

Core Bible Verses

Meaningful Growth and Wisdom,
With God's Word

CoreBibleVerses.org

Jason A. Krause

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With God's Word

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Anewtrek LLC

Core Bible Verses (based on the King James Bible)

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Core Bible Verses is a compilation of my previous works, including Key Bible Verses, The Best Bible Verses, Scripture Foundation Guide, Christian Wisdom Guide, and The Christian Daily Prayer. It also includes new work.

DEDICATION

This is dedicated to God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and to all people committed to personal and spiritual growth.

Thank you God, for your love. I am grateful for all the good in my life and the opportunities.

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.

Wisdom: Plan, Commit, and Learn

May you carefully think and plan out your goals;
With truth and faith, to fulfill your roles.

May you build meaningful skills, that help you commit;
With habits that build up, and do not limit.

My you be a life long learner, seeking opportunities to grow;
Asking, "How can I...?" To better love and know;
Then shine a light on the paths where others people go.

- Jason A. Krause

Growth: Wisdom, Courage, and Caring

May each new day bring you meaning and wisdom;
With faith and truth, that help with your time and freedom.

May your pursuit of knowledge shine a light for your goals;
And lead to opportunities and skills, that help fulfill your roles.

May understanding and trust build a fortress around your relations;
With calm, clear, caring, and courageous communications;
That builds a strong foundation that manages emotions.

- Jason A. Krause

Core Bible Verses (based on the King James Bible)

DISCLAIMER

The Bible verses in this publication are based on the King James Version Bible. I've just organized them in ways that help me better understand the world and strengthen my faith. This publication is only meant as information about Christianity.

This publication is not meant to replace reading the Bible, the power of prayer, or a personal relationship with the Holy Triune.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COPYRIGHT 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS 6

INTRODUCTION 7

12 CORE BIBLE VERSES 8

4 CORE CHRISTIAN VALUES 9

CHRISTIAN WISDOM GUIDE 10

SCRIPTURE FOUNDATION GUIDE 12

CHRISTIAN DAILY PRAYER 14

CORE BIBLE CHARACTERS 16

SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF JESUS 17

ENCOURAGING BIBLE VERSES 18

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE BIBLE 19

CLOSING THOUGHTS 20

INTRODUCTION

Most Christians want to strengthen their faith, grow, live a good life, and help their loved ones. Studying the Bible and memorizing verses can help (Pro 3:1). Many Christians feel like they don't have time to study the Bible, or even read it. In more than a decade of studying the Bible I have put together what I believe are Core Bible Verses on important topics. During this time I've struggled through many challenges with my health, relationships, and finances. Being a thinker, I continued to study the Bible and my faith, with an open heart, even listening to, and reading, many Atheist arguments against religion and Christianity specifically. I learned about the major religions, and found they share important values, while having very different ways to pursue them. In all, Christianity has won my heart.

This book is meant to help you memorize important verses that help strengthen your faith and hopefully get you interested in reading the Bible. I found reading the Bible has strengthened my faith, just as it claims in Romans 10:17. What makes this book worth reading? Most of the pages in this book simply organize important Bible verses in ways that reveal a biblical view about the world we live in. These verses and the way they are structured have helped me to better examine and improve my life, and help other people by sharing important verses. I believe this book can help many 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. Some 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, just search a digital King James Version (KJV) Bible for phrases like, "saith the LORD" and "the LORD said." The New Testament of the Bible was written by or with 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 God claimed it (Mk 1:11), an angel (Lk 1:35), demons Jesus rebuked (Mt 8:29 and 5:5-7), and His disciples claimed it (Mk 1:1). To me, Christianity is more about a relationship and fellowship with God and Jesus, with the Holy Spirit.

I believe guarantees in life include daily changes, opportunities, challenges, and choices. Renewing our mind with Bible 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, especially building a meaningful life. Meaning in life comes from four areas, faith, relationships, goals, and works. This seems to align with our God given spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). Power – faith and work; Love – relationships; Sound mind – faith and goals. The four areas of meaning also reflect the Four Core Christian Values of faith, love, wisdom, and works. I believe some of our biggest challenges are desires of the flesh because they are against the desires of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-26). I also believe that we are living in a spiritual war on earth, but it is set in a larger love story (Jn 3:16, Ro 5:19, and 8:38-39).

