

The Acts of the Apostles

1.1-5

Dear Friend of God, in my first book (the Gospel of Luke) I wrote about everything Jesus did until the day he was taken up to heaven. For 40 days after his death, he appeared to his apostles many

times, and taught them about the kingdom of God

He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for what the Father had promised: "You will soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit".



**Jesus, please baptize me with the Holy Spirit.
Holy Spirit, increase your influence in my life**

Acts 1.6-11

On the day he was taken up to heaven, Jesus said to his apostles "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, then you will be my witnesses in every part of the world".



As he said this, he was lifted up while they watched.

A cloud took him from their sight.

Then two angels appeared to them and said "Jesus who has been taken

up from you, will come back some day in the same way as you have seen him leave"

Jesus, help me be your witness by the way I think and speak and live

Acts 1.12-14

After Jesus went up to heaven from the Mount of Olives, the apostles went back down to Jerusalem, a walk of about half a kilometer. They gathered in an upstairs room which they used as a meeting place

The 11 apostles were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon and Jude.

They spent a long time praying. With them were several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and also Jesus' brothers



Jesus, your apostles' group spent special time in prayer preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit. I now ask them in heaven to pray that the Holy Spirit will increase his influence in my life

Acts 1.15-26

During these days, Peter spoke to a group of about 120 disciples: "As you know, Judas hanged himself after betraying Jesus

We must now choose someone to take Judas' place, someone who has been with us since the time when John was baptizing"

Two men were nominated, Joseph and Matthias

After prayer was offered, Matthias was chosen

He was listed as one of the 12 apostles



Jesus, please protect your church from betrayal and disloyalty

Acts 2.1-4



About ten days after Jesus' ascension to heaven was the Feast of Pentecost. Jesus' 12 apostles, his mother, several other women, and his brothers were together in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind. Tongues of fire appeared and came to rest on the head of each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages.

**Come Holy Spirit, fall afresh on me.
Fall afresh on our world**

Acts 2.11-18 When people heard the apostles' group speaking in many different languages, some said the apostles were drunk. Peter stood up with the Eleven and said to the crowd: These people are not drunk. It's only 9am, too early to drink. What is happening is what



God said through the prophet Joel: 'I, the Lord, will pour out my spirit on all peoples. They will prophesy and see visions. I will pour out my spirit on everyone'.

**Come Holy Spirit,
fall afresh on all peoples, all nations**

Acts 2.22-36 Peter said to the crowd "You know that Jesus of Nazareth was a man from God. You know all about the miracles he worked. This same Jesus has been raised from the dead by God. There are many witnesses to his resurrection. Jesus has been taken up to God's right hand. He has received the Holy Spirit from the Father. He has poured out the Holy Spirit on us. Know for sure that Jesus whom you crucified is the Messiah and he is Lord".

**Jesus, Messiah Lord,
please pour your Holy Spirit into my heart** 6

Acts 2.37-47

The crowd was deeply moved by Peter's words, and asked "What should we do?" Peter replied "You must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then you too will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". That day about 3,000 people were baptized.

These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to a life of sharing and caring, to the Breaking of Bread, and to prayer



Many miracles were worked by the apostles, and this made a deep impression on everyone. Each day the Lord added new members to their group.

**Jesus, please help me remain faithful
to the Christian way of life**

Acts 3.1-10

One afternoon about 3pm, Peter and John went to the Temple for prayer.

A beggar asked them for money. He was crippled from birth

Peter said to him "I don't have any silver or gold. But I do have something to give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

Peter then took him by the hand and helped him to stand up. Immediately, his feet and ankles



became firm and he could walk. He was so happy he started jumping around. He went into the Temple, praising God

Jesus, there are so many crippled people in the world. Please heal them

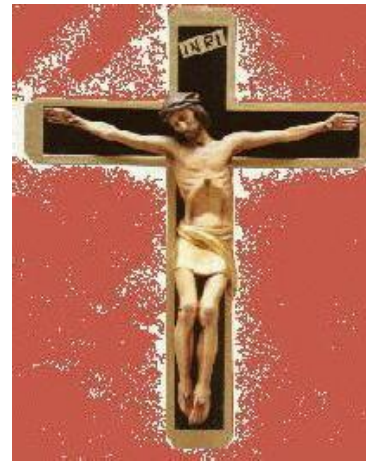
Acts 3.9-16

When people saw the former crippled man walking, they couldn't believe their eyes.

