

What the Bible says about...

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What the Bible says about...

The Character of God

God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all. *1 John 1:5*

Day after day and night after night they keep on saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty - the One who always was, who is, and who is still to come." *Revelation 4:8*

For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for Him! *Isaiah 64:4*

But you, O Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to get angry, full of unfailing love and truth. *Psalms 86:15*

***GRACE – God giving me what I do not deserve.
MERCY – God not giving me what I do deserve.***

Your throne is founded on two strong pillars - righteousness and justice. Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants. *Psalms 89:14*

For the Word of the Lord holds true, and everything he does is worthy of our trust. He loves whatever is just and good and his unfailing love fills the earth. *Psalms 33:4-5*

Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and constantly loves those who love Him and obey His commands. But He does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who hate Him. *Deuteronomy 7:9-10*

The Lord your God is a devouring fire, a jealous God. *Deuteronomy 4:24*

O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the slightest sin. *Psalms 5:4*

God is a judge who is perfectly fair. He is angry with the wicked every day. *Psalms 7:11*

And so I solemnly urge you before God and before Christ Jesus - who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his kingdom. *2 Timothy 4:1*

His cry of judgment will reach the ends of the earth, for the Lord will bring His case against all the nations. He will judge all the people of the earth, slaughtering the wicked with His sword. The Lord has spoken! *Jeremiah 25:31*

And remember that the Heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites when He judges. He will judge you or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of Him during your time as foreigners here on earth. *1 Peter 1:17*

He will give eternal life to those who persist in doing what is good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. But He will pour out His anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and practice evil deeds. *Romans 2:7-8*

It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the Living God. *Hebrews 10:31*

“For I, the Lord, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing.” *Isaiah 61:8a*

He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. *Psalms 9:8*

But no, you won’t listen. So you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself because of your stubbornness in refusing to turn from your sin. For there is going to come a day of judgment when God, the just judge of all the world, will judge all people according to what they have done. *Romans 2:5, 6*

“Do you think,” asks the Sovereign Lord, “that I like to see wicked people die? Of course not! I only want them to turn from their wicked ways and live. *Ezekiel 18:23*

But you must not forget, dear friends, that a day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn’t really being slow about His promise to return, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so He is giving more time for everyone to repent. *2 Peter 3:8, 9*

For He wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. *1 Timothy 2:4*

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider His appearance or His height, for I have rejected Him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” *2 Samuel 16:7*

What the Bible says about...

God's Love for Us

"I have loved you deeply," says the Lord. *Malachi 1:2*

I have loved you with an everlasting love. *Jeremiah 31:3*

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. *Psalms 56:8*

Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for a child she has borne? But, even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on my hand. *Isaiah 49:15, 16*

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever. *Psalms 118:1*

God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. *1 John 4:9, 10*

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!" *Lamentations 3:22-24*

For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone. *Psalms 91:11, 12*

I love all who love me. Those who search for me will surely find me. *Proverbs 8:17*

But the Lord still waits for you to come to Him so He can show you His love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for Him to help them. *Isaiah 30:18*

Heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! *Luke 15:7*

VERSES FROM THE BOOK OF HOSEA

When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, He said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so some of her children will be born to you from other men. This will illustrate the way my people have been untrue to me, openly committing adultery against the Lord by worshipping other gods." *Hosea 1:2*

Then the Lord said to me, "Go and get your wife again. Bring her back to you and love her, even though she loves adultery. For the Lord still loves Israel even though the people have turned to other gods, offering them choice gifts. *Hosea 3:1*

***JUST AS HOSEA LOVED HIS ADULTEROUS WIFE,
GOD LOVES US, HIS ADULTEROUS PEOPLE.***

THE KING'S SON

A TRUE STORY OF TRAGEDY, FAILURE, & LOVE

By Steve Brown

There once was a king who loved being king. He liked sitting on the throne and making decisions; he liked living in the castle; he liked visiting the villages of the kingdom and meeting his subjects; he liked the authority and power because he could use them to help his people.

Not only did the king like being king, but his people throughout the kingdom praised him for ruling so benevolently and wisely. The people knew they could trust their king to do the right thing for them and for the kingdom, and they were right. Because of the king's wisdom, the kingdom was prosperous and peaceful.

When the king's son was born, the people put on a great celebration. Now there was an heir! The people knew the king would be a good father and that his son would some day be as great and wise as his father. The king loved his son more than his own life. His greatest joy was to spend time with his son. Each evening after the day's duties were accomplished, the king would go out into the formal gardens behind the castle and play with his son. The thought of those times with his son often made the hard task of ruling a little easier. Sometimes when he faced a difficult decision or had to settle a dispute or complete a project, the king would think, *When this is over, I can be with my son*, and he would smile.