It seems that technology, especially the internet, has increased our opportunities 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 Core Bible Verses book, to have them as a quick reference for important topics.

There are many smart people who could disagree with many parts of this book. It takes faith to believe in God, and it takes faith to not believe in God (see the illogical remarks on the 2nd and 3rd Bible verses of the 12 Core Bible Verses page). However, 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 personal values, beliefs, and standards, that motivate our words and actions. After our life is done on this earth we will be judged for all 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.

This book is not intended to push Christianity on anyone, I feel that it is important that all people be given the respect and freedom to make their own choices, without manipulation. This was, and still is, a major reason people come to America. It seems to me that each of the large major religions are both exclusive and inclusive. They are exclusive considering they all have their way(s) to heaven or enlightenment. They are all inclusive considering anyone can convert to their religion and follow their way(s). It is helpful to understand some truths seem to contradict, but only contrast.

If you get a feeling of overwhelm reading this, remember that God doesn't require perfection, but, like any good parent, He does expect some love, obedience, responsibility for ourselves, and to help "around the house." Just pick one or two topics that feel most relevant to your current season in life and focus on those. If you want to read the entire Bible, I recommend a study Bible, starting with the New Testament, followed by the book of Proverbs, then the rest of the Old Testament. Some of my favorite study Bibles include the Apologetics Study Bible, The Life Applications Study Bible, and the English Standard Version Study Bible. By reading two chapters a day, you can read the entire Bible in two years. I recommend taking notes in a journal. The Bible is living and active (Heb 4:12) and a light for your path (Ps 119:105).

12 CORE BIBLE VERSES

KNOWLEDGE: The realization of basic truths about the universe (simple foundational information)

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. It seems illogical to think the universe just came into existence from nothing. Consider the quantum physics theories of decoherence, unpredictability, tunneling, and entanglement, that seem to provide evidence of a spiritual world. Science done well reveals God's natural laws. God is over all and in all (Eph 4:6). 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). God made humans from dust of the earth (Gen 2:7). 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 (to survive) into male and female beings that need each other to reproduce. God also gave us free will, to be fruitful and multiply, and have dominion over the earth (Gen 1:28).

UNDERSTANDING: The realization of how the universe works (complex interactive information)

4. God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7)

Help people when you can (Gal 6:10). Friends sharpen friends (Pro 27:17). Your heart holds the issues of life, guard it (Pro 4:23). The heart is deceitful (Jer 17:9). God can give a new heart and spirit (Ez 36:26). Don't forget God's teaching, keep it in your heart (Pro 3:1). Your mind can transform you, renew it (Ro 12:2). Thoughts are powerful (2 Cor 10:5).

5. Your words can harm or heal (Pro 12:18), choose them carefully

A soft answer repels anger, but a harsh word stirs it (Pro 15:1). Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (Jas 1:19), for understanding (Pro 14:29). Guarded words preserve life (Pro 13:3). Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). Let not corrupt talk come from your mouth, but build up (Eph 4:29). The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Eph 6:17).

6. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and whoever believes in Him will have eternal life (Jn 3:16)

Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved (Ro 10:9). By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, by one man's obedience many will be made righteous (Ro 5:19). Nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord (Ro 8:38-39).

7. We wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places, but we have God's armor (Eph 6:12+)

God's armor includes truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, salvation, and God's word (Eph 6:13-17). Our spiritual adversaries 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). Don't give way to the wicked (Pro 25:26). Know them by their fruit (Mt 7:20).

WISDOM: The realization of how to apply knowledge and understanding (practical probability thinking)

8. Have faith in God, because it can move mountains (Mk 11:22+)

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 works, it's a gift from God (Eph 2:8). But, our works reflects our faith (Jas 2:18). Jesus intercedes for us (Heb 7:25). I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Php 4:13). Faith helps us to love well and work well.

9. Love God and love people, the law depends on it (Mt 22:37+)

God is love (1 Jn 4:8), and He first loved us (1 Jn 4:19). For those who love God, all things work together for good (Ro 8:28). Love can cover 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 iniquity, it rejoices in truth, and endures (1 Cor 13:4-6).

