So here's the most crucial invitation of your life. If you haven't accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, why not do it now? Express your confession that you know you're a sinner. You know that sinners without repentance cannot enter into heaven to live with the Lord when they die. If you want Jesus to live inside your heart now, you only have to ask Him. You can pray:

Dear Lord, I know I've done wrong. I want You to live in me and walk with me. Please come into my heart and cleanse me of all evil. Thank You for answering this prayer. Amen.

That's it. If you sincerely prayed that, you just "got saved"! Wasn't it painless? Jesus took all your sins and pushed the delete button on His holy computer. He instantly cleaned your contaminated heart and replaced it with a heart of righteousness.

## Scriptures of Joy and Hope

The following scriptures from the English Standard Version of the Bible will guide you in seeking, acknowledging, and experiencing God's righteousness.

- The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and *righteous* altogether (Psalm 19:7-9).
- [God,] send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! (Psalm 43:3).
- I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you (Psalm 119:11).

- Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors (Psalm 119:24).
- Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).
- The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130).
- For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life (John 6:63).
- Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).
- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in *righteousness*, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17).
- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).
- Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of

- perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God (1 Peter 1:22-23).
- His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire (2 Peter 1:3-4).

And look at what these scriptures from the New King James Version say about righteousness and a clean heart.

- You will *seek* the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you *seek* Him with all your *heart* and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them (Deuteronomy 4:29-31).
- The LORD searches all *hearts* and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you *seek* Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever (1 Chronicles 28:9).
- Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him (Psalm 28:6-7).
- When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of

summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin (Psalm 32:3-5).

- He who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you *righteous*; and shout for joy, all you upright in *heart!* (Psalm 32:10-11).
- Create in me a clean *heart*, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit (Psalm 51:10-12).
- In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your *heart* before Him; God is a refuge for us (Psalm 62:7-8).
- The *righteous* shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in *heart* shall glory (Psalm 64:10).
- Trust in the LORD with all your *heart*, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18).
- Keep your *heart* with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil (Proverbs 4:20-27).

- [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:5-6).
- The *heart* is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the *heart*, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings (Jeremiah 17:9-10).
- "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "turn to Me with all your *heart*, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your *heart*, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm (Joel 2:12-13).
- A good man out of the good treasure of his *heart* brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his *heart* brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the *heart* his mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).
- You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing (John 15:3-5).
- The *righteousness* of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the *righteousness* of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified

freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His *righteousness*, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His *righteousness*, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21-26).

- If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your *heart* that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the *heart* one believes unto *righteousness*, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame" (Romans 10:9-11).
- For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the *righteousness* of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).
- Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near [to God] with a true *heart* in full assurance of faith, having our *hearts* sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:19,22-23).
- 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, who for the joy that was set before Him endured

- the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives (Hebrews 12:5).
- Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:17-18).
- My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our *hearts* before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another...He who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us (1 John 3:18-24).

# Keeping First Things First

The breastplate of righteousness is the protective covering over our hearts that keeps out the dangers of faulty emotions and the schemes and lies of Satan. When our hearts are clean of dirt and debris and from all unrighteousness, we can think, envision, touch, and taste the goodness of God and keep first things first. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

#### God's Truth

Before we can preach and teach the truth, we must know what the Bible says about the truth of God. Here is a small sampling of the wonderful truths we find in Scripture. These truths focus on the totality of who God is and what He has done. I've adapted this list from Elwin and Margit Roach's Pathfinder website:

#### 49 Old Testament Truths

- Isaiah 46:10—God will do all His pleasure.
- Daniel 4:35—God's will done in heaven and earth, none can stop Him.
- Proverbs 16:9—Man devises, but God directs his steps.
- Proverbs 19:21—Man devises, but God's counsel stands.
- Proverbs 16:33—The whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.
- Psalm 37:23—The steps of man are ordered of God.
- Psalm 33:10—The LORD bringeth the counsel and devices of the heathen and the people to naught and of none effect.
- Psalm 33:15—God fashions all hearts.
- Job 5:17-18—God wounds then He makes whole.
- Hosea 6:1-2—God tears, but in the third day He heals.
- Deuteronomy 32:39—God kills and makes alive, He wounds but then heals.
- Psalm 90:3—God turns man to destruction, then says return.
- Jeremiah 18:2-6—God mars vessels and then remakes them.
- Lamentations 3:31-32—God will not cast off forever.
- Psalm 102:18-20—God will loosen those appointed to death.
- Isaiah 2:2—All nations will flow to the Lord's house.