One day the king's son got lost. It was one of the most tragic days that had ever passed in the kingdom. He didn't mean to get lost. He loved his father as much as his father loved him.

But one day his father had a particular busy day and was late for their daily meeting in the castle gardens. So the boy decided to explore. There was certainly nothing wrong with that, except this boy was very little and very young, and nobody had told him how easy it is for a little boy to get lost.

It happened before the boy knew it. He was just walking and thinking about his father when, looking up, he found himself in the forest behind the castle. Nothing looked familiar! At first he was calm because his father would come soon and find him, but, as he waited, he began to panic. Then he began to run away from the castle. His clothes caught on broken limbs and tore. He fell in mud holes, and once he cut himself on a jagged rock.

Eventually the little boy wandered into one of the villages of the kingdom. To be perfectly honest, by that time he looked more like a little beggar than a prince. The little boy would go up behind someone, grab his coat, pull on it and say, "Mister, I'm the king's son. Would you help me get home?"

"Sure you are, kid."

"But you don't understand," the little boy would say to another. "I got lost, and I can't find my father."

Most folks simply ignored the little boy, and those who didn't ignore him laughed at him. Pretty soon the little boy was forced to beg for pennies just so he could buy bread to keep from starving.

Meanwhile, back at the castle, the king spent a sleepless night looking for his son. He looked everywhere he knew to look, but the boy was nowhere to be found. By morning the king suspected that someone had kidnapped his son and feared that he would never see the boy again.

The king called all his armies together, told them what had happened, and sent them into the kingdom looking for his son. He offered great rewards to anyone who could give him information leading to the discovery of his son. But to the king's great sorrow, the little boy was not found.

Hours blended into days, days into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years. The little boy was no longer a little boy; he had grown into a strong young man.

At first he really had thought he was the king's son, but so many adults had told him differently that he began to think maybe it had been a dream. After all, adults knew those kinds of things. As the years passed he forgot about the castle and about his heritage. It didn't take so many years to forget about the dream altogether.

Then the young man began to run with the wrong crowd. Murder, stealing, rape- nothing was beneath them. But he was still a prince. If you are a prince (even when you don't know it), it shows. Eventually the young man became the leader of the gang. He surpassed all of his friends in his unlawful acts and spurred them on to even greater acts of lawlessness. Years after he had left the castle and his father, the king's son had become the most wanted criminal in the kingdom.

Then one day, through a rather complicated set of circumstances, the king found out that his own son was the kingdom's most wanted criminal. At first he couldn't believe it, but the more he checked, the more it became clear that he had found his beloved son, and in finding him, the king faced a terrible dilemma.

The king loved his son, but he was also fair and just. He knew if he released his own son who had committed terrible crimes, he would need to release all the others who had committed crimes. That was unacceptable.

And so the king's son was arrested and brought before a judge who condemned him to be executed for his crimes. The verdict was just. The king's son was thrown in a dungeon beneath the castle where he had once lived to wait for his execution.

On the night before the young man was to die, the king made his way to the prison beneath the castle. Opening his son's cell, he walked in and sat on the bunk across from his son. The king sat there a long time looking at his son before he spoke.

"You are my son."

"Someone told me."

"Have you ever wondered, over these years, about your parents?"

"Sometimes, but I had a good life, and it wasn't that important."

"Well, I have never stopped wondering about you, where you were and what had become of you. You have never been out of my mind and heart.

"My son," the king continued, his voice trembling with emotion and the tears running down the age lines in his face, "I love you with a great love, but you became lost. I did everything I knew to do. I sent out my soldiers; I offered a great reward; I have never ceased to search for you. But now it has come to this and tomorrow you are to die. But, son, I have decided to allow you to go free."

With those words, the old king got up and walked out of his son's cell into the crisp night air.

The young man went over to the cell door and tested it. *Well, what do you know?* He thought to himself, *that old man left it open.*

The king's son grabbed his coat, threw it over his shoulder, and with a cynical smile spoke aloud: "That stupid, old man! He thinks because he has set me free I will come back to his castle and be his lackey. Well, he is more senile than I thought." And with that, the young man disappeared up the stairs into the night air.

Some two weeks later the king's son found out what price his freedom had cost. On the day of his scheduled execution, the requirements of the law had been met. His own father had taken his place before the executioner and had literally died that he might be free. It was sobering news.

You probably have some questions: What did the son do? Did he return to the castle and become king? Did he accept his heritage? Did he even care about the price his father had paid for his freedom? Did he decide to obey the law?

I'm not sure because, you see, you are the son and I am the son.

Scripture says, "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8)

At the very heart of the Incarnation, at the very heart of God Himself, lies a cross. That is the true meaning of Christmas: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined... For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace..." (Isaiah 9:2,6). "...and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23)

For us, God took on flesh, coming to earth as a Baby. For us, the wood of the cradle became the wood of the cross...