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

People are naturally sinful (Ro 5:19). Walk in the spirit to resist the flesh (Gal 5:16-26). Greater is the Holy Spirit in you than you in the world (1 Jn 4:4). I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Php 4:13). Not by might, by God's Spirit (Zech 4:6). Evil corrupts good (1 Cor 15:33). Spiritual adversaries tempt our flesh (Mt 4:1-4) and pride (Mt 4:5-9).

11. We do not live on food alone, but on every word of God (Mt 4:4)

Wisdom is better than wealth (Pro 3:13-17), and is better than might (Ecc 9:16). God gives wisdom (Jas 1:5), blessed are those who walk in God's word and keep it (Ps 119:1-2). Think on important topics (Php 4:8). The Holy Spirit comforts and teaches us (Jn 14:26). People can provide wisdom (Pro 15:22, 27:17). Buy truth and wisdom (Pro 23:23).

12. Let your light shine so people may see your good works and give glory to God (Mt 5:16)

God made us for good works (Eph 2:10). Do to people as you want done to you (Mt 7:12). We all have gifts to help people, whether prophecy, ministry, to teach, encourage, give, lead, or for mercy. Be eager, rejoice in hope, be patient in challenges, and pray (Ro 12:6-12). Worship God in spirit and truth (Jn 4:24). Do everything as unto the Lord (Col 3:23).

4 CORE CHRISTIAN VALUES

Faith, Love, Wisdom, and Works

FAITH – Jesus said: Have faith in God, because it can move mountains (Mk 11:22+).

What is faith? Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of the unseen (Heb 11:1). I offer the idea that faith is reflected by our God given spirit of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7), which could be courage, caring, and a calm clarity. In other words, how people are calm, clear, caring, and courageous, could reflect their faith. People can have faith in God, people, and systems. Faith adds certainty to hope, mainly certainty of values, beliefs, and systems.

Why is faith very important? Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6). Faith helps us to be strong and courageous (Jos 1:9). Blessed are those who trust and hope in the Lord. They will be like a tree planted near water. They will not fear the heat or drought. Their leaves will be green and they will not cease bearing fruit (Jer 17:7-8). Not by might or power, but by God's spirit (Zech 4:6). Having faith in God helps us to do what is right, and to love and work well, especially the more we know and understand God loves us and is with us.

How can we increase our faith? Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Ro 10:17). Hear God's word, hold it in an honest heart and bear fruit with patience (Lk 8:15). Trust God and don't lean on your own understanding. Acknowledge God in all your ways and He will direct you (Pro 3:5-6). Read the Bible, pray, and fellowship, regularly.

LOVE – Jesus said: Love God and love people, the law depends on it (Mt 22:37+).

What is love? Love endures suffering and is kind. It doesn't envy and is not arrogant. It doesn't behave badly, is not demanding or easily angered, and doesn't think evil. Love doesn't rejoice in iniquity, but in truth. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures. Love never fails (1 Cor 13:4-8). God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and whoever believes in Him will have eternal life (Jn 3:16). Grace and truth came through Jesus (Jn 1:17). God is love (1 Jn 4:8).

Why is love very important? Jesus said, to love, is the greatest commandment (Mt 22:37-40). For those who love God, all things work together for good (Ro 8:28). Without love we are nothing (1 Cor 13:1-3). Love is attractive and could draw more people to Jesus (Mk 16:15-16). Who does not love, does not know God (1 Jn 4:8). Let all things be done in love (1 Cor 16:14). Do to other people as you want them to do to you (Mt 7:12). We will be judged by how we judge (Mt 7:2).

How can we love better? Commit to loving actions in 1 Corinthians 13 and increase faith in God. Sometimes it is hard to love, because we have anxiety about its outcomes. Love includes truth (Jn 1:17), and rejoices in truth (1 Cor 13:6). Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). A soft answer calms, but a harsh word angers (Pro 15:1). Strengthen your faith (Ro 10:17).

WISDOM – Jesus said: We do not live on food alone, but on every word of God (Mt 4:4).

What is wisdom? Wisdom is the realization of how to apply knowledge and understanding (practical probability thinking). God's word is truth (Jn 17:17). God's word created heaven and earth (Gen 1). The truth will set you free (Jn 8:32) and it allows us to use our time well (Ecc 8:5). The wise are careful, the foolish are careless (Pro 14:16).

