God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever (Mt 6:9-13). Father God, I praise You (Mt 6:9, Ps 117) and want to glorify You (1Cor 10:31). I love You (Mt 22:37), trust You (Jn 4:18, 14:27), and worship You (Jn 4:24, Lk 4:8, Ro 12:1). You are my fortress, my refuge (Ps 18, 46, 91), and my avenger (Pro 24:29, Ro 12:19, Gal 5:10). I know I am Your workmanship (Eph 2:10), and I will be open to waiting on You (Isa 40:31). I will pursue knowledge of Your word (Pro 3:1, Jn 1:1, Eph 4:23-24), Your ways (Isa 55:8) and myself (1Cor 12:8-10, Eph 4:7-13, Ro 12:3-8) for favor with You and other people (Pro 3:1-4), and to be healthy (Ex 23:25, Pro 3:1-8, 4:20-22). I am a light in the world (Mt 5:14), and I will strive to be positive (Gal 5:22, Pro 17:22), calm (Pro 14:29), and clear (2Cor 1:17, Pro 6:16-17, Eph 4:15). I will seek wisdom (2Chr 1:11-12, Ps 49:3, Ps 111:10, Pro 3:13-17, 8, Mt 7:2, Jas 1:5, 3:17), with courage (Josh 1:9, 2Sam 10:12, Act 23:11, Jn 16:33) and caring (Mt 22:37-40, Mk 6:34, Lk 10:33, Lk 15:20). I know You give wisdom (Jas 1:5) and from Your mouth come knowledge and understanding (Pro 2:6), and they are better than gold (Pro 8:10-11), and add years to my life, with peace (Pro 3:2). I know You feel that deceptive practices are terrible (Pro 11:1, 20:10, 23:10), and You hate arrogance, lies, shedding of innocent blood, who creates wicked plans, who does evil, a false witness, and who stirs up trouble between friends (Pro 6:16-19). I will guard my heart (Pro 4:23), thoughts (2Cor 10:5) and words (Pro 21:23, Jas 3:2, Col 4:6), knowing I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps 139:14). I will serve in the new way of the Spirit (Ro 7:6, 8:3-4), for nothing can separate me from Your love through Jesus (Ro 8:3-4, 37-39).

Lord Jesus, I declare You as my Lord and Savior, and I believe that You were raised from the dead by God (Ro 10:9). With Your crucifixion I put away my old self (Eph 4:22), and I crucify my pride, fear, and desires of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21). With Your resurrection I put on my new self (Eph 4:22-24), with humility (1Pt 5:6), courage (2Cor 5:6, Php 1:20), and desires of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). With Your ascension I accept my place and power in You (Eph 1:15-23). I am not condemned (Ro 8:1), but I am justified, redeemed (Ro 3:24), and free (Jn 8:31-36, Ro 8:2, Gal 5:1). As challenges arise, I will overcome and have peace in You, knowing you overcame the world (Jn 16:33). I will strive to do what's right (Mt 7:12, Ps 112, Pro 11:1, 6:16-19) to apply love and discernment (Php 1:9) with humility (1P 5:6, Jas 4:10), and a positive and grateful attitude (1Th 5:18), understanding light dawns in the darkness for the upright (Ps 112). In You I am forgiven (Eph 4:32, 1Jn 2:12) and I am a citizen of heaven (Php 3:20). I will strive to forgive (Eph 4:32), speak life (Pro 18:21), help build people up (Ro 15:2, 1Cor 10:23, 1Th 5:14), be diligent (Pro 12:24, 2Pt 1:10, Mt 28:18-20), and work as if unto the Lord (Col 3:17, 1 Cor 10:31). I understand I am a spirit with a soul, in a body (1Th 5:23), and I am God's temple for the Holy Spirit (1Cor 3:16, 6:19).

Holy Spirit I accept your help to guide my choices (Jn 14:26, 16:13, Ro 8:11, Pro 3:3-4, Ro 8:6). Greater is the Holy Spirit in me, than me in the world (1Jn 4:4). I will grow myself and grow in fellowship (Eph 4). I will strive to improve my thoughts, knowledge (2Cor 10:5, Ro 12:2), and emotions (Pro 25:28), being quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger (Jas 1:19), which gives understanding (Pro 14:29, 28:1). I understand the wise are careful but the foolish are careless (Pro 14:16), and desire without knowledge is not good (Pro 19:2). I understand people who hate, stir up anger, but love covers offenses (Pro 10:12). I will strive to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, and exercise kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23). I will strive to help people as I have opportunity (Gal 6:10) and walk in light (1Jn 1:7), with humility (Eph 4:2, Php 2:3), guided by the golden rule (of caring and honesty Mt 7:12, Lk 6:31) and the silver rule (of personality and circumstance, Col 4:6, 1Cor 9:19-23, Pro 25:11). I am and grateful for my life (1Th 5:18) and the good things to come (Ro 8:28). I am worthy (2Cor 3:5)