Because of God's great love.

What the Bible says about...

God's Sovereignty

***We cannot embrace God's sovereignty
unless we recognize God's love.***

Sovereignty + Love = Peace

"My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thought higher than your thoughts." *Isaiah 55:8, 9*

"Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish." *Isaiah 46:10*

The Lord shatters the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken. *Psalms 33:10, 11*

Sovereign Over Good Things & Bad Things

I am the one who creates the light and makes the darkness. I am the one who sends good times and bad times. I, the Lord, am the one who does these things. *Isaiah 45:7*

Look now; I myself am He! There is no god other than me! I am the one who kills and gives life; I am the one who wounds and heals; no one delivers from my power.
Deuteronomy 32:39

"From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can oppose what I do. No one can reverse my actions." *Isaiah 43:13*

The Lord does whatever He pleases throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths. *Psalms 135:6*

All the people of the earth are nothing compared to Him. He has the power to do as He pleases among the angels of heaven and with those who live on the earth. No one can stop Him or challenge Him, saying, "What do you mean by doing these things?" *Daniel 4:35*

Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad? *Job 2:10*

Sovereign Over the Human Condition

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. *Psalms 139:16*

The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From His throne He observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so He understands everything they do. *Psalms 33:13-15*

God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. *Ecclesiastes 3:11*

For the Lord sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought. If you seek Him, you will find Him. But if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. *2 Corinthians 28:9*

"Who makes the mouth?" the Lord asked him, "Who makes people so they can speak or not speak, hear or not hear, see or not see? Is it not I the Lord? *Exodus 4:11*

The Lord makes one poor and another rich; He brings one down and lifts one up. *1 Samuel 2:7*

In his heart, a man plans his ways, but the Lord determines his steps. *Proverbs 16:9*

Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. *Matthew 10:29-30*

He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does He deal with us as we deserve. For His unfailing love toward those who fear Him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a Father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him. For he understands how weak we are; he knows we are only dust. *Psalms 103:10-14*

When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into? God has every right to exercise his judgment and power. *Romans 9:21, 22*

The Lord has made everything for His own purposes, even the wicked for punishment. *Proverbs 16:4*

Sovereign Over Life & Death

"Now take Aaron and his son Eleazar up mount Hor. There you will remove Aaron's priestly garments and put them on Eleazar, his son. Aaron will die there and join his ancestors." *Numbers 20:25, 26*

One day the Lord said to Moses, "Climb to the top of the mountains east of the river, and look out over the land I have given the people of Israel. After you have seen it, you will die as Aaron did. *Numbers 27:12, 13*

Sovereign Over the Weather

Fire and hail, snow and storm, wind and weather that obey him. *Psalm 148:8*

"I kept the rain from falling when you needed it most, ruining all of your crops. I sent rain on one town but withheld it from another. Rain fell on one field, while another field withered away." *Amos 4:7*

Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing. Everything on earth will die. *Genesis 6:17*

Then the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the heavens on Sodom and Gomorrah. *Genesis 19:24*

Sovereign Over the Animals

Daniel answered, "Long live the king! My God sent His anger to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me. For I have been found innocent in His sight, and I have not wronged you, your majesty." *Daniel 6:21-22*

Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. *Jonah 1:17*

Sovereign Over Accidents and Incidentals!

"Anyone who hits a person hard enough to cause death must be put to death. But if it is an accident and God allows it to happen, I will appoint a place where the slayer can run for safety." *Exodus 21:12-13*

Their chariot wheels began to come off, making their chariots impossible to drive. *Exodus 14:25*

But as one of them was chopping, his ax head fell into the river, "Ah, my Lord," he cried, "It was a borrowed ax!" "Where did it fall?" the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water. Then the ax head rose to the surface and floated. *2 Kings 6:5-6*

Sovereign Over Chance

We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall. *Proverbs 16:33*

Sovereign Over Everything!

Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are His riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is to understand His decisions and His methods! For who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who knows enough to be His counselor? *Romans 11:33-34*

For everything comes from Him; everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore. Amen. *Romans 11:36*

What the Bible says about...

God's Requirements for Salvation

"But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." *Matthew 5:48*

"But I warn you - unless you obey God better than the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees do, you can't enter the Kingdom of Heaven at all!" *Matthew 5:20*

***If our actions are right but our motives
are wrong, it is sin. God requires
perfection through and through.***

"You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not commit adultery,' but I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart." *Matthew 5:27, 28*

"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." *Matthew 22:36-40*

The Ten Commandments

1. Do not worship any other Gods beside me.
2. Do not make any idols of any kind.
3. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.
10. Do not covet.

Exodus 20:3-17

***God's commandments are intended
to show us how sinful we are,
so we can appreciate
God's gift of salvation.***

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful kindness became more abundant. *Romans 5:20*

What the Bible says about...

