

STRENGTH IN CHRIST

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God's Magnificent Creation

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day after day they pour out speech, and night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their voice has gone through all the earth, and their Spirit to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his room, like a strong man rejoicing to run a race.

His going forth is from the end of the heavens, and his circuit to the ends of it.

There is nothing hidden from its heat.

The ways of God are perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of God is sure, making wise the simple. God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart. God's truth is pure, enlightening the eyes. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O God, my rock and my redeemer!

Acknowledgments

This book is made possible by those who believe in free press and have published their work in the public domain to be shared freely. The public domain versions of the Bible utilized in the construction of **Strength in Christ** include: The King James Bible, World English Bible, American Standard Version, Darby Translation, Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition, and Young's Literal Translation. These versions are freely accessible to the public at:

www.biblegateway.com

In addition to the Christian biblical references, I have included references from Christian Gospels that were not accepted into the New Testament at the Council of Nicaea in the 4th century. These works are available thanks to Mark M. Mattison, who is an independent scholar dedicated to preparing public domain translations of ancient Gospels. His works are freely available to the public at: www.Gospels.net

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Editor's Note

The original idea for **Strength in Christ** was to gather positive and inspirational verses from the Bible and organize them by virtues for my own personal reference. As the project developed, my research expanded to Christian Gospels and texts outside the Bible established by the men who attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. The life, truth, and message of Jesus Christ had spread far and wide for over 300 years at this point. Many different Christian texts existed in different regions throughout Rome, so Constantine invited 1000 bishops from the East and 800 from the West to decide on an official biblical canon. Christians had been persecuted during these 300 years and many texts were destroyed. Some may question the motives of Constantine, but the council helped preserve the Christian texts and for that we can be grateful.

Just over a thousand years later in the 14th century, John Wycliffe helped translate the New Testament into language for the common man. He was followed by Martin Luther who translated the Bible into German language and William Tyndale into English. These men were heroes, but the “official church leaders” labeled them heretics so they wouldn’t lose their power and control. The common man had been illiterate for centuries and relied on them to hear: “The Word of God”. But the invention of the printing press in 1450 sparked a thirst for knowledge, literacy was growing common, and there was a strong desire to read the Bible. So in efforts to stop circulation to the masses, these “church leaders” and their political connections enacted laws to make translating and owning a copy of the Bible a crime. Many Christians gave their lives in the 16th century in efforts to combat these unjust laws. The people did not give up and many versions were produced, some legal in certain countries and banned in others. Finally, when the King James Bible (KJV) was completed in 1611, it became evident that layman would have access to the Bible for good. The people had won in their quest for knowledge!

I say all this to highlight that although some refer to the Bible as, “The Word of God”, that title and the words in the Bible were written by men. The Bible is a collection of books written by different men over a span of about 1500 hundred years. And it was men who combined, edited, and translated the texts as well. When we read powerful verses in the Bible, we can be confident that divine inspiration played a hand. That divine inspiration came from God and the strength of Christ working through men, but it was still written by men and not by God himself.

Scribes is the ancient name of the men who dictated what was written and retained from generation to generation; and they kept this knowledge to their inner circles. Many

considered them holy men. But we must heed the warnings of Jesus in Matthew 23:15, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a child of hell than yourselves.” Jesus calls the scribes hypocrites and children of hell. Hypocrite is a person who puts on a false appearance, or who pretends to have virtue or religious beliefs. Now in Mark 14:1, “The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might seize Jesus by deception, and kill him.” Jesus spoke the truth about the lies and hypocrisy of the scribes. Their response was to attack him by deception, not by truth.

With this knowledge, I worked to extract the divinely inspired Christian texts from the insertions of the scribes. I wanted to discover the truth with no contradictions. I’m not the first person to do this as quoted in 2 Timothy 2:15, “Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn’t need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” As my work continued, I realized the real message of strength from God, and strength in Christ, was shackled amongst weak language. Instead of focusing on the virtues, I now put my focus on the boldness of Jesus Christ. His mission in the world to bring people back to God, the life of Christ that exemplifies the Spirit of God. The life of Jesus was not easy, but he never backed down from a confrontation. He spoke openly, he spoke the truth boldly and with authority. He instructed us to shout the truth from the housetops. When the officers were asked why they didn’t arrest Jesus, they responded in John 7:46, saying, “No man ever spoke like this man!”

During my research I discovered many Christian Gnostic texts that are estimated to have been written in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd centuries. The Gnostics were heavily persecuted by the Orthodox churches who assumed authority on religion similarly to how the Catholic Church persecuted the common man for translating the Bible in the 15th and 16th centuries. This book is not meant to be controversial as I have only included the Christian Gnostic texts that align and agree with Christianity as read in the Bible verses quoted. The overall purpose of this book is to help inspire men and women to live a powerful Christian life by reuniting your mind and spirit with God. But we must never live in fear of gaining new knowledge. Proverbs 18:15, “The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” Jesus instructs us to “Keep seeking, and you will find” in Luke 11:9. This aligns with the Christian Gnostic texts in the Gospel of Philip 83, “Ignorance is slavery; knowledge is freedom.” There is indeed a great deal of knowledge that can be gained from the Gnostic texts and that is why I included them. That being said; many lies have been stated about the early Christian Gnostics and most of their texts were destroyed. They were viewed as a threat to the power structure as they believed in a direct and personal spiritual connection with God that did not depend

upon the organized religion of their time. Similarly, Jesus rebelled against the religious authority of his time in Mark 11:17, Jesus said after going in the temple, “My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayers, but you have made it a den of thieves.”

The Gnostics maintained their own independence and did not submit to authority as they entrusted themselves to God alone. They sought the divine within themselves so they could become God-like and viewed the rituals of organized religion as a trap. They believed that people commit sins due to ignorance; therefore they placed primary importance on gaining knowledge to discern good from evil. Similarly to modern day Christians, they sought to live a spiritual life. In John 4:24, Jesus said, “God is Spirit, and those who honor him must live in the Spirit and in truth.” In the Gospel of Truth 22, “the Spirit of the Father goes out in all” and in the Gospel of Truth 31, “Christ gave them the Spirit of power from the infinity of the Father.” As you read you will understand more and more how the early Christian Gnostic texts that are quoted in this book (Gospel of Philip, Gospel of Thomas, and Gospel of Truth) align almost perfectly to the Gospel of John in the Bible.

Another point from the KJV of John 1:1-4, “¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him. ⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” The “Word” in this context is considered to mean “the Logos” by many scholars since the New Testament was written in Greek. The Greek concept of the Logos is a life-giving force that is hidden within all things which is similar to the Spirit in Christianity. Some scholars assert that the Logos is Christ and Christ is a divine force that unites all. Some believe Jesus was a man and only became divine when he took on the Spirit of Christ, which at that point he became Christ. According to Colossians 1:27, “God was pleased to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” If Christ is in us, this verse is referencing the Spirit of Christ; and Christ is where we draw our strength from.

We read in John 1:4, “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” Jesus Christ states later in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly.” It becomes clear that the Spirit of God gives life as Christ provides life. They are connected and united as the forces of life and goodness against the forces of death and evil. This is the view I have accepted. Hopefully this is a conclusion that unites humanity through Christ.

My final thought, there is **Strength in Christ**, not weakness. It has been to the detriment of Christians worldwide to envision Jesus as a passive man. He may have been humble before God, but he yielded to no man. He did not conform or acquiesce to the so-called religious

leaders and their false doctrines. He was at peace with his mission to share the truth in the world; but he was active, constantly working, and fought back as we see in John 2:15, “Jesus made a whip of cords, and threw all out of the temple; and he poured out the changers’ money and overthrew their tables.” He went on to shout at the guilty money changers and rebuked them. Jesus did this in Jerusalem, in the heart of Judea, where they hated his message and wanted him silenced; but Christ is an unstoppable force and cannot be controlled. He testified to the truth fearlessly; his followers increased, and his message spread rapidly across countries. Nothing could block his path! Jesus Christ demonstrated his strength through actions!

