

Memorizing Chapters of Scripture

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Chapter 12 of my book “Prayers Answered Immediately”

In chapter 12 of my book I tell the whole story of how I came to love memorizing chapters and how it changed my life. This short section has a few additional comments in addition to what is said in the book.

Hunger based memorizing

I love salmon. However, if you made me eat five pounds of salmon in five minutes every day, I would grow to hate the taste of salmon. Memorizing chapters is meat to our souls.

People try to memorize by shoving five pounds of meat down their own throat in five minutes. The sad part about people who rush through memorizing is that they eventually kill their love of memorizing. They could have gone ten times slower and had thirty chapters of God’s word memorized, thirty years later. However, because they rushed, thirty years later they don’t even have 30 verses, much less thirty chapters.

When I think that I am ready to move on to another verse, I always make myself wait three to seven days. By the time I finally get to tackle the new verse I am ravenously hungry to memorize this verse.

First step – pick a chapter where you love every single verse.

Memorizing a sixteen verse chapter is like adopting sixteen children. You will spend weeks getting to know each verse. Each verse will become one of your children.

If you pick a chapter that has four great verses and twelve average verses, you will become bored and lose the inspiration. You won’t want to adopt any more children. Please pick a chapter where each verse is precious and beautiful. Of my memory chapters, I have 15 chapters that I recommend people use as a possible first chapter.

These 15 chapters are extremely inspiring in every verse.

1. Psalm 19
2. Psalm 23
3. Psalm 84
4. Psalm 91
5. Psalm 103
6. Psalm 121
7. Psalm 131
8. Psalm 133

9. Psalm 149
10. Isaiah 53
11. Isaiah 61
12. John 14
13. Romans 12
14. I Corinthians 13
15. Revelation 19

My other memory chapters are: Psalm 111, Proverbs 3, Isaiah 55, Matthew 18, John 15, Romans 6 & 8, II Corinthians 1-7, Ephesians 1 & 2, Philippians 1-4, Colossians 3, II Timothy 2-4, Hebrews 12, James 1, II Peter 1

Adopt each verse like a child

Because I spend weeks learning an individual verse, I take the time to get to know this verse. I play games with each verse.

- I count the words in each verse and make musical rhythms by breaking the verse down into two, three and four word counts.
- I look for alliteration in the key words.
- I take the first letter in certain key words and create acronyms.
- I chew on the content until I have written three to five notes of insight from that verse into my Bible. I want to know every detail of this verse.

I get excited when I can't remember part of a verse

Even after quoting a chapter hundreds of times over a decade, I can have a brain burp where I cannot immediately remember a part of a verse. At that time I get very excited. I know that Jesus is going to give me a new insight into the part of the verse that I cannot remember.

Below are my memory chapters

Psalm 19

1 The **heavens declare** the **glory** of **God**; the **skies proclaim** the **work** of his **hands**.

2 **Day after day** they **pour forth speech**; **night after night** they **display knowledge**.

3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

4 Their **voice goes out into all the earth**, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

7 The **law** of the **LORD** is **perfect**, reviving the soul. The **statutes** of the **LORD** are **trustworthy**, making wise the simple.

8 The **precepts** of the **LORD** are right, giving **joy** to the **heart**. The commands of the LORD are **radiant**, giving **light** to the **eyes**.

9 The **fear** of the **LORD** is **pure, enduring forever**. The **ordinances** of the LORD are **sure** and **altogether righteous**.

10 They are **more precious** than **gold**, than **much pure gold**; they are **sweeter** than **honey**, than **honey from the comb**.

11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

13 Keep your servant also from **willful sins**; may they **not rule over me**. Then will I be **blameless**, innocent of great transgression.

14 May the **words of my mouth** and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your **sight**, O **Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer**.

Psalm 23

¹ The **LORD** is my **shepherd**, I shall **not** be in **want**.

² He makes me **lie down** in **green pastures**, he **leads** me beside **quiet waters**,

³ he **restores** my **soul**. He **guides** me in **paths of righteousness** for his **name's sake**.

⁴ Even though I **walk** through the **valley** of the **shadow of death**, I will **fear no evil**, for **you** are **with me**; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You **prepare** a **table** before me in the **presence** of my **enemies**. You **anoint** my **head** with **oil**; my **cup overflows**.

⁶ Surely **goodness** and **love** will **follow** me **all** the **days** of my life, and I will **dwell in the house** of the **LORD forever**.

Psalm 34

- ¹ I will **extol** the Lord at **all times**; his **praise** will **always** be on my lips.
- ² My **soul** will **boast** in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- ³ Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I **sought** the Lord, and he **answered** me; he **delivered** me from **all my fears**.
- ⁵ Those who look to him are **radiant**; their faces are **never covered** with **shame**.
- ⁶ This **poor** man **called**, and the Lord **heard** him; he saved him out of all his troubles.
- ⁷ The **angel** of the **Lord encamps** around those who **fear** him, and he **delivers** them.
- ⁸ **Taste** and **see** that the **Lord** is **good**; **blessed** is the man who takes **refuge** in him.
- ⁹ **Fear** the Lord, you his **saints**, for those who fear him **lack nothing**.
- ¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who **seek** the Lord **lack no good thing**.
- ¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me; I will **teach** you the **fear** of the Lord .
- ¹² Whoever of you **loves life** and **desires** to see **many good days**,
- ¹³ keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.
- ¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good; **seek peace** and **pursue** it.
- ¹⁵ The **eyes** of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are **attentive** to their **cry**;
- ¹⁶ the **face** of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- ¹⁷ The **righteous cry out**, and the Lord **hears** them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The Lord is **close** to the **brokenhearted** and **saves** those who are **crushed in spirit**.
- ¹⁹ A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord **delivers him from them all**;
- ²⁰ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.
- ²¹ Evil will slay the wicked; the **foes** of the **righteous** will be **condemned**.
- ²² The **Lord redeems** his **servants**; no one will be **condemned** who **takes refuge** in him.