Man's Sinfulness

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. *James 4:17*

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. *Romans 3:10b-12*

For the sinful nature is always hostile to God - it never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That is why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. *Romans 8:7-8*

For I was born a sinner - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. *Psalms 51:5*

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. *Romans 3:23*

"The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve." *Jeremiah 17:9-10*

And the Lord was pleased with the sacrifice and said to Himself, "I will never again curse the earth, destroying all living things, even though people's thoughts and actions are bent toward evil from childhood. *Genesis 8:21*

All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else. *Ephesians 2:3*

If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His Word has no place in our hearts. *1 John 1:8-10*

For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all other sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. *Matthew 15:19*

"When I spoke, you did not listen. You deliberately sinned - before my very eyes - and chose to do what you know I despise." Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says; "You will starve, but my servants will eat. You will be thirsty, but they will drink. You will be sad and ashamed, but they will rejoice. You will cry in sorrow and despair, while my servants sing for joy. *Isaiah 65:12b-14*

I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But, I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. *Romans 7:15-17*

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. *Romans 8:5-6*

Looking Through God's Eyes

SALVATION

In Christ
Declared Righteous
Eternity with God (Heaven)

CONDEMNATION

Without Christ
Declared Unrighteous
Eternity without God (Hell)

When God sees us, He either sees us as clean or unclean. There is no in between. We are declared clean, solely by the righteousness of Christ, given to us when we repent of our sin and accept His free gift. We are declared unclean, when we stand before God depending not on Christ's righteousness, but our own. The only way we can attain salvation, apart from Christ, is to live a perfect life. Otherwise, if we even have one sin to our name, we must depend on the perfect life that was lived by Jesus Christ.

What the Bible says about...

Everyone's Knowledge of God

For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God. *Romans 1:19,20*

The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display His marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world. *Psalms 19:1-4*

"The message of God's creation has gone out to everyone, and it's words to all the world."
Romans 10:18

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead. And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshipped idols made to look like mere people, or birds and animals and snakes. *Romans 1:21-23*

Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt and their actions are evil; no one does good! *Psalms 14:1*

What the Bible says about...

Jesus

In the beginning the WORD already existed. He was with God, and He was God. *John 1:1*

Jesus answered, "The truth is, I existed before Abraham was even born!"
John 8:58

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation. *Colossians 1:15*

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my father is. From now on you know Him and have seen Him!" *John 14:6, 7*

Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are really trusting God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. *John 12:44-45*

The woman said, "I know the Messiah will come-the One who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah."
John 4:25-26

Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made Himself nothing, he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:6-11*

No one has ever seen God. But His only Son, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart; He has told us about Him. *John 1:18*

"Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me." *John 14:11a*

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish. *John 11:25,26*

We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. *Romans 3:22*

"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven. But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven." *Matthew 10:32,33*

And this is His commandment: We must believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. *1 John 3:23*

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: To believe in the one He has sent." *John 6:29*

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." As the Scriptures say, "Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed." *Romans 10:9-11*

For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, and you are complete through your union with Christ. When you came to Christ, you were "Circumcised" but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure-the cutting away of your sinful nature.
Colossians 2:9-11

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin?
Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 7:24,25*

What the Bible says about...

Repentance

“But you have prostituted yourself with many lovers,” says the Lord. “Yet I am still calling you to come back to me.” *Jeremiah 3:1*

“Return home, you wayward children,” says the Lord, “For I am your husband.” *Jeremiah 3:14*

“This is what the Lord says: O Israel, my faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful. I will not be angry with you forever. Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and committed adultery against Him by worshipping idols under every green tree. Confess that you refused to follow me. I, the Lord, have spoken.”
Jeremiah 3:12-13

Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter and gloom instead of joy. When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on Him, He will lift you up and give you honor.
James 4:9,10

When I refused to confess my sins, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.
Psalms 32:3-5

Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins. *Hebrews 10:24*

What the Bible says about...

God's Forgiveness

Let the people turn from their wicked deeds. Let them banish from their minds the very thought of doing wrong! Let them turn to the Lord that He may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. *Isaiah 55:7*

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. *Colossians 2:13-14*

He declared us not guilty because of His great kindness. And now we know that we will inherit eternal life. *Titus 3:7*

"I- yes, I alone- am the one who blots out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again." *Isaiah 43:25*

"I have swept away your sins like the morning mists. I have scattered your offenses like the clouds. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free." *Isaiah 44:22*

"I will put my law in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness and will never again remember their sins." *Jeremiah 31:33-34*

What the Bible says about...