Christ became:

**A Way for those who were led astray,
Knowledge for those who were ignorant,
A discovery for those who were searching, and
Strength for those who were wavering!**

CHANGE

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation!

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is foolish.

Proverbs 13:19

A dream accomplished is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.

Matthew 7:3-5

Jesus said, “Why do you see the speck that is in your friend’s eye, but don’t consider the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first remove the log out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your friend’s eye.”

John 1:10-13

Christ was in the world, but some of the world didn’t recognize him. To all who received him, he gave the power to become sons of God, to those who believe in his name. Those who receive Christ are reborn; they no longer live by the will of man, but by the will of God.¹

Gospel of Thomas 70

Jesus said, “If you give birth to what’s within you, what you have within you will save you.”²

Gospel of Truth 24-25

When the Father is known, from then on, need will no longer exist. As someone’s ignorance dissolves when they gain knowledge, and as darkness dissolves when the light appears, so also need dissolves in completion.

Gospel of Truth 30

They value the knowledge of the Father like they value the light. The ignorant have acted like they’re asleep; those who’ve come to knowledge have acted like they’ve awakened. Good for the one who returns and awakens! Blessed is the one who’s opened the eyes of those who can’t see!

¹ When you receive Christ you are a new man, you now live by the will of God!

² Jesus reminds us we need to focus on the goodness within that comes from God, not outside noise, distractions, or false teachings. Focus on the voice within, this will save you and lead you down the right path.

Gospel of Truth 36

They spoke of Christ in their midst: “Seek, and those who were disturbed will receive redemption.”

Romans 8:1-2

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ, who live according to the Spirit. For the Spirit of life in Christ made me free from the law of sin and death.³

Romans 12:2

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect: the will of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. All things have become new.⁴

Colossians 3:7-10

You once walked in those, when you lived in them; but now you have put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy speech out of your mouth. Don't lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator.

James 5:19-20

If any among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back; you must know that he who saves a soul from death will be rewarded by God.

Parable of the Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-31

Jesus said, “A man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind, and went. He

³ Jesus Christ did not come to earth to condemn mankind as sinners. When you accept the Spirit of Christ into your life you are now connected and reunited with God. Jesus came to give prisoners and everyone a second chance to live a life worthy of God's acceptance. Seek the approval of God, not men. We all have made mistakes, but when you begin to live by the Spirit you are on the path to life and redemption!

⁴ John Gill, an 18th century Christian pastor and theologian in England, stated that when you accept the Spirit of Christ into your life, “You are a new creature, or a new man; and because it is something anew implanted in the soul, which never was there before; it is not a working upon, and an improvement of the old principles of nature, but an implantation of new principles of grace and holiness; here is a new heart, and a new spirit, and in them new light and life, new affections and desires, new delights and joys; here are new eyes to see with, new ears to hear with, new feet to walk, and new hands to work and act with. There is a new course of life, both of faith and holiness; a new way of serving God through Christ by the Spirit!”

came to his second son, and said the same thing. He answered, 'I'm going, sir,' but he didn't go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"⁵

The Unfruitful Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9

Jesus spoke this parable. "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it, and found none. He said to his gardener, 'Three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and found none. Cut it down. Why does it waste the soil?' The gardener answered, 'Leave it alone one more year, until I dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.'"⁶

The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:3-7

Jesus told them this parable: "Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep, and lost one of them, wouldn't leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one that was lost, until he found it? And when he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing. When he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that even so there will be more joy in heaven over one soul who returns to God, than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance."⁷

The Will of the Father

Gospel of Truth 32-33

The light that doesn't cease dwells within you. Speak of the Truth with those who search for it, and of knowledge with those who've sinned in their Error. Strengthen the feet of those who stumble, and reach out to those who are sick. Feed those who are hungry, and give rest to those who are weary. Raise up those who want to arise, and awaken those who sleep, because you are the understanding that's unsheathed. If strength is like this, it becomes stronger.

Be focused on yourselves. Don't be concerned about other things which you've rejected from yourselves. Don't return to eat your vomit, because you've already shaken it off. Don't

⁵ This parable provides hope for people that didn't start out on the right path. You may have made bad choices to start, but when you come back to the right path and the right way of living this pleases God.

⁶ God wants us to flourish and live our best lives, but we don't have forever to make things right. So start now, don't wait!

⁷ God rejoices more for one soul that was lost and has been redeemed than for ninety-nine people that claim to be righteous.

become a dwelling-place for the devil, because you've already defeated him. Don't strengthen your obstacles which are collapsing. Do then the Father's will, because you're from him.⁸

CONFIDENCE

Act like men, be courageous and strong!

Job 8:7

Though your beginning was small, your later years shall greatly increase.

Psalms 23:2-4

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 27:1

God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? God is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 31:24

Be of good courage, and God shall strengthen your heart.

Proverbs 10:9

He who walks with integrity walks confidently.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 58:9-11

If you take away from among you the yoke, finger pointing, and speaking wickedly; and if you pour out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light will rise in darkness. God will guide you continually, satisfy your soul in dry places, and make your bones strong. You will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

⁸ Strengthen those around you by sharing the truth and it makes you stronger. If you have conquered an addiction, "don't return to eat your vomit". You are no longer a dwelling place for the devil and there is no need to make the obstacles seem bigger than they are. You have won, now do God's will.

Matthew 19:26

Looking at them, Jesus said, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”⁹

John 6:19-20

They were frightened, but Jesus said to them, “It is I, do not be afraid.”

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 16:13

Stay firm in the faith! Act like men, be courageous and strong!

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God, not that we are sufficient by ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new testament; not of the old law, but of the Spirit. For the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 7:16

I have confidence in you in all things.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, love, and of a sound mind.

Jesus Confronts the Pharisees with Confidence

Luke 11:39-12:3

Jesus said, “You Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the platter, but your inward part is full of extortion and wickedness. Woe to you Pharisees! For you bypass justice and God's love.” One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying this you insult us also.”

And Jesus said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load men with burdens that are difficult to carry, and you yourselves won't even lift one finger to help carry those burdens. Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. So you testify and consent to the works of your fathers. For they killed them, and you build their tombs.

⁹ When man acts alone he will never utilize his full potential. When men act together with God there is nothing that can stand in their way.

Woe to you lawyers! For you took away the key of knowledge. You didn't enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in, you hindered."

As Jesus said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

Meanwhile, there gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, so much so that they trampled on each other, Jesus began to tell his disciples first of all, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light. What you have spoken in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."

Diligence

Whatever a man sows he will reap!

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 10:4-5

He becomes poor who works with a lazy hand, but the hand of the diligent brings wealth. He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during the harvest is a son who causes shame.

Proverbs 12:14

A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth. The work of a man's hands shall be rewarded to him.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the lazy desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be fully satisfied.

Proverbs 14:23

In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit your work to God, and your plans shall succeed.

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent surely lead to profit; and everyone who is hasty surely rushes to poverty.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

There is nothing better for a man that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This I saw, is from the hand of God.

John 5:17

Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, so I am working, too."

Gospel of Thomas 58

Jesus said, "Blessed is the person who's gone to a lot of trouble. They've found life."

Romans 12:11

Never be lazy in business; but be enthusiastic in Spirit, serving God's will.

Galatians 6:3-4

For if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then he shall rejoice in himself alone, and not in another.¹⁰

Galatians 6:7-9

Don't be deceived. For whatever a man sows he will reap. For he who sows of the Spirit will from the Spirit reap life. Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don't give up.

Philippians 1:27-28

Let your way of life be worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your state, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the truth of the Gospel; and nothing from your adversaries will deter you.

Colossians 1:27-29

God was pleased to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery; which is Christ in

¹⁰ Focus on your own work and be satisfied with the results when you have given your best effort. Seek approval from God, not men. Then there is no need to compare yourself against others.

you, the hope of glory.¹¹ We teach every man in all wisdom, that every man may be strengthened in Christ; for this I labor, striving according to his power at work in me.