- Joel 3:21—God will cleanse blood not cleansed.
- Genesis 18:18—All families of the earth will be blessed.
- Isaiah 45:22—All the earth commanded to look and be saved.
- Isaiah 45:23—To God *all* will bow and every tongue swear.
- Isaiah 40:3-5—Highway of God enables all flesh to see His glory.
- Psalm 138:4—All kings will praise God.
- Psalm 72:17—All nations will call Him blessed.
- Psalm 86:9—All nations will worship God and all men blessed.
- Isaiah 52:10—All earth will see the salvation of God.
- Psalm 65:2-4—All flesh will come to God.
- Isaiah 11:9—The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.
- Psalm 66:3-4—Enemies will submit and all earth will worship.
- Isaiah 19:14-25—Egypt and Assyria will be restored.
- Ezekiel 16:55—Sodom will be restored.
- Psalm 68:18—God will lead captivity captive and dwell in man.
- Isaiah 54:5—He will be called the God of the whole earth.
- Psalm 22:25-29—All will remember and turn to the Lord.
- Psalm 145:9-10—God is good to all and merciful to His works.
- Psalm 145:14—Raises all that fall and all that be bowed down.

- Psalm 145:15—Eyes of all wait upon God, and He gives them meat in due season.
- Psalm 145:16—The Lord will satisfy desire of all living.
- Psalm 145:9—The Lord is good to all.
- Psalm 145:10—All God's works shall praise Him.
- Psalm 24:1—The Earth is the Lord's and the *fullness* thereof, and they who dwell therein.
- Isaiah 25:6—The Lord will make unto all people a feast.
- Isaiah 25:7—He will destroy the veil that's cast over all.
- Isaiah 25:8—He will swallow up death in victory.
- Isaiah 25:8—He will wipe away tears from all faces.
- Jeremiah 32:35—It never entered His mind to pass sons and daughters through the fire of Molech.
- Psalm 135:6—The Lord did what pleased Him in heaven, earth, and the sea.
- Isaiah 26:9—When God's judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants will learn righteousness.
- Isaiah 53:11—He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied.
- Genesis 12:3—All families of the earth shall be blessed.

#### 53 New Testament Truths

- Ephesians 1:11—God works all things after the counsel of His will.
- John 8:29—Jesus always does that which pleases His Father.
- 1 Timothy 2:4—God wants all to be saved.

- 1 John 4:14—Jesus sent to be the Savior of the world.
- John 4:34—Jesus to do the will of God who sent Him.
- John 12:47—Jesus came to save all.
- 1 Timothy 2:6—Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all.
- John 5:36—He will finish the works He was sent to do.
- John 4:42—Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- John 12:32—Jesus will draw all to Himself.
- Hebrews 7:25—Jesus is able to save to the uttermost.
- Colossians 1:15—Jesus was the firstborn of all creation.
- Colossians 1:16—By Him all things were created.
- Romans 5:15-21—In Adam all condemned; in Christ all live.
- 1 Corinthians 15:22—In Adam all die; in Christ all live.
- Ephesians 1:10—All come into Him at the fullness of times.
- 1 Corinthians 15:26—Death, the last enemy, will be destroyed.
- Philippians 2:9-11—Every tongue shall confess Jesus is Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 12:3—No one can confess Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- Romans 11:26—All Israel will be saved.
- Act 3:20-21—Restitution (reconstitution) of all.
- Luke 2:10—Jesus will be joy to all people.
- Ephesians 2:7—His grace will be shown in the ages to come.
- Hebrews 8:11-12—All will know God.

- Luke 3:6—All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
- Titus 2:11—Grace has appeared to all.
- Romans 8:19-21—Creation freed from corruption.
- Colossians 1:20—All reconciled to God.
- 1 Corinthians 4:5—All will have praise of God.
- James 5:11—The Lord is full of mercy.
- Revelation 15:4—All nations worship when judgments seen.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17—All become new creations in Christ.
- Romans 11:32—All subjected to unbelief; God's mercy on all.
- Romans 11:36—All out of God, through Him, and into Him.
- Ephesians 4:10—Jesus will fill all things.
- Revelation 5:13—All creation praises God.
- 1 Corinthians 15:28—God will be all in all.
- Revelation 21:4-5—No more tears; all things made new.
- John 5:25—All dead who hear will live.
- John 5:28—All in the grave will hear and come forth.
- John 6:39—And this is the Father's; I should lose nothing.
- 1 Corinthians 3:15—All saved, yet dross gone via fire.
- Mark 9:49—Everyone shall be seasoned with fire.
- 2 Corinthians 5:15—Jesus died for all.
- 1 John 2:2—Jesus is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world.
- Romans 11:15—Reconciliation of the world.

- Hebrews 2:2—He is the heir of all things.
- John 3:35—All has been given into His hand.
- John 17:2—Jesus will give eternal life to all that His Father gives Him.
- John 6:44-45—All to be taught of God; everyone who hears and learns will come.
- 1 Timothy 4:9-11—Jesus is the Savior of all.
- Acts 13:47—Salvation unto the ends of the earth.
- Galatians 3:8—All nations shall be blessed.1

### The Best Way to Discover Truth

The only real truth in the world is the truth that comes from the heart of God. Following any other alleged truth will mislead and confuse. It can be difficult to distinguish fact from fallacy. The more we discover what the Bible says about truth, the better we can keep on the path of truth.

Fasten God's truth in your heart and mind so you won't sin against God.

Remember: The *truth* is that our battle against our enemy has already been won! So don't wait to rejoice in the Lord. Do it now!



