

**John 17:3 (NASB 2020)** <sup>3</sup>“**And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**” (*Jesus is life (Jn. 1:4). When we remain in Him through repentance and faith, we have eternal life (1 Jn. 5:11-12). The evidence that we now have this right relationship with God is that we continue to follow Jesus and His commands. See also John 15:1-10*)

**1 John 2:3–6 (NASB 2020)** "3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says that he remains in Him ought, himself also, walk just as He walked." *(This is describing what true repentance and faith should produce in our life. The evidence that we know God is that we follow Jesus and His commands. See also 1 John 3:23-24, Matt. 7:21-27)*

**Matthew 22:37–40 (NASB 2020)** <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “ ‘**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.**’ <sup>38</sup> “This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> “The second is like it, ‘**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**’ <sup>40</sup> “Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”” (*God calls us to love Him with a pure heart and mind, where we remove all sin and competitions that hinder our love for Him. We practically do this by learning and obeying His commands. We should also seek to love others by following God’s commands of how to treat them. See also Deut. 6:4-9, John 14:15, 21-23*)

**John 8:31–32 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **“If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**”  
*(As Jesus' followers (disciples), we should seek to study, memorize, and apply His word to all areas of our life because we love Him and desire to do the things that are pleasing to Him. His word teaches us the truth that will set us free from Satan's lies and the sinful ways of this world. See also Col. 1:9-12, Psa. 119:9-11)*

**James 1:21–22 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>21</sup> Therefore, ridding *yourselves* of all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves." (*Jesus described love for Him as obeying His commands (Jn. 14:15). To obey Him, we need to first learn His word, and we also need to humble ourselves and submit to His authority so that we obey Him. This is the path that leads to life and will save our souls in the end. See also Jn. 14:21-24, Rom. 2:13, 1 Cor. 7:19*)

**1 Peter 2:1–2 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid *yourselves* of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup> and like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation," (*We should long for God's word as a baby longs for milk because it helps us grow in our faith and gives us knowledge of God's will so that we can live a life pleasing to Him. Stop and think if you see God's word in this way. See also John 17:17, Psalm 1:1-3, Col. 3:16*)

**Acts 3:19 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>19</sup> “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;”

**Acts 3:22–23 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>22</sup> “Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR COUNTRYMEN; TO HIM YOU SHALL LISTEN regarding everything He says to you. <sup>23</sup> ‘And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’”

**Acts 3:26 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>26</sup> God raised up His Servant for you first, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one *of you* from your wicked ways.”  
*(This teaches us that repentance is necessary for salvation. Repentance should lead us to turn from our wicked ways and turn to following Jesus and His ways. See also Romans 2:4-11, Matt. 7:17-27).*

**Romans 3:23 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (*This is what we refer to as the Bad News of our problem with sin. This is an important part of the Gospel of the Kingdom because no one can save themselves by their good deeds because we have all sinned against God and are guilty before Him on Judgment Day. The only way we can be made right with God is if He chooses to no longer hold our sins against us (Rom. 4:6-8). The only way we can receive this right standing with God is through repentance and faith in Jesus. See also Rom. 3:9-10, Luke 24:46-47.*)

**Romans 6:23 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." *(This verse teaches us the serious nature of sin. Sin is so serious to God that He says that our sins deserve death, which is speaking of both physical death and spiritual separation from God (Isa. 59:2). But when we repent and follow Jesus by faith, we are freed from our sins and we have eternal life. See also Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 8:5-13.)*

**1 John 5:2–4 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and follow His commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith." (*Love is a commitment to doing what is right in God's eyes towards Him and others, with good motives, and a good heart attitude. This is why it's important to learn and apply His word. Then we can live out His commands and truly love Him and others, which are the two greatest commandments in the Kingdom. See also 2 John 1:6, Rom. 13:8-10*)

**1 John 3:16–18 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers *and sisters*. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother *or sister* in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let's not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." (*Jesus is the perfect example of love. He was willing to lay down His life for us. So we should be willing to practically help our brothers and sisters who are in need, and not just say nice things. True love for God and others produces actions of obedience to His ways, and a genuine desire for the good of others. See also Matt. 5:42-48, James 2:14-17*)

**Matthew 6:9–13 (NASB 2020)** "9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'" *(This is known as the Lord's Prayer. It is a good model to use while praying. God is awesome (hallowed means holy or set apart). We should seek to do His will, give Him thanks for provisions, ask forgiveness for our sins, and ask for protection from Satan. See also 1 John 3:21-22, John 15:7)*