God's New Plan of Salvation

But now God has shown us a different way of being right in His sight- not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scripture long ago. We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. For all have sinned and fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now God in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. *Romans 3:21-24*

When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produce sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died with Christ, and we are no longer captive to its power. Now we can really serve god, not in the old way by obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way, by the Spirit. *Romans 7:5-6*

Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin. Instead, you are free by God's grace. *Romans 6:6-7,14*

What the Bible says about...
God's Sovereignty in Salvation

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. *Ephesians 1:4*

Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in the beginning, and all things happened just as He decided long ago. *Ephesians 1:11*

For it pleased God in His kindness to choose me and call me, even before I was born! What undeserved mercy! *Galatians 1:15*

God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. For it is by His boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. *1 Peter 1:2,3*

But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message proves that God chooses according to His own plan. Not according to our good or bad works). *Romans 9:11,12*

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead (It is only by grace that you have been saved)! *Ephesians 2:4-5*

"I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me." *Romans 10:20*

In order for us to believe, we must first desire to believe. Only God can give us the desire, and it comes with a new heart.

And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stoney heart of sin and give you anew, obedient heart. And I will put My Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command. *Ezekiel 36:26-27*

"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, promising not to stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me. *Jeremiah 32:40*

The Lord your God will cleanse your heart and the hearts of all your descendants so that you will love Him with all your heart and soul, and so you may live. *Deuteronomy 30:6*

"I have sent them into captivity for their own good. I will see that they are well treated, and I will bring them back here again. I will build them up and not tear them down. I will plant them and not uproot them. I will give them hearts that will recognize me as the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me whole heartedly." *Jeremiah 24:6-7*

For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living Word of God. *1 Peter 1:23*

Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven. So don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the spirit. *John 3:5-8*

But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan- this rebirth comes from God. *John 1:12-13*

For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing his life for us. Can we boast then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds. It is based on our faith. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. *Romans 3:25,27-28*

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. *Hebrews 11:1*

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." *Romans 1:16-17*

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. *Ephesians 2: 8-9*

This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to all of you who share the same precious faith we have, faith given to us by Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, who makes us right with God. *2 Peter 1:1*

Salvation is:
By Grace Alone
Through Faith Alone
In Christ Alone.

So receiving God's promise is not up to us. We can't get it by choosing it or working hard for it. God will show mercy to anyone He chooses. *Romans 9:16*

For people can't come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me. *John 6:44*

However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. *John 6:37*

But you don't believe me because you are not part of my flock. My sheep recognize my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them away from me. *John 10:26-28*

But people who aren't Christians can't understand these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them because only those who have the Spirit can understand what the Spirit means. *1 Corinthians 2:14*

They stumble because they do not listen to God's Word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. *1 Peter 2: 8-9*

What the Bible says about...

Security of Salvation

Jesus said, "I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the son sets you free you will indeed be free." *John 8:34-36*

"My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them away from me, for my father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. So no one can take them away from me. The father and I are one." *John 10:27-30*

And now you have heard the truth, the good news that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us everything he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. *Ephesians 1:13-14*

I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will guard and support you, for I have given you to my people as the personal confirmation of my covenant with them. *Isaiah 42:6*

The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. *Psalms 37: 23-24*

Who dared accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with himself. *Romans 8:33*

And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again. *Philippians 1:6*

What the Bible says about...

The Benefits of Salvation

How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family. *Ephesians 1:3-5*

For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. Though you were once far away from God, now you have been brought near to Him because of the blood of Christ. *Ephesians 2:6,11,13*

He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his son, and our sins are forgiven. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. *Ephesians 1:7-8*

What this means is that those who become Christians become new person. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. *2 Corinthians 5:17,21*

Yet now God in his gracious kindness declared us not guilty. So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. *Romans 3:24 & 8:1,2*

He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did all Christians everywhere. He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom. *1 Corinthians 1:2,30*

Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. *Ephesians 1:11,13*

Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the Godly forsaken, nor seen their children begging for bread. *Psalms 37:25*

But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green and they go right on producing delicious fruit. *Jeremiah 17:7,8*

"Who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who can give Him counsel?" But we can understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ. *1 Corinthians 2:16*

So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into His family- calling Him "Father, dear Father." *Romans 8:15*

What the Bible says about...

Prayer

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. *Colossians 4:2*

Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you. *1 Peter 5:7*

I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me, freeing me from all my fears. *Psalms 34:4*

"I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking to me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers." *Isaiah 65:24*

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

"All that's required is that you really believe and do not doubt in your heart. Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe you will have it. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." *Mark 11:23b-25*

The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; His ears are open to their cries for help. *Psalms 34:15*

The Lord is close to all who call on Him, yes, to all who call on Him sincerely. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them. *Psalms 145:18,19*

Give your burdens to the Lord, and He will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall. *Psalms 55:22*

Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him. *1 John 3:21,22*

And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for. *1 John 5:14,15*

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. *Psalms 37:4*

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *Hebrews 4:16*

For Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our advocate. *Hebrews 9:24a*

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father, who knows all hearts knows what the spirit is saying. For the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. *Romans 8:26-27*

The earnest prayers of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.
James 5:16b

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us our food for today, and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. *Matthew 6:9-13*

What the Bible says about...