I will be strong in the Lord (Eph 6:10) and put on the armor of God (Eph 6:14-17). I understand our works reflect our faith (Jas 2:18), the diligent are rewarded (Pro 10:4, 21:5), but the love of money is the root of many evils (1Tim 6:10). I will strive to not be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by renewing my mind and discerning God's will (Ro 12:2). I am not fearful, I am powerful and loving, with a sound mind (2Tim 1:7). I will strive to live with grace, truth (Jn 1:17), and integrity (Titus 2:7-8), and make good use of my time (Eph 5:16), pray, and keep alert with perseverance (Eph 6:18). I am hopeful (Jer 29:11) and capable (Php 4:13), and I will strive to strengthen my faith (Lk 8:15), spirit, mind, body (1Tim 4:8, Ro 12:2) and fellowship (1Cor 1:9, 2Cor 13:14, 1Jn 1:3), and seek the truth (Mt 7:7), and speak the truth in love (Eph 4:13-16). I am loved by God (Jn 3:16, Ro 8:38-39) and Jesus (Jn 13:34, 15:9), and I am blessed (Ps 1:1-3, Eph 1:3). Great is God's steadfast love and faithfulness (Ps 117). I will love God and people (Mt 22:37-39), be steadfast (Ps 119:5, 1Cor 15:58), proclaim the gospel (Mk 16:15), and help people (Gal 6:10), including strangers, widows, the fatherless, and the poor (Ex 22:21-25). Father God, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Mt 6:10), for your glory (1Cor 10:31). In Jesus' name I pray (Eph 5:20). Amen.

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12 GREAT BIBLE VERSES

KNOWLEDGE: The helpful realization of basic truths about people and things (simple foundational thinking)

1. The Bible is God's word, and it is helpful (2 Tim 3:16).

The Bible says it is from God, over 1,000 times. Search a free digital King James Bible for phrases like "saith the Lord" and "the Lord said." The books in the New Testament were written by, or with, eyewitnesses of Jesus. The Old Testament has prophecies of Jesus (Mic 5:2/Lk 2:4-7; Isa 53:3/Jn 1:11). We are sanctified in truth, God's word is truth (Jn 17:17).

2. God created the universe, with his words (Gen 1:1).

Science claims the universe is still expanding, or growing, which means if we go back in time it had a starting point. Science done well reveals God's natural laws. God is over all and in all (Eph 4:6). Consider the quantum physics theories of decoherence, unpredictability, tunneling, and entanglement, that seem to provide evidence of a spiritual world. Consider the beautiful Hubble telescope photos of the universe. The heavens declare God's work (Ps 19:1).

3. God created humans, in his image (Gen 1:27).

God made humans as a spirit, with a soul, in a body (1 Thess 5:23), with a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). God made humans from dust of the earth (Gen 2:7), and gave them free will (Gen 1:28). Human bodies are about 95 percent oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen, and the rest are trace elements. It seems illogical that a single cell, self-reproducing organism, evolved into male and female organisms that need each other to reproduce, for survival.

UNDERSTANDING: The helpful realization of how people and things interact (complex cooperative thinking)

4. Your heart holds the issues of life, guard it (Pro 4:23).

The heart is deceitful (Jer 17:9). Don't believe every spirit, test them (1 Jn 4:1). Evil corrupts good (1Cor 15:33). The Lord looks on the heart not appearance (1 Sam 16:7). Blessed are the pure in heart (Mt 5:8). God can give a new heart and spirit (Ez 36:26). We are not our thoughts or emotions, we are what we do with them (2 Tim 1:7 and 2 Cor 10:5).

5. Your mind has the power to transform you, renew it (Ro 12:2).

Our thoughts can create powerful beliefs, be careful with them (2 Cor 10:5). A soul without knowledge is not good (Pro 19:2). Set your mind on things above (Col 3:2). Forget what lies behind, think on what lies ahead (Php 3:13). Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (Jas 1:19), it gives understanding (Pro 14:29). Be wise and innocent (Mt 10:16).

6. Your words have the power of death and life, choose them carefully (Pro 18:21).

Who guards their words preserves life (Pro 13:3). Words can harm or heal (Pro 12:18). The tongue is small, with great power (Jas 3:5). Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). Let no corrupt talk come from your mouth, but build up (Eph 4:29). A soft answer repels anger, but a harsh word stirs it (Pro 15:1). The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Eph 6:17).

WISDOM: The ability to apply knowledge and understanding, to make good choices (practical probability thinking)

7. People do not live on food alone, but on every word of God (Mt 4:4). A Core Christian Value.

Wisdom is better than wealth (Pro 3:13-17), and is better than might (Ecc 9:16). God gives wisdom (Jas 1:5). The Holy Spirit is our comforter and teacher (Jn 14:26). Think about important topics (Php 4:8). People can provide wisdom (Pro 15:22 and 27:17), and influence our values and beliefs (Pro 13:20). Buy truth and wisdom (Pro 23:23).

8. Let your light shine, so people see your good works, and glorify God (Mt 5:16). A Core Christian Value.

God made you (Ps 139:13), for good works (Eph 2:10). Do to other people as you want them to do to you (Mt 7:12). We all have gifts to help people, including prophecy, ministry, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and mercy. Be eager, rejoice in hope, be patient in challenges, and pray (Ro 12:6-12). Whatever you do, do it well, as to the Lord (Col 3:23).

9. Resist the desires of the flesh, by walking in the Spirit (Gal 5:16).

Desires of the flesh are against the spirit (Gal 5:17-23). People are naturally sinful (Ro 5:19 and Gal 5:17). The world gives troubles, but Jesus overcame the world (Jn 16:33). Walk in the light and fellowship with Christians (1 Jn 1:7). Encourage and build each other up (1 Thess 5:11), and think before you speak (Pro 29:11). Don't give way to the wicked (Pro 25:26).

10. Stand against evil forces, with the armor of God (Eph 6:11).

Evil spiritual forces work in the world (Job, Eph 6:12, 2 Cor 10:3). They tempt (Gen 3:1-6, Mt 4:3-11), deceive and accuse (Rev 12:9-10), lie (Jn 8:44), and discourage (2 Cor 4:4). In order to steal, kill, and destroy (Jn 10:10). Check the Wisdom Guide for details. The armor of God is truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, salvation, and God's word (Eph 6:13-17).