**Romans 6:15–18 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>15</sup> What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the Law but under grace? Far from it! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that *the one* to whom you present yourselves *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of *that same one* whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to *that* form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup> and after being freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness." (*Jesus set us free, not so that we can continue in sin, but so that we can now be obedient from the heart to God's ways. Jesus said that we can only have one master (Matt. 6:24). If we continue to obey sin, it is our master, and this leads to death. Instead, God should be our Master, and we should submit to following His way of righteousness. See also 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Rom. 7:5-6*)

**Galatians 5:22–25 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit as well." *(These attributes are what the Holy Spirit produces in our lives as we follow Jesus by faith and submit to His working in our lives. The "flesh" (in v24) represents the sinful ways of the world that we as believers are supposed to put to death (crucify) in our lives. See also 1 Cor. 13:4-8, Col. 3:12-15)*

**1 Peter 1:22 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>22</sup> Since you have purified your souls in obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brothers *and* sisters, fervently love one another from the heart," (*The second greatest command is that we love others. God wants this to be a genuine love from the heart, where we truly desire their good, and where we turn from any sinful thoughts, words, or actions towards others. And among believers, our love should be to an even higher level. See also John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:16-18*).

**Matthew 28:18–20 (NASB 2020)** <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup> “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”” *(This is known as the “Great Commission.” As followers of Jesus, this is our responsibility, and we should plan our life around fulfilling this Mission of Jesus. In order to be ready for this important Mission, we need to first be diligent to learn the Bible ourselves and apply it to our own lives, so that we can then go out and properly teach others how to obey the truth. See also Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Luke 24:47)*

**1 Timothy 2:3–6 (NASB 2020)** "3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and mankind, *the* man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time." *(This passage teaches us two important theological truths; that God genuinely desires all people to be saved, and that Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for ALL people. God's will is also that they come to the knowledge of the truth, which is why discipleship is important. See also 1 John 2:2, 2 Peter 3:9)*

**1 John 2:15–17 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues *to live* forever." (*The sinful ways of this world are in opposition to God and His ways. The lusts of our flesh and eyes, and the boastful pride of life lead us to sin. This is why we are to no longer live for our lustful desires, but instead we are to put sin to death and seek to love God and follow His ways. See also Col. 3:5-11, Rom. 8:12-14*).

**Matthew 7:13–14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” *(Jesus is the narrow gate, as He is the only way to have a right relationship with God (John 14:6). Jesus calls us to repent and follow Him and His ways. This is the “constricted” or hard path that leads to life. The path is hard because we have to continue to turn from sin, continue to submit to Jesus and His ways, and endure suffering and persecution for His name, for the rest of our life. But thankfully He has given us His Spirit to help us, and the truth of His word to teach us the right way. See Matt. 7:21-27, 2 Pet. 1:3-4.)*

**1 Peter 2:24 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>24</sup> and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed." *(The goal of Christ dying a horrible death for our sins was not that we can have a free pass to heaven and continue living in sin. He died for us so that we would repent and die to sin and now live to righteousness. This is from Isa. 53:5-6. See also Rom. 6:11-18, Acts 3:26)*

**1 John 4:19 (NASB2020)** “We love, because He first loved us.” (*It’s important to remember that it is because of God’s love that we can now love Him and others. He loved us first by sending Jesus to die for our sins even when we were living in rebellion against Him. As we grow in our understanding of His love for us, this should help us become like Him, and should lead us to desire to love as He loves. See also 1 John 4:10, John 3:14-21*)

**Romans 5:8–10 (NASB 2020)** "8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." *(This is an important part of the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom. God showed His love to us even while we were His enemies who were living in sin. We can now be saved from His wrath because of what Jesus did for us at the cross, if we continue to follow Him by faith. This Good News should lead us to be extremely thankful to God for all He has done for us in Christ. See also Eph. 2:1-7, Col. 1:21-23)*

**1 Peter 1:13–16 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; <sup>16</sup> because it is written: “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”” (*God is holy and He desires for us to be a holy people who do His will and bring Him glory. In order for us to learn to live this holy lifestyle, we need to learn the truth that will set us free from sin (John 8:31-32), and keep our minds prepared for action. See also Lev. 19:2, Matt. 5:48, 2 Cor. 7:1)*)