Wisdom

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established. *Proverbs 24:3*

For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. *Proverbs 2:6*

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. *Proverbs 15:20*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. *Proverbs 13:20*

The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. *Proverbs 12:15*

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. *Proverbs 12:18*

Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. *Proverbs 24:14*

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. *Proverbs 11:30*

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. *Proverbs 10:19*

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. *Proverbs 12:18*

The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out. *Proverbs 18:15*

Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. *Proverbs 28:26*

What the Bible says about...

Suffering

These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold- and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold.

1 Peter 1:7

I have refined you, but not in the way that silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering. *Isaiah 48:10*

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. *2 Corinthians 4:16-17*

These above three verses sum up what the Bible says about suffering in a beautiful way. As a believer in Christ, there is reason to rejoice in our sufferings. Though we experience deep pain and hardship, God is using those painful experiences for our eternal good and his glory. It is only in suffering that we can truly experience his abiding love. God weeps when we weep, but he knows that our weeping is not without future glory. We must know that he is faithful, even in our deepest pain. The fire of our suffering will not consume us but will refine us as gold.

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. *Romans 8:18*

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart. *Proverbs 17:3*

The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. *1 Samuel 16:7b*

What the Bible Says About...

God's Purposes in Our Suffering

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.

James 1:2-4

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. *Romans 5:3-5*

God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. *James 1:12*

And since we are his children, we will share in his treasures- for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But, if we are to share in his glory, we must also share in his suffering. *Romans 8:17*

For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children. *Hebrews 12:6*

Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. *2 Corinthians 4:10*

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey his commands. Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people need more than bread for their life; real life comes by feeding on every word of the Lord. *Deuteronomy 8:2-3*

Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. *Ecclesiastes 7:3*

The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalms 51:17*

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. *Job 23:10-12*

The Bible has so much to say about suffering. There are countless stories of suffering and God's purposes in each story. While David, Job, Daniel, Hosea, Jonah, the disciples, Paul and countless others experienced tremendous suffering for their love of God, Joseph's story is my favorite story of faithfulness in suffering. Though he did not know why he suffered the way he did, he did not lose faith in God. He believed God controlled his suffering and waited patiently as God's purposes unfolded. His story is found in Genesis chapters 37-50. The defining moment is the following verse that proclaims Joseph's understanding of God's role in his suffering.

You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. *Genesis 50:20*

We can only find peace in the midst of suffering when we understand that God is in complete control. Nothing comes our way without first passing through his loving hands. This is the test of our faith. Our lives include great pain and there is much that we do not understand. We must trust that God has a purpose in it all. Only then will we find peace in the presence of pain.

"Just as I have sent all these calamities upon them, so I will do all the good I have promised them. I, the Lord, have spoken." *Jeremiah 32:42*

Finally, I point to the greatest example in all of Scripture for our greatest model in suffering. That is the suffering of Jesus Christ. Though it is sometimes hard to admit, because of our sinfulness we are deserving of suffering. We deserve God's wrath because of our daily rebellious acts against him. There is no suffering that we have experienced that even compares to what we deserve. But, Jesus suffered as one without sin. He is the only one who could ever say he did not deserve what he received in his sufferings. He was not deserving of even the mildest headache! Yet, we know that he lived an entire life of suffering even unto death. In fact, all of his sufferings belonged to us. He chose to suffer and die for you and for me. Why? Because he loves us! As the following verses will show us, his suffering was predicted and planned. If God controls the sufferings of Jesus, doesn't he also control our sufferings? Jesus' suffering resulted in his glorification and our salvation. Our suffering allows us to share in that glory.

Wasn't it clearly predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his time of glory? *Luke 24:26*

But you followed God's prearranged plan. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to the cross and murdered him. *Acts 2:23*

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. *Isaiah 53:10*

In fact, everything they did occurred according to your eternal will and plan. *Acts 4:28*

Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made Himself nothing, he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:6-11*

Verses of Comfort In Suffering

The Lord's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over.

Psalms 12:6

Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promises. *Hebrews 10:23*

"Jehovah will perfect that which concerneth me." *Psalms 138:8*

For the mountains may depart and the hills disappear, but even then I will remain loyal to you. My covenant of blessing will never be broken," says the Lord who has mercy on you.