Why is wisdom very important? Blessed are those who get wisdom, as it can help our health, honor, and wealth (Pro 3:13-17). Wisdom helps us to not do foolish things (Pro 10:14, 14:1-3, Mt 25:1-12). Jesus said we would have troubles, but with his teaching, and some courage, we can have peace in him, knowing he overcame the world (Jn 16:33).

How can we get wisdom? Be humble (Pro 11:2) and be grateful (Ps 100:4), God gives wisdom (Jas 1:5), but opposes the proud (Jas 4:6). Read the Bible (2 Tim 3:16) and other books (Pro 23:23). Take thoughts captive (2 Cor 10:5). Think on important topics (Php 4:8). Look at how you walk (Eph 5:15). Being quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger (Jas 1:19), gives understanding (Pro 14:29). Let the wise hear and increase in learning (Pro 1:5). Learn from wise people (Pro 27:17). Do not conform to the world, be transformed by renewing your mind (Ro 12:2).

WORKS – Jesus said: Let your light shine so people may see your good works and give glory to God (Mt 5:16).

What are works? Each has received a gift to serve people, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Pt 4:10). We all have gifts (of heart, mind, or body) to help other people (Ro 12:4-8). Do everything as unto the Lord (Col 3:23, 1 Cor 10:31). Works are not just limited to our actions in a job, it can include all of our actions.

Why are works very important? Our works reflect our faith (Jas 2:18-20). Abound in the work of the Lord, knowing in the Lord you work is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58). Hands of the diligent make money (Pro 10:4). Money allows us to help other people, as our heart guides us, not reluctantly. God loves a cheerful giver (1 Cor 9:7).

How can we improve our works? Strengthen your faith (Ro 10:17) and love better (1 Cor 13:4-8). Learn (Pro 1:5), get wisdom (Pro 3:13) and advice (Pro 11:14). Improve skills (Pro 22:29). Think ahead (Pro 4:25), plan (Pro 21:5), and count the cost (Lk 14:28). Have faith (Mk 11:22). Hate stirs anger, but love covers offense (Pro 10:12) and sin (1 Pt 4:8).

The Four Core Christian Values could be considered a reflection our spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). Power – Faith and works... Love – Faith and love... Sound mind – Faith and wisdom. They also reflect the four ways we build meaning in life, with faith, relations, goals, and works.

CHRISTIAN WISDOM GUIDE

SITUATION

Identity: We are made in God's image (Gen 1:27), as a spirit with a soul in a body (1Th 5:23). God gave us a spirit of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7). We are His workmanship (Eph 2:10), with 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 mind): 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). God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, and exalts them 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). Be sanctified and self-controlled (Jn 17:17, 1Th 4:3-8). Govern your thoughts (2Cor 10:5). Do not conform to the world, but be transformed by renewing your mind (Ro 12:2). Think on what is honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and practice them (Php 4:8). Knowledge is power (Pro 24:5). 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 truth in love (Eph 4:15). God's anger is against who suppress 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 to be poor with integrity, than 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 help us (Psa 91:11-12), warn us (Mt 1:20), and test us (Gen 18:1, 19:1, Heb 13:2).

Other People: 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). Understand that wicked spiritual forces can tempt and influence people (Eph 6:12, 2 Cor 10:3-5, Job).

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), but Jesus came to give life (Jn 10:10). The devil can disguise himself (2Cor 11:14-15), and cause suffering (Job 1 and 2).

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

STRATEGY

Live in the Spirit (Ro 8:9), let the Spirit live in you (1 Jn 4:4), and live out the Four Core Christian Values of faith, love, wisdom, and work (2 Pt 1:5-8). 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 faithful (Mk 11:22), strong, and courageous (Jos 1:9). Be like Jesus (Ro 12:9-21). Fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Gal 5:22). Be virtuous and knowledgeable (2 Pt 1:5). Be wise (Pro 4:5), aware (Eph 5:15), humble (1Pt 5:6), honest (Pro 6:17), content (Php 4:11), diligent (Pro 10:4, 21:5), and patient (Ro 12:12). Be prepared to respectfully defend your faith (1Pt 3:15). Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger (Jas 1:19).