**1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>15</sup> See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek what is good for one another and for all people." *(There are two important foundational truths taught in this one sentence. The first is that as God's people, we are called to be holy and set apart from sin, so we should never do evil to anyone for any reason, regardless of how they treat us. The second truth is that we should actively be seeking to do good. Love is a desire for the good of another. So as we grow in love, we should be growing in a desire to do good to one another, and to all people, because we desire their good.)*

**Ephesians 5:1–2 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; <sup>2</sup> 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." *(Our identity in Christ is that we are dearly loved children of God. It is out of a place of relationship with God where we experience His love that we are then able to walk in love. When we understand this identity and the love God has for us, we will then be able to imitate God's love towards those around us. See also John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:10-11)*

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." *(This is a great verse about who we are in Christ. The old us is gone and we are now made new by the Spirit of God. This is what happens when we are born again. See also John 1:12-13, Romans 6:1-7)*

**1 John 4:4 (NASB 2020)** "4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (*Christ is in us, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). We have the Spirit of the living God, the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead, living inside of us. He is greater than any demonic power, greater than any lies, and greater than any sin. We can overcome everything in this dark world through Him. See also 1 John 5:2-5, Rom. 8:10-17)*)

**Luke 12:4–5 (NASB 2020)** "4 "Now I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed *someone*, has *the* power to throw *that person* into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" (*Context: In this passage, Jesus is talking specifically to His disciples. He is warning them that as Christians we will face persecution from people, which could cause us to fall away from the faith. This is why we need to fear God and not people. See also Matt. 10:16-31, 24:9-14*)

**1 Peter 2:11 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge *you* as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul." (*Our fleshly desires are things we desire that are in opposition to God's will. When we desire these sinful ways, it wars against our love for God, and can destroy our faith. This is why we need to remove these things from our life. See also Col. 3:5-11, Rom. 8:5-14*)

**2 Corinthians 7:1 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let's cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." *(The promises he is referring to come from chapter 6 where it says that God will dwell among us and we will be His children. Because of God's great love for us, we should respond by seeking to be perfectly holy. We should cleanse ourselves of all sin, and fear the Lord so that we will turn away from evil (Prov. 3:7). See also 1 Peter 1:13-17, Heb. 12:28-29)*

**1 Corinthians 13:4–8a (NASB 2020)** "4 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. 5 It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own *benefit*; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong *suffered*, 6 it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails...." (*Love is more than a feeling. Love looks like obeying God's commands (1 John 5:2-4), and it also looks like having a loving heart attitude that is patient and kind. If we do good actions but are rude towards the person, they may not experience God's love through us. See also 1 Thess. 5:14-15, 1 Pet. 3:8-12)*)

**John 14:15 (NASB2020)** “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” *(If we love Jesus, we should submit to Him as King and Lord and seek to follow all of His ways. Jesus said this same thing in different ways five times in John chapters 14 & 15, which shows the importance of our obedience to Him. See also John 14:21, 23, 15:10, 14)*

**Matthew 7:21–23 (NASB 2020)** <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. <sup>22</sup> “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” *(Jesus is describing what true faith should produce, which is us doing the will of the Father (v21) and not practicing lawlessness (v23). This is an important passage for our society where many claim to be Christians but don't do God's will, and instead live in lawlessness (sin). See also James 2:14-25, Gal. 5:19-21, Titus 1:15-16)*

**Philippians 2:3–5 (NASB 2020)** "3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests*, but also for the *interests* of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus," (*This is a good practical example of what loving others looks like. We are to be humble and be willing to serve others and consider their interests above our own. See also Rom. 12:9-18, 1 John 3:16-24*)

**John 14:6 (NASB 2020)** "6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." *(This verse is important because here Jesus divides Christianity from every other religion. Jesus clearly makes the claim that He is the only way to God (the Father). Jesus is the only way to have our sins forgiven and be made right with God, and there is no other religion that will result in eternal salvation. See also Acts 4:12, 1 Tim 2:3-6, 1 Jn. 5:9-12)*

**1 Peter 5:5–7 (NASB 2020)** "5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you." *(Humility leads us to submit ourselves under God's rule which is why those who are humble receive grace and inherit His Kingdom. Also notice that God cares for you, and you can bring all of your anxiety to Him. See also James 4:4-10, Matt. 18:1-4)*

