God’s Gift of Eternal Life

God loves us abundantly, and has made a way for us to live forever in His glorious kingdom.

However, it is important to understand that God paid an enormous price in order for us to be forgiven for our sin and to receive this eternal glory. The entire storyline of the Bible points us to this central truth: Jesus died a brutal death so that we can be forgiven and inherit eternal life.

The purpose of this document is to fully explain the Gospel message (also known as the Good News) which can be summarized as follows:

God loves you, but your sin separates you from Him, and because of sin, God’s wrath will come.

However, Jesus died as a sacrifice to save you from your sin, from God’s wrath, and from death itself.

When you confess your sins and repent of them (turn away from them), God will forgive you.

You are forgiven solely because of the blood Christ shed when He died on the cross for you.

By trusting in Christ you become God’s child.

As His child, you will inherit eternal life and can be assured that heaven is your home.

What follows is a clear explanation of God’s plan of salvation using only the power of Scripture.

This document is in a Word format so you can easily build on it, should you choose to do so. The verses are categorized into the following sections: (press the Ctrl key and click on the heading)

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**Notes About This Document:**

Passages in quotation marks are the actual words of God, either through His prophets in the Old Testament, or the words of Christ in the New Testament

The links for the verse references in this document will direct you to the [www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com) page that will display the passage in the 5 translations that are used in ***The Word of God Series*** (NIV, NLT, ESV, NKJV, KJV). For an explanation on why each of these translations was chosen, see the document entitled ***The Vision*** at [www.TheWordOfGodSeries.com](http://www.TheWordOfGodSeries.com).

If you would like an abridged version of this document in a ***booklet format***, see the booklet entitled [God’s Gift of Eternal Life](http://www.thewordofgodseries.com/GodsGiftOfEternalLife.php) (an outreach tool that presents the Gospel using only Scripture.) Also available is a booklet entitled [Sharing the Good News](http://www.thewordofgodseries.com/SharingTheGoodNews.php) (an equipping tool for believers who want to share their faith with others.)

**G****od Loves You**

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

~ [Jeremiah 31:3b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%2031%3A3b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart…”

~ [Jeremiah 1:5a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%201%3A5a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“I have called you by your name; you are Mine.”

~ [Isaiah 43:1b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2043%3A1b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands…”

~ [Isaiah 49:16a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2049%3A16a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

~ [Matthew 10:30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2010%3A30&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“…I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.”

~ [Deuteronomy 5:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%205%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

~ [John 10:10b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “

~ [John 10:10b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…the Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth…”

~ [Exodus 34:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2034%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.”

~ [Exodus 34:6b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2034%3A6b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

~ [Isaiah 54:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2054%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

“I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

~ [Isaiah 41:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2041%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

How great is the goodness

you have stored up for those who fear you.

You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,

blessing them before the watching world.

~ [Psalm 31:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2031%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

How abundant are the good things

that you have stored up for those who fear you,

that you bestow in the sight of all,

on those who take refuge in you.

~ [Psalm 31:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2031%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

How precious is your unfailing love, O God!

All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.

~ [Psalm 36:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2036%3A7%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

~ [Ephesians 1:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people.

~ [1 Thessalonians 1:4b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%201%3A4b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

~ [Romans 5:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A5b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

~ [Romans 5:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A5b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

~ [Romans 5:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A5b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (KJV)

…for God is love.

~ [1 John 4:8b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A8b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

We love because he first loved us.

~ [1 John 4:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A19%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

~ [1 John 4:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A16&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light…

~ [1 Timothy 6:15b-16a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%206%3A15b-16a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

~ [Psalm 33:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2033%3A22&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…your unfailing love is as high as the heavens.

Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

~ [Psalm 57:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2057%3A10%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

~ [Exodus 15:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2015%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love...

~ [Psalm 86:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2086%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)a (NLT)

…you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...

~ [Psalm 86:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2086%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)a (ESV)

…You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy...

~ [Psalm 86:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2086%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)a (NKJV)

…you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

~ [Psalm 86:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2086%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.

~ [Psalm 86:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2086%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

~ [Psalm 86:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2086%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

~ [Psalm 33:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2033%3A5b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

~ [Psalm 33:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2033%3A5b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.

~ [Psalm 33:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2033%3A5b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Taste and see that the Lord is good...

~ [Psalm 34:8a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2034%3A8a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord is good,

a refuge in times of trouble.

He cares for those who trust in him…

~ [Nahum 1:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nahum%201%3A7a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…the Lord is good;

His mercy is everlasting,

and His truth endures to all generations.

~ [Psalm 100:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20100%3A5%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

~ [Psalm 84:11b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2084%3A11b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights…

~ [James 1:17a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%201%3A17a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

~ [Psalm 145:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He showers compassion on all his creation.

~ [Psalm 145:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…his mercy is over all that he has made.

~ [Psalm 145:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

~ [Psalm 107:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20107%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!

~ [Psalm 63:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2063%3A3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

~ [Psalm 26:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2026%3A3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

What is man, that you make so much of him, and that you set your heart on him…

~ [Job 7:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job%207%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

~ [Psalm 8:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%208%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb…

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

~ [Psalm 139:13, 16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20139%3A13%2C%2016&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name.

~ [Isaiah 49:1b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2049%3A1b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,

He will quiet you with His love,

He will rejoice over you with singing.

~ [Zephaniah 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zephaniah%203%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.

~ [Isaiah 30:18a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2030%3A18a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love…

~ [Psalm 33:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2033%3A18&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

~ [Psalm 147:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20147%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

~ [Deuteronomy 7:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%207%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…great is his steadfast love toward us…

~ [Psalm 117:2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20117%3A2a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…his unfailing love for us is powerful…

~ [Psalm 117:2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20117%3A2a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…His merciful kindness is great toward us…

~ [Psalm 117:2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20117%3A2a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all;

he has compassion on all he has made.