So Peter said to them "Why are you so surprised? Do you think John and I made this cripple walk?"

It is by our faith in Jesus that this man has been restored to health

Jesus is the Holy One, the Just One, the Prince of Life whom you handed over to Pilate for crucifixion. But God raised him from the dead



Jesus, Prince of Life, please increase my faith in you.

Please give me a faith that can bring your healing to handicapped people

Acts 4.1-12



While Peter was talking to the crowd, some religious leaders and soldiers came and arrested Peter and John

The next day the leaders held a meeting and asked the prisoners: "By what power and by whose name did you heal the crippled beggar?"

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, replied "The cripple is able to stand up perfectly healthy because he was healed by Jesus the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead

Salvation comes no other way.

Only by the name of Jesus can we be saved"

**Jesus, your name means "God saves",
you are indeed the *Saviour* of the world**

Acts 4.13-22

The religious leaders were astonished that two uneducated men like Peter and John could speak so confidently. The leaders also realized that a miracle had taken place: the crippled man was standing next to Peter and John



The leaders gave Peter and John a formal legal warning not to speak in future about Jesus

Peter and John replied "Which is right? To obey you, or obey God? We cannot stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard"

The leaders released the two apostles. They were afraid to punish them since all the people were giving glory to God for the miracle that had happened

Jesus, please help me obey you always 11

Acts 4.23-31

When Peter and John were released, they went to a gathering of apostles and friends and told them everything that had happened

The group then prayed "Master, it is you who made heaven and earth and sea. Please protect us from leaders who threaten us

Help us to proclaim your message with great boldness. Bless us to heal and work miracles through the name of your holy servant Jesus"



As they prayed, the building rocked. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the word of God boldly.

**Jesus, by the grace of your Holy Spirit,
please help me to proclaim your message
boldly**

12

Acts 4.32-37



The apostles continued to witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power. The whole group of believers was

united, heart and soul. They willingly shared everything they had with people who were in need.

Joseph was a Temple minister who had been born in Cyprus. He sold a field he owned, and gave the proceeds to the apostles. The apostles called him "Barnabas" ("Son of Encouragement")

Jesus, help me to be more caring and sharing

Acts 5.12-16

All the believers used to meet regularly in an area of the Temple. Their numbers kept on increasing. So many miracles kept happening that sick people were laid on beds on the street, in the hope that at least Peter's shadow would cover them as he walked past. People came from the towns near Jerusalem, bringing their sick, and all of the sick were healed

Jesus, let more healings take place in our day

13

Acts 5.17-21

The religious leaders were jealous of the apostles. The leaders had the apostles arrested and put in prison. But that night an angel of the Lord opened the prison gates and led them out of the prison,



saying to them: "Go and stand in the Temple, and tell the people all about this New Life". The apostles went to the Temple at dawn and continued preaching.

Jesus, please help more and more people know about the New Life

Acts 5.21-33

When the leaders had their big meeting later that same morning, they sent for the apostles to be brought from prison. The police went to the prison, then came back and reported to the leaders "We found that the prison was properly locked, and the guards were on duty. But when we unlocked the door, there was no one inside". Then a man arrived at the meeting with the news "At this very moment, the men you imprisoned are now in the Temple preaching to the people". The police again arrested the apostles and brought them to the meeting.

When the main religious leader reminded them of his previous warning not to preach, Peter and the apostles replied "Obedience to God comes before obedience to men. God raised Jesus up to be the Savior. We are witnesses to this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God gives to those who obey him". This made the leaders so angry that they wanted to kill the apostles.