**Matthew 5:21–22 (NASB 2020)** <sup>21</sup> “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.’ <sup>22</sup> “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty *enough to go into the fiery hell.*” (*God is concerned with not only our outward actions, but also the attitude of our heart. He wants us to love Him and others from our heart. This is why we need to remove all anger and bitterness from our heart. See also 1 John 3:14-15, James 1:19-20*)

**Ephesians 4:31 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>31</sup> All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice." *(God desires for our heart to be filled with love for Him and others. If we allow anger or bitterness into our heart, these things keep us from loving others as God desires. See also Col. 3:8-16, Rom. 12:14-21)*

**Matthew 5:27–30 (NASB 2020)** <sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; <sup>28</sup> but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> “Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> “And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your *body*, than for your whole body to go into hell.” (*Jesus shows us the heart issue behind adultery which starts with lust, which is also a sin. We should realize how serious Jesus is in regards to dealing with sin. We should be willing to completely cut out of our life anything that leads us to sin. See also Col. 3:5-11, 1 Cor. 6:18-20*)

**Colossians 3:1–4 (NASB 2020)** "1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things *that are* above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."  
*(As Christians, we should have our hope and focus set on God and His Kingdom, not on this world and its sinful pleasures. We have died to our old life of sin and should focus on loving God and doing His will. See Col. 3:5-17 for what this will practically produce in us.)*

**Romans 14:10–13 (NASB 2020)** "10 But *as for* you, why do you judge your brother *or sister*? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother *or sister* with contempt? For we will all appear before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, TO ME EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, AND EVERY TONGUE WILL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let's not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this: not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's *or sister's* way." (*We should not judge others, but instead should focus on our own judgment day and how we will give an account to God for our life. We should focus on loving others and doing good to them, not thinking or speaking negative about them. See also James 4:11-12*).

**1 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>5</sup> Therefore do not go on passing judgment before *the* time, *but wait* until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *human* hearts; and then praise will come to each person from God." (*We should not judge the motives of others, because often we don't know their heart and why they're doing things. Instead, we should focus on loving God and others, and on growing in our own relationship with God. See also Matt. 7:1-5*)

**2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (NASB 2020)** "14 Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness? 15 Or what harmony does Christ have with Belial, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL AMONG THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let's cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." *(God wants us to be set apart from the evil ways of this world so that we can glorify Him and walk closely with Him. If we join ourselves with people who do evil, this can pull us away from God and lead us back to the path of the world. See also 1 Peter 2:9-12, Rom. 8:5-14)*

**Romans 8:12–14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers *and sisters*, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup> for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons *and daughters* of God." (*The Bible teaches us that we can know if we have faith by the way we live our lives. If we live according to the flesh where we practice sin, then we will die spiritually (Gal. 5:19-21). But if we are led by the Spirit and we continue to put to death sinful practices, then this is a good sign that we have faith and are therefore sons of God. See also Gal. 6:7-8, Rom. 6:11-18)*)

**Galatians 5:19–21 (NASB 2020)** "19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, 20 idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, 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." *(If we live in unrepentant sin, it can be a sign of a heart attitude of rebellion, which can show that we may no longer be walking in repentance and faith. This is why it is so important that we go to war against sin and no longer allow any sin to be a part of our life. See also 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Eph. 5:5-10, Rev. 21:8)*

**Matthew 23:11–12 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>11</sup> “But the greatest of you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> “Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.” *(Humility is one of the most important characteristics in the Kingdom because when we’re humble, we realize that we are here to serve God and bring Him glory. This humility then leads us to serve others. One of the gauges of our level of humility is how much we invest in serving God and others. See also Gal. 5:13-14, Matt. 20:25-28)*

**Philippians 2:5–8 (NASB 2020)** "5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself *by* taking the form of a bond-servant *and* being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross." (*Jesus emptied Himself and was humble and obedient to all that the Father commanded. We are to live in the same way. See also John 14:30-31, 1 Pet. 2:21-24*)

**James 1:2–4 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters*, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." *(As Christians we should learn to find joy in the trials of our life because these things test our faith, and if we endure, they make us stronger. One reason we can have this joy is that we know that this life is not all there is. We have the eternal Kingdom of God to look forward to, and Jesus tells us that we will be rewarded for the suffering we endure for Him. See also Matt. 5:10-12, Acts 5:40-42, Rom. 8:18-19)*