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 12:18, 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), pray against temptation (Mt 26:41), and forgive (Mt 6:12). 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). Supplement your 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). Treat people how you want to be treated (Mt 7:12) and build each other up (Eph 4:29). Walk as light, discern the Lord's will and avoid works of darkness (Eph 5:8-10). Respect authority (Ro 13:1-4) and pray for authority (1Tim 2:1-2). 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). Seek wise counsel (Pro 24:6). 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). 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: God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (Jn 3:16). Confess Jesus is Lord, believe God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved (Ro 10:9).

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). 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).

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

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

Sin: Christ Jesus freed us from the law of sin and death (Ro 8:2). Who is without sin can throw the first stone (Jn 8:7).

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

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

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

Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit comforts us and teaches us (Jn 14:26). You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:5). The Holy Spirit dwells in us (2Tim 1:14). Greater is the Holy Spirit in you than you in the world (1 Jn 4:4).

New Covenant: Prophecy of a new covenant (Jer 31:31). The ministry of righteousness exceeds the ministry of condemnation (2Cor 3:9). If righteousness came by 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).

Courage: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, or discouraged, 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).

Faith: Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by God's word (Ro 10:17). Jesus said, Have faith in God (Mk 11:22). Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1). Faith, hope, and love abide (1 Cor 13:13).

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).

Love: 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). 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). 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, soul, and 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).

Peace: Grace and peace to you (Phm 3). A mind stayed on God has peace (Isa 26:3). Blessed are peacemakers (Mt 5:9).

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

Praise and Worship: O praise the LORD, all nations: praise Him, all people! (Ps 117:1). In the midst of church I will sing praise unto God (Heb 2:12). Worship God in spirit and truth (Jn 4:24). 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 pride; but with humility, esteem other people better than yourself (Php 2:3) Do not grumble against one another (Jas 5:9).

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, merciful with good works, not partial or hypocritical (Jas 3:17). God can give wisdom (Jas 1:5). The wise seek counsel (Pro 12:15). You will be judged by how you judge (Mt 7:2).

Authority: Obey God before human authority (Acts 5:29). One God and Father of all, above all, in all (Eph 4:6). Authority is from God... not for a terror to good works, but to the evil... they do not bear the sword for no reason (Ro 13:1-4).

Justice: The weightier matters of the law are justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Mt 23:23). Judge righteously (Pro 31:9).

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 and faith (Gal 5:22-23). Be prepared to defend your faith (1 Pt 3:15).

Know: Know the truth, and the truth will set you free (Jn 8:32). Jesus did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it (Mt 5:17). Jesus came to give life, in abundance (Jn 10:10). Greater is the Holy Spirit in you, than you in the world (1Jn 4:4).

Do: Keep God's commandments in your heart (Pro 3:1). Trust the LORD with all your heart (Pro 3:5). Who believes in Jesus will do works He did (Jn 14:12). Works reflect our faith (Jas 2:18). Make disciples and baptize (Mt 28:19).