Jesus, please help me put obedience to you before all other obediences

Acts 5.34-42

One religious leader at the meeting, Gamaliel, asked that the apostles be removed from the room. Then he spoke to the other leaders: "Men of Israel, be careful how you deal with these people. If this movement of theirs is of human origin, it will die out of its own accord. But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy it. You might even find yourselves fighting against God".

His advice was accepted. The apostles were warned, flogged and released. They left the meeting glad to have had the honor of suffering humiliation for the sake of Jesus. They resumed their daily preaching, in the Temple and in private homes.

Jesus, thank you for times of suffering for you

Acts 6.1-7

About this time as the number of disciples kept growing, the twelve apostles decided to give other men the job of daily food distribution. The apostles said to the whole group of believers "It is not right for us to neglect the service of the word. Therefore you should choose seven men of good reputation, filled with the Holy Spirit and with wisdom. We will give them the food distribution job, so that we can devote ourselves to prayer and the service of the word".

The whole assembly approved of this idea. They chose seven men and presented them to the apostles who prayed over them with the laying on of hands. The word of the Lord continued to spread.



Even a large number of priests became believers.

Jesus, please bless all deacons. Fill them with the courage and wisdom of the first seven deacons

Acts 6.8-15 One of the seven deacons, Stephen, was filled with grace and power. He began to do many miracles. A group of Jews tried to beat Stephen in a debate. But they could not win, because the Holy Spirit was guiding Stephen in his speech.

The group then got some men to falsely accuse Stephen of being disloyal to Moses and to God. The group had Stephen arrested and brought before a meeting of the religious leaders. At the meeting, false witnesses accused Stephen of speaking against Moses and the Law.

Jesus, please protect people who are accused by false witnesses

Acts 7.1-54

The meeting of religious leaders had falsely accused Stephen of being disloyal to Moses. So Stephen gave a long speech, full of loyalty to Moses. Then he made a stinging attack on the leaders: "You stubborn people, with your pagan hearts and pagan ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors did. Your ancestors killed the prophets who foretold the coming of the Just One. You have gone further: you have killed the Just One himself".



When the leaders heard these words, they were very angry and wanted to kill Stephen.

Jesus, Just One from heaven, please don't let me resist the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit of God, please increase your influence in my life

Acts 7.55 – 8.3

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. "I can see heaven thrown open", he said, "and the Jesus standing at the right hand of God".



At this, the religious leaders at the meeting covered their ears with their hands. They sent Stephen out of the city and stoned him. The false

witnesses (who were required to throw the first stones) put down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Paul.

As they were stoning him, Stephen prayed "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit". Then he knelt down and prayed "Lord, do not hold this sin against them". Then he died. Paul entirely approved of the killing. That day a bitter persecution started against the church in Jerusalem, and everyone except the apostles fled to the countryside. Paul began working for the destruction of the church. He went from house to house arresting men and women and sending them to prison.

Jesus, thank you for the example of Stephen who, like yourself, forgave those who were killing him

Acts 8.4-8

The believers who escaped from Jerusalem went from place to place spreading the Good News. One of these believers was Philip. He preached about Jesus in a Samaritan town. The Samaritans welcomed Philip's message because of the miracles he worked. Unclean spirits came out of many possessed people, and a number of handicapped people were cured. Such miracles caused great rejoicing in that town.

Jesus, let there be more miracles in our day, especially the healing of handicapped people

Acts 8.14-17

The apostles in Jerusalem heard that people in Samaria had accepted the word of God. Peter and John went to Samaria to pray for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit. So far the Samaritans had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit had not come down on them. When Peter and John prayed over them with the laying on of hands, the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit.

**Come Holy Spirit.
Come down on me.
Please help me understand
the sacraments of Baptism
and Confirmation**



Acts 9.1-19

Paul kept up his campaign against the Lord's disciples. He got the ok to arrest followers of the Way in Damascus. But on his way to Damascus, a light from heaven surrounded him.



He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying "Paul, Paul, why are you persecuting me?"