Psalm 84

- ¹ How **lovely** is your **dwelling place**, **O LORD Almighty**!

² My **soul yearns, even faints**, for the **courts** of the LORD; my **heart and my flesh cry out** for the **living** God.

³ Even the **sparrow** has found a **home**, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place **near your altar**, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴ **Blessed** are those who **dwell** in your **house**; they are **ever praising** you. *Selah*

⁵ **Blessed** are those whose **strength** is in **you**, who have set their **hearts on pilgrimage**.

⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a **place of springs**; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

⁷ They go from **strength to strength**, till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸ Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; **listen to me**, O God of Jacob.

⁹ Look upon our **shield**, O God; look with **favor** on your **anointed one**.

¹⁰ Better is **one day in your courts** than a **thousand** elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹ For the **LORD God is a sun and shield**; the LORD bestows **favor and honor**; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

¹² O LORD Almighty, **blessed** is the man who **trusts** in you.

Psalm 91

¹ He who **dwells** in the **shelter** of the **Most High** will **rest** in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD , "He is my **refuge** and my **fortress**, my God, in **whom I trust**."

³ **Surely** he will **save** you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will **cover** you with his **feathers**, and under his **wings** you will find **refuge**; his **faithfulness** will be your **shield** and **rampart**.

⁵ You will **not fear** the **terror of night**, nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

⁷ A **thousand** may fall at your **side**, **ten thousand** at your **right** hand, but it will **not come near you**.

⁸ You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

⁹ If you make the **Most High your dwelling**- even the **LORD , who is my refuge**-

¹⁰ then **no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent**.

¹¹ For he will **command** his **angels** concerning you to **guard** you in **all** your ways;

¹² they will **lift** you up in their **hands**, so that you will **not strike your foot against a stone**.

¹³ You will **tread** upon the **lion & the cobra**; you will **trample** the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD , "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

¹⁵ He will **call** upon me, and I will **answer** him; I will be **with him in trouble**, I will **deliver** him and **honor** him.

¹⁶ With **long** life will I **satisfy** him and **show him my salvation**."

Psalm 103

¹ **Praise the LORD , O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

² Praise the LORD , O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits**-

³ who **forgives all** your **sins** and **heals all** your **diseases**,

4 who **redeems** your life from the **pit** and **crowns** you with **love** and **compassion**,
5 who **satisfies** your **desires** with **good** things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD **works righteousness** and **justice** for all the oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:
8 The LORD is **compassionate** and **gracious**, slow to **anger**, **abounding in love**.
9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
10 he does **not treat us** as our **sins deserve** or repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as **high as the heavens** are above the earth, so **great is his love** for those who fear him;
12 as **far** as the **east** is from the **west**, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
13 As a **father** has **compassion** on his **children**, so the LORD has **compassion** on those who fear him;
14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.
15 As for **man**, **his days are like grass**, he **flourishes like a flower of the field**;
16 the **wind blows over it** and it is **gone**, and its place remembers it no more.
17 But from everlasting to everlasting the **LORD's love** is with those who **fear** him, and his **righteousness** with their children's children-
18 with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.
19 The LORD has **established his throne in heaven**, and his **kingdom rules over all**.
20 Praise the LORD , you his **angels**, you **mighty ones** who do his bidding, who **obey** his word.
21 Praise the LORD , **all his heavenly hosts**, you his **servants** who do **his will**.
22 Praise the LORD , all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD , O my soul.

Psalm 121

1 I **lift up my eyes** to the **hills- where does my help come from?**
2 My **help** comes from the **LORD** , the **Maker of heaven and earth**.
3 He will **not let your foot slip-** he who watches over you will **not slumber**;

- ⁴ indeed, he who **watches** over Israel will **neither slumber nor sleep**.
- ⁵ The **LORD watches over you**- the **LORD** is your **shade** at your **right hand**;
- ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The **LORD will keep you from all harm**- he will **watch over your life**;
- ⁸ the **LORD will watch over your coming and going** both **now and forevermore**.

Psalm 131

- ¹ My **heart is not proud**, O LORD, my **eyes are not haughty**; I do **not concern myself** with great matters or **things too wonderful for me**.
- ² But I have **stilled** and **quieted** my **soul**; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.
- ³ O Israel, **put your hope in the LORD** both now and forevermore.

Psalm 133 NKJV

- ¹ Behold, how **good** and how **pleasant** it is For brethren to **dwelt together** in **unity**!
- ² It is like the **precious oil** upon the **head**, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.
- ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For **there** the **LORD commanded** the blessing-- **Life forevermore**.