SCRIPTURE FOUNDATION GUIDE

OPPORTUNITIES

Allies: Jesus, God (Jn 10:30), the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:8), and angels (Ps 91:11). Friends can be closer than family (Pro 18:24).
Heart: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew in me a right spirit (Ps 51:10, Ez 36:26). Guard your heart, it holds the issues of life (Pro 4:23). A joyful heart is good like medicine (Pro 17:22). The LORD considers the heart (Pro 21:2).
Mind: Do not conform to the world: be transformed by renewing your mind (Ro 12:2) Do not be easily upset (2Th2:2).
Emotional Intelligence: Govern your spirit (Pro 25:28). Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (Jas 1:19), for better 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 to resist the flesh (Gal 5:16).
Words: Words have the power of death and life (Pro 18:21). A soft answer turns away anger (Pro 15:1). Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). Speak evil of no one (Ti 3:2). Let your yes be yes; and your no be no (Jas 5:12).
Thank: Giving thanks always for all things unto God (Eph 5:20). Every good gift is from above (Jas 1:17).
Think: Take thoughts captive (2Cor 10:5). Think on important topics (Php 4:8). Think soberly (Rom 12:3).
Discern: Do not believe every spirit, but test them (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 (Lk 14:28)?
Prepare: Purge sin to 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 and preserve your spirit, soul and body (1Th 5:23).
Focus: We are His workmanship (Eph 2:10). We all have a gift (1Pt 4:10). Look forward, consider your path (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 (Mt 24:45). Fear not who kills the body, but who can kill the soul (Mt 10:28). No one knows the time of the end (Mt 24:36).
Be Honest: The LORD hates arrogance, lies, shedding innocent blood, wicked plans, and who stirs conflict (Pro 6:16-19).
Be Humble: Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time (1Pt 5:6, Jas 4:10).
Be Diligent: Diligent thoughts lead to plenty (Pro 21:5). Add to your faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control (2Pt 1:5-6).
Be Patient: Who is hasty sins (Pro 19:2). Rejoice in hope and be patient in tribulation, continuing in prayer (Ro 12:12).
Be Blessed: (Mt 5:3-9). Who honors Jesus is blessed (Lk 7:23). Nations whose God is the Lord are blessed (Ps 33:12).
Relations: Friends sharpen friends (Pro 27:17). Walk in the light as He is in the light, and we have fellowship one with another (1Jn 1:7). You are no more strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God (Eph 2:19).
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), and discipline them (Pro 13:24), but do not provoke them to anger (Eph 6:4).
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 builds up (Eph 4:29). Lord, set a guard over my mouth (Ps 141: 3).
Submit and Resist: Submit to God and resist the devil (Jas 4:7). Lord teach me Your way 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). Be strong in the Lord and in His power (Eph 6:10). Why do you sit alone (Exo 18:14)? Seek advice (Pro 11:14).
Help People: Bear other's burdens (Gal 6:2). Help the fatherless and widows (Jas 1:27). Pray and intercede (1Tim 2:1).
Give: Glory to God (1Cor 10:31). It is more blessed to give than receive (Ac 20:35). Give thanks in all things (1 Th 5:18).
Persevere: Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1Cor 15:58). Do not be weary (Gal 6:9).
Serve: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jos 24:15). Use your gifts to serve people (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 and anger (Gal 5:17-21). The devil (1Pt 5:8) and evil spirits (Eph 6:12).
Conflict: If someone sins against you, talk with them about it alone (Mt 18:15). Save people (Jude 23).
Resist Pride: God opposes the proud (Jas 4:6). God hates arrogant eyes (Pro 6:16). Be humble, not proud (Pro 18:12).
Resist Envy: A peaceful heart heals, envy rots (Pro 14:30). Put away hate, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and insults (1 Pt 2:1).
Resist Anger: Resist anger, it can result in evil (Ps 37:8). Put on the new life, in righteousness and holiness... Be angry but do not sin, or let the day end with anger... Put away bitterness, anger, evil talk, and hatred (Eph 4:24-31)
Resist Fear: Fear no evil, God is with you (Ps 23:4), and is your refuge and fortress (Ps 91:2). Do not fear, believe (Mk 5:36). Be courageous and He will strengthen you (Ps 27:14). All things work for good, for those who love God (Ro 8:28).
Respect Your Body: Your body is a temple (1Cor 3:16). Exercise is good (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 Sex: Marriage is honorable (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 with integrity, than a rich person who is perverse (Pro 28:6). The borrower is servant to the lender (Pro 22:7).
Delay Gratification: Who has no rule over their spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls (Pro 25:28).

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 a sound mind, 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 a soul 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. I will 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.

CHRISTIAN DAILY PRAYER (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 (1Pt 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 a soul 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). I will 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.

CORE BIBLE CHARACTERS

Adam and Eve: Adam was created by God from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. God put Adam in the Garden of Eden where He created Eve. Eve gave in to the serpent's temptation of her pride, as Adam passively watched, and they ate the forbidden fruit, and unleashed sin into the world. Their troubled child, Cain, committed a terrible sin.

Noah: Built the Ark that saved his family (8 people total) 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.

Abram/Abraham: Faithful and successful man, with family challenges. He had a tough conversation with his nephew, Lot, to seek peace between their people. Later, Abraham battled to save Lot. His wife Sarah struggled to conceive, and told Abraham to have a child with her maid, Hagar. Hagar and Sarah ended up having a conflict, and Hagar fled, but later came back. Sarah finally gave birth to Isaac. God blessed both children. God tested Abraham. Genesis 11:27...