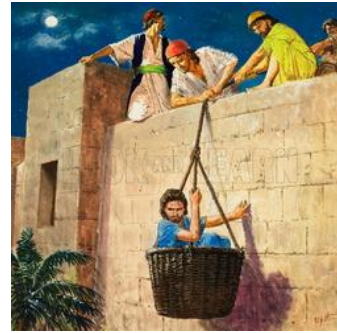
He said "Who are you, Lord?" The voice replied "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Go into Damascus and you will be told what to do".

Paul's eyes were open, but for more than a day he was without his sight. He ate and drank nothing. The Lord got Ananias, a disciple in Damascus, to visit Paul and pray for him. The Lord said to Ananias "Paul is my chosen instrument to bring my name to non-Jews and Jews. He will suffer much for me". Ananias went to Paul and prayed for him with the laying on of hands. Straight away, Paul could see again. Then Ananias baptized him

**Jesus, please help me understand
how unkindness to others is unkindness to you**

Acts 9.20-31

After a few days, Paul began preaching in the prayer halls that Jesus is the Son of God. People were amazed at Paul's conversion. As time past, the Jews planned to kill Paul. Paul heard of this and decided to leave the city. The Jews kept watch at the city gates to stop him leaving



Then one night he was able to escape: some disciples lowered him in a basket from the city wall. He went to Jerusalem and began preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

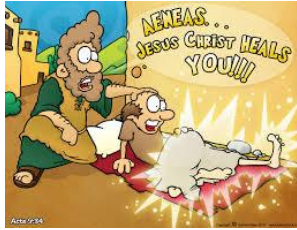
Soon another plot was made to kill him. Therefore the disciples sent him to Tarsus. After this the churches throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria were left in peace. They steadily grew, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

**Holy Spirit, please strengthen me, as you
strengthened Paul and the first believers**

Acts 9.32-35

Peter visited churches in many areas. When he went to Lydda, he saw a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bed-ridden for 8 years.

Peter said to him "Aeneas, Jesus Christ cures you. Get up and fold up your sleeping mat". Aeneas got up immediately. The people of that area who



who saw him, were converted to the Lord.

Jesus, let there be more miracles of healing, so that more people will believe in you

Acts 10.1-48

Cornelius was a Roman centurion stationed in the town of Caesarea. He and his household prayed, loved God, and helped the local people. One morning Cornelius had a vision that Peter would visit him. In another town, Peter was instructed by the Lord to visit Cornelius. Peter preached God's message to Cornelius and his household

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were astonished that the Holy Spirit would come down on non-Jewish people.

Holy Spirit, please come down on all peoples everywhere!



Acts 11.19-26

Some believers went to Antioch in Syria where they preached the Good News of the Lord Jesus to non-Jewish people. Many non-Jewish people became believers.

Barnabas, a good man filled with the Holy Spirit, was sent to Antioch to encourage the new believers to remain faithful to the Lord.

Barnabas brought Paul from Tarsus to Antioch. They stayed in Antioch about year, instructing a large number of people. It was at Antioch that the believers were first called "Christians"

Jesus, please help me be a good Christian

Acts 12.1-17

About this time, King Herod began persecuting the church. He beheaded the apostle James, brother of John. He arrested Peter during Passover time. He put Peter in prison and planned to have him put on trial and killed after Passover. Each day Peter was in prison, the believers stormed heaven praying for him.



On the night before he was to be put on trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with chains, with more soldiers at the prison entrance. Suddenly Peter's cell was filled with light, and an angel told him to get up. The



chains fell from his hands. The angel led Peter out of the prison, without the guards knowing what was happening. Peter then left for

another place. Herod was unable to find him

Jesus, please help Christians who are in prison for their faith

Acts 12.20-23

Wearing his robes of state and sitting on a throne, King Herod made a speech to the leaders of Tyre and Sidon. People acclaimed him saying "It is a god speaking, not a man!" At that moment, the angel of the Lord struck him down, because he had not given the glory to God.

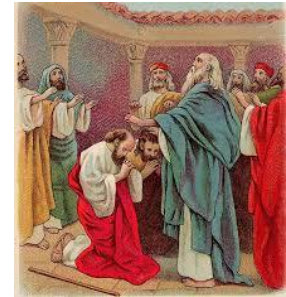


He was eaten away with worms and died.