Colossians 3:23

And whatever you do, work from the soul, as working for God and not merely for men.

1 Timothy 4:12-15

Let no man despise your youth; but be an example to those who believe, in word, in your way of life, and in spirit. Be diligent in these things. Give yourself fully to them, so that your progress may be revealed to all.

2 Timothy 2:15

Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Every man has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms. If your gift is speaking, speak as if your words came from God. If your gift is serving others, do so with the strength which God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Teaches about Persistence

Luke 11:5-10

Jesus said to them, "Which of you, if you go to a friend at midnight, and tell him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him,' and he from within will answer and say, 'Don't bother me. The door is now shut, and my children are in bed. I can't get up and give it to you.' I tell you, although he will not rise and give it to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence, he will get up and give him as many as he needs.

I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened."¹²

¹¹ The life giving, pure, powerful Spirit of Christ is in each one of us. You can utilize this power, the Spirit of Christ, within to strengthen your spirit as God intended.

¹² Persistence can be more valuable than genius. If you keep seeking the truth, you will find the answers no matter what the obstacles as long as you stay the course.

SELF-CONTROL

Glorify God in your body and in your Spirit!

Proverbs 5:21-23

For the ways of man are before the eyes of God. He examines all his paths. The evil deeds of the wicked traps himself. He will die for lack of discipline, and in his folly he shall go astray.

Proverbs 12:16

A fool shows his annoyance the same day, but the one who overlooks an insult is wise.

Proverbs 13:3

He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Proverbs 16:32

One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; one who rules his spirit is better off than he who conquers a city.¹³

Proverbs 25:28

He that does not rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Proverbs 29:11

A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control.

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9

The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Don't be hasty in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.

Gospel of Thomas 67

Jesus said, "Whoever knows everything but oneself, lacks everything."¹⁴

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee sexual immorality! For every error a man does is outside the body, but he who commits

¹³ Be in control of your spirit, don't allow a third party or outside sources to control your frame of mind. Many people can be swayed by propaganda and make emotional decisions based on lies. The wise rule their own spirit under all conditions.

¹⁴ God designed each one of us male or female to multiply. The female womb is designed to nurture and provide life. We have God given abilities in our nature; ingrained in our body, soul, and spirit. God supplied us with unlimited resources within, we are meant for greatness. Anything that perverts or takes us away from our nature is deceitful and makes us weaker as a human race.

sexual immorality harms his own body. Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Don't you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize. Run like that, that you may win. Every man who strives in a race exercises self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.¹⁵ Therefore I run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air. I discipline my body by any means and bring it into submission; so after I have preached to others, I myself should not be rejected.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Let him who thinks he stands be careful that he doesn't fall. Any temptation for you is common to any man. God is faithful, he will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able to handle.

Galatians 5:16-25

Live by the Spirit, for if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the old law. Avoid impure deeds which are: sexual immorality, idolatry, hatred, outbursts of anger, divisions, envy, murders, drunkenness, and things like these. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ live in the Spirit, and their path is guided by the Spirit.

James 1:12-13

Blessed is a person who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who do his will. Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," for God can't be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one.

James 1:26

If any among you thinks you are religious but don't control your tongue; then you deceive your own heart, and your religion is worthless.

¹⁵ A crown of leaves was customary for athletes at this time; which is a corruptible crown that fades away as it is only temporary. An incorruptible crown lasts forever as does God's glory. We should discipline ourselves to live a spiritual life as the Spirit lives forever!

James 4:7

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 John 2:14

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the Spirit of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Jesus Overcomes Temptation

Luke 4:1-14

And Jesus being full of the Spirit returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. He ate nothing in those days.

Afterward, when they were completed, he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered him, saying, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by the Spirit of God.”

The devil, leading him up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said to him, “I will give you all this power, and their glory, for it has been delivered to me; and I give it to whomever I want. If you bow down and worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered him, “Get behind me Satan! For we must honor God, and serve him only.” Then the devil brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, jump down from here, for it is written, ‘He will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you;’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest perhaps you dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answering, said to him, “You shall not tempt God.” When the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until another time. Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and news about him spread through all the surrounding area.

KNOWLEDGE

A knowledgeable man increases strength!

Job 8:8-10

Please inquire of past generations.¹⁶ Find out about the learning of their fathers. For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow. Shall they not teach you, tell you, and utter words out of their heart?

Proverbs 1:22-23

How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery, and fools hate knowledge? Turn at my reproof. Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you.

Proverbs 3:13-18

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gets understanding. For her good profit is better than getting silver, and her return is better than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies. None of the things you can desire are to be compared to her. Length of days is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness. All her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her. Happy is everyone who retains her.

Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all you have get understanding.

Proverbs 14:15

A simple man believes everything, but the prudent man carefully considers his ways.

Proverbs 18:15

The heart of the prudent gets knowledge. The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Proverbs 19:8

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding shall find good.

Proverbs 24:5

A wise man has great power; and a knowledgeable man increases strength.

¹⁶ The Bible is a collection of books that covers thousands of years of history. By reading and understanding the Bible you gain wisdom that can only be learned by studying past generations. This knowledge will help you discern good from evil and bring you out of the darkness and into the light.

Ecclesiastes 7:5

It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the praise of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:12

For wisdom is a defense, even as money is a defense; but the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Who is like the wise man? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10

The Teacher was wise, so he taught the people knowledge. He pondered, sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find acceptable words, those that were upright, words of truth.

Matthew 13:54

Coming into his own country, Galilee, Jesus taught the people, and they were astonished and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Gospel of Thomas 3

Jesus said, "If your leaders tell you, 'Look, the kingdom is in heaven,' then the birds of heaven will precede you. If they tell you, 'It's in the sea,' then the fish will precede you. Rather, the kingdom is within you and outside of you."¹⁷

When you know yourselves, then you'll be known, and you'll realize that you're the children of the living Father. But if you don't know yourselves, then you live in poverty, and you are the poverty."

Gospel of Thomas 5

Jesus said, "Know what's in front of your face, and what's hidden from you will be revealed to you, because there's nothing hidden that won't be revealed."¹⁸

¹⁷ The kingdom of God is within, nothing precedes our God given nature and spirit. When you live by the Spirit of God you will treat your body and soul as well as you can now.

¹⁸ Jesus instructs us to pay attention to what is right in front of you. Sometimes we make things more complex than needed or dig deep on a subject only to miss what was right in front of our face. It can be simple: righteous people promote truth, life, and freedom; evil people seek deception, death, and control.

Gospel of Truth 18

What comes into being within him is the knowledge, which was revealed so that forgetfulness might be dissolved, and the Father might be known.

Gospel of Truth 21

Since the completion of all is in the Father, it's necessary for all to go up to him. Then, if someone has knowledge, they receive what is their own, and he draws them to himself, because the one who's ignorant is in need. And it's a great need, since they need what will complete them. Since the completion of all is in the Father, it's necessary for all to go up to him, and for each one to receive what is their own.¹⁹

Gospel of Truth 31

Christ became a Way for those who were led astray, knowledge for those who were ignorant.

James 1:5-8

But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. For that man shouldn't think that he will receive anything from God. For he is unstable in all his ways.

The Benefits of Wisdom

Proverbs 2:6-20

For God gives wisdom. Out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He provides sound wisdom for the upright. He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, he guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, and the good path. For wisdom will enter into your heart. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will watch over you. Understanding will keep you from the way of evil, from the men who speak perverse things, who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness. These people delight in the perverseness of evil; they enjoy deception and are crooked in their ways. So follow the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

¹⁹ Ignorance or denying the existence of God leads many people down the wrong path and causes them great harm and weakness. When your mind and spirit are united with God it gives you real and great power.