Jacob/Israel: 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 and convinced Jacob to deceive his father, Isaac. Jacob was later deceived by his father-in-law, Laban. Jacob served Laban and grew their wealth. Jacob wrestled with God, and reconciled with Esau.

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 in Egypt. Joseph was wrongfully imprisoned for sexual assault. His humility, honesty, and diligence got him released, and he became a high government official. Joseph's brothers eventually bowed to Joseph, they reconciled, and moved to be with him.

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 led his people out of Egypt and through the wilderness, and parted the Red Sea, and received the Ten Commandments. Grew his faith as he served.

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 went to war with Israel's army, to free their people. She gave God the glory.

David: Youngest son of Jesse, a shepherd, who practiced with his sling. He was anointed to be the next King of Israel, despite his father's unbelief. David killed the giant Goliath and became a hero. He became a successful army leader, and many people loved him, including King Saul's son, Jonathan. But King Saul became jealous and tried to kill him. David fled and eventually became a successful King, but made some bad choices, and a son tried to take his throne.

Solomon: God asked him what he wanted, and he just asked for wisdom to lead people well. God gave him wisdom that resulted in much love, respect, and prosperity. Finished God's temple and the Song of Solomon, but still made mistakes.

Elijah: Confronted many false prophets, by himself, to show 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. Taken up into heaven by a whirlwind.

Nehemiah: Gave up a good life directly serving King Artaxerxes to go back to Jerusalem to help rebuild it. A faithful and wise leader who convinced other leaders to stop taking advantage of their people. Avoided traps from tribal enemies.

Esther: Lost her parents. Her humility helped her to become a queen. Learned that a King's official planned to kill the Jewish people, and risked her life to stop him. He ended up hanging from the gallows he made for Mordecai, the Jew.

Job: A faithful, righteous, and successful man. Had tragedies that took his children, health, and wealth. His wife told him to curse God and die. His friends said he must have sinned to deserve it. 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.

Isaiah: Claimed prophecies about 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.

Daniel: A wise and faithful man who fearlessly honored God while serving a few different kings, over time. Some of the King's officials became jealous of Daniel and had him thrown into a lion's den, but God delivered him unharmed.

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.

Jesus: Faithful, wise, humble, and courageous Son of God. He loved, cried, got angry, and spent time alone to pray. As He loved, taught, and healed people, He grew a large following. As He claimed to be the Son of God and forgave people of their sins, it angered some religious leaders, who 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, eternity with God.

Simon/Peter: A fisherman and first disciple with his brother Andrew. 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 followed them. People recognized Peter, but he denied Jesus, three times. Jesus forgave him. Helped write the Gospel of Mark.

Saul/Paul: Persecuted Christians as a Pharisee, until Jesus called him. Most disciples struggled with his conversion. Courageous and humble, beaten and stoned. Traveled to share the good news. Survived a shipwreck and locals claimed he was blessed, then cursed, then blessed. Wrote the most New Testament books, and helped with the Gospel of Luke.

John: Only disciple not martyred. Wrote about Jesus, His deity and love, in the Gospel and books of John and Revelation.

Matthew: Called by Jesus, despite being a tax collector (a disliked job). Wrote about Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

Mary Magdalene: Jesus saved her, and she followed Him, saw His crucifixion, and was the first to see Him resurrected.

Nicodemus: Talked with Jesus and said that he and other Pharisees believed Jesus was from God. Spoke up for Jesus.

SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF JESUS

According to each chapter of the Gospel of Matthew

1. An Angel tells Joseph his wife was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and they should name him Jesus, and that he will save people from sin. **2.** Jesus is born in Bethlehem, and wise men brought him gifts. An angel tells Joseph to take his family to Egypt. After a while, an angel tells Joseph to move the family back to Israel. They move back to Nazareth, in the region of Galilee. **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, and was tempted by the devil. Temptation one was food, and Jesus responded, It is written, man does 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 times Jesus replied with 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 good works 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 is in heaven, Hallowed by 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. And do not lead us 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 want them to 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 girl 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 claim Jesus is casting out demons by the power of the devil. Jesus replied, a kingdom divided cannot stand. **13.** Jesus tells stories 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 shares a story 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 shares a story 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 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 shares a story 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 shares a story 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 shares a story 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 a crowd to insist Jesus be crucified. Jesus is mocked, and put in 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.