~ [Psalm 145:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A8-9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord is…rich in love.

~ [Psalm 145:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord is…abounding in steadfast love.

~ [Psalm 145:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

The Lord is…filled with unfailing love.

~ [Psalm 145:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

~ [Lamentations 3:22-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations%203%3A22-23%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (KJV)

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

~ [Psalm 116:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20116%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

~ [Psalm 106:1b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20106%3A1b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

~ [2 Corinthians 13:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2013%3A14%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

~ [Psalm 100](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20100&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

~ [Psalm 100:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20100%3A3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.

He will rule with a powerful arm.

See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart.

~ [Isaiah 40:10-11a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2040%3A10-11a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

~ [Psalm 28:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2028%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

For this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.”

~ [Ezekiel 34:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2034%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name’s sake.

Yea, 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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.

~ [Psalm 23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2023&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me…”

~ [John 10:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

“The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away...

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me…and I lay down my life for the sheep.

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”

~ [John 10:11-18a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A11-18a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

“No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.”

~ [John 10:27-29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A27-29&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them.

“Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

“And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.

“Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”

~ [Luke 15:4-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015%3A4-6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

“All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.

“They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”

~ [John 10:7-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A7-9%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

~ [Psalm 13:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2013%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love…

~ [Psalm 59:16a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2059%3A16a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

~ [Psalm 31:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2031%3A16%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.

~ [Psalm 40:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2040%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)a (NKJV)

How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God!

~ [Psalm 36:7a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2036%3A7a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (KJV)

I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

~ [Psalm 52:8b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2052%3A8b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven and earth.

You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion.

~ [2 Chronicles 6:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%206%3A14b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

~ [Psalm 90:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2090%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

~ [Psalm 85:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2085%3A7&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Praise the Lord, my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul,

and forget not all his benefits—

who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion,

who satisfies your desires with good things

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s…

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse,

nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,

he remembers that we are dust.

The life of mortals is like grass,

they flourish like a flower of the field;

the wind blows over it and it is gone,

and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting

the Lord’s love is with those who fear him,

and his righteousness with their children’s children—

with those who keep his covenant

and remember to obey his precepts.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,

and his kingdom rules over all…

Praise the Lord, all his works

everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

~ [Psalm 103](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20103&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

**B****ut Your Sin Separates You from God**

But your iniquities have separated you from your God;

And your sins have hidden His face from you,

So that He will not hear.

~ [Isaiah 59:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2059%3A2%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one.”

~ [Romans 3:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…no one living is righteous before you.

~ [Psalm 143:2b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20143%3A2b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…no one is innocent before you.

~ [Psalm 143:2b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20143%3A2b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God…

~ [Romans 3:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (KJV)

We are all infected and impure with sin.

When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.

~ [Isaiah 64:6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2064%3A6a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world…

By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger…

~ [Ephesians 2:1-3a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202%3A1-3a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God?

Don’t fool yourselves.

Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

~ [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%206%3A9-10%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

~ [Galatians 5:19-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%205%3A19-21%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

~ [Ephesians 5:5-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A5-6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you.

Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

~ [Romans 6:16-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%206%3A16-18&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**T****he Day of God’s Wrath Will Come**

“See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.”

~ [Isaiah 13:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2013%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“It will be a day when the Lord’s anger is poured out—a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness...”

~ [Zephaniah 1:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zephaniah%201%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“I am about to pour out my wrath on you and spend my anger against you; I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices.”

~ [Ezekiel 7:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%207%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“I will punish the world for its evil,

the wicked for their sins.

“I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty

and will humble the pride of the ruthless.”

~ [Isaiah 13:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2013%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“…I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me.”

~ [Deuteronomy 32:41b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A41b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment.

“I will be a swift witness

against the sorcerers,

against the adulterers,

against those who swear falsely,

against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless,

against those who thrust aside the sojourner,

“and do not fear me,” says the Lord of hosts.

~ [Malachi 3:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi%203%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“Whom have you so dreaded and feared

that you have not been true to me…

“Is it not because I have long been silent

that you do not fear me?”

~ [Isaiah 57:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2057%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,

and the earth will be shaken out of its place,

at the wrath of the Lord of hosts

in the day of his fierce anger.”

~ [Isaiah 13:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2013%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“For a fire will be kindled by my wrath,

one that burns down to the realm of the dead below.

“It will devour the earth and its harvests

and set afire the foundations of the mountains.”

~ [Deuteronomy 32:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A22&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

In the fire of his jealousy,

all the earth shall be consumed;

for a full and sudden end

he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

~ [Zephaniah 1:18b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zephaniah%201%3A18b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

The Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty is the army that obeys his command.

The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful.

Who can endure it?

~ [Joel 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joel%202%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Who can stand before His indignation?

And who can endure the fierceness of His anger?

His fury is poured out like fire,

And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

~ [Nahum 1:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nahum%201%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

~ [Revelation 6:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%206%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

But the Lord is the true God;

He is the living God and the everlasting King.

At His wrath the earth will tremble,

And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

~ [Jeremiah 10:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%2010%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

~ [Amos 5:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos%205%3A20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

For with fire and with his sword the Lord will execute judgment upon all people, and many will be those slain by the Lord.

~ [Isaiah 66:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2066%3A16&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts

The land is burned up,

And the people shall be as fuel for the fire;

No man shall spare his brother.

~ [Isaiah 9:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%209%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;

the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.