The Bible is the voice of God, our source of truth and wisdom, and our guide to winning. Here's a list of scriptures from the New American Standard Bible to give you strength, encouragement, and ammunition as you fight the good fight of faith and be victorious over the devil.

#### Believe in God

- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins (Act 10: 43).
- It is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed" (Romans 9:33).

- As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).
- He who believes in [Jesus] is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:18).
- He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him (John 3:36).
- Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household (Acts 16:31).
- I [Jesus] have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness (John 12:46).
- Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst" (John 6:35).
- Jesus said to him, "'If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23).
- Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29).
- Truly, truly, I [Jesus] say to you, he who believes has eternal life (John 6:47).
- Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him (Romans 6:8).
- The Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe (Galatians 3:22).

- For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:14).
- For this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life (1 Timothy 1:16).
- This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us (1 John 3:23).
- Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe (Jude 5).
- For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Philippians 1:29).

#### God's Faithfulness

- You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word (Psalm 119:65).
- Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
- "For this is like the days of Noah to Me, when I swore that the waters of Noah would not flood the earth again; so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you nor will I rebuke you. For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the LORD who has compassion on you (Isaiah 54:9-10).

- When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth (Genesis 9:16).
- Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you (Genesis 28:15).
- [Know] that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9).
- You know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed (Joshua 23:14).
- Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies (Psalm 36:5).
- I will sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever; to all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth. For I have said, "Lovingkindness will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness" (Psalm 89:1-2).
- But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips (Psalm 89:33-34).
- He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber (Psalm 121:3-4).

- God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:9).
- No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).
- If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself...Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness" (2 Timothy 2:13,19).

#### God's Grace and Favor

- And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).
- Do not let kindness and truth leave you...You will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man (Proverbs 3:3-4).
- For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11).
- You have granted me life and lovingkindness; and Your care has preserved my spirit (Job 10:12).

- It is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield (Psalm 5:12).
- The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD, the small together with the great (Psalm 115:12-13).
- Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence...It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it...What the wicked fears will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted (Proverbs 10:6,22,24).
- For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:15).
- To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6).
- Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

## Our Hope and Faith

- Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God (Psalm 42:11).
- [Jesus] has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God (1 Peter 1:20-21).

- Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13).
- Beloved, now we are children of God...we know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3).
- The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, but the righteous has a refuge when he dies (Proverbs 14:32).
- God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).
- Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD (Psalm 31:24).
- You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth (Psalm 71:5).
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).

#### Trust in God

- Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and trust in the LORD (Psalm 4:5).
- Those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You (Psalm 9:10).
- My God, in You I trust, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies exult over me (Psalm 25:2).
- I trust in the LORD (Psalm 31:6).

- As for me, I trust in You, O LORD, I say, "You are my God" (Psalm 31:14).
- Our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name (Psalm 33:21).
- Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness (Psalm 37:3).
- Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He will do it (Psalm 37:5).
- He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD. How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into false-hood (Psalm 40:3-4).
- I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever (Psalm 52:8).
- When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4).
- Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us (Psalm 62:8).
- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).
- Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock (Isaiah 26:4).

#### Wait on the Lord

- My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him (Psalm 62:5).
- Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield (Psalm 33:20).

- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23).
- For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end (Hebrews 3:14).
- It will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation" (Isaiah 25:9).
- Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land (Psalm 37:7-9).
- I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD (Psalm 40:1-3).
- The LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him (Isaiah 30:18).
- None of those who wait for [God] will be ashamed; those
  who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.
  Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.
  Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of
  my salvation; for You I wait all the day (Psalm 25:3-5).

- Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD (Psalm 27:14).
- The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:25-26).
- As for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me (Micah 7:7).
- My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken (Psalm 62:5-6).
- The LORD sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time (Psalm 145:14-15).
- Return to your God, observe kindness and justice, and wait for your God continually (Hosea 12:6).

#### The Wisdom of God

- But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him (James 1:5).
- He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths (Isaiah 2:3).
- To a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy (Ecclesiastes 2:26).
- I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; indeed, my mind instructs me in the night (Psalm 16:7).
- Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up

sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity (Proverbs 2:5-6).

- Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom (Psalm 51:6).
- We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life (1 John 5:20).
- For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all things (Proverbs 28:5).

# Fight the Good Fight of Faith

- To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).
- Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I [Jesus] have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers (Luke 22:31-32).
- Let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:12-14).

• You were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."...I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:13-14, 16-25).

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:1-7).

• If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:21-32).

• Be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ (Ephesians 5:1-21).

 Flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition (2 Timothy 2:22-25).

 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded...Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor? (James 4:7-8, 10-12).

- In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:6-9).
- Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:13-16).
- Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange

thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you...If anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name...Those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right (1 Peter 4:12-14,16,19).

- Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you (1 Peter 5:8-10).
- False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to

destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation (2 Peter 2:1-9).

- Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints (Jude 3).
- You, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life (Jude 17-21).
- And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him

because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them" (Revelation 12:7-12).