Psalm 149

1 Praise the LORD . Sing to the LORD a **new song**, his praise in the assembly of the saints.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

3 Let them **praise his name** with **dancing** and make music to him with tambourine and harp.

4 For the **LORD takes delight** in **his people**; he crowns the humble with salvation.

5 Let the **saints rejoice** in this honor and **sing for joy on their beds**.

6 May the **praise** of God be in their **mouths** and a **double-edged sword** in their **hands**,

7 to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

8 to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron,

9 to **carry out the sentence written against them**. This is the **glory** of all his saints. Praise the LORD.

Proverbs 3

- ¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,
² for they will **prolong your life many years** and bring you **prosperity**.
- ³ Let **love and faithfulness never leave you**; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴ Then you will **win favor and a good name** in the sight of God and man.
- ⁵ **Trust** in the **LORD** with **all** your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**;
⁶ in **all your ways acknowledge him**, and he will make your **paths straight**.
- ⁷ Do **not be wise in your own eyes**; fear the LORD and shun evil.
⁸ This will bring **health** to your **body** and nourishment to your bones.
- ⁹ **Honor** the LORD with your **wealth**, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to **overflowing**, and your vats will brim over with **new wine**.
- ¹¹ My son, do **not despise the LORD's discipline** and do not resent his rebuke,
¹² because the **LORD disciplines those he loves**, as a father the son he delights in.
- ¹³ **Blessed** is the man who finds **wisdom**, the man who **gains understanding**,
¹⁴ for she is **more profitable** than **silver** and yields **better returns than gold**.
- ¹⁵ She is **more precious** than **rubies**; **nothing you desire** can compare with her.
¹⁶ **Long life** is in her right hand; in her left hand are **riches** and **honor**.
- ¹⁷ Her ways are **pleasant ways**, and **all her paths are peace**.
- ¹⁸ She is a **tree of life** to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.
- ¹⁹ By **wisdom** the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by **understanding** he set the heavens in place;
²⁰ by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.
- ²¹ My son, **preserve sound judgment and discernment**, do not let them out of your sight;
²² they will be **life** for you, an ornament to grace your neck.
- ²³ Then you will go on your way in **safety**, and **your foot will not stumble**;
²⁴ when you **lie down**, you will **not be afraid**; when you lie down, your **sleep will be sweet**.
- ²⁵ Have **no fear of sudden disaster** or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
²⁶ for the **LORD will be your confidence** and will keep your foot from being snared.
- ²⁷ Do **not withhold good from those who deserve it**, when it is in your power to act.
- ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow"- when you now have it with you.
- ²⁹ Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.
- ³⁰ Do not accuse a man for no reason- when he has done you no harm.
- ³¹ Do **not envy a violent man** or choose any of his ways,
³² for the LORD detests a perverse man but **takes the upright into his confidence**.
- ³³ The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he **blesses the home of the righteous**.
- ³⁴ He mocks proud mockers but gives **grace to the humble**.
- ³⁵ The **wise inherit honor**, but fools he holds up to shame.

Isaiah 53

¹ Who has **believed** our **message** and to whom has the **arm** of the LORD been revealed?

² He **grew up** before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had **no beauty or majesty** to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was **despised** and **rejected** by men, a man of **sorrows**, and **familiar** with **suffering**. Like one **from whom men hide their faces** he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he took up our **infirmities** and carried our **sorrows**, yet we considered **him** stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was **pierced** for our **transgressions**, he was **crushed** for our **iniquities**; the **punishment** that brought us **peace** was upon him, and **by his wounds we are healed**.

⁶ We **all, like sheep**, have gone **astray**, **each of us** has turned to his **own way**; and the LORD has laid on him the **iniquity of us all**.

⁷ He was **oppressed** and **afflicted**, yet he did **not open his mouth**; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is **silent**, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By **oppression** and **judgment** he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

⁹ He was **assigned a grave** with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, **nor was any deceit in his mouth**.

¹⁰ Yet it was the **LORD's will to crush him** and **cause him to suffer**, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will **see his offspring and prolong his days**, and the **will of the LORD will prosper in his hand**.

¹¹ After the **suffering** of his soul, he will see the **light of life** and be **satisfied**; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the **great**, and he will **divide the spoils with the strong**, because he **poured out his life unto death**, and was **numbered** with the **transgressors**. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 55

¹ “**Come, all** you who are **thirsty**, come to the **waters**; and you who have **no money**, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk **without money and without cost**.

² **Why spend money** on what is **not bread**, and your **labor** on what does **not satisfy**? **Listen, listen** to me, and **eat** what is **good**, and your **soul** will **delight** in the **richest** of fare.

³ Give **ear** and **come** to me; **hear me, that your soul may live**. I will make an **everlasting** covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

⁶ Seek the LORD **while he may be found**; call on him **while he is near**.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for **he will freely pardon**.

⁸ “For **my thoughts are not your thoughts**, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

⁹ “As the **heavens are higher than the earth**, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is **my word that goes out from my mouth**: It will **not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it**.

¹² You will go out in **joy** and be led forth in **peace**; the mountains and hills will **burst into song** before you, and all the trees of the field will **clap their hands**.

¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s **renown**, for an **everlasting sign**, which will not be destroyed.”