The Lord takes vengeance on his foes

and vents his wrath against his enemies.

~ [Nahum 1:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nahum%201%3A2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come.

It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest.

It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth.

~ [Revelation 11:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2011%3A18%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies; your right hand will seize your foes.

~ [Psalm 21:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2021%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

You will make them as a blazing oven

when you appear.

The Lord will swallow them up in his wrath,

and fire will consume them.

~ [Psalm 21:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2021%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.

~ [Psalm 90:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2090%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. You hate all who do wrong…

~ [Psalm 5:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%205%3A5%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

~ [Psalm 5:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%205%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

We live our lives beneath your wrath, ending our years with a groan.

~ [Psalm 90:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2090%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees.

Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

~ [Matthew 3:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%203%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

You push away every thought of coming disaster, but your actions only bring the day of judgment closer.

~ [Amos 6:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos%206%3A3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

~ [Romans 2:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%202%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…God is angry with the wicked every day.

~ [Psalm 7:11b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%207%3A11b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

~ [Ecclesiastes 12:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes%2012%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

~ [Romans 2:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%202%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The wicked plot against the righteous

and gnash their teeth at them;

but the Lord laughs at the wicked,

for he knows their day is coming.

~ [Psalm 37:12-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2037%3A12-13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath.

~ [Proverbs 11:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2011%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath…

~ [Proverbs 11:4a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2011%3A4a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

They will throw their silver into the streets,

and their gold will be treated as a thing unclean.  
Their silver and gold

will not be able to deliver them

in the day of the Lord’s wrath.  
It will not satisfy their hunger

or fill their stomachs,

for it has caused them to stumble into sin.

~ [Ezekiel 7:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%207%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Neither their silver nor their gold

will be able to save them

on the day of the Lord’s wrath.

~ [Zephaniah 1:18a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zephaniah%201%3A18a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.

~ [1 Samuel 2:9a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%202%3A9a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might…

~ [2 Thessalonians 1:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Thessalonians%201%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

~ [2 Thessalonians 1:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Thessalonians%201%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands.

Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger.

~ [Zephaniah 2:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zephaniah%202%3A3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the godly.

~ [Psalm 1:4-5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%201%3A4-5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.

They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.

They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

~ [Romans 1:18-32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%201%3A18-32%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Son of man, speak to your people and say to them:

‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head...

‘But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone’s life, that person’s life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.’”

~ [Ezekiel 33:1-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2033%3A1-6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

**The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath**

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood…

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

“Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!”

Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people.

And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

~ [Revelation 16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation%2016&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace.

“On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.

“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.

“And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

“On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

~ [Malachi 4:1-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi%204%3A1-3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

The word of the Lord came to me:

…the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly….

The Lord is…patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?

You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

~ [2 Peter 3:7b-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%203%3A7b-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

**T****he Reality of Hell**

The Words of Jesus on the Topic of Hell

“When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late.”

~ [Luke 13:25a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013%3A25a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

“But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

~ [Matthew 10:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2010%3A28&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“But I will show you whom you should fear:

“Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”

~ [Luke 12:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked

into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

~ [Matthew 13:49b-50](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A49b-50&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

“They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

~ [Matthew 13:41-42](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A41-42&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

“When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

“This is how it will be at the end of the age.

“The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

~ [Matthew 13:47-50](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A47-50&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Watch out!

“Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life.

“Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap.

“For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth.

“Keep alert at all times.

“And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

~ [Luke 21:34-36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2021%3A34-36&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

~ [Matthew 7:21-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%207%3A21-23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin!

“For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!”

~ [Matthew 18:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2018%3A7&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands.

“If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet.

“And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It’s better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ‘where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.’”

~ [Mark 9:43-48](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%209%3A43-48&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment…

“And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

~ [Matthew 5:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205%3A22&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

“But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness.

“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

~ [Matthew 8:11-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%208%3A11-12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury.

“At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet.

“The rich man also died and was buried,and he went to the place of the dead.

“There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish.

“And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’

“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’

“But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’

“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’

“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

~ [Luke 16:19-31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016%3A19-31&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

“Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

~ [Revelation 22:14-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A14-15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

“This is the second death.”

~ [Revelation 21:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A8%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Then he placed his right hand on me and said:

“Do not be afraid.

I am the First and the Last.

I am the Living One;

I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!

And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

~ [Revelation 1:17b-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%201%3A17b-18%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Other Verses in the Bible About Hell

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

~ [Psalm 9:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%209%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (KJV)

The wicked will go down to the grave. This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God.

~ [Psalm 9:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%209%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment.

~ [2 Peter 2:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.

“He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

“And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

~ [Revelation 14:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2014%3A9-11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

~ [Revelation 19:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2019%3A20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

~ [Revelation 20:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

~ [Revelation 20:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

~ [Revelation 20:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**Confess Your Sin and Repent**

The Lord is…not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

~ [2 Peter 3:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%203%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

That is why the Lord says,

“Turn to me now, while there is time.

Give me your hearts.

Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.”

~ [Joel 2:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joel%202%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord.

“Repent and live!”

~ [Ezekiel 18:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2018%3A32&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“This is what the Lord says:

O Israel, my faithless people,

come home to me again,

for I am merciful.

I will not be angry with you forever.

Only acknowledge your guilt.

Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God

and committed adultery against him

by worshiping idols under every green tree.

Confess that you refused to listen to my voice.

“I, the Lord, have spoken!”

~ [Jeremiah 3:12b-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%203%3A12b-13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Now this is what the Lord says to the family of Israel: “Come back to me and live!”

~ [Amos 5:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos%205%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“As surely as I live,” says the Sovereign Lord, “I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people.