**Romans 15:13 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." *(Hope can be thought of as a confident expectation of good. As followers of Jesus, we have hope in what is coming after this life because we will get to be with God for eternity which is the greatest good imaginable. This hope should lead us to joy and peace in this life because we know what is coming after this life. For us to walk in this hope, joy and peace, we need to keep our mind set on things above, and not the things on earth (Col. 3:1-4). See also 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Eph. 2:11-22)*

**Matthew 13:44 (NASB 2020)** <sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy *over* it he goes and sells everything that he has, and buys **that field.**” (*What would lead someone to joyfully give up all he has? The answer is that he found something that was so much greater than what he previously had. God is better than anything in this life, so we should be willing to give up anything that would hinder us from loving Him and doing His will. See also Matthew 6:19-21, Phil. 3:7-11*)

**John 1:1–4 (NASB 2020)** "1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind." *(Jesus created everything, and He existed before creation. Jesus is not simply a good teacher; He is the Son of God and the Creator of the universe, and He is worthy of being followed. See also Col. 1:15-20, John 5:25-27)*

**John 1:14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth." (*Jesus is the perfect representation of God's character and nature (Heb. 1:1-3). He is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). Jesus has come to explain God to us so that we can learn to be holy (John 1:17-18, 1 Peter 1:14-16). See also Gal. 4:4-5, Phil. 2:5-11)*)

**Matthew 6:19–21 (NASB 2020)** <sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” *(We should not be focused on loving the world and the things in the world. Instead, we should be focused on loving God and others, and building God’s Kingdom as we learn, apply, and share His word. This stores up treasures in Heaven. See also Luke 12:15-21, 1 Tim. 6:17-19)*

**Philippians 4:11–12 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever *circumstances* I am. <sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every *circumstance* I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need." (*If we keep our focus on loving God and doing His will, we won't have a desire for more of this world. Then we can learn to be content in any circumstance, because our hope isn't here, it is set completely on the day Jesus returns and brings us home.*)

**Galatians 6:14 (NASB 2020)** "14 But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (*Our focus should be on loving God and bringing Him glory, not seeking glory from others. If we boast about anything, it should be about Jesus and what He did for us*).

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (*Jesus tells us to have our treasure be in Heaven, not on this earth (Matt. 6:19-21). When our hope is in God and the Kingdom to come, we can always have joy because we know something far greater is coming after this life. And because our hope is in God, we should focus on Him throughout the day in prayer. We should also give Him thanks for all He has done for us and the hope we have in Him. See also Eph. 6:18, Eph. 5:20*)

**Philippians 2:14–15 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining or arguments; <sup>15</sup> so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world," (*We should never complain, but instead we should be above reproach in our words and lifestyle so that we can shine as a light to the world. See also 1 Cor. 10:9-12, Phil. 4:4-8*)

**Hebrews 3:12–14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers *and sisters*, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another every day, as long as it is *still* called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end," (*Sin wars against our faith. If we allow sin to remain in our life, it becomes something we desire in our heart. This wars against our love for God and can eventually kill our faith. This is why we need to make war on sin and encourage each other daily to do the same. See also Heb. 10:24-31, John 15:4-10, 1 Thess. 2:10-12*)

**Colossians 1:21–23a (NASB 2020)** "21 And although you were previously alienated and hostile in attitude, *engaged* in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard..." *(As followers of Jesus, God will declare us not guilty and we will be seen as holy and blameless. To experience this awesome blessing, we are to continue to follow Jesus by faith until the end. See also Matt. 24:9-14, Heb. 10:35-11:1)*

**Ephesians 4:29 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>29</sup> Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if *there is* any good *word* for edification according to the need *of the moment, say that*, so that it will give grace to those who hear." (*Your words can do great good or great harm. We need to discipline our speech to make sure we encourage and give grace with our words instead of tearing others down. See also Eph. 5:4, Col. 3:8, James 3:8-13*)

**James 1:19b–20 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>19</sup> ...Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, *and* slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God." (*We need to avoid anger as it takes us away from the righteous lifestyle that God calls His people to live. See also Matt. 5:21-26*)

**Colossians 3:12–14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>12</sup> So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must* you *do* also. <sup>14</sup> In addition to all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity." (*God has been loving, patient and kind to us and has forgiven us of so much. We should respond to His love by loving Him and loving others in the same way that He has loved us. See also Eph. 4:22-5:2*)