Knowledge from God

Gospel of Truth 22-24

If someone has knowledge, they're from above. If they're called, they hear, they reply, and they turn to the one who calls them. And they go up to the Father, and they know how they are called. Having knowledge, they do the will of the one who called them, they want to please him, and they receive rest. The one who has knowledge like this knows where they come from and where they're going. They know like one who, having been drunk, turns from their drunkenness, and having returned to themselves, restores what is their own. The Father has returned many from Error. He revealed his will as knowledge in harmony with all that emanated from him.

In this way, the Spirit of the Father goes out in all, as the fruit of his heart and an expression of his will. But it supports all. It chooses them and also takes the expression of all, purifying them, returning them to the Father. The Father reveals his bosom, and his bosom is the Holy Spirit. He reveals what's hidden of himself; what's hidden of himself is his Son – so that through the mercies of the Father, the generations may know him and cease their work in searching for the Father, resting in him and knowing that this is the rest. He's filled the need and dissolved its appearance – its appearance is the world in which it served, because where there's envy and strife there's need, but where there's Unity there's completion. Since need came into being because the Father wasn't known, when the Father is known, from then on, need will no longer exist. As someone's ignorance dissolves when they gain knowledge, and as darkness dissolves when the light appears, so also need dissolves in completion.

CHARACTER

We are created in Christ for good works!

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are directed by God: and he delights in his way.

Proverbs 10:16

The labor of the righteous leads to life.

Proverbs 11:17-30

The kind man is rewarding his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh. The one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. He who is truly righteous gets life. The desire of

the righteous is only good and shall flourish as green plants. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life. He who is wise saves souls.²⁰

Proverbs 12:26,28

The righteous are a guide to their neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. In the way of righteousness there is life; and in its path there is no death.²¹

Proverbs 16:17

The path of the upright is to depart from evil. He who keeps his way preserves his soul.

Proverbs 28:27

The one who helps others will not be lacking; but one who closes his eyes will have many curses.

Daniel 12:3

Those who are wise will shine as the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness will shine as the stars forever and ever.

Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in by it. Because the gate is narrow and the way is difficult that leads to life! There are few who find it."

Matthew 22:16

They said to Jesus, "Teacher, we know that you are honest, and teach the way of God in truth, no matter whom you teach; for you aren't partial to anyone."

John 15:12

Jesus said, "Love one another, as I have loved you."

Gospel of Thomas 6

Jesus said, "Don't lie, and don't do what you hate, because everything is revealed in the sight of heaven; for there's nothing hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing covered up that will stay secret."

²⁰ The godly are a tree of life and the wise save souls. The wise nurture and care for their young. Jesus came to protect innocent children starting in the womb that we may have life and have it more abundantly.

²¹ The way of the righteous and the godly is life. Don't let the wicked lead you astray.

Gospel of Truth 30-31

When Jesus Christ was revealed, he taught them about the Father, and breathed into them what's in the thought, doing his will.²² Nothing could block his path, because incorruptibility can't be grasped.

Romans 5:3-4

We know that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance produces character; and character produces hope.

Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ for good works.

Ephesians 5:15-18

Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore don't be foolish, but understand what the will of the God is. Don't be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Colossians 3:15-16

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Let the Spirit of Christ dwell in you richly.

1 Timothy 6:9-12

Those who are determined to be rich fall into a temptation, a snare, and many foolish and harmful lusts, which drown men in ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the Spirit in their greed, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, and perseverance. Fight the good fight and take hold of the life to which you were called by God.

²² Living out the will of God, this is one of the primary missions of Jesus Christ on earth. Jesus wants us to have a direct relationship with God to understand what God's will is for each one of us. This opposed the religious leaders and their false doctrines at the time who desired complete control of their congregation's spiritual experience.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who live honorably.

James 3:16-18

For where jealousy and selfishness are, there is confusion and every evil deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

1 John 3:1-2

Behold, how great a love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the sons of God! Beloved, now we are children of God.²³ We shall be like him; for we will see him just as he is.

A Tree and Its Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

Jesus said, “A good tree doesn’t produce corrupt fruit; and a corrupt tree doesn’t produce good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. For people don’t gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings out that which is good, and the evil man out of the evil of his heart brings out that which is evil, for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks.”²⁴

Solid Foundation

Luke 6:47-49

Jesus said, “Everyone who comes to me, and hears my words, and does them, I will show you who he is like. He is like a man building a house, who dug and went deep, and laid a foundation on the rock. When a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock. But he who hears, and doesn’t do, is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

²³ When you come to realize you are a child of God, made in the image of God, it gives you great power and responsibility to strengthen your character.

²⁴ The fruit in this parable represents the end results. If a person says one thing and does another; you must judge the person on the deeds and their results, not mere talk.

Faith Shown by Works

James 2:14-18

What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him? And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;” yet you didn’t give them the things the body needs, what good is it? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, a man will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.²⁵

MARRIAGE

Be earnest in your love for each other!

Genesis 1:27-28

God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fruitful, and multiply.”

Genesis 2:18,24

God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him.” Therefore a man will leave his father and his mother, and will join with his wife, and the two shall become one.

Proverbs 18:22

Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from God.

Proverbs 31:10-12

Who can find a worthy woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband trusts in her. He shall have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your life.

Matthew 19:3-6

The Pharisees came to Jesus, testing him and saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?” He answered, “He who made them from the beginning made them

²⁵ What are you doing to spread Christianity and help your friends, family, and people in your local community? Your faith means nothing if you don’t act on it.

male and female, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one?' So that they are no more two, but one. What therefore God has joined together, don't let man tear apart."

Ephesians 5:28-33

Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it. Each of you must love your wife as yourself; and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all things be earnest in your love for each other.

Rejoice in the Wife of Your Youth

Proverbs 5:1-19

My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Turn your ear to my understanding, that you may maintain discretion, that your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey. Her mouth is smoother than oil, but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to hell. She gives no thought to the way of life. Her ways are crooked, and she doesn't know it.

Now therefore, my sons, listen to me. Don't depart from the words of my mouth. Remove your way far from her. Don't come near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one; lest strangers feast on your wealth, and your labors enrich another man's house.

Drink water out of your own well, running water out of your own well. Should your springs overflow in the streets, streams of water in the public squares? Let them be for yourself alone, not for strangers with you. Let your spring be blessed. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe and a graceful deer—let her breasts satisfy you at all times. Be captivated always with her love.

Love Endures All Things

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

FAMILY

He who loves God should also love his brother!

Psalm 115:14

God shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

Psalm 127:3-5

Children are a heritage of God. The fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They won't be disappointed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Proverbs 11:29

He who troubles his own house shall inherit the wind. The foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart.

Proverbs 13:24

One who loves his son is careful to discipline him.

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your children, for there is hope; don't be a willing party to his death.

Proverbs 22:5-6

Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse, whoever keeps his soul shall be far from them. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 27:23

Know well the state of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds.

Proverbs 29:15-17

A child left to himself causes shame to his mother. Correct your son, and he will give you peace; yes, he will bring delight to your soul.

Jeremiah 1:5

God said, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."²⁶

Luke 1:14-15

You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of God. He will be filled with the Spirit, even from his mother's womb.²⁷

John 10:10

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly."

Gospel of Thomas 25

Jesus said, "Love your brother as your own soul. Protect them like the pupil of your eye."

Ephesians 3:14-17

I pray for every family of God in heaven and on earth that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts.

1 Timothy 5:8

If anyone doesn't provide for his own, and especially his own household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Peter 5:2-3

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it, not by constraint, but voluntarily, not for dishonest gain, but willingly; not as lording it over those entrusted to you, but making yourselves examples to the flock.

1 John 4:20-21

If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this is God's will, that he who loves God should also love his brother."

²⁶ God knew you before you were formed in the womb!

²⁷ He was filled with the Spirit in his mother's womb. A mother's womb is designed to nurture, protect, and provide life. This is the truth of our God-given nature, the truth of a mother and what her body was designed to do. Let no one deceive you on this very important point!