“I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live.

“Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?”

~ [Ezekiel 33:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2033%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“In overflowing anger for a moment

I hid my face from you,

but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”

says the Lord, your Redeemer.

~ [Isaiah 54:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2054%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your unfailing love;

according to your great compassion

blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are right in your verdict

and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth,

sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;

you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,

and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence

or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

so that sinners will turn back to you…

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart

you, God, will not despise.

~ Excerpts from [Psalm 51](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2051&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Who is a God like you,

who pardons sin and forgives the transgression

of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever

but delight to show mercy.

You will again have compassion on us;

you will tread our sins underfoot

and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

~ [Micah 7:18-19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah%207%3A18-19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Help us, God our Savior,

For the glory of your name;

deliver us and forgive our sins

for your name’s sake.

~ [Psalm 79:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2079%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Blessed is the one

whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one

whose sin the Lord does not count against them

and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,

my bones wasted away

through my groaning all day long.

For day and night

your hand was heavy on me;

my strength was sapped

as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you

and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, “I will confess

my transgressions to the Lord.”

And you forgave

the guilt of my sin.

~ [Psalm 32:1-5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2032%3A1-5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

~ [1 John 1:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%201%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

~ [Proverbs 28:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2028%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

~ [James 5:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%205%3A16&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

~ [Psalm 32:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2032%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

~ [2 Corinthians 7:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%207%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

~ [Acts 26:20b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2026%3A20b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Seek the Lord while He may be found,

Call upon Him while He is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way,

And the unrighteous man his thoughts;

Let him return to the Lord,

And He will have mercy on him;

And to our God,

For He will abundantly pardon.

~ [Isaiah 55:6-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2055%3A6-7&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News.

“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near!

“Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

~ [Mark 1:14b-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14b-15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

~ [Matthew 3:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%203%3A2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

~ [Luke 13:3b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013%3A3b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them.

“Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

“And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.

“Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my   
lost sheep.’

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

~ [Luke 15:3-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015%3A3-7&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“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?

“And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.”

~ [Matthew 18:12-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2018%3A12-13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one.

“Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

“And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

~ [Luke 15:8-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015%3A8-10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come.

“If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

“And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.”

~ [John 16:7-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A7-8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…he commands all people everywhere to repent.

~ [Acts 17:30b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2017%3A30b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

~ [Acts 2:38b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A38b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord…

~ [Acts 3:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%203%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.

Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires.

Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.

~ [Colossians 3:5-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203%3A5-6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

~ [James 1:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%201%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**J****esus Died to Save You…**

…From Your Sin

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

~ [Matthew 1:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

In his name the nations will put their hope.

~ [Matthew 12:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2012%3A21%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners…

~ [1 Timothy 1:15b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%201%3A15b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

~ [Galatians 1:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…that He might deliver us from this present evil age…

~ [Galatians 1:4b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201%3A4b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

The next day John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,

“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

~ [John 1:29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A29&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

~ [1 John 2:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%202%3A2%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

~ [2 Corinthians 5:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%205%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

~ [Romans 3:25a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203%3A25a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

~ [1 John 1:7b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%201%3A7b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

...Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God…

~ [1 Peter 3:18a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%203%3A18a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

~ [Hebrews 1:3b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%201%3A3b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

~ [Hebrews 4:14-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%204%3A14-15%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

~ [Romans 2:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%202%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

~ [Romans 6:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%206%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

~ [Titus 2:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%202%3A13-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

~ [Titus 2:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%202%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body.

As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

~ [Colossians 1:21-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201%3A21-22&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

...the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God.

For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them.

~ [Hebrews 9:14b-15a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%209%3A14b-15a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us…

All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

~ [Revelation 1:5b-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%201%3A5b-6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…From God’s Wrath

…Jesus, whom God raised from the dead…is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

~ [1 Thessalonians 1:10b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%201%3A10b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…who delivers us from the wrath to come.

~ [1 Thessalonians 1:10b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%201%3A10b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ [1 Thessalonians 5:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%205%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

I myself will search and find my sheep.

I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock.

I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark

and cloudy day.”

~ [Ezekiel 34:11-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2034%3A11-12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son,   
how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

~ [Romans 5:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

~ [Romans 5:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father.

He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

~ [1 John 2:1b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%202%3A1b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all…

~ [1 Timothy 2:5-6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%202%3A5-6a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

...because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

~ [Hebrews 7:24-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%207%3A24-25&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him.

He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.

~ [Hebrews 7:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%207%3A25%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Who then will condemn us?

No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.

~ [Romans 8:34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A34&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

~ [Romans 8:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A1&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

~ [Acts 2:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…From Death

Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ [Romans 7:24b-25a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%207%3A24b-25a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~ [Romans 6:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%206%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…[Jesus] broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.

~ [2 Timothy 1:10b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%201%3A10b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood.

For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

~ [Hebrews 2:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%202%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

~ [Acts 2:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=%20Acts%202%3A24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

~ [1 Corinthians 6:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%206%3A14%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus…

~ [2 Corinthians 4:14a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%204%3A14a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Through Christ you have come to trust in God.

And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

~ [1 Peter 1:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A21%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

~ [John 3:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A36&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

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

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

~ [Romans 6:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%206%3A9-11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

~ [Romans 8:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

~ [Romans 5:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many.

But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

~ [Romans 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

~ [1 Corinthians 15:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015%3A22&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ [Romans 5:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him.

This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

~ [Ephesians 1:18-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A18-21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

I pray 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 his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

~ [Ephesians 1:18-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A18-21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

~ [John 20:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2020%3A1&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”

~ [Matthew 28:5-6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2028%3A5-6a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

~ [Luke 24:5b-6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2024%3A5b-6a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.