Isaiah 54:10

But the Godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

Psalms 92:12

The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. *2 Chronicles 16:9a*

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair. For the Lord has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory. *Isaiah 61:3*

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. *Psalms 32:8*

The steps of the Godly are directed by the lord, he delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall. For the Lord holds them by the hand. *Psalms 37:23, 24*

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it; when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left. *Isaiah 30:21*

Trust me in times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory. *Psalms 50:15*

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. *Isaiah 41:10*

Do not be afraid as you go out to fight today! Do not lose heart or panic. For the Lord your God is going with you! He will fight for you against your enemies, and he will give you victory! *Deuteronomy 20:3b- 4*

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord is the one who goes before you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor forsake you. *Deuteronomy 31:8*

"The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." *Zephaniah 3:17*

When they walk through the valley of weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs, where pools of blessing collect after the rains. *Psalms 84:6*

When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. *Isaiah 43:2, 3a*

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest. *Psalms 126:5, 6*

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11*

And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. *Romans 8:28*

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. *1 Corinthians 2:10*

“Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth- so wonderful that no one will even think about the old ones anymore. ...And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more.” *Isaiah 65:17, 18*

“In that coming day,” says the Lord, “you will call me ‘Husband’ instead of ‘Master.’ I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as Lord. *Hosea 2:16, 20*

For your creator will be your husband. The Lord Almighty is his name. *Isaiah 54:5*

I am leaving you a gift- peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give you isn’t like the peace the world gives, so don’t be troubled or afraid. *John 14:27*

“I will repay you for the years that the locusts have eaten...” *Joel 2:25*

Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But, take heart: I have overcome the world. *John 16:33*

Do not forget God’s goodness!

“But watch out! Be very careful never to forget what you have seen the Lord do for you. Do not let these things escape from your mind as long as you live!” *Deuteronomy 4:9a*

God is our protector in times of trouble.

For the Lord God is our light and protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right. O Lord Almighty, happy are those who trust in you. *Psalms 84:11-12*

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. *Proverbs 18:10*

For you bless the Godly O Lord, surrounding them with your shield of love. *Psalm 5:12*

But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts my head high.
Psalm 3:3

He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. *Psalm 91:4*

You can be sure that evil people will be punished, but the godly will go free. *Proverbs 11:21*

But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch the Lord rescue you. The Egyptians that you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. You won’t have to lift a finger in your defense!” *Exodus 14:13-14*

*You can sleep peacefully at night
because God, who never sleeps,
watches over you.*

I lay down and slept. I woke up in safety, for the Lord was watching over me. *Psalm 3:5*

My help comes from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth! He will not let you stumble and fall; the one who watches over you will not sleep. *Psalm 121:2-3*

Verses of Hope In
God's Faithfulness

Remember your promise to me, for it is my only hope. Your promise revives me; it is my only hope. *Psalms 119:49-50*

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be dismayed. *Isaiah 50:7*

You will keep on guiding me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.
Psalms 73:24-26

I am counting on the Lord; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word.
Psalms 130:5

Help us, O God of our salvation! Help us for the honor of your name. *Psalms 79:9*

*Be an example in your suffering.
It can be a wonderful testimony of
God's love and faithfulness, to those
around you.*

May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word.
Psalms 119:74

So if you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you. *1 Peter 4:19*

But deal well with me, O Sovereign Lord, for the sake of your own reputation! Rescue me because you are so faithful and good. *Psalms 109:21*

Help me, O Lord my God! Save me because of your unfailing love. Let them see that this is your doing, that you yourself have done it, Lord. *Psalms 109:26-27*

Unless the Lord had helped me, I would soon have died. I cried out, "I'm slipping!" And your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me. When doubt filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer. *Psalms 94:17-19*

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit.
Psalms 34:18

I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the Land of the Living.
Psalms 27:13

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vine; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

Be still and wait patiently.

Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. *Psalms 37:7*

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. *2 Timothy 1:7*

It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. *Psalms 18:32*

Some nations boast of their armies and weapons, but we boast in the Lord our God. Those nations will fall down and collapse, but we will rise up and stand firm. *Psalms 20:7*

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. *2 Corinthians 9:8*

Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. *Hebrews 10:35-36*

I will faithfully reward my people for their suffering and make an everlasting covenant with them. *Isaiah 61:8b*

Yes, the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen. *2 Timothy 4:18*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! *Ephesians 3:20-21*

God's pathways of rescue are limitless!

Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters- a pathway no one knew was there! *Psalms 77:19*

Obedience in...

Seeking After Truth

“Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to Me as ‘Lord,’ but they still won’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey My Father in heaven.” *Matthew 7:21*

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in this world.
1 John 4:1

“Your eye is a lamp for your body. A pure eye lets sunshine into your soul. But an evil eye shuts out the light and plunges you into darkness. If the light you think you have is really darkness, how deep that darkness will be! *Matthew 6:22, 23*

I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who in His love and mercy called you to share the eternal life He gives through Christ. You are already following a different way. That pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ. *Galatians 1:6-7*

Obedience in...