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 in iniquity, 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 will run and do not get tired, walk and not faint.

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 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 sin.

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 others. **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 can influence 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.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE BIBLE

Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem around 5-3 BC. Then his parents moved the family to Nazareth of Galilee, where Jesus was raised. Jesus 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 eventually led to the Nicene Creed. This gave churches an official doctrine foundation. Many churches still refer to this today. The main 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 has spoken through the Prophets. Belief in one Universal Holy Church, and belief in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

The early churches were just groups of followers of Jesus who met to learn about the good news and teachings of Jesus, to disciple new believers, and share life. The first official church was, and still is, referred to as the Catholic Church. The word Catholic meaning universal or united. Like most organizations, as it grew 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. The protestant movement brought new protestant doctrines and traditions along with new church 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 church subtitles.

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 Christian 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). The Old Testament also has a prophecy about God's New Covenant (Jer 31:31 / Jn 1:17, Ro 7:6, 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, including the book of Acts, along with letters of correspondence from Christian leaders, which are called the epistles. The New Testament books were all written within about 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 (Acts 9). 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 a thought by thought translation (paraphrase). One of the most popular translations, 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 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. The English Standard Version (ESV) is the most recent effort to clarify the Bible, as a word by word translation, published in 2001. It was done by a large team of scholars and teachers, over many years.

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," 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 articles based on the topic of the study Bible. William Tyndale sacrificed his life to get the Bible translated into English and mass printed so more people, like you and I, could read it. Our Father in heaven had the Bible made for us all, including you.

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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, faith, and peace. There are general study Bibles based on a specific Bible translation, or topic, that help explain specific verses. There are also study Bibles specifically for men, women, teens, students, and for some popular careers, that offer insightful articles or comments on verses.

If you want to read some great chapters in the Bible, consider these... John 1: How God's Word is the foundation of all things. Note verse 17. Mark 2: Acts of Jesus, including healing a paralytic, whose friends lowered him through a roof. Note verse 17. Proverbs 3: Don't forget God's teaching and trust Him. Get wisdom, as it helps with our health, honor, and peace. Note verse 27. Philippians 4: Be reasonable and think on important topics. Note verse 13. Galatians 5: Freedom in Christ and desires of the flesh and the Spirit. Note verse 17. Ephesians 6: Our spiritual adversaries and the Armor of God. Note verse 13. Matthew 7: Closing of the Sermon on the Mount, by Jesus. Note verse 12. Romans 8: Life in the Spirit and God's love through Jesus. Note verse 39. Acts 9: Conversion of Saul the Pharisee to Paul the disciple. Note verse 31. Luke 10: Jesus sends out 72 disciples. Note verse 16. Hebrews 11: The very important persons (VIPs) of faith. Note verse 2. Romans 12: Gifts of grace and behaviors of a true Christian. Note verse 2.

I 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. This book contains careful thought from over a decade of studying the Bible, and reading it many times. Some of our most important work is learning to overcome the desires of the flesh and negative thoughts and desires, especially arrogant pride, envy, idolatry, fear, anger, and shame. The solution seems to be humility, gratitude, prayer, courage, peace, and love.

Embracing the idea of being a life-long learner grows our wisdom, and can help with our happiness and meaning. We can learn from the Holy Triune and the Bible (Pro 3:1-2), but also from thinking, and from each other. Buy truth and wisdom (Pro 23:23). Some more Christian books include, EPIC: The Story God is Telling; The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus; The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?; Mere Christianity; Making Sense of God: Finding God in the Modern World; Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels; Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World; 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; The Pursuit of God; and A Mind Awake: An Anthology of C.S. Lewis.

I've spent many years putting together the documents that make this publication, and designing the website <https://CoreBibleVerses.org>. That website has changed names and grown over many years. That website also has more helpful information about Christianity, and a page with links to many Christian and church resources. If you found this book helpful, please consider supporting my work with a donation (near the bottom of the Home page and About page). Or, let me know through the contact page on my website, and don't forget to link to the website and share it with people who would find it helpful. You can also find helpful information at <https://Anewtrek.com> where I have lists of other growth resources. Every day is a new trek with new opportunities, challenges, and choices.

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).