Isaiah 61

¹ The **Spirit of the Sovereign LORD** is on me, because the **LORD** has anointed me to preach **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim **freedom for the captives** and **release from darkness for the prisoners**,

² to proclaim the **year of the LORD's favor** and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

³ and provide for those who **grieve** in Zion- to bestow on them a **crown of beauty instead of ashes**, the **oil of gladness instead of mourning**, and a **garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair**. They will be called **oaks of righteousness**, a planting of the LORD for the **display of his splendor**.

⁴ They will **rebuild the ancient ruins** and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

⁵ Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

⁶ And **you will be called priests of the LORD** , you will be **named ministers of our God**. You will **feed on the wealth of nations**, and in **their riches you will boast**.

⁷ **Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion**, and **instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance**; and so they will **inherit a double portion in their land**, and **everlasting joy will be theirs**.

⁸ "For I, **the LORD** , **love justice**; I hate robbery and iniquity. **In my faithfulness I will reward them** and make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ **Their descendants will be known among the nations** and **their offspring among the peoples**. **All who see them** will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."

¹⁰ I **delight greatly** in the **LORD** ; my **soul rejoices in my God**. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make **righteousness and praise spring up before all nations**.

Matthew 18

- ¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "**Who** is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven?"
- ² He called a **little child** and had him stand among them.
- ³ And he said: "I tell you the truth, **unless** you **change** and become like little children, you will **never** enter the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Therefore, whoever **humbles** himself like this child is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁵ "And whoever **welcomes** a little child like this in my name **welcomes me**.
- ⁶ But if anyone **causes** one of these **little ones who believe in me to sin**, it would be **better** for him to have a **large millstone** hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.
- ⁷ "Woe to the world because of the things that **cause people to sin!** Such things **must come**, but **woe** to the **man** through whom they come!
- ⁸ If your **hand or your foot causes you to sin**, **cut it off** and throw it away. It is better for you to **enter life** maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into **eternal fire**.
- ⁹ And if your **eye** causes you to sin, **gouge it out and throw it away**. It is better for you to enter **life** with **one eye** than to have two eyes and be thrown into the **fire of hell**.
- ¹⁰ "**See** that you do **not look down** on one of these **little ones**. For I tell you that their **angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven**.
- ¹¹ The Son of Man came to **save** what was **lost**
- ¹² "What do you think? If a man **owns** a **hundred** sheep, and **one** of them wanders away, will he not **leave the ninety-nine** on the hills and **go to look** for the one that wandered off?
- ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is **happier** about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.
- ¹⁴ In the **same way** your Father in heaven is **not willing that any of these little ones should be lost**.
- ¹⁵ "If **your brother sins against** you, go and show him his fault, **just between the two of you**. If he listens to you, you have **won your brother over**.
- ¹⁶ But if he will **not listen**, take **one or two others along**, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'
- ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**

¹⁹ "Again, I tell you that if **two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.**

²⁰ For where **two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."**

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, **how many times shall I forgive** my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, **not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**

²³ "Therefore, the **kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts** with his servants.

²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him **ten thousand talents** was brought to him.

²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the **master ordered** that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be **sold** to repay the debt.

²⁶ "The **servant fell on his knees** before him. 'Be **patient** with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back **everything.**'

²⁷ The servant's master took **pity** on him, canceled the debt and **let him go.**

²⁸ "**But when** that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a **hundred denarii.** He grabbed him and began to **choke him.** 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His **fellow servant** fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be **patient** with me, and I will pay you back.'

³⁰ "But he **refused.** Instead, he went off and had the man **thrown into prison** until he could pay the debt.

³¹ When the **other servants** saw what had happened, they were **greatly distressed** and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You **wicked** servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

³³ **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'**

³⁴ In **anger** his master turned him over to the **jailers** to be **tortured,** until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is **how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother** from your **heart."**

John 14

¹ **"Do not let your hearts be troubled.** Trust in God; trust also in me.

² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am **going there to prepare a place for you.**

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back** and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. **From now on, you do know him and have seen him."**

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

¹² **I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.** He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ And I will do **whatever you ask** in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

¹⁴ **You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**

¹⁵ **"If you love me, you will obey what I command.**

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will **give you another Counselor** to be with you forever—

¹⁷ the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.**

²⁰ On **that day you will realize that I am in my Father**, and you are in me, and I am in you.

²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the **one who loves me**. He who loves me will be **loved by my Father**, and **I too will love him** and show myself to him."

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³ Jesus replied, "If **anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching**. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him**.

²⁴ He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you.

²⁶ But the **Counselor, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you**.

²⁷ **Peace** I leave with you; **my peace I give you**. I do **not give to you as the world gives**. Do **not let your hearts be troubled** and do **not be afraid**.

²⁸ "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

³⁰ I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. **He has no hold on me,**

³¹ but the world must learn that I **love the Father** and that I **do exactly what my Father** has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.

John 15

¹ "I am the **true vine**, and my **Father is the gardener**.

² He **cuts off every branch** in me that **bears no fruit**, while every branch that **does** bear fruit he **prunes** so that it will be **even more fruitful**.

³ You are **already clean** because of the **word** I have spoken to you.