11. Have faith in God, it can move mountains (Mk 11:22). A Core Christian Value.

Faith comes by hearing God's word (Ro 10:17). God is pleased by our faith (Heb 11:6). By grace we are saved through faith, not work, it's a gift from God (Eph 2:8). But, our work reflects our faith (Jas 2:18). Do not be anxious, but pray with thanks (Php 4:6). Jesus intercedes for us (Heb 7:25). For those who love God, all things work together for good (Ro 8:28).

12. Love God and love people, the law depends on it (Mt 22:37+). A Core Christian Value.

We love because God first loved us (1 Jn 4:19). God loved the world and gave His only Son, for our eternal life (Jn 3:16). Love sincerely, because it covers sins (1 Pt 4:8). Love involves grace and truth (Jn 1:17). Love is patient, kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, or resentful. Love doesn't rejoice in wrongdoing, it rejoices in truth, and endures (1 Cor 13:4-6).



ENCOURAGING BIBLE VERSES

2 Timothy 3:16 - Scripture is from God and it is useful (the Bible claims it is from God over 1,000 times, search a digital Bible for phrases like “the Lord said,” “declares the Lord,” or “says the Lord”... or “saith the Lord” in the KJV).
Genesis 1:26-27 - God made us in His image, male and female, and gave us dominion over earth.
2 Timothy 1:7 - God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
John 3:16 - God so loved the world and gave His only Son, and whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.
Ephesians 2:8 - By God’s grace we are saved through faith, not by our works, it is a gift from God.
Romans 10:19 - Confess that Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.
John 1:17 - The law was given through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus.
Matthew 5:17 - Jesus fulfilled the law for us. **Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Romans 7:6 - We are released from the law, to live in the new way of the Spirit, not the old way of the written code.
Matthew 22:37-40 - The greatest commandment is to Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and prophets.
1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient and kind, it is not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude; it is not aggressive, irritable, or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.
1 John 3:18 - Love in deed and truth. **John 15:13** - No one has greater love than to lay down their life for their friends.
Galatians 5:16-17 - Walk in the Spirit and you will not indulge the desires of the flesh. For the flesh is against the Spirit.
Proverbs 3:13-18 - Wisdom and understanding are better than gold and brings blessings, health, happiness, and peace.
Ephesians 2:10 - We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God ordained for us.
Proverbs 15:3 - God sees everything, He keeps watch on the evil and the good. **Romans 2:11** - God is not partial.
Psalms 91:2 - God is my refuge and my fortress. In Him I trust. **Psalms 91:11** - God’s angels watch over us.
Isaiah 40:31 - Who wait on the Lord renew their strength; they mount up with wings as eagles and run and are not weary.
Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
2 Corinthians 10:5 - You can govern your thoughts. **1 Peter 5:7** - Cast your anxiety on God, He cares for you.
Philippians 4:5-7 - Be reasonable. Don’t worry, pray with thanksgiving, and the peace of God will guard your mind.
Philippians 4:8 - Think about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise.
James 1:19 - Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. **Proverbs 14:29** - Being slow to anger gives understanding.
Proverbs 18:21 - Words have power of death and life. **Matthew 21:21** - Faith and our words can move mountains.
Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away anger. **Proverbs 4:23** - Guard your heart, life flows from it.
Proverbs 21:5 - Thoughts of hard workers lead to plenty. **Proverbs 10:4** - The hand of the hard workers makes rich.
Joshua 1:9 - Be strong and courageous, God is with you. **Proverbs 3:6** - Acknowledge God and He will direct your paths.
Psalms 23:4 - though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, because God is with me.
Galatians 5:13 - You are called to liberty. Don’t use it as an opportunity for the flesh, but by love serve one another.
Galatians 5:22 - Fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, kindness, faith and self-control. **1 Peter 4:8** - Love covers sins.
Galatians 6:9 - Let us not grow tired of doing good, we will be rewarded in due time, if we do not give up.
1 Peter 4:10 - We all received a gift, use your gift to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.
Matthew 7:12 - Whatever you want done to you, do to other people. **Zechariah 4:6** - Not by strength, but by God’s Spirit.
Jeremiah 29:11 - God has good plans for you. **Isaiah 55:9** - God’s ways are higher than your ways.
Matthew 5:1-10 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, who mourn, the meek, who hunger for righteousness, and the merciful.
John 4:10 - If you knew the gift of God, and who is telling you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and he would give you living water (the woman at the well) (Jesus kindly asks us to come to Him, even those living in sin).
John 16:33 - You will have troubles in the world, but be cheerful, Jesus has overcome the world.
John 10:10 - Our spiritual adversaries try to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus came to give us life, in abundance.
Luke 10:19 - We have authority over our spiritual adversaries. **James 4:7** - Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee.
Ephesians 6:10-17 - The armor of God helps us to fight our spiritual adversaries... The belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the Gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.
Proverbs 17:22 - A joyful heart is good medicine. **Proverbs 27:17** - Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.
1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Encourage each other and build one another up, just as you are doing.
Mark 11:22 - Have faith in God. **Hebrews 11:1** - Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of the unseen.
Romans 10:17 - Faith comes by hearing God’s word. **Mark 10:27** - Anything is possible with God.
Luke 8:15 - Those who hear God’s word and hold it in an honest and good heart will bear fruit with patience.
Proverbs 4:25-27 - Look forward and consider your path, do not turn from it, and do no evil.
Romans 8:28 - All things work together for good, to them that love God, and who are called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:38-39 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Luke 19:10 - Jesus came to seek and save the lost. **Luke 15:4-7** - A good shepherd will leave the flock for one lost sheep.
Matthew 11:28 - Jesus said... Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest.
John 8:36 - Who Jesus sets free, is free indeed. **Ephesians 4:23-24** - Renew the spirit of your mind and put on a new self.