Family of Jesus

Matthew 12:46-50

While Jesus was speaking to the multitudes, his mother and his brothers stood outside, seeking to speak to him. One said to him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you.”

But Jesus answered him, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

GOD’S CHILDREN

The Spirit testifies we are children of God!

Psalm 71:5-7

For you are my hope, O God, my confidence from my youth. I have relied on you from the womb. You are he who took me out of my mother’s womb. I will always praise you. I am a marvel to many, and you are my strong refuge.

Psalm 139:13-14

For you formed my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to you.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My child, don’t despise God’s discipline, neither be weary of his correction; for whom God loves, he corrects, even as a father reproveth the child in whom he delights.

Proverbs 3:21-24

My child, keep sound wisdom and discretion: so they will be life to your soul, and grace for your neck. Then you shall walk in your way securely. Your foot won’t stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet.

Proverbs 6:20-22

My son, keep your father’s instructions, and don’t forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them continually on your heart. Tie them around your neck. When you walk, it will lead you. When you sleep, it will watch over you. When you awake, it will talk with you.

Proverbs 15:5,20

A fool despises his father’s correction, but he who learns from it shows prudence. A wise child makes a father glad, but a foolish child despises his mother.

Proverbs 23:15-16

My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad. Yes, my heart will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

Proverbs 23:22-25

Listen to your father who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and don't sell it. Get wisdom, discipline, and understanding. The father of the righteous has great joy. Let your father and your mother be glad! Let her who gave you birth rejoice!

Mark 10:13-16

They were bringing to him babies and little children, that he should bless them, but the disciples rebuked those who were bringing them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said to them, "Allow the little children to come to me! Don't forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Most certainly I tell you, whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child, he will in no way enter into it." Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.²⁸

Luke 2:40

The child grew, and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 6:40

Jesus said, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."

John 8:47

Jesus said, "He who is of God hears the words of God."

John 10:14-15

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I'm known by my own; even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father."

Gospel of Truth 19

All the little children came too; theirs is the knowledge of the Father. When they were strengthened, they received teaching about the Father. They knew and they were known; they received glory and they gave glory.

²⁸ Jesus highlights how important it is to protect innocent children as well as protect our own innocence to access the kingdom of God, which is the Spirit of God living in you now!

Romans 8:14-17

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one lead you astray, let no man deceive you. He who does righteousness is righteous, as Jesus Christ is righteous.

1 John 3:17-18

Whoever has worldly riches and sees his brother in need, then closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God's love remain in him? My little children, let's not love in speech only, but in deeds and truth.

A Father's Wise Advice

Proverbs 4:1-27

Listen, children, to a father's instruction. Pay attention and know understanding; for I give you sound learning. For I was a son to my father, tender and an only child in the sight of my mother. He taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words. Keep my teachings, and live. Get wisdom. Get understanding. Don't forget, and don't deviate from the words of my mouth. Don't forsake her, and she will preserve you. Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is supreme. Get wisdom. Yes, though it costs all your possessions, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you. She will bring you to honor when you embrace her. She will deliver a crown of splendor to you.

Listen, my children, and receive my sayings. The years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom. I have led you in straight paths. When you go, your steps will not be hampered. When you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction. Don't let her go. Keep her, for she is your life. Don't enter into the path of the wicked. Don't walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, and don't pass by it. Turn from it, and pass on. For they don't sleep unless they do evil. Their sleep is taken away, unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the righteous is like the dawning light that shines more and more until the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness. They don't know what they stumble over.

My children, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them,

and health to their whole body. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life. Put away from yourself a perverse mouth. Put corrupt lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead. Fix your gaze directly before you. Make the path of your feet level. Don't turn to the right hand nor to the left. Let all of your ways be established."

The Greatest in the Kingdom

Matthew 18:1-14

In that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Jesus called a little child to himself, and set him in the middle of them and said, "Most certainly I tell you, unless you turn and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such little child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him if a huge millstone were hung around his neck and he were sunk in the depths of the sea."

Jesus continued, "See that you don't despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has one hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, doesn't he leave the ninety-nine, go to the mountains, and seek that which has gone astray? If he finds it, most certainly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

TRUTH

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Psalm 51:6

You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom.

Matthew 9:13

Jesus said, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice."

Matthew 10:26

Jesus instructed, "Fear them not: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; or hidden, that shall not be known."

Matthew 16:11-12

Jesus said, “How is it that you do not understand that I didn’t speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that he didn’t tell them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mark 12:38-40

In his teaching Jesus said to them, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk in long robes, and to get greetings in the marketplaces, and the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts: those who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive greater damnation.”

Luke 13:34

Jesus said, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, like a hen gathers her own brood under her wings, and you refused!”

John 4:23-24

Jesus said, “But the hour comes, and now is, when the true disciples will honor the Father in Spirit and in truth, for the Father seeks such to be redeemed. God is Spirit, and those who honor him must live in the Spirit and in truth.”

John 7:25-29

Some in Jerusalem said, “Isn’t this he whom they seek to kill? But he speaks openly and boldly, and they say nothing to him.”

Jesus, in the temple spoke with authority, “You both know me, and know where I am from. I have not come of myself, but he who sent me is true, whom you don’t know. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.”

John 8:22-26

The Jews said, “Will he kill himself, because he says, ‘Where I am going, you can’t come?’”

Jesus said to them, “You are from beneath. I am from above. He who sent me is true; and the things which I heard from him, these I say to the world.”

John 8:31-32

Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

John 14:16-17

Jesus said, "I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may be with you forever: the Spirit of Truth, whom some in the world can't receive; for they don't see him and don't know him. But you know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you."

John 18:37

Jesus said, "For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the Truth listens to my voice."

Gospel of Philip 52

Whoever has believed in the Truth has lived, because they're alive since the day Christ came.

Gospel of Truth 19

Jesus Christ became a guide, peaceful and leisurely. He came and spoke the Word as a teacher in places of learning. Those who were wise in their own estimation came up to him to test him, but he confounded them because they were vain. They hated him because they weren't wise in Truth.

Gospel of Truth 32

Speak of the Truth with those who search for it.

Ephesians 1:13

In Christ you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your redemption; after that you believed, you were also sealed with the Spirit of promise.

Ephesians 4:25

Every man speak truth with his neighbor.

Colossians 1:26-27

The mystery has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to all of mankind, to whom God was pleased to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Hebrews 8:6-7

Jesus obtained a more excellent ministry, by so much as he gave life to a New Testament, which was established upon better promises. For if that first testament had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

1 John 3:7-9

Little children, let no one lead you astray. He who does righteousness is righteous, as Jesus Christ is righteous. But he who deceives is of the devil, for the devil has been lying from the beginning. To this end Christ was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.²⁹ Whoever is born of God lives in truth, because his seed remains in him, and he can't lie, because he is born of God.

Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:3-23

Jesus spoke to them many things in parables, saying, "Behold, a farmer went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and devoured them. Others fell on rocky ground, where they didn't have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of earth. When the sun had risen, they were scorched. Because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on good soil and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus explains the parable, "When anyone hears the truth of God and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown by the roadside. What was sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the truth and immediately with joy receives it; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When oppression or persecution arises, immediately he stumbles. What was sown among the thorns, this is he who hears the truth, but the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches choke the truth, and he becomes unfruitful. What was sown on the good ground, this is one who hears the truth and accepts the Spirit of God, who most certainly bears fruit and produces, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty."

²⁹ The devil can only succeed through deception. Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the devil by speaking the truth and living in truth.

Jesus Teaches for the Glory of God

John 7:9-18

Having said these things to them, Jesus stayed in Galilee. But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly, but as it were in secret. The Jews therefore sought him at the feast, and said, "Where is he?" There was much murmuring among the multitudes concerning him. Some said, "He is a good man." Yet no one spoke openly of him for fear of the Jews.