⁴ **Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself**; it must **remain in the vine**. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "**I am the vine; you are the branches**. If a man **remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ If anyone does **not remain in me**, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ If you **remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you**.

⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you **bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples**.

⁹ "**As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love**.

¹⁰ If you **obey my commands, you will remain in my love**, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete**.

¹² My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you**.

¹³ **Greater love** has no one than this, that he **lay down his life for his friends**.

¹⁴ You are **my friends if you do what I command**.

¹⁵ I **no longer call you servants**, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for **everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you**.

¹⁶ You did **not choose me, but I chose you to go** and bear fruit--fruit that will **last**. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

¹⁷ **This is my command: Love each other**.

¹⁸ "If the **world hates you**, keep in mind that it hated me first.

¹⁹ If you **belonged to the world**, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

²¹ They **will treat you this way because of my name**, for they do not know the One who sent me.

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

²³ He who hates me hates my Father as well.

²⁴ If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

²⁶ "When the **Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me**.

²⁷ And **you also must testify**, for you have been with me from the beginning

Romans 6

¹ What shall we say, then? **Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?**

² By **no means!** We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were baptized into his **death**?

⁴ We were therefore **buried** with him **through baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**

⁵ If we have been **united** with him like this in his **death**, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the **body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—**

⁷ because **anyone** who has **died** has been freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will **also live with him.**

⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he **cannot die again**; death no longer has mastery over him.

¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the **life he lives, he lives to God.**

¹¹ **In the same way, count yourselves** dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body** so that you obey its evil desires.

¹³ **Do not offer the parts** of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but **rather offer yourselves to God**, as those who have **been brought from death to life**; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? **Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!**

¹⁶ Don't you know that when you **offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves**, you are **slaves to the one whom you obey**--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

¹⁷ But **thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin**, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

¹⁸ You have **been set free from sin** and have become **slaves to righteousness.**

¹⁹ I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, **so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.**

²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

²² But **now that you have been set free from sin** and have become slaves to God, the **benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.**

²³ For the **wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8

- ¹ Therefore, there is **now no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus,
- ² because through Christ Jesus the **law of the Spirit of life set me free** from the law of sin and death.
- ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, **God did** by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to **be a sin offering**. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,
- ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but **according to the Spirit**.
- ⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who **live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires**.
- ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the **mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace**;
- ⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
- ⁸ Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.
- ⁹ You, however, are **controlled** not by the sinful nature but **by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ**.
- ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, **yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness**.
- ¹¹ **And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you**.
- ¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.
- ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live**,
- ¹⁴ because those who are **led by the Spirit of God are sons of God**.
- ¹⁵ For you **did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."**
- ¹⁶ The **Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children**.
- ¹⁷ Now if we are **children**, then we are **heirs**--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
- ¹⁸ I consider that our **present sufferings** are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
- ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.
- ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
- ²¹ that the **creation** itself will be **liberated from its bondage to decay** and brought into the **glorious freedom of the children of God**.

²² We know that the **whole creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

²³ Not only so, but **we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But **hope that is seen is no hope at all**. Who hopes for what he already has?

²⁵ But **if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently**.

²⁶ In the same way, the **Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the **Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express**.

²⁷ And **he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit**, because the **Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will**.

²⁸ And we know that in **all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--**how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?**

³³ **Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?** It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

³⁵ **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us**.

³⁸ For I am **convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,**

³⁹ **neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 12

- ¹ 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.
- ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.
- ⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,
- ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others.**
- ⁶ We have **different gifts**, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him **use it in proportion to his faith.**
- ⁷ If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach;
- ⁸ 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.
- ⁹ **Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.**
- ¹⁰ **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.**
- ¹¹ **Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.**
- ¹² **Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.**
- ¹³ **Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.**
- ¹⁴ **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**
- ¹⁵ **Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.**
- ¹⁶ **Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.**
- ¹⁷ **Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.**
- ¹⁸ **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**
- ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
- ²¹ **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

1 Corinthians 13

¹ If I **speak in the tongues of men and of angels**, but have **not love**, I am only a **resounding gong** or a **clanging cymbal**.

² If I have the **gift of prophecy** and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have **not love**, I am **nothing**.

³ If I **give all I possess to the poor** and surrender my body to the flames, but **have not love**, I gain **nothing**.

⁴ Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It does **not envy**, it does **not boast**, it is **not proud**.

⁵ It is **not rude**, it is **not self-seeking**, it is **not easily angered**, it **keeps no record of wrongs**.

⁶ Love does **not delight in evil** but **rejoices with the truth**.

⁷ It **always protects**, **always trusts**, **always hopes**, **always perseveres**.

⁸ Love **never fails**. But where there are **prophecies**, they will **cease**; where there are **tongues**, they will be **stilled**; where there is **knowledge**, it will **pass away**.

⁹ For we know in **part** and we **prophecy in part**,

¹⁰ but when **perfection** comes, the **imperfect disappears**.

¹¹ When I was a **child**, I **talked** like a child, I **thought** like a child, I **reasoned** like a child. When I **became a man**, I **put childish ways behind me**.

¹² Now we see but a **poor reflection** as in a mirror; then we shall see face to **face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And **now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love**.

2 Corinthians 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,**

⁴ who **comforts us in all our troubles**, so that we can **comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.**

⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are **comforted, it is for your comfort**, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

⁷ And our **hope for you is firm**, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.

⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But **this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.**

¹⁰ He has **delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us.** On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

¹¹ as **you help us by your prayers.** Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

¹² Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the **holiness and sincerity that are from God.** We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.

¹³ For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that,

¹⁴ as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

¹⁵ Because I was confident of this, I planned to visit you first so that you might benefit twice.

¹⁶ I planned to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea.

¹⁷ When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or **do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?**

¹⁸ But as **surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No."**

¹⁹ For the **Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."**

²⁰ For **no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.** And so through him the **"Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.**

²¹ Now it is **God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,**

²² set his **seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.**

²³ I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth.

²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we **work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm**

2 Corinthians 2

¹ So I made up my mind that I would **not make another painful visit to you.**

² For **if I grieve you**, who is **left to make me glad** but you whom I have grieved?

³ I wrote as I did so that when I came I should not be distressed by those who ought to make me rejoice. I had **confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy.**

⁴ For I **wrote you out of great distress** and anguish of heart and with many tears, **not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.**

⁵ If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent--not to put it too severely.

⁶ The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him.

⁷ Now **instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him**, so that he will **not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.**

⁸ I urge you, therefore, to **reaffirm your love for him.**

⁹ The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything.

¹⁰ **If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,**

¹¹ **in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.**

¹² Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the **Lord had opened a door for me,**

¹³ I **still had no peace of mind**, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But **thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.**

¹⁵ For we are to God **the aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved & those who are perishing.

¹⁶ To the **one we are the smell of death**; to the **other, the fragrance of life**. And who is equal to such a task?

¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2 Corinthians 3

¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you?

² **You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.**

³ You **show** that you are a **letter from Christ**, the **result of our ministry**, written not with ink but with the **Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on **tablets of human hearts**.

⁴ **Such confidence** as this is ours **through Christ before God**.

⁵ **Not** that we are **competent in ourselves** to claim anything (as of) **ourselves**, but our **competence comes from God**.

⁶ He has **made us competent as ministers of a new covenant**--not of the letter but of the **Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life**.

⁷ Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, **came with glory**, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was,

⁸ will not **the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?**

⁹ If the ministry that **condemns men is glorious**, how much **more glorious** is the ministry that brings **righteousness!**

¹⁰ For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.

¹¹ And if what was fading away came with glory, how much **greater is the glory of that which lasts!**

¹² Therefore, **since we have such a hope**, we are **very bold**.

¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away.

¹⁴ But their **minds were made dull**, for to this day the **same veil remains** when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

¹⁶ But **whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away**.

¹⁷ Now the **Lord is the Spirit**, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**.

¹⁸ And we, who with **unveiled faces** all **reflect the Lord's glory**, are being **transformed** into his likeness with **ever-increasing glory**, which **comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit**.

2 Corinthians 4

¹ Therefore, since **through God's mercy** we have this **ministry**, we do **not lose heart**.

² Rather, we have **renounced secret and shameful ways**; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by **setting forth the truth plainly** we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is **veiled** to those who are **perishing**.

⁴ The **god of this age** has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers, so that they **cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God.

⁵ For we do **not preach ourselves**, but **Jesus Christ as Lord**, and **ourselves as your servants** for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," **made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ**.

⁷ But we have this **treasure in jars of clay** to **show** that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but **not crushed**; perplexed, but **not in despair**;

⁹ persecuted, but **not abandoned**; struck down, but **not destroyed**.

¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the **life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body**.

¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that **his life may be revealed in our mortal body**.

¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³ It is written: "**I believed; therefore I have spoken**." With that **same spirit of faith** we also believe and therefore speak,

¹⁴ because we know that the **one who raised the Lord Jesus** from the dead **will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence**.

¹⁵ All this is for **your benefit**, so that the **grace that is reaching more** and more people may cause **thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God**.

¹⁶ Therefore **we do not lose heart**. Though **outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day**.

¹⁷ For our **light and momentary troubles** are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that **far outweighs them all**.

¹⁸ So we **fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen**. For what is **seen** is **temporary**, but what is **unseen** is **eternal**.

2 Corinthians 5

¹ Now we know that if the **earthly tent** we live in is **destroyed**, we have a **building from God, an eternal house in heaven**, not built by human hands.

² Meanwhile we **groan, longing** to be **clothed** with our heavenly dwelling,

³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

⁴ For while we are in this tent, we **groan** and are **burdened**, because we do **not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling**, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

⁵ Now it is **God who has made us for this very purpose** and has **given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come**.

⁶ Therefore we are **always confident** and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

⁷ We **live by faith, not by sight**.

⁸ We are confident, I say, and would **prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord**.

⁹ So we **make it our goal to please him**, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

¹⁰ For we **must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

¹¹ Since, then, **we know what it is to fear the Lord**, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

¹³ If **we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God**; if we are in our **right mind, it is for you**.

¹⁴ For **Christ's love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should **no longer live for themselves** but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we **regard no one from a worldly point of view**. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

¹⁷ Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has **committed to us the message of reconciliation**.

²⁰ **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We **implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God**.