25 KEY BIBLE CHARACTERS AND STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Like us, key characters in the Bible had strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges, and the same human nature.

Adam and Eve: Adam was created by God from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden where He created Eve. The serpent manipulated Eve's ego, as Adam passively watched nearby, and they ate the forbidden fruit, which unleashed sin into the world. They had a troubled child who committed a terrible sin because of envy and anger. Genesis 1:26...

Noah: Built the Ark that saved his family and animals from the great flood, that God sent because of so much human corruption. God created the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would never flood the earth again. He liked wine. Genesis 5:29...

Abram/Abraham: Was a faithful and successful man with family challenges. He had a tough conversation with his nephew, Lot, to seek peace between their people. Later, Abraham risked all, in a battle to save Lot. His wife Sarah struggled to conceive, and told Abraham to have a child with her maid, Hagar. When Hagar gave birth to Ishmael she had contempt for Sarah, which led Sarah to deal harshly with her. Hagar fled, but came back. Sarah finally gave birth to Isaac. God blessed both children. Abraham was tested by God. Genesis 11:27...

Jacob/Israel: Was a quiet man who stayed with the tents. His jealousy of his brother Esau (a skilled hunter) made Esau want to kill him, but their mom intervened. Jacob deceived his father, Isaac, and was later deceived by his father-in-law, Laban. Jacob served Laban for many years and grew their wealth over time. Jacob wrestled with God, and reconciled with Esau. Genesis 25:26...

Joseph: Was the favored younger son of Jacob. Joseph gave his father a bad report of his brothers, and told his family of a dream where they bowed to him. Most of his brothers hated him, and sold him as a slave to live in Egypt. Joseph was wrongfully imprisoned for sexual assault. His humility, honesty, and diligence got him released, and he became a high government official. A famine came over the land and Joseph's brothers came to buy food, and they bowed to Joseph, and later reconciled, and moved to be with him. Genesis 30:24...

Moses: Orphaned as a child and adopted by the Queen of Egypt, and learned the ways of the Egyptian royal family, during the time the Jewish people were enslaved by Egypt. Moses killed an Egyptian and fled. He reluctantly answered the call from God to go back and convince the Pharaoh of Egypt to free the Jewish people. He grew his faith as he served. He led his people out of Egypt and through the wilderness, and parted the Red Sea, and received the Ten Commandments. Exodus... Listed in the Bible "Hall of Fame" (Heb 11).

Deborah: A wife, prophetess, and a faith filled judge, who led Israel, before they had kings. She not only led and judged Israel for about 40 years, she even went to war with the leader of Israel's army, to free their people. She gave God the glory. Judges 4 and 5.

David: The younger son of Jesse, a shepherd, who practiced a lot with his sling. David was anointed to be the next King of Israel, despite his father's unbelief. David became an unexpected hero after he killed the giant Goliath, who terrified the army of Israel. He became a successful army leader, but King Saul became jealous and tried to kill him. He fled, and attracted some courageous followers. He eventually became a successful King. But he made some terrible choices, and one of his sons tried to take his throne. 1 Samuel 16:1...

Solomon: Was asked by God what he wanted, and he just asked for wisdom to lead his people well. God gave him wisdom that also resulted in much love, respect, and prosperity. He wrote the Song of Solomon and finished God's temple. 1 Kings 1:11...

Elijah: He confronted many false prophets, by himself, to show the people the power of the true God. Tried to influence King Ahab to turn to God, but his wife Jezebel worshipped idols, and wanted to kill Elijah. He was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind 1 & 2 Kings...

Nehemiah: Gave up a good life directly serving King Artaxerxes to go back to Jerusalem to help rebuild it. He became a leader and convinced other leaders to stop taking advantage of their own people. He had to avoid traps from tribal enemies. Nehemiah...

Esther: Lost both parents. Served King Ahasuerus. She learned that a King's official, Haman, planned to kill all the Jewish people. She risked her life to stop the plan. Haman ended up hanging from the gallows that he had made to hang Mordecai, the Jew. Esther...

Job: A faithful, righteous, and successful man, who had many sudden tragedies that took his children, health, and wealth. His wife told him to curse God and die. His friends said he must have done something to deserve the tragedies. Job maintained his faith in God and his integrity, but he did regret being born. God finally said Job didn't deserve the tragedies, restored him, and rebuked his friends. Job...

Isaiah: Claimed prophecies about the birth and suffering of Jesus. Like other prophets, he held the leaders and the people accountable, and was sometimes hated for it. He constantly called on people to worship God, not idols. He had some unusual behaviors. Isaiah...

Daniel: A wise and faithful man who fearlessly honored God while he served a few different kings, over time. At one point, some of the King's officials were jealous of Daniel and had him thrown into a lion's den, but God delivered him unharmed. Daniel...

Mary and Joseph: Faithful parents of Jesus. Both were told about Jesus by an angel, but they humbly brought Jesus into the world. As a kid, Jesus strayed from them, and they found him three days later. Joseph taught Jesus carpentry skills. The Gospels...