But when it was now the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and taught. The Jews marveled, saying, "How does this man know letters, having never been educated?" Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God, or if I am speaking of myself. He who speaks of himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and no unrighteousness is in him."

The Truth Will Judge

John 12:44-49

Jesus exclaimed, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me. He who sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness. If anyone listens to my sayings, and doesn't believe, I don't judge him. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects me, and doesn't receive my Spirit, has one who judges him. The truth that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father who sent me."

Trust in the Living God

1 Timothy 4:1-10

But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron, forbidding marriage and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with thanksgiving.

If you instruct the brothers of these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ. But refuse profane and old wives' fables. Exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise has some value, but godliness has value in all things, having the promise of the life which is

now, and of that which is to come. For this end we labor and strive, because we have set our trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all mankind.

The Father of Truth

Gospel of Truth 16-18

The Gospel of Truth is a joy for those who've received grace from the Father of Truth, that they might know him through the power of the Spirit that came from the fullness – the one who's in the thought and mind of the Father. They call him "Savior." That's the name of the work he'll do to redeem those who had become ignorant of the Father. And the term "the Gospel" is the revelation of hope, the discovery of those who search for him.

Since all searched for the one from whom they had come – all were within him, the uncontainable, inconceivable one who's beyond every thought – and since ignorance of the Father caused anguish and terror, and the anguish grew thick like a fog, so that no one could see – Error was strengthened. It worked on its own matter in vain, not knowing the Truth.

It happened in a deluding way, as Error prepared with power, in beauty, a substitute for the Truth. Now this wasn't humiliating for the uncontainable, inconceivable one, because the anguish and forgetfulness and delusion of deceit were like nothing, whereas the Truth is established, unchangeable, unperturbed, beyond beauty. Because of this, disregard Error, since it has no root.

It happened in a fog concerning the Father. It happens now since Error prepares works in forgetfulness and terror,³⁰ so that with them it might attract those in the middle and imprison them. The forgetfulness of Error wasn't revealed; it wasn't a thought from the Father. Forgetfulness didn't come into being from the Father, though it did come into being because of him. What comes into being within him is the knowledge, which was revealed so that forgetfulness might be dissolved, and the Father might be known. Forgetfulness came into being because the Father was unknown, so when the Father comes to be known, forgetfulness won't exist anymore.

This is the Gospel of the one they search for, revealed to those who are complete through the mercies of the Father, the hidden mystery. Through the Gospel, Jesus Christ enlightened those who were in darkness through forgetfulness. He enlightened them; he showed them a Way, and the Way is the Truth which he taught them.

³⁰ The Gnostic's believed knowledge of God, knowledge of good and evil, and knowledge of oneself as the primary goals of religion to achieve Gnosis: insight into the divine. They believed many evil acts (Error) were committed out of ignorance, therefore they placed primary importance on gaining knowledge of the truth to avoid falling prey to deceit and evil.

GOOD OVER EVIL

Whoever is not against us is on our side!

Psalm 82:3-4

Defend the weak, the poor, and the fatherless. Maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy. Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 4:14-23

Don't enter into the path of the wicked. Don't walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, and don't pass by it. Turn from it, and pass on. For they don't sleep unless they do evil. Their sleep is taken away, unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

But the path of the righteous is like the dawning light that shines more and more until the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness. They don't know what they stumble over. My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 24:15-16

Don't lay in wait, wicked man, against the habitation of the righteous. Don't destroy his resting place; for a righteous man falls seven times and rises up again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.³¹

Luke 13:18-19

Jesus taught, "What is the kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and put in his own garden. It grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the sky live in its branches."

Matthew 10:26-28

Jesus instructed, "Fear them not: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; or hidden, that shall not be known. What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what

³¹ You may have setbacks and difficulties in your life and question whether you will accomplish your goals. But the righteous man, understanding God's will, who knows with all certainty he is on the right path; he may fall but each time he will rise again!

you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim on the housetops. Don't be afraid of those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul."³²

Mark 9:39-42

Jesus said, "Don't forbid him, for there is no one who will do a mighty work in my name, and be able to speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is on our side. For whoever will give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because you belong to Christ, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward. Whoever will cause one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him if he were thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around his neck."

Luke 17:20-21

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God should come, Jesus answered, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation. No one will say, 'Look here!' or, 'Look there!' for behold, the kingdom of God is within you."³³

John 8:44

Jesus said, "You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

John 14:27

Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful."

John 15:22-25

Jesus said, "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me, hates my Father also. If I hadn't done among them the works which no one else did, they wouldn't have had sin. But now they have seen and also hated both me and my Father. For they hated me without a cause."

³² Jesus states time and time again that he wants everything that is covered up to be revealed. Do not be afraid of anyone, shout the truth from the housetops!

³³ Jesus states the kingdom of God is within you. This reinforces that God is Spirit, and we don't need to wait for an external heaven. When we live by the Spirit of God we can experience the kingdom of God now.

Gospel of Philip 53

Christ came to save and redeem. The world was dominated by the deceivers that had captured it, but he saved it; and those who are good in the world he redeemed.

Gospel of Philip 54

The rulers wanted to deceive humanity, because they saw that humanity had a kinship with those that are truly good. They took the name of those that are good and gave it to those that aren't good, to deceive humanity by the names and bind them to those that aren't good.³⁴ And then, they take them from those that aren't good and place them among those that are good. They knew what they were doing, because they wanted to take those who were free and place them in slavery forever. There are powers that exist that want to corrupt humanity, not wanting them to be saved; because if humanity was saved, sacrifices would come to an end.³⁵

Gospel of Philip 83

Ignorance is the mother of all evil. Ignorance will cause death, because those who remain ignorant were never truly alive nor will they come into being. But they will be perfected when the whole truth is revealed. For truth is like ignorance: when it's hidden, it rests within itself, but if it's revealed and recognized, it's glorified inasmuch as it's stronger than ignorance and error. It gives freedom. Ignorance is slavery; knowledge is freedom. If we know the truth, we'll find the fruits of truth within us.

Romans 12:9,21

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hebrews 5:12-14

By this time you should be teachers, but you need to have someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the revelations of God. You have come to need milk, and not solid food. For everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby. But solid food is for those who are full grown, who have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

³⁴ Children of the God of Jesus Christ are inherently good and want the best for other people. The rulers deceive based on our good intentions. You see this today as the names given to certain organizations are intentionally deceptive.

³⁵ The good God in heaven sent Jesus to end sacrifices but not be a sacrifice himself according to Marcion (who is credited with compiling the first New Testament) and many 1st century Christian Gnostics who believed the deity of the Old Testament was completely incompatible with the loving God of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Recruits and Heals in Galilee

Matthew 4:18-25

Walking by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Peter and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers for men." They immediately left their nets and followed him.

Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their churches, preaching the Gospel, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. The report about him went out into all Syria. They brought to him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments; and he healed them. Great multitudes from Galilee and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do you gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree produces good fruit, but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

FREEDOM

Where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom!

Psalms 34:4

I sought God, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Isaiah 58:6

Release the bonds of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke.

Luke 6:37

Jesus said, "Set free, and you will be set free."

Luke 8:38-39

The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your house, and declare what great things God has done for you." He went his way, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

John 8:31-32

Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Romans 7:6

Now we have been freed from the law, having died to that in which we were held; so that we live in newness of the Spirit, and not in oldness of the letter.³⁶

Romans 8:2-6

The Spirit of life in Christ made me free from the law of sin and of death. For those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. The mind of the Spirit is life.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now God is the Spirit and where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom.

Galatians 2:4-5

This was because of the false brothers secretly brought in, who stole in to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ, that they might bring us into bondage, to whom we did not yield, not for an hour, that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you.