Helping Your Brother Caught Up In Sin

And when people escape from the wicked ways of the world by learning about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up with sin and become its slave again, they are worse off than before. *2 Peter 2:20*

My dear brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back again, you can be sure that the one who brings the person back will save that sinner from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins. *James 5:19-20*

Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are Godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way, obey the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:1-2*

But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it. *1 Corinthians 10:13*

What the Bible says about...

Generosity

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

And to take the first-fruits of our land, and the first-fruits of every sort of tree, year by year, into the house of the Lord; As well as the first of our sons and of our cattle, as it is recorded in the law, and the first lambs of our herds and of our flocks, which are to be taken to the house of our God, to the priests who are servants in the house of our God: And that we would take the first of our rough meal, and our lifted offerings, and the fruit of every sort of tree, and wine and oil, to the priests, to the rooms of the house of our God; and the tenth of the produce of our land to the Levites; for they, the Levites, take a tenth in all the towns of our ploughed land. *Nehemiah 10:35-37*

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. *Proverbs 19:17*

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. *Malachi 3:10*

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Luke 6:37-38

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Luke 21:1-4

On the first day of the week, let every one of you put by him in store, in measure as he has done well in business, so that it may not be necessary to get money together when I come. *1 Corinthians 16:2*

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. *1 John 3:16-18*

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Scripture References on Mercy

God's Character of Mercy

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." *Exodus 34:5-7*

Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. *Judges 2:18*

They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them. *Nehemiah 9:17*

"Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them." *Psalms 12:5*

My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, O Lord? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them." *Psalms 35:10*

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. *Psalms 36:7-9*

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. *Psalms 72:4*

For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the Lord viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death. *Psalms 102:19,20*

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. *Psalms 103:8*

For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save his life from those who condemn him. *Psalms 109:31*

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap. *Psalms 113:7*

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. *Psalms 140:12*

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. *Psalms 146:7-9*

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! *Isaiah 30:18*

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" *Isaiah 49:15*

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. *Lamentations 3:22*

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. *Hosea 2:19*

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. *Hosea 6:6*

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. *Micah 7:18*

Remembering Where He Found Us

Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay. *Psalms 40:17*

For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. *Psalms 109:22*

The Lord protects the simple hearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. *Psalms 116:6*

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh – who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands – that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. *Ephesians 2:11-13*

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. *1 Timothy 1:15-17*

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. *1 Peter 2:9,10*

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. *Revelation 3:17*

Mercy is a Response

For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.
Isaiah 61:10

And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. *Isaiah 62:5*

But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

We love Him because He first loved us. *1 John 4:19*

The Call to Compassion

"If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs."
Deuteronomy 15:7-8

The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. *Leviticus 19:34*

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God." *Leviticus 23:22*

"If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you. You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God." *Leviticus 25:35-38*

Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. *Psalms 41:1*

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. *Proverbs 3:3-4*

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," "When you have it with you. Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety's sake. *Proverbs 3:27-29*

He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. *Proverbs 14:21*

He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.
Proverbs 14:31

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. *Proverbs 31:9*

"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'" *Isaiah 58:6-9*

"Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord. *Jeremiah 22:15,16*

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land... I will turn your religious feasts into mourning and all your singing into weeping. *Amos 8:4,10*

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. *Zechariah 7:9*

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. *Matthew 5:7*

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'" *Matthew 18:32-33*

"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." *Luke 6:32-36*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. *Romans 12:1*

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. *Ephesians 4:32*

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. *Philippians 2:3-4*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. *Colossians 3:12*

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" *James 2:15,16*

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. *1 John 3:18*

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. *1 Peter 3:8*

Jesus' Example of Mercy

A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. *Isaiah 53:3,4*

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. *Matthew 9:36*

And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. *Luke 4:17-21*

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!' *Philippians 2:5-7*

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:2*

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. *1 John 3:16-18*

How Shall We Give?

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. *Deuteronomy 15:10*

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. *Proverbs 3:9,10*

He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.
Proverbs 14:31

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. *Malachi 3:10-12*

Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. *Matthew 6:1-4*

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." *Luke 6:38*

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. *John 15:4*

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. *Acts 2:44-45*

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. *Acts 4:34-35*

If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
Romans 12:7-9

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the off-scouring of all things until now. *1 Corinthians 4:10-13*

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *2 Corinthians 9:7*

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. *Hebrews 12:2,3*

For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.' *1 Peter 2:15,16*

To Whom Shall We Give?

To a foreigner you may charge interest, but to your brethren you shall not charge interest.

Deuteronomy 23:20

Do not deprive the alien or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deuteronomy 24:17-19

I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger. *Job 29:16*

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10

Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. /

Timothy 5:9-10

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. *James 1:27*