Jesus: Faithful, humble, and courageous Son of God. He loved, cried, got angry, and spent time alone to pray. As He loved, mentored, taught, and healed people, He grew a large following. He warned us of troubles in the world. As He claimed to be the Son of God and forgave people of their sins, it angered religious leaders, and they demanded the local authorities crucify Him. God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. He went to heaven soon after, and God sent us the Holy Spirit. Jesus redeemed humanity and paid for our sins, as the final sacrifice, fulfilling the Old Covenant. Jesus offers us the New Covenant, a new life, of eternity with God. The Gospels...

Simon/Peter: The rock. A fisherman and first disciple with his brother Andrew. Sometimes impulsive. When the religious leaders brought soldiers to arrest Jesus, Peter drew his sword and fought for Jesus, but Jesus stopped him. After Jesus was arrested, Peter went to find out what they were going to do to him. People recognized Peter, but he denied knowing Jesus, three times. Jesus forgave him.

Saul/Paul: Was a Pharisee who persecuted Christians, until Jesus called on him. Most of the disciples did not first believe he converted. He served with humility and courage, despite being beaten and stoned. He traveled extensively to share the message of Jesus, survived a shipwreck and the locals claimed he was blessed, then cursed, then blessed. He wrote more New Testament books than anyone.

John: Part of the inner circle of Jesus, with Peter and James. Recorded the life of Jesus focusing on love and His deity. The Gospel of John.

Matthew: Was a tax collector, a criticized job, but Jesus called on him anyway. Recorded the life of Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew.

Mary Magdalene: Jesus saved her from a hard life. She followed Jesus, witnessed His crucifixion and the first to witness His resurrection.

Nicodemus: Came to Jesus at night and said that he and other Pharisees believed Jesus was from God. Spoke up for Jesus. John 3 and 7.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LIFE OF JESUS

According to the chapter of the Gospel of Matthew

1. An Angel tells Mary she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and tells Her husband, Joseph, they should name him Jesus, and that he will save people from sin. **2.** Jesus is born in Bethlehem, and wise men visit and bring gifts. An angel warns Joseph in a dream that the ruler, Herod, wants to kill Jesus, so they flee to Egypt. After Herod dies, an angel tells Joseph in a dream, to return to Israel. They move to Nazareth, in the region of Galilee, where Jesus is raised. **3.** John the Baptist (cousin of Jesus) is baptizing people when Jesus comes to him to be baptized. As Jesus was baptized God spoke from heaven and declared Jesus is His Son. **4.** Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast for forty days, then to be tempted by the devil. Temptation one was food, and Jesus responded, It is written, man will not live on bread alone, but by every word of God. Temptation two was to get Jesus to put himself in harm's way to tempt God to miraculously intervene and save him. Temptation three was pride, as the devil offered Jesus status. In all three temptations Jesus referenced God's word after saying, It is written. Jesus then told Satan to be gone. Jesus begins his ministry, calls his first disciples and starts teaching and healing. He draws big crowds. **5.** Jesus gives his famous speech, the Sermon on the Mount, or the Beatitudes, which continues through chapter 7. Jesus said, Blessed are... the poor in spirit, who mourn, the meek, who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and who is persecuted for righteousness, or for the sake of Jesus. He said, you are the light of the world. Let your light shine so people see your work and glorify God. Jesus did not come to destroy the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them. Be careful with anger. If you look at another with lust, you commit adultery in your heart. Be careful with divorce, and oaths. Turn the other cheek. **6.** Give to the needy. Pray like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed by thine name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Jesus said to fast quietly. Lay up treasure in heaven. Do not be anxious, seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and your needs will be met. **7.** Judge not, so you will not be judged. For how you judge, you will be judged. Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened. Do to people as you would have them do to you. Jesus warns of false prophets, and says you will know them by their fruit. Not everyone who claims to believe Jesus is Lord will get into heaven, but those who do the will of God. Whoever hears the words of Jesus and does them will be like a man who built his house on rock. Whoever does not do them will be like a man who built his house on sand. **8.** Jesus continues teaching and healing. Jesus calms a storm. Jesus casts out demons. **9.** Jesus forgives sin and heals. A woman is healed by her faith, after she comes up behind Jesus and just touches his clothes. Jesus raises a young woman from death. **10.** Jesus sends out his disciples, after a speech with some instructions and warnings. **11.** Jesus continues teaching. **12.** Jesus heals on the Sabbath. Some leaders claimed Jesus is casting out demons by the power of the devil. Jesus says a kingdom divided cannot stand. **13.** Jesus gave parables of the sower, and others. Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth but they did not believe in him. **14.** Jesus feeds five thousand. Jesus walks on water, and calls Peter to come, and Peter walks on water until he becomes afraid. Jesus continues to heal. **15.** Jesus continues to teach and heal, and feeds four thousand. **16.** Jesus continues to teach, and asks Peter, who do you say I am? Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, and Peter takes Jesus aside to rebuke him, and says such a thing will not happen, then Jesus rebukes Peter. Jesus says to take up your cross and follow him. For whoever would save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for his sake will find it. **17.** Jesus invites Peter, and the brothers James and John to witness his transfiguration. **18.** Jesus says whoever humbles themselves like a child will be great in heaven. Jesus tells the parable of the shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to look for one lost sheep. Jesus says if someone sins against them, they should talk about it in private. Jesus tells the parable of the servant who was forgiven, but refused to forgive another, so he was put in prison. **19.** A rich man addresses Jesus as Master, not as Lord, and asks, what must he "do" for eternal life. Their talk ends with him walking away sad. Jesus said it is difficult for rich people to enter the kingdom of heaven. The disciples ask Jesus, who then can be saved? Jesus tells them, with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. **20.** Jesus tells the parable of the master who hires different people to work his vineyard at different times of the day, but for the same price. The workers who worked more complained, but the master reminded them that they agreed to the price. **21.** Jesus cleanses the temple. Jesus says our faith can move mountains. **22.** Jesus gives the parable of the wedding feast. Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God and love people. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. **23.** Jesus gives seven woes to the religious leaders. **24.** Jesus teaches on the signs of the end times, and says the one who endures to the end will be saved, and concerning that day, no one knows. **25.** Jesus gives the parable of the ten virgins with lamps, and the three servants who received different amounts of talents. Jesus teaches about the final judgment. **26.** The last supper. Jesus foretells of his betrayal and Peter's denial. Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane. Judas guides some leaders, and others, to arrest Jesus, and betrayed him with a kiss. Peter physically defends Jesus, but Jesus stops him. Jesus was questioned by the high priest, and was labeled a blasphemer for claiming to be the Son of God, and was sentenced to death. **27.** Jesus is delivered to the Governor, Pilate, who said Jesus did not deserve death. Some leaders manipulated the crowd to insist Jesus be crucified. Jesus is mocked, then takes the place of a criminal and is crucified with two other criminals. Jesus is buried in a guarded tomb. **28.** After Jesus was resurrected he first met with Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James. Some leaders bribed the guards to tell people the disciples stole the body. Jesus met with his disciples and gave them the Great Commission.