Galatians 5:1

Stand firm in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

James 1:21-25

Receive the power of the Spirit, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Spirit, and not only hearers, deluding your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Gospel, and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror; for he sees himself, and goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the freedom of Christ and continues, not being a hearer who forgets, but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in all that he does.

³⁶ Jesus Christ came to free us from the old law so we can live anew in the Spirit.

Knowledge is Freedom

Gospel of Philip 83

It's the same way with the tree. While its root is hidden, it blossoms and grows. If its root is exposed, the tree dries up. That's what it's like with everything that's born in the world, not only the revealed, but also the hidden; because as long as the root of evil is hidden, it's strong. But if it's recognized, it dissolves, and if it's revealed, it dies. So the Word says, "Already the axe is laid at the root of the trees." It won't just cut, because that which will be cut blossoms again. Rather, the axe digs deep down into the ground until it brings up the root.

Jesus plucked out the root completely, but others did so partially. As for us, let every one of us dig down to the root of the evil within and pluck it out from its root in us. It'll be uprooted if we recognize it. But if we don't recognize it, it takes root within us and bears its fruit in us. It masters us, and we're forced to serve it. It captures us so that we do what we do not want to; and we do not do what we want to. It's powerful because we haven't recognized it. It's active as long as it exists.

Ignorance is the mother of all evil. Ignorance will cause death, because those who remain ignorant were never truly alive nor will they come into being. But they will be perfected when the whole truth is revealed. For truth is like ignorance: when it's hidden, it rests within itself, but if it's revealed and recognized, it's glorified inasmuch as it's stronger than ignorance and error. It gives freedom. The Word says, "If you'll know the truth, the truth will make you free." Ignorance is slavery; knowledge is freedom. If we know the truth, we'll find the fruits of truth within us.

STRENGTH

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!

Job 17:8-9

The innocent shall rise up against the hypocrite. The righteous will hold to God's way. He who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.

Psalms 18:2

God is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust.

Psalm 18:28-35

My God will enlighten my darkness. For by thee I run; and by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect: he is a shield to all those that trust in him. God arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like deer's feet, and sets me on high places. You have also given me the shield of your salvation. Your right hand sustains me. You have made me great.

Psalm 71:16-18

I will go in the strength of God; I will proclaim your righteousness. God, you have taught me from my youth. Until now, I have declared your wondrous works. Yes, even when I am old and gray-haired, God, don't forsake me, until I have declared your strength to the next generation, and your power to everyone that is to come.

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues; but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

Isaiah 40:29-31

He gives power to the weak. He increases the strength of him who has no might. Even the youths faint and get weary, and the young men fall; but those who trust in God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Luke 4:14

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee!

Luke 9:42-43

Jesus healed the boy. Then gave him back to his father. Awe gripped the people as they saw this display of the power of God.

Luke 11:21-23

Jesus continued, "When the strong man, fully armed, guards his own dwelling, his goods are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and overcomes him, he takes from him his whole armor in which he trusted, and divides his plunder. He that is not with me is against me. He who doesn't gather with me scatters."

John 2:13-15

Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting. Jesus made a whip of cords, and threw all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the changers' money and overthrew

their tables.

John 8:54

Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me."³⁷

Gospel of Truth 33

Strengthen the feet of those who stumble, and reach out to those who are sick. Raise up those who want to arise, and awaken those who sleep, because you are the understanding that's unsheathed! If strength is like this, it becomes stronger!³⁸

Acts 10:37-38

You know what began from Galilee; how God provided Jesus of Nazareth with the Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

2 Corinthians 4:7

We have this treasure in our earthly bodies, that the exceeding greatness of the power is from God, and not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:3

You seek a proof of Christ who speaks in me; who toward you is not weak, but is powerful in you.

Ephesians 1:17-20

I pray that the God of Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might which he worked in Christ.

Ephesians 3:16-17

I pray that God would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts.

³⁷ Jesus always remains true and seeks the glory of God, not himself. Jesus never asked to be worshipped, to be called Lord, or the only son of God. Jesus Christ gave us the knowledge, the power, and the glory that we are children of his Father, the living God.

³⁸ Drawing out a sword that was covered is an example of unsheathed. When you have the understanding of Christ working through you; your powers are no longer covered, you are free to grow stronger and stronger!

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Colossians 1:27-29

God was pleased to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We teach every man in all wisdom, that every man may be strengthened in Christ; for this I labor, striving according to his power at work in me.

1 John 2:14

You are strong, and the Spirit of God remains in you!

God Creates Mankind in His Own Image

Genesis 1:1-28

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw the light, and saw that it was good. God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear;" and it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters he called Seas. God saw that it was good. God said, "Let the earth yield grass, herbs yielding seeds, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with their seeds in it, on the earth;" and it was so. The earth yielded grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with their seeds in it, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth;" and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the

darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life, and birds that fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.” And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind. God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures after their kind, livestock, creeping things, and animals of the earth after their kind;” and it was so. God made the animals of the earth after their kind, and the livestock after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind. God saw that it was good.

And **God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:³⁹** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crawls on the earth.”

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.⁴⁰ And God blessed them, God said to them, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

No Man Ever Spoke Like This Man!

John 7:40-46

Many of the people said about Jesus, “This is truly the prophet.” Others from Jerusalem said, “This is the Messiah.” But some said, “What, does the Messiah come out of Galilee? Hasn’t the scripture said that the Messiah comes of the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” So there was a division among the Jews and the people because of him. Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why didn’t you bring him?”

The officers answered, **“No man ever spoke like this man!”**

³⁹ We are made in the image of God! There is power in knowing that you were made by God, designed by God to be great!

⁴⁰ God designed us male and female and instructed us to multiply and flourish on earth and have dominion over the animals on land and fish of the sea. This is our God given nature, Male or Female, let no one deceive you of these facts.

SPIRIT

You are strong, and the Spirit of God remains in you!

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

Proverbs 16:32

One who rules his spirit is better off than he who conquers a city.

Matthew 12:31-32

Jesus said, "Every blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Whoever speaks a word against me, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him."

Luke 2:40

The child grew, and became strong in spirit.

Luke 4:4-14

Jesus answered him, saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by the Spirit of God." When the devil had completed tempting Jesus, he departed from him until another time. Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee!

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Spirit, and the Spirit was with God, and the Spirit was God. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 3:34

For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for God gives the Spirit without measure.

John 4:24

Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who honor him must live in the Spirit and in truth."

John 6:63

Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life. The words that I speak to you are Spirit, and are life."

John 10:37-38

Jesus answered them, "If I don't do the works of my Father, don't believe me. But if I do them, though you don't believe me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Spirit of my Father works through me."

John 15:26

Jesus said, "When the Comforter has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me."

Gospel of Truth 22-24

The Father has returned many from Error. He revealed his will as knowledge in harmony with all that emanated from him. In this way, the Spirit of the Father goes out in all, as the fruit of his heart and an expression of his will. But it supports all. It chooses them and also takes the expression of all, purifying them, returning them to the Father. The Father reveals his bosom, and his bosom is the Holy Spirit.

Gospel of Truth 31

Christ gave them the Spirit of power from the infinity of the Father.

Gospel of Truth 42

They're undivided from the truly good one. They don't need anything, but they rest, refreshed in the Spirit.

Acts 1:8

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Acts 10:37-38

You know what began from Galilee; how God provided Jesus of Nazareth with the Spirit and with power!

Romans 8:2-6

The Spirit of life in Christ made me free from the law of sin and of death. For those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. The mind of the Spirit is life.

Romans 8:14-17

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:27

He who searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, according to the will of God.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? Therefore glorify God in your body and in your Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:4-17

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God, not that we are sufficient by ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new testament; not of the old law, but of the Spirit. For the Spirit gives life!

Ignorance of God is done away in Christ. Whenever someone turns to God they become truly alive. Now God is the Spirit and where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 4:10

We work so the Spirit of Jesus Christ may be revealed in our body.