~ [Acts 2:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A32&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Then he placed his right hand on me and said:

“Do not be afraid.

I am the First and the Last.

I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look,

I am alive for ever and ever!

And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

~ [Revelation 1:17b-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%201%3A17b-18%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

~ [Revelation 20:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us…

~ [2 Corinthians 1:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%201%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

In that day the people will proclaim,

This is our God!

We trusted in him, and he saved us!

This is the Lord, in whom we trusted.

Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!

~ [Isaiah 25:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2025%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**G****od Bought You at a Price**

You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

~ [1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%206%3A19b-20a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

God paid a high price for you, so don’t be enslaved by the world.

~ [1 Corinthians 7:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%207%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…he has purchased us to be his own people.

He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

~ [Ephesians 1:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A14b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors.

And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value.

It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

God chose him as your ransom long before the world began…

~ [1 Peter 1:18b-20a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A18b-20a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written,

“Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

~ [Galatians 3:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%203%3A13-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

~ [Hebrews 12:2b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A2b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches.

“He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father.”

~ [John 14:30-31a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A30-31a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

Just as there were many who were appalled at him—

his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being

and his form marred beyond human likeness—

~ [Isaiah 52:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2052%3A13-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

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.

He was despised and rejected by mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,

each of us has turned to our own way;

and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

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 its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;

for the transgression of my people he was punished.

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.

Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,

he will see his offspring and prolong his days,

and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

After he has suffered,

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.

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 53](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2053&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

~ [Hebrews 9:22b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%209%3A22b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV') (ESV)

…without holiness no one will see the Lord.

~ [Hebrews 12:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A14b%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

~ [Hebrews 13:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2013%3A12%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

With his own blood…he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

~ [Hebrews 9:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%209%3A12%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**I****n Christ You Are Forgiven**

Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

~ [Colossians 2:13b-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%202%3A13b-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

~ [Colossians 1:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201%3A13-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

~ [Acts 13:38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2013%3A38&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.

~ [Psalm 130:7b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20130%3A7b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

~ [Psalm 130:7b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20130%3A7b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…for with the Lord there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.

~ [Psalm 130:7b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20130%3A7b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Praise the Lord, my soul,

and forget not all his benefits-

who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion…

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

~ [Psalm 103:2-4, 11-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20103%3A2-4%2C%2011-12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

In your love you kept me

from the pit of destruction;

you have put all my sins

behind your back.

~ [Isaiah 38:17b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2038%3A17b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”

~ [Isaiah 43:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2043%3A25&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

~ [Hebrews 8:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%208%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord,

“though your sins are like scarlet,

“they shall be as white as snow…”

~ [Isaiah 1:18a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%201%3A18&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;

“I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

~ [Ezekiel 36:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036%3A26&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight.

He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

~ [Romans 3:22-24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203%3A22-24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Blessed is the one

whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one

whose sin the Lord does not count against them…

~ [Psalm 32:1-2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2032%3A1-2a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

“Oh, what joy for those

whose disobedience is forgiven,

whose sins are put out of sight.

Yes, what joy for those

whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”

~ [Romans 4:5-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%204%3A5-8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

~ [Ephesians 4:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204%3A32&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

**G****od Demonstrates His Love Through Christ**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

~ [Romans 5:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A8%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

~ [John 3:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A16%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

~ [1 John 4:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

~ [1 John 4:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

~ [Galatians 2:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%202%3A20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

~ [1 Timothy 1:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%201%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...

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

For I am convinced that

neither death nor life,

neither angels nor demons,

neither the present nor the future,

nor any powers,

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 8:35-39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A35-39&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

~ [Ephesians 3:16-19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%203%3A16-19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

~ [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Thessalonians%202%3A16-17%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.

He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

~ [Ephesians 5:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A1-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children

and walk in the way of love,

just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

~ [Ephesians 5:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A1-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

~ [Romans 5:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A1-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**S****alvation is Through Christ Alone**

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

~ [Acts 4:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%204%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Jesus said to him,

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.

“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

~ [John 14:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“Enter through the narrow gate.

“For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

“But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

~ [Matthew 7:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%207%3A13-14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate.”

~ [Matthew 7:13a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%207%3A13a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”

~ [John 10:9a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A9a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

“All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.

“They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”

~ [John 10:7b-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A7b-9%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

~ [John 10:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

~ [John 10:10b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“I am the good shepherd.

“The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

“A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd…

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me…I sacrifice my life for the sheep.”

~ [John 10:11-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A11-15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“…I lay down my life for the sheep.”

~ [John 10:15b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A15b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.”

~ [John 10:27-29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A27-29&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that   
I should raise them up at the last day.”

~ [John 6:39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A39&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

~ [John 6:47](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A47%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

~ [John 5:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%205%3A24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.”

~ [John 12:47](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A47&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

~ [John 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.”

~ [John 12:46](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A46&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

~ [John 8:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%208%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)b (ESV)

“I am the resurrection and the life.

“Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

~ [John 11:25b-26a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011%3A25b-26a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

~ [John 6:35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A35&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

~ [John 7:37b-38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%207%3A37b-38&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Come, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and he who has no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.”

~ [Isaiah 55:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2055%3A1&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

~ [Revelation 22:17b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A17b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“…unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

~ [John 3:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A5b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!”

Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”

~ [John 13:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“…if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

~ [John 8:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)b (NKJV)

“I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

~ [John 3:3b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A3b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that   
I should raise them up at the last day.”

~ [John 6:39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A39&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

~ [Luke 19:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2019%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

~ [John 3:13-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A13-15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

~ [John 12:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A32%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...”