A SHORT HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE BIBLE

Christianity and its sacred Scriptures of the New Testament started with the physical life of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem about 5-3 BC, and raised in Nazareth of Galilee. He started his ministry around 30 years old, and was crucified about three years later. Afterwards, his disciples went on to start Christianity, which became the largest religion on earth, despite being persecuted. As the Christian Church grew after the death of Jesus, there were inaccuracies of the teaching of Jesus. This led to the Old Roman Creed, that became The Apostle's Creed, and later, the longer Nicene Creed was created. These gave churches an official foundation for doctrine. Many churches still refer to these documents today.

The early churches were just groups of followers of Jesus who met to learn about the teachings of Jesus, disciple new believers, share life, and to share the good news of Jesus. The first official church was, and still is, referred to as the Catholic Church. The word Catholic means united. Like most organizations, as it grows over time, it became more complex. John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, and John Calvin, had many disagreements with the Catholic Church doctrines and traditions, and eventually started the protestant movement, also referred to as the evangelical movement. The protestant movement brought new protestant doctrines and traditions along with new titles. Many of the larger protestant denominations include the Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Anglican, Pentecostal, and the Nondenominational Church. Today, we are seeing most of these protestant denominations are being divided along political lines, and adopting slightly different subtitles. You can find the political leanings of most religions and denominations online.

The Christian Bible includes sacred Scriptures of Judaism, the main religion of the Jewish people of Israel. The Hebrew Bible of Judaism makes up the Christian Bible Old Testament. Many of the books in the Bible do not have an exact known date they were finished. The earliest records of the Old Testament were written on scrolls of dried leaves or animal skins, and were rolled up for storage. Overall, the books of the Bible were written by about 40 authors, on three continents, over the course of about 1500 years. There are 39 books in the Old Testament. The oldest book of the Old Testament is Genesis and is believed to be written around 1420 BC. The most recent book of the Old Testament is Malachi and is believed to be written around 430 BC. The Old Testament has many prophecies about Jesus confirmed in the New Testament (Isa 7:14 / Mt 1:23; Mic 5:2 / Lk 2:4-7; Isa 53:3 / Jn 1:11 and Mt 13:57; Isa 53:12 / Mk 15:27) and God's New Covenant (Jer 31:31 / Jn 1:17, Ro 7:6 and 2 Cor 3:6).

There was about 425 years between the last book of the Old Testament and the birth of Jesus. There are 27 books in the New Testament. The first four books of the New Testament are referred to as the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These record some of the life of Jesus. Then there are the rest of the books of the Bible, mostly letters of correspondence from Christian leaders, which are called the epistles. The New Testament books were written within 100 years, shortly after the death of Jesus. Most of the epistles were written by Paul, a former Pharisee who persecuted Christians. Paul converted to Christianity after an encounter with Jesus that transformed him. A couple of Jesus' brothers wrote the books James and Jude.

As the Christian Bibles became more popular, different translations were created. There are basically two approaches to translation, a literal word by word translation, or translation by phrase (paraphrase). One of the most popular translations, if not the most popular, is the King James Version (KJV) Bible, it was finished in 1611, after about seven years of work by a group of Christian leaders. The KJV is a literal word by word translation, but it can be difficult to understand, being written in Old English. The KJV copyright is public domain, so it is available free to download online. Other popular Bibles include The Message, which is an easy to understand paraphrase Bible. The New International Version (NIV) is more in the middle of the word by word and paraphrase spectrum. Then there is the English Standard Version (ESV). The ESV is the most recent effort to clarify the Bible, published in 2001. It done by a large team of scholars and teachers who love the Bible. It is a word by word translation, based on many of the original texts, or documents.

It is my understanding the Bible is the only sacred Scriptures from any of the four largest religions to declare it is from God. If you search a digital KJV Bible for the phrases, "saith the Lord," "the Lord said," and "God said," or search a digital ESV Bible for the phrases, "says the Lord," "the Lord said," and "declares the Lord," and you will find over 1,000 results. There are also some great study Bibles with helpful notes that explain some hard to understand verses, and with some articles based on the topic of the study Bible. My favorite study Bibles include the Apologetics Study Bible (apologetics meaning, in defense of), the Life Application Study Bible, and the basic ESV Study Bible, with no specific topic of study.