²¹ 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 6

¹ As God's fellow workers we urge you **not to receive God's grace in vain.**

² For he says, "In the **time of my favor I heard you**, and in the **day of salvation I helped you.**" I tell you, **now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.**

³ We **put no stumbling block in anyone's path**, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

⁴ Rather, as servants of God we **commend ourselves in every** way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

⁶ in **purity, understanding, patience and kindness**; in the **Holy Spirit** and in **sincere love**;

⁷ in **truthful speech** and in the **power of God**; with weapons of **righteousness** in the right hand and in the left;

⁸ through **glory** and **dishonor**, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;

⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;

¹⁰ **sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.**

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.

¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.

¹³ As a fair exchange--I **speak as to my children--open wide your hearts also.**

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? **What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?**

¹⁷ "Therefore **come out from them and be separate**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

¹⁸ "I will be a **Father** to you, and you will be my **sons and daughters**, says the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 7

- ¹ Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us **purify ourselves** from **everything** that **contaminates** body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
- ² Make **room for us in your hearts**. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one.
- ³ I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would **live or die with you**.
- ⁴ I have **great confidence** in you; I take **great pride** in you. I am **greatly encouraged**; in all our troubles **my joy knows no bounds**.
- ⁵ For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within.
- ⁶ But **God, who comforts the downcast**, comforted us by the coming of Titus,
- ⁷ and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that **my joy was greater than ever**.
- ⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do **not regret it. Though I did regret it**—I see that my letter hurt you, but **only for a little while**—
- ⁹ yet now I am **happy**, not because you were made sorry, but **because your sorrow led you to repentance**. For you became **sorrowful as God intended** and so were not harmed in any way by us.
- ¹⁰ **Godly sorrow** brings **repentance** that leads to **salvation** and **leaves no regret**, but worldly sorrow brings death.
- ¹¹ **See what this godly sorrow has produced in you**: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.
- ¹² So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.
- ¹³ By all this we are **encouraged**. In addition to our own encouragement, we were **especially delighted** to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.
- ¹⁴ I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well.
- ¹⁵ And his **affection for you is all the greater** when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling.
- ¹⁶ I am **glad I can have complete confidence in you**.

Ephesians 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² **Grace and peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ **Praise be** to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.**

⁴ For **he chose us in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with **his pleasure and will—**

⁶ to the **praise** of his **glorious grace**, which he has **freely given us in the One he loves.**

⁷ In him we have **redemption** through his **blood**, the **forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the **riches** of God's grace

⁸ that he **lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.**

⁹ And he made known to us the **mystery of his will** according to his **good pleasure**, which he purposed in Christ,

¹⁰ to be put into effect when the **times will have reached their fulfillment**--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also **chosen**, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, **might be for the praise of his glory.**

¹³ And you also were **included in Christ** when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having **believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,**

¹⁴ who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the **praise of his glory.**

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶ I have **not stopped giving thanks for you**, remembering you in my prayers.

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may **give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.**

¹⁸ I pray also that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and his **incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is like the working of his mighty strength,

²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

²¹ **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion**, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

²² And **God placed all things under his feet** and appointed him to be head over everything **for the church,**

²³ which is **his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**

Ephesians 2

¹ As for you, you were **dead in your transgressions and sins,**

² in which you **used to live** when you **followed** the **ways of this world** and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.**

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature** and following its **desires and thoughts.** Like the rest, **we were by nature objects of wrath.**

⁴ But because of his **great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,**

⁵ **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by **grace you have been saved.**

⁶ And **God raised us up with Christ** and **seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,**

⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might **show the incomparable riches** of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been **saved, through faith**--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

⁹ **not by works, so that no one can boast.**

¹⁰ For **we are God's workmanship,** created in Christ Jesus to do **good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)—

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

¹³ But **now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.**

¹⁴ For **he himself is our peace,** who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,

¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

¹⁷ He **came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.**

¹⁸ For **through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

²¹ In **him the whole building is joined together** and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

²² And **in him you too are being built together** to become a **dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

Philippians 1

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you.

4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

16 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

19 Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by God.

29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,

30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 2

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,

15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

16 as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.

20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.

21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.

27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety.

29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him,

30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

Philippians 3

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh--

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

5 If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they

will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 4

- 1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!
- 2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.
- 3 Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
- 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
- 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.
- 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
- 10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.
- 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.
- 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
- 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
- 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.
- 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;
- 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.
- 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.
- 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.
- 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
- 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- 21 Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings.
- 22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.
- 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Colossians 3

- ¹ Since, then, you have been **raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
- ² **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things.
- ³ **For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**
- ⁴ When **Christ, who is your life, appears**, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
- ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.
- ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.
- ⁸ But **now you must rid yourselves of all such things** as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.
- ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices
- ¹⁰ and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
- ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but **Christ is all, and is in all.**
- ¹² Therefore, as **God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**
- ¹³ **Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**
- ¹⁴ **And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**
- ¹⁵ Let the **peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
- ¹⁶ Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
- ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, **do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- ¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
- ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
- ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- ²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.
- ²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.
- ²³ **Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,**
- ²⁴ since you know that you will **receive an inheritance from the Lord** as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
- ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is **no favoritism.**

2 Timothy 1

- ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **according to the promise of life** that is in Christ Jesus,
- ² To Timothy, **my dear son**: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- ³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as **night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.**
- ⁴ **Recalling your tears, I long to see you,** so that I may be **filled with joy.**
- ⁵ I have been **reminded of your sincere faith**, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.
- ⁶ For this reason I **remind you to fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the **laying on of my hands.**
- ⁷ For **God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.**
- ⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But **join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,**
- ⁹ who has **saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done** but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,
- ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, **Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**
- ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.
- ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, **because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.**
- ¹³ What you heard from me, **keep as the pattern of sound teaching**, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
- ¹⁴ **Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit** who lives in us.
- ¹⁵ You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- ¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.
- ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.
- ¹⁸ **May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord** on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

2 Timothy 2

¹ You then, my son, be **strong** in the **grace** that is in **Christ Jesus**.

² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to reliable men** who will also be qualified to teach others.

³ **Endure hardship** with us like a **good soldier** of Christ Jesus.

⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he **wants to please his commanding officer**.

⁵ Similarly, if **anyone competes as an athlete**, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

⁶ The **hardworking farmer** should be the **first** to receive a share of the crops.

⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸ **Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead**, descended from David. This is my gospel,

⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But **God's word is not chained**.

¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If **we died with him, we will also live with him**;

¹² if we **endure**, we will also **reign** with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

¹⁴ **Keep reminding them of these things**. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

¹⁵ **Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth**.

¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

²⁰ In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.

²¹ If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an **instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work**.

²² **Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart**.

²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

²⁴ And the **Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful**.

²⁵ Those who oppose him he must **gently instruct**, in the hope that **God will grant them repentance** leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

²⁶ and that they will **come to their senses** and escape from the **trap of the devil**, who has taken them captive to do his will

2 Timothy 3

¹ But mark this: There will be **terrible times** in the **last days**.

² People will be lovers of **themselves**, lovers of **money**, **boastful**, **proud**, **abusive**, **disobedient** to their **parents**, **ungrateful**, **unholy**,

³ **without love**, **unforgiving**, **slandering**, **without self-control**, **brutal**, **not lovers of the good**,

⁴ **treacherous**, **rash**, **conceited**, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--**

⁵ having a **form of godliness** but **denying its power**. Have **nothing to do with them**.

⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weakwilled women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,

⁷ **always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth**.

⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of **depraved** minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are **rejected**.

⁹ But they will **not get very far** because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

¹¹ persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

¹² In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**,

¹³ while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived**.

¹⁴ But as for you, **continue in what you have learned** and have become **convinced** of, because you **know those from whom you learned it**,

¹⁵ and how from **infancy you have known the holy Scriptures**, which are **able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**.

¹⁶ **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness**,

¹⁷ so that the **man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work**.

2 Timothy 4

¹ **In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:**

² **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.**

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

⁵ But you, **keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.**

⁶ For I am **already being poured out like a drink offering**, and the **time has come for my departure.**

⁷ **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

⁸ Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to **all who have longed for his appearing.**

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly,

¹⁰ for **Demas, because he loved this world**, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.

¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

¹⁷ But the **Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.**

¹⁸ The **Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.** To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹ Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

²¹ Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers.

²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Hebrews 12

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

² 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.

³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

⁵ And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.

¹³ "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

¹⁶ See that **no one is sexually immoral**, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm;

¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them,

²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."

²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

²² **But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,**

²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See to it that you do **not refuse him who speaks**. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "**Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.**"

²⁷ The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, **since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,**

²⁹ **for our "God is a consuming fire."**

James 1

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

² **Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,**

³ because you know that the testing **of your faith develops perseverance.**

⁴ **Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

⁵ If any of you **lacks wisdom**, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, & it will be **given** to him.

⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. ⁹ The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

¹⁰ But the **one who is rich should take pride in his low position**, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

¹² **Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.**

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

¹⁴ but **each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire**, he is dragged away and enticed.

¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

¹⁷ **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.**

¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: **Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,**

²⁰ for **man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.**

²¹ Therefore, **get rid of all moral filth** and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.**

²² **Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.**

²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

²⁵ But the **man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.**

²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

²⁷ 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.

II Peter 1

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the **righteousness** of our **God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:**

² Grace and peace be yours in **abundance** through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³ His **divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.**

⁴ Through these he has given us his **very great and precious promises**, so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;**

⁶ and to **knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;**

⁷ and to **godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.**

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in **increasing** measure, they will **keep** you from being **ineffective** and **unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers, **be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,**

¹¹ and you will receive a **rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

¹² So I **will always remind you of these things**, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.

¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body,

¹⁴ because I **know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.**

¹⁵ And I will **make every effort to see that after my departure** you will always be able to remember these things.

¹⁶ We did **not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

¹⁷ For **he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."**

¹⁸ We **ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.**

¹⁹ And we have the **word of the prophets made more certain**, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 19

¹ After this I heard what sounded like the **roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,**

² for **true and just are his judgments.** He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

³ And again they shouted: **"Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."**

⁴ The **twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"**

⁵ Then a **voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"**

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: **"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.**

⁷ Let us **rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.**

⁸ **Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)**

⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write: **'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'** " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

¹⁰ At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the **testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"

¹¹ I **saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.**

¹² **His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.**

¹³ **He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.**

¹⁴ **The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.**

¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

¹⁶ **On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

¹⁹ **Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.**

²⁰ But the **beast was captured**, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

²¹ The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.