~ [John 6:44a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A44a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“…no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

~ [John 6:65b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A65b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“…whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”

~ [John 6:37b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A37b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

~ [Matthew 11:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2011%3A28&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence.

~ [Ephesians 3:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%203%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

~ [Romans 3:22a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203%3A22a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

~ [Romans 8:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A1&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins…

~ [1 John 2:1b-2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%202%3A1b-2a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

...because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

~ [Hebrews 7:24-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%207%3A24-25&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV') (NIV)

Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him.

He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.

~ [Hebrews 7:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%207%3A25&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.

~ [Romans 8:34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A34&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all…

~ [1 Timothy 2:5-6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%202%3A5-6a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

~ [2 Corinthians 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%205%3A17%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

“But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.”

~ [Matthew 10:32-33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2010%3A32-33&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

~ [1 John 4:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

~ [1 John 4:15b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A15b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (KJV)

…God abides in him, and he in God.

~ [1 John 4:15b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A15b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

~ [Matthew 19:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2019%3A14b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“…your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.”

~ [Matthew 18:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2018%3A14b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

~ [Luke 18:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2018%3A17%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”

~ [John 8:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“Turn to me and be saved,

all the ends of the earth!

“For I am God,

and there is no other.”

~ [Isaiah 45:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2045%3A22&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior.”

~ [Isaiah 43:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2043%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands…”

~ [Isaiah 49:16a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2049%3A16a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…Jesus came and stood among them and…showed them his hands and side.

~ [John 20:19b-20a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2020%3A19b-20a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)(NIV)

…Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

~ [Hebrews 9:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%209%3A28&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him…

~ [Hebrews 5:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%205%3A9b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

~ [Philippians 2:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202%3A9-11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

~ [1 Peter 1:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

~ [1 Peter 1:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**S****alvation is a Gift: Free and Undeserved**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

~ [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202%3A8-9%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

~ [Ephesians 2:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202%3A9%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

~ [Titus 3:5-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%203%3A5-7&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life.

He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

~ [2 Timothy 1:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%201%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

~ [Ephesians 2:4-5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202%3A4-5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works.

For in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

~ [Romans 11:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2011%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing.”

~ [John 6:63a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A63a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God?

No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith.

~ [Romans 3:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203%3A27&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

~ [Philippians 3:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%203%3A9b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**A****ccept This Gift of Salvation**

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

~ [Romans 10:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2010%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

~ [Romans 10:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2010%3A10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life...

~ [John 3:36a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A36a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“A farmer went out to sow his seed.

“As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

“Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown…

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

“Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

“Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

~ [Luke 8:5-8a, 11-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208%3A5-8a%2C%2011-15%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.

~ [2 Corinthians 6:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%206%3A2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.

~ [Acts 22:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2022%3A16&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out.

Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here.

So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.

~ [Romans 13:11-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2013%3A11-12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

~ [Hebrews 2:3a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%202%3A3a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

God’s promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.

~ [Hebrews 4:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%204%3A1&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

~ [1 Peter 4:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%204%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

Therefore, my beloved…work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...

~ [Philippians 2:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

~ [Mark 16:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2016%3A16&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.”

~ [John 12:48](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A48&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

~ [John 3:18-19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A18-19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”

~ [John 15:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live?

“None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered.

“Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die.”

~ [Ezekiel 18:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2018%3A24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“And I will destroy those who used to worship me but now no longer do.”

~ [Zephaniah 1:6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zephaniah%201%3A6a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought.

If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

~ [1 Chronicles 28:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Chronicles%2028%3A9b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in.

So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree.

But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root. “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.”

Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn’t believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe.

So don’t think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen.

For if God did not spare the original branches, he won’t spare you either. Notice how God is both kind and severe.

He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness.

But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.

~ [Romans 11:17-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2011%3A17-22%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins.

There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God’s mercy to us.

~ [Hebrews 10:26-29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2010%3A26-29&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

It is impossible for those

who have once been enlightened,

who have tasted the heavenly gift,

who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and

who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance.

~ [Hebrews 6:4-6a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%206%3A4-6a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful.

And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.

And don’t forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God’s judgment.

~ [Jude 1:5-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201%3A5-7&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

~ [Hebrews 2:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%202%3A1%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it.

Don’t drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.

~ [Colossians 1:23a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201%3A23a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction.

We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

~ [Hebrews 10:39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2010%3A39&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

~ [Matthew 24:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2024%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…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,

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

~ [Hebrews 12:1b-2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A1b-2a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,

and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith…

~ [Hebrews 12:1b-2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A1b-2a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

~ [Hebrews 3:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%203%3A14%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**Y****ou Belong to God Through Faith in Christ and Have Become His Child**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God.

~ [1 John 5:1a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%205%3A1a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

~ [1 John 3:1a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%203%3A1a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

~ [Ephesians 1:4-5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A4-5%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

~ [John 1:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A12%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…you belong to God, my dear children.

~ [1 John 4:4a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A4a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

~ [1 Corinthians 3:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%203%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

~ [Galatians 3:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%203%3A26&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

~ [Galatians 4:7b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%204%3A7b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

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.

~ [Romans 8:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

“All who are mine belong to you...”

~ [John 17:9-10a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A9-10a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

~ [Ephesians 2:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202%3A18&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

~ [Deuteronomy 7:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%207%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

~ [Romans 1:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=%20Romans%201%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham.

You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.

~ [Galatians 3:29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%203%3A29%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you.

And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit,   
whom he promised long ago.