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10 KEY CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

God is real: Science claims that our universe is expanding, which means there was a point, back in time, when it came into existence from nothing... God spoke the world into existence (Genesis 1). Our universe has many natural laws that are fine-tuned, like gravity, and other cosmological constants that are evidence of intelligent design. Consider that the earth is the perfect distance from the sun to support advanced life forms, and it is placed in the Milky Way Galaxy to be able to study the universe... The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky shows His work (Psalm 19:1). Check the Hubble telescope photos online. Quantum Physics has some evidence of a spiritual world. Consider the quantum theories of unpredictability, tunneling, entanglement, decoherence, and the unified field.

Jesus is the Son of God: No respectable historian denies the life of Jesus, some only dispute whether Jesus is truly the Son of God. The Old Testament has many prophecies of Jesus (Isa 7:14 / Mt 1:23; Mic 5:2 / Lk 2:4-7; Isa 53:3 / Jn 1:11; Ps 22:16 / Mt 27:35; Isa 53:12 / Mk 15:27). Jesus declared He is the Son of God (Jn 10:36-38 and 17:1). Just as important, the Bible has many key characters who claimed Jesus is the Son of God including God, during the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus (Mt 3:17, 17:5, Mk 1:11 and 9:7), an angel (Lk 1:35), John the Baptist (Jn 1:29), disciples of Jesus (Mk 1:1 and Jn 1:49), demons Jesus rebuked (Mt 8:29, Mk 3:11 and 5:7, Lk 4:41 and 8:28), and a Centurion at the crucifixion of Jesus, "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mk 15:39). It seems the devil knew Jesus is the Son of God, but unlike the demons Jesus rebuked, he phrased it as a question (Mt 4:3 and 4:6, and Lk 4:3 and 4:9), to try and plant doubt in His identity, as the devil does with people to this day. New Testament authors include brothers of Jesus, eyewitnesses to the life of Jesus, the Apostle Paul, or a writer for one of them. After Jesus fulfilled God's will, to be the final sacrifice for our sins (Ro 5:19), He fulfilled the Old Covenant (Mt 5:17) and ascended to heaven (Mk 16:19), so we could receive the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:7).

The Holy Spirit helps us: The Holy Spirit comforts and teaches (Jn 14:26). Walk in the Spirit to resist the desires of the flesh (Gal 5:16).

The Bible is God's Word: Respectable historians do not disclaim the credibility of the Bible as a historical document. When compared to other historical documents, the Bible is accurate and very admired, copied and shared often... All Scripture is inspired by God and is helpful (2 Tim 3:16). Search a digital King James Bible for phrases "the LORD said" and "saith the LORD," and find over 1,000 verses.

We Are made in God's Image: God created man and woman in His image (Gen 1:26) as a spirit, with a soul, in a body (1 Thess 5:23), with a spirit not of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7), which fuels our inner worker/warrior, lover, and thinker. We are to glorify God (1 Cor 6:20), love God, and love people (Mt 22:37-39). God spoke the world into existence (Gen 1), and we have the power of death and life in our words (Pro 18:21). Evolution is based on survival of the fittest, however, it claims all advanced life forms evolved from a simple self-replicating organism. Going from self-replicating to a male and female who need each other to reproduce, is not survival of the fittest. Over two thousand years ago, well before the microscope, Moses wrote that God made humans from dust of the earth and His breath of life (Genesis 2:7). Modern science has proven that humans are made from natural elements found on earth, mostly oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve's free will introduced sin into the world (Gen 3).

We Have Free Will: Not only are we made in God's image, He gave us dominion over the earth (Gen 1:27-28), and we have the Holy Spirit to help us and guide us. But, our desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, including lust, anger, idolatry, and envy (Gal 5:17-23). We have spiritual adversaries (Eph 6:12 and 1 Pt 5:8) who stir up our desires of the flesh, tempt us (Gen 3:1-7, Mt 4:1-11), lie (Jn 8:44), deceive, and accuse (Rev 12:9-10). With the armor of God (Eph 6:10-20) and the Spirit (Gal 5:16) we have power to resist our flesh and adversaries (Job, Jas 4:7). God can do anything, but He gave humans power on earth (Gen 1:28). Human sin is why God sent the great flood (Gen 6:12-13). We are not our emotions and thoughts, we are what we do with them (2 Tim 1:7, Gal 5:16, Ro 12:2).

God Offers Us Salvation Through Jesus as a Gift of Grace: Everyone is a sinner (Ro 3:23) and God is not partial (Ro 2:11). God is over all, through all, and in all (Eph 4:6). By grace you are saved, through faith, not your doing, it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8). God sent Jesus to fulfill the law for us (Mt 5:17). God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and who believes in Him will have eternal life (Jn 3:16). Christians are to live in the new way of the Spirit not in the old way of the letter (Ro 7:6). Repent (Mk 1:15) and confess your sins (1 Jn 1:9). Jesus gives us a better covenant (Hb 8:6). No one is justified by the law, but by faith in Jesus (Gal 2:16). Declare Jesus is Lord and believe He was resurrected, and you will be saved (Ro 10:9). People from all nations will be in heaven (Rev 7:9).