Galatians 5:16-25

Live by the Spirit, for if you are led by the Spirit, you are free. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ live in the Spirit, and their path is guided by the Spirit.

Galatians 6:7-8

For whatever a man sows he will reap. For he who sows of the Spirit will from the Spirit reap life.

Ephesians 3:14-17

I pray for every family of God in heaven and on earth that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts.

Ephesians 4:21-24

If indeed you heard him, and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus Christ: then you put away, as concerning your former way of life, the old man that grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and truth.

Ephesians 5:18

Don't be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Colossians 3:16

Let the Spirit of Christ dwell in you richly.

1 Timothy 6:10-11

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the Spirit in their greed, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, and perseverance.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, love, and of a sound mind.

James 1:21-22

Receive the power of the Spirit, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Spirit, and not only hearers.

James 2:26

For as the body apart from the Spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

1 Peter 1:22-23

You have purified your souls in the truth through the Spirit, see that you love one another with a pure heart fervently, being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Spirit of God, which lives and remains forever.

1 John 2:14

You are strong, and the Spirit of God remains in you!

Born Anew in the Spirit

John 3:1-8

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came by night, and said to Jesus, “We know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can’t see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he can’t enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but don’t know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁴¹

Spiritual Wisdom

1 Corinthians 2:11-16

For who among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God, except the Spirit of God. But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things.

Now the unspiritual man doesn’t receive the things of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to him, and he can’t know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual discerns all things, and he himself is judged by no one. For who has known the mind of God, that he should instruct him?

But we have the mind of Christ.⁴²

⁴¹ Nicodemus desires only worldly wealth and doesn’t understand or possess the Spirit of Galileans. Being born anew is referring to the renewing of the mind and a reunited spiritual connection with God.

⁴² The worldly spirit can be corrupted by greed, but the Spirit of God provides pure incorruptible goodness. We have the mind of Christ when we live by the Spirit!

You are Spirit!

Gospel of Philip 61

It's impossible for anyone to see anything that really exists unless they become like them. It's not like the person in the world who sees the sun without becoming a sun, and who sees heaven and earth and everything else without becoming them. That's the way it is. But you've seen something of that place, and have become them. You saw the Spirit, you became Spirit; you saw Christ, you became Christ. You shall become what you see.⁴³

Refreshed in the Spirit

Gospel of Truth 41-42

The roots of all that have emanated from the Father are within the one who caused them all to grow. He gave them their destinies. Then each one was revealed, so the place to which they send their thought is their root, which takes them up through all the heights, up to the Father.

This is the way of those who possess something of the immeasurable greatness from above. And they don't go down to Hades, nor do they have envy or groaning, nor death within them, but they rest in the one who rests, not striving nor twisting around in the search for Truth. But they themselves are the Truth, and the Father is within them, and they're in the Father, being complete. They're undivided from the truly good one. They don't need anything, but they rest, refreshed in the Spirit. And they'll listen to their root. They'll devote themselves to those things that they'll find in their root and not suffer loss to their soul. This is the place of the blessed; this is their place.

LIGHT

The Light of Christ has been revealed in our body!

Psalms 37:6

He shall make your righteousness shine out like light, and your justice as the noon day sun.

Proverbs 4:18

The path of the righteous is like the dawning light that shines more and more until the perfect day.

⁴³ Building your character, knowledge, and Spirit are the central principles of the Christian Gnostics to gain insight into the divine and establish a direct and powerful spiritual connection with God. They did not believe in a God that would sacrifice his son and forgive sins for people that did nothing to better themselves. The Gnostics believed that we were to live by the Spirit and become Christlike. When we look for the Spirit and look for Christ in our lives, we become what we seek!

Matthew 4:15-16

The land toward the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness saw a great light; to them light has sprung up.

Mark 4:21-22

Jesus said to them, "Is the lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it put on a stand? For there is nothing hidden, except that it should be made known; neither was anything made secret, but that it should come to light."

Luke 11:34-36

Jesus taught, "The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore when your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light; but when it is evil, your body is full of darkness. Therefore see whether the light that is in you isn't darkness. If therefore your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly full of light, as when the lamp with its bright shining gives you light."

John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Spirit, and the Spirit was with God, and the Spirit was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it. The true Light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

John 3:20-21

Jesus taught, "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and doesn't come to the light, lest his works would be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be revealed, that they have been done in God."

John 8:12

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

Gospel of Thomas 24

Jesus said to them, "Light exists within a person of light, and they light up the whole world. If they don't shine, there's darkness."

Gospel of Truth 36

When what was diminished was restored, what they needed was revealed as fullness. This is the discovery of the light of Truth which enlightened them, because it doesn't change.

Because of this, they spoke of Christ in their midst: “Seek, and those who were disturbed will receive redemption.”⁴⁴

1 Thessalonians 5:3-6

For when they are saying, “Peace and safety,” then sudden destruction will come on them, like birth pains on a pregnant woman. But you, brothers, aren’t in darkness, that they should overtake you like a thief. You are all children of light and children of the day. We don’t belong to the night, nor to darkness, so then let’s not sleep, as the rest do, but let’s watch and be sober.

1 John 1:5-7

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and don’t tell the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

1 John 2:8-10

This is true in him and in you; because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness even until now. He who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in him.

Let Your Light Shine

Matthew 5:6-16

Jesus taught them, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for truth, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. Even so, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

⁴⁴ For Gnostics the most important discovery in an individual’s religious pursuit is recognizing the power and Spirit of Christ in your life. This leads to redemption, which they valued as much more important than paying for the forgiveness of sins without having gained any internal knowledge or spiritual connection with God.

The Light of Life

Gospel of Truth 30-31

When Jesus Christ was revealed, he taught them about the Father, the uncontainable one, and breathed into them what's in the thought, doing his will. When many had received the light, they turned to him. For the material ones were strangers, who didn't see his form or know him. But nothing could block his path, because incorruptibility can't be grasped.

Moreover, he said new things while he spoke about what's in the Father's heart and brought out the complete Word. When the light spoke through his mouth, and by his voice gave birth to life, he gave them thought, wisdom, and the Spirit of power from the infinity of the Father. Christ became:

A Way for those who were led astray,
Knowledge for those who were ignorant,
A discovery for those who were searching,
Strength for those who were wavering, and
Purity for those who were impure.

Christ Shall Give You Light

Ephesians 5:6-18

Let no one deceive you with empty words. For you were once darkness, but are now light in God. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and truth; proving what is well pleasing to God. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things are revealed by the light, for everything that reveals is light. Therefore he says, "Awake, you who sleep, and Christ shall give you light."

Therefore watch carefully how you live, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of God is. Be filled with the Spirit!

The Light of Christ

2 Corinthians 4:2-10

We have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our Gospel is hid, it is hid to those who are lost, in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn on them. For we don't preach ourselves, but Christ as our redeemer. For God, who said 'Light will shine out of darkness', has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of God in the Spirit of Christ.

But we have this treasure in our earthly vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; because the light of Christ has been revealed in our body.

The Will of the Father

Gospel of Truth 32-33

The Light that doesn't cease dwells within you. Speak of the Truth with those who search for it, and of knowledge with those who've sinned in their Error. Strengthen the feet of those who stumble, and reach out to those who are sick. Feed those who are hungry, and give rest to those who are weary. Raise up those who want to arise, and awaken those who sleep, because you are the understanding that's unsheathed! If strength is like this, it becomes stronger!

Teachings of Jesus Christ

- I. **Return to your Divine Nature!**
- II. **Know you are Children of the Living God!**
- III. **Let the Spirit of God be your Guide!**
- IV. **Testify to the Truth, Proclaim it from the Housetops!**
- V. **Act like Men, be Courageous and Strong!**
- VI. **Live by the Will of God!**
- VII. **Glorify God in your Body and in your Spirit!**
- VIII. **Let your Light Shine!**
- IX. **You Can do all things through Christ who Strengthens You!**
- X. **Arise and Produce Goodness!**