**1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 (NASB 2020)** "3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 *and* that no one violate the rights and take advantage of his brother *or* sister in the matter, because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you previously and solemnly warned *you*. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in sanctification. 8 Therefore, the one who rejects *this* is not rejecting man, but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you." (*God's will is that we be holy (sanctified). To live a holy lifestyle, we need to learn to be self-controlled with our thoughts, words and actions. If we reject this sanctification, then we are rejecting God who gave us His Spirit to sanctify us. See also Titus 1:15-16, Heb. 12:14*)

**Ephesians 5:11–12 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>11</sup> Do not participate in the useless deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; <sup>12</sup> for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret." *(As God's people, we should have nothing to do with sin. We should hate what is evil and cling to what is good. We should see the sinful ways of this world as disgraceful and should no longer desire to be around them, or even speak about them. See also Rom. 12:9, Amos 5:14-15)*

**1 Corinthians 15:33–34 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” <sup>34</sup> Sober up morally and stop sinning, for some have no knowledge of God. I say *this* to your shame." (*It is important to realize that our lives and spiritual well-being can be corrupted by those around us. If you have people in your life who pull you away from Jesus and His ways, you may need to remove or distance yourself from those people because they will eventually corrupt you. See also 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1, Heb. 10:23-25*)

**Romans 8:1–4 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." *(To those who live by faith in Christ, there is now no condemnation. Christ has set us free from slavery to sin and its penalty, if we continue to believe in and follow Him. See also Gal. 5:13-25)*

**Colossians 2:13–14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." *(This passage shows us the truth of how Christ has taken away all our sins and freed us from the curse of the Law, and has now set us free to live a new life in the Spirit. See also Eph. 2:1-10)*

**John 13:34–35 (NASB 2020)** <sup>34</sup> “I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> “By this all *people* will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.”” (*Jesus calls us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ as He loves us. If we show the love of Christ to each other, we will have good relationships with each other, and the whole world will see it and probably be more likely to follow Jesus. See also 1 John 3:10-11, 4:20-5:4*)

**John 15:12–14 (NASB 2020)** <sup>12</sup> “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> “Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> “You are My friends if you do what I command you.” *(The type of love God calls us to is more than a feeling or just being polite. Love is a commitment to doing good towards others according to God’s ways from the heart. It is truly desiring their good, and then sacrificing to help them. See also 1 John 3:16-18)*

**Titus 2:11–14 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds." (*Grace is often misused as an excuse to continue on living in sin. But the Bible teaches that the reason God's grace has appeared is to bring salvation to all people, and to teach us to deny ungodly and worldly desires (repentance), and to produce in us an eager desire for doing good deeds. See also Rom. 6:6-14*)

**Romans 6:6–7 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for the one who has died is freed from sin." (*As followers of Jesus, we have been set free from sin! Our old self and our old slavery to sin are dead. We are now a new creation that is made alive in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). We can now live free from sin because Jesus has freed us from our slavery to sin! See also Rom. 6:8-23)*)

**2 Peter 1:3–4 (NASB 2020)** "3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust." *(God has given us everything we need to do everything He's asked of us as we learn and apply His word, and as we walk by His Spirit. Our responsibility is that we need to grow in our knowledge of Him. This is how we learn the truth that sets us free from sin. See also John 8:31-36, Col. 1:9-12)*

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He 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." (*You can be free from and have victory over any willful sin because God is faithful and He has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him. See also Heb. 13:20-21*)

**Matthew 6:33–34 (NASB 2020)** <sup>33</sup> “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you. <sup>34</sup> “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” *(We should set our focus on building God’s Kingdom and living a righteous lifestyle that is pleasing to our King. Context: “these things” are the basic necessities of life that God will provide for those who seek Him first. See also Matt. 6:19-24, John 6:26-29)*

**Philippians 4:4–8 (NASB 2020)** "4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all people. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers *and sisters*, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (*God desires for us to have unshakeable joy and peace, always. For this to happen, we need to learn to pray at all times, give thanks in everything, and dwell on what is good. See also 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Matt. 6:25-34*)

**1 Peter 2:21–24 (NASB 2020)** "<sup>21</sup> For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, <sup>22</sup> *HE WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT found IN HIS MOUTH;* <sup>23</sup> and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed." (*Jesus is our example to follow. He never sinned and never paid back evil for evil. We are to die to the old ways of sin and the world, and instead learn to walk in love as He did and to live a righteous lifestyle that glorifies God. See also Rom. 12:14-21, Matt. 5:43-48*)

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