We Are to Be More Like Jesus and Share the Good News of the Gospel: We are called into fellowship with Jesus (1 Cor 1:9), sanctification by the Spirit, and belief in truth (2 Thess 2:13), and to love (Mt 22:37-40), pray (Eph 6:18), praise God (Ps 117), worship God (Lk 4:8), fellowship with people (1 Jn 1:7, Pro 27:17), and forgive (Lk 17:3-4, Eph 4:32). Put on the armor of God (Eph 6:14-17), guard your heart (Pro 4:23, Pro 21:2), thoughts (2 Cor 10:5, Ro 8:5-6, 12:2), words (Pro 18:21, Mt 12:36), and body (Lk 22:36). Many Bible stories are warnings about sinful human nature, and about overcoming it. We will have challenges in the world, but Jesus overcame the world (Jn 16:33). Nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord (Ro 8:37-39). Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel (Mk 16:15). The Old Testament is about the law, and the New Testament is about love (Jn 1:17, 3:16, Ro 8:38-39).

We Are to Love God and Love People: Love God and love people as yourself (Mt 22:37-40). Love God and all things work out (Ro 8:28). Love casts out fear. We love because God first loved us (1 Jn 4:18-19). Love endures and is kind, it doesn't envy, brag, behave badly, or think evil, it's not arrogant, selfish, or easily angered, but rejoices in truth (1 Cor 13:4). The greatest is love (1 Cor 13:13).

We Are Designed as Creators to Help People and Live a Good Life: We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God ordained for us (Eph 2:10). We have specific gifts, and a calling, to help each other (Eph 4:11-16, 1 Pt 4:10, 1 Cor 7:17). Do to people as you would have done to you (Mt 7:12). The wise seek knowledge (Pro 18:15) and are careful, but the foolish are careless (Pro 14:16). Be humble (1 Pt 5:6), honest (Pro 6:16-19), and helpful (Gal 6:2). Do not be conformed to the world but renew your mind (Ro 12:2), think (Php 4:8) carefully (2 Cor 10:5), be diligent (Pro 10:4 and 21:5), content (Php 4:11, 1 Tim 6:10), and be united (1 Cor 1:10, 1 Pt 3:8). Share the Gospel (Mk 16:15), teach people, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19). Be ready to humbly explain the reason for your hope (1 Pt 3:15). Consider finding a home church to get involved in, but know most church denominations are divided along political beliefs, and most churches lean conservative or liberal, but most still hold to the Nicene Creed.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

I have found it very helpful to get into a habit of reading the Bible regularly, especially a “Study Bible.” Reading the Bible has occasionally raised questions about God and the Bible, but it has provided me with a lot more helpful knowledge. There are general study Bibles based on a specific Bible translation, that help explain specific verses. There are study Bibles specifically for men, women, teens, students, and for some different careers, or topics, that offer insightful comments on verses. Some of my favorite study Bibles include the Apologetics Study Bible (meaning, in defense of), the Life Application Study Bible, and English Standard Version (ESV) Study Bible.

I believe the core of Christian doctrine can be found in the Nicene Creed. It’s my understanding the Nicene Creed is a public domain document. It’s my understanding that it was created in the early 300’s by the Council of Nicaea, and updated in the late 300’s by the Council of Constantinople, because some church leaders were teaching some interesting things that were not aligned with the teaching of Jesus. I noticed different versions of the Nicene Creed online. The key points of the Nicene Creed include belief in one God, the maker of heaven and earth. Belief in the Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God, who, for our salvation, came to earth as a man, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day God raised Him from the dead, and He ascended into heaven to be with God. Jesus Christ will come again, with glory, and judge all people on earth, and bring heaven to earth. Belief in the Holy Spirit, who is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the Prophets. Belief in one holy united Christian Church, and one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I believe there are guarantees in life including daily opportunities, challenges, and choices. When we gain new knowledge it helps us to better manage our opportunities and challenges, and make better choices. I also believe there are shortcuts in life. When we gain knowledge from other people, it can save us years of personal experience, of trial and error. But, there is no shortcut for doing the necessary work. Some of our most important work is learning to overcome the desires of the flesh and negative thoughts and desires, especially envy, arrogant pride, fear, anger, and shame. The solution to these negative thoughts and desires are gratitude, humility, courage, peace, and love. Beware of our spiritual adversaries who stir up our negative desires of the flesh. I have also come to believe in Four Core Christian Values of faith (Mk 11:22-23), love (Mt 22:37-40), wisdom (Mt 4:4), and work (Mt 5:16). It seems that these support each other and can take turns leading the others, depending on our season of life, or specific situations we are in.

We can all learn, especially from the Holy Triune and the Bible, but also from thinking, and from each other. Some other good Christian books include, EPIC: The Story God is Telling; The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?; Making Sense of God: Finding God in the Modern World; The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus; Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels; Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World; The Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Collection (includes Mere Christianity); Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs; Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence (a 365-Day Devotional); Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ.

I’ve spent many years putting together the documents that make this publication, and designing the website <https://KeyBibleVerses.org>. That website also has more helpful information about Christianity, and a page with links to Christian resources and church resources. If you have family or friends who might find this helpful, please share it with them. If you found this book helpful, please consider letting me know, through the contact page on my website, and don’t forget to link to the website and share it with people who might find it helpful. If you go to the online Webster’s Dictionary from 1828 and search the word education, it claims education in manners, arts, and science is important; but a religious education is indispensable. You can also find helpful information at <https://Anewtrek.com>, where I have lists of the best books, podcasts, quotes, and YouTube channels for personal growth, professional growth, leadership growth, and business growth. Every day is a new trek with new opportunities to have faith, love, learn, and let your light shine.

The Way: Live, Learn, and Love

With grace and truth, the better our lives will be;
Individually and collectively, apply them and see.

With caring and courage, the more we know;
Individually and collectively, apply them and grow.

With love and wisdom, we improve humanity;
Ideally and practically, working towards unity.
With our words and actions, echoing in eternity.
- Jason A. Krause

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26).