~ [Ephesians 1:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit…

~ [Ephesians 1:13b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A13b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

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

~ [2 Corinthians 1:21b-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%201%3A21b-22%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

~ [2 Corinthians 1:21b-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%201%3A21b-22%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

~ [1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%201%3A4-5a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

~ [Romans 8:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A9b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

~ [1 John 5:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%205%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…you are a chosen generation,

a royal priesthood,

a holy nation,

His own special people,

that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...

~ [1 Peter 2:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%202%3A9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

~ [Ephesians 1:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A14b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

~ [Ephesians 1:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

~ [1 Peter 4:16b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%204%3A16b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“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.”

~ [John 15:19a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A19a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“…I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

~ [Joshua 1:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%201%3A5b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

~ [Hebrews 13:5b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2013%3A5b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

~ [Romans 14:8b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2014%3A8b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears.

~ [1 John 3:2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%203%3A2a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

You can be sure of this: The Lord set apart the godly for himself.

~ [Psalm 4:3a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%204%3A3a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

~ [Acts 20:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2020%3A32&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**E****ternal Life is Yours Through Christ**

…God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

~ [1 John 5:11b-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%205%3A11b-13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Since [God] did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?

~ [Romans 8:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A32&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father.

He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

~ [Colossians 1:11b-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201%3A11b-12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him.

~ [Ephesians 1:18-19a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A18-19a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

~ [1 John 2:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%202%3A25&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

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.

~ [Ephesians 1:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

~ [2 Corinthians 9:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%209%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

~ [2 Corinthians 9:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%209%3A15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners.

Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

~ [1 Timothy 1:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%201%3A16&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives.

This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.

~ [Titus 1:1b-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%201%3A1b-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

~ [1 Peter 1:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

~ [1 Corinthians 1:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%201%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

~ [1 Corinthians 15:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

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

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

~ [2 Corinthians 4:17-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%204%3A17-18&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...

~ [Titus 2:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%202%3A13&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Then [Christ’s apostles] gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky?

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

~ [Acts 1:6-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%201%3A6-11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown.

For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever.

And we who are living will also be transformed.

~ [1 Corinthians 15:52](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015%3A52&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

~ [1 Thessalonians 4:16-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%204%3A16-18&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

~ [Colossians 3:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203%3A4%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own…

~ [Philippians 3:21a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%203%3A21a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

But those who die in the Lord will live;

their bodies will rise again!

Those who sleep in the earth

will rise up and sing for joy!

For your life-giving light will fall like dew

on your people in the place of the dead!

~ [Isaiah 26:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2026%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return.

They will enter Jerusalem singing,

crowned with everlasting joy.

Sorrow and mourning will disappear,

and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

~ [Isaiah 51:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2051%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.

~ [Ecclesiastes 3:11b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes%203%3A11b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

~ [Revelation 22:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers.

But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

~ [Romans 2:6-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%202%3A6-8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

~ [1 Timothy 6:17-19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%206%3A17-19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.

A man reaps what he sows.

Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction;

whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

~ [Galatians 6:7-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%206%3A7-8%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.

“Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

~ [Revelation 14:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2014%3A13a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)b (ESV)

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will…

~ [Ephesians 1:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

…keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

~ [Jude 1:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you.

~ [Daniel 12:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel%2012%3A13%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.

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.

~ [2 Timothy 4:7-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20timothy%204%3A7-8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

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.

~ [2 Timothy 4:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%204%3A18%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

**H****eaven Is Your Home**

You make known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

~ [Psalm 16:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2016%3A11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

~ [Psalm 139:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20139%3A24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

~ [Psalm 139:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20139%3A24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.

~ [Psalm 73:23-24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2073%3A23-24&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.

~ [Luke 1:78-79](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A78-79&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

~ [1 Corinthians 2:9b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%202%3A9b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Then He who sat on the throne said,

“Behold, I make all things new.”

~ [Revelation 21:5a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A5a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“See, I will create

new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,

nor will they come to mind.

“But be glad and rejoice forever

in what I will create,

for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight

and its people a joy.

“I will rejoice over Jerusalem

and take delight in my people;

the sound of weeping and of crying

will be heard in it no more.”

~ [Isaiah 65:17-19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2065%3A17-19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,

neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,

for the former things have passed away.

~ [Revelation 21:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A4&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.

~ [Psalm 23:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2023%3A6&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

Surely you have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

~ [Psalm 21:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2021%3A6%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Jesus answered him,

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

~ [Luke 23:43](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2023%3A43&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“…rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

~ [Luke 10:20b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010%3A20b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

~ [John 6:40](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A40&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.

“I go to prepare a place for you.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

~ [John 14:2-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A2-3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“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.”

~ [John 15:19a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A19a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

“Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

~ [Revelation 22:14-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A14-15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven…

~ [Matthew 5:10-12a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205%3A10-12a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.”

~ [Luke 6:22-23a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206%3A22-23a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Look, I am coming soon!

“My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

~ [Revelation 22:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A12&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“And be sure of this:

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

~ [Matthew 28:20b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2028%3A20b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“So don’t be afraid, little flock.

“For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”

~ [Luke 12:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012%3A32&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Jesus answered,

“My kingdom is not of this world.”

~ [John 18:36a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A36a%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

All your works praise you, Lord;

your faithful people extol you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom

and speak of your might,

so that all people may know of your mighty acts

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and your dominion endures through all generations.

~ [Psalm 145:10-13a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20145%3A10-13a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

~ [Daniel 7:14b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel%207%3A14b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken…

~ [Hebrews 12:28a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A28a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.

~ [Hebrews 12:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2012%3A28&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

“When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

~ [Matthew 13:44](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A44&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

“When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

~ [Matthew 13:45-46](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A45-46&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

“Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree…”

~ [Matthew 13:31b-32a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A31b-32a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

“When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore.

“Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.”

~ [Matthew 13:47-48](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A47-48&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Jesus also used this illustration: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread.

“Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”

~ [Matthew 13:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A33&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

~ [Matthew 16:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2016%3A19&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

“But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

“When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

“‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

“‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.

“Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’” …

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom.

“The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

“The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.”

~ [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A24-30%2C%2036-40&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.

“Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’

“But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

“Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’

“And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good.

“So the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

~ [Matthew 22:1-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2022%3A1-10&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God.

“And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.”

~ [Luke 13:29-30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013%3A29-30&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

~ [Matthew 7:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%207%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

~ [Matthew 22:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2022%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

“All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,

I was a stranger and you invited me in,

I needed clothes and you clothed me,

I was sick and you looked after me,

I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

~ [Matthew 25:31-40](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2025%3A31-40&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing.

He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.”

~ [Matthew 21:28-31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2021%3A28-31&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”

~ [Luke 12:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012%3A33&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you…”

~ [John 6:27a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A27a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

~ [Matthew 6:19-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%206%3A19-21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

~ [Revelation 2:7b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%202%3A7b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations…  
I will also give that one the morning star.”

~ [Revelation 2:26-28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%202%3A26-28&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

~ [Revelation 3:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%203%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven.

“And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”

~ [Revelation 2:17b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%202%3A17b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it.”

~ [Revelation 3:12a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%203%3A12a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.”

~ [Revelation 2:11b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%202%3A11b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“All who are victorious will be clothed in white.

“I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.”

~ [Revelation 3:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%203%3A5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.”

~ [Revelation 21:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A7%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

~ [1 Peter 1:3b-5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A3b-5&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…make every effort to

add to your faith goodness;

and to goodness, knowledge;

and to knowledge, self-control;

and to self-control, perseverance;

and to perseverance, godliness;

and to godliness, mutual affection;

and to mutual affection, love.

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….

For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~ [2 Peter 1:5b-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%201%3A5b-11&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies

will spread a wonderful feast

for all the people of the world.

It will be a delicious banquet

with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.

There he will remove the cloud of gloom,

the shadow of death that hangs over the earth.

He will swallow up death forever!

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears.

He will remove forever all insults and mockery

against his land and people.

The Lord has spoken!

~ [Isaiah 25:6-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2025%3A6-8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

“In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;

the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.

“The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,

and a little child will lead them all.

“The cow will graze near the bear.

 The cub and the calf will lie down together.

 The lion will eat hay like a cow…

“Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain…”

~ [Isaiah 11:6-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2011%3A6-9&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV)a (NLT)

…the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

~ [Romans 8:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering.

We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

~ [Romans 8:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand.

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

~ [Colossians 3:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203%3A1-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

…seek the things that are above…

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

~ [Colossians 3:1b-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203%3A1-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

~ [Philippians 3:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%203%3A20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

…we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.

~ [2 Corinthians 5:1b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%205%3A1b&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

~ [Hebrews 11:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A16%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

~ [Hebrews 13:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2013%3A14&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

~ [Revelation 21:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A1-2&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

~ [Revelation 21:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A27&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

~ [Revelation 21:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life…

~ [Revelation 22:1-2a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A1-2a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.

I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne.

And the books were opened, including the Book of Life.

And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.

The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead.

And all were judged according to their deeds.

Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.

And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

~ [Revelation 20:11-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020%3A11-15&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me,

“It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

“But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates…

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

~ Excerpts from [Revelation 21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city…

The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true…Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near…Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue   
to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

“Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches…”

Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

~ [Revelation 22:1-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A1-17&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

~ [Ephesians 3:20-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%203%3A20-21&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.

All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

~ [Jude 1:24-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201%3A24-25&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NLT)

**T****he First Recorded Proclamations of the Gospel**

*See the book of Acts to read about the explosive growth of Christianity due to the Gospel message preached by the early church.*

*Below are the first of these messages as recorded in Acts.*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all togetherin one place.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearingJews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lordwill be saved.

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

“This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

“But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him…

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

“Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear…

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

“And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

~ [Acts 2:14-41](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A14-41&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

“You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

“You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

“They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”

So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

~ [Acts 10:34-48a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2010%3A34-48a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!

“The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. All this took about 450 years.

“After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

“Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

“Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

“The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb.

“But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

“We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus…

“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.”

~ [Acts 13:16-38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2013%3A16-38&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said:

“People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’

As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

At that, Paul left the Council.

Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

~ [Acts 17:22-34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2017%3A22-34%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them:

“You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.

“I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you.

“For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

“Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

“I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

“I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

~ [Acts 20:17-38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2020%3A17-38%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.”

So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense: “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.

“The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee.

“And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this hope that these Jews are accusing me.

“Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

“On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles.

“I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike.

“I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

~ [Acts 26:6-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2026%3A1-23&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

**P****reaching the Gospel**

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

~ [Galatians 3:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%203%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

The Lord had said to Abram,

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

~ [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2012%3A1-3&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

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:

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

~ [2 Timothy 4:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3A1-2+&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

~ [Galatians 1:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201%3A11%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

…I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

~ [Acts 20:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+20%3A27&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (ESV)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me…

~ [1 Corinthians 15:1-8a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015%3A1-8a&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

~ [Galatians 1:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%201%3A8&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NKJV)

For the time will come when people 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. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

~ [2 Timothy 4:3-4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%204%3A3-4%20&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ…stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel…

~ [Philippians 1:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3A27+&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

~ [Matthew 24:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24%3A14+&version=NIV;NLT;ESV;NKJV;KJV) (NIV)