Jesus, please help us remember that all our talents are a gift from you. "Not to us, Lord, but to your name be the glory" 24

Acts 13.1-3

In the church at Antioch in Syria, the following were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen and Paul. One day while they were offering worship to the Lord and fasting, the



Holy Spirit said "I want Barnabas and Paul set apart for the work to which I have called them" After fasting and prayer, the leaders prayed for Barnabas and Paul with the laying on of hands, and sent them off on a missionary journey.

Holy Spirit, help me be attentive to your guidance

Acts 13.13-52

Paul and Barnabas went to another Antioch, Antioch in Pisidia. Out of jealousy, the local Jewish leaders there stopped Paul from preaching to the Jewish community. Paul and Barnabas then turned their attention to non-Jewish people, and so the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jewish leaders kept up their campaign, and had Paul and Barnabas expelled from Pisidia.

Jesus, please don't let Gospel workers be expelled 25

Acts 14.1-7

Paul and Barnabas went to another city, Iconium. As usual, their first stop was the local Jewish prayer hall. Many Jews became believers, as did many non-Jewish people. During their stay in Iconium, Paul and Barnabas preached fearlessly for the Lord. And the Lord supported them by allowing miracles to be worked by them. But their success again aroused opposition, and they were in danger of being stoned. So they went to Lycaonia and preached the Good News there.

Jesus, please help Gospel workers by allowing miracles to be worked by them

Acts 14.8-18

In Lycaonia, there was a man who had never walked in his life, because his feet were crippled from birth. As he listened to Paul preaching, Paul noticed him and saw that he had the faith to be cured. Paul said in a loud voice

"Get to your feet! Stand up!" The crippled man jumped up and began to walk. The local people thought that Paul and Barnabas must be gods, so Paul said to them "We are only human beings like you.

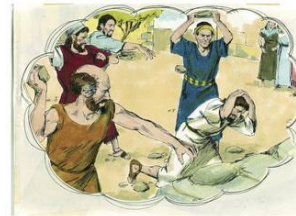


We have come with Good News to help you turn from empty idols to the living God who made heaven and earth. It is he who sends you rain and who makes your crops grow".

Jesus, help people turn away from idol worship

Acts 14.19-27

Some Jewish leaders arrived from Pisidian Antioch and Iconium. They turned the people of



Lycaonia against Paul and Barnabas. The people stoned Paul and, thinking he was dead, dragged him outside the town. The disciples gathered around Paul's

body. As they did so, he stood up. The next day he and Barnabas went to the town of Derbe. After Derbe, they went back to Pisidian Antioch via Lystra and Iconium. In each place they encouraged the believers to persevere in the faith, especially during difficult times in their lives. In each place they also appointed elders to be church leaders. Eventually Paul and Barnabas arrived back in Syrian Antioch, where they gave an account of how God had opened the door of faith to non-Jewish people.

Jesus, please help me persevere in the faith, like Paul and Barnabas 27

Acts 15.1-29

Some Jewish Christians came to Syrian Antioch from Judea and said that non-Jewish Christians should be circumcised. Paul and Barnabas argued against such an idea, and decided to go to Jerusalem to discuss this issue with the apostles there

During a long meeting, Peter reminded everyone how the Holy Spirit had been poured out on non-circumcised people. James spoke of how all peoples are meant to be consecrated to the Lord



James then issued a teaching for non-Jewish believers:

"All we ask you to do is to abstain

- from food sacrificed to idols
- from blood from the meat of strangled animals
- from fornication.

Avoid these, and you will do what is right"

Jesus, please don't let me make unreasonable demands on other people

28

Acts 15.36-40

Some time after this, Paul said to Barnabas "Let's revisit the towns where we preached the word of the Lord".

Barnabas suggested taking John Mark with them, but Paul opposed this, since John Mark had deserted them on the previous trip when the situation became dangerous. After a violent argument, Paul and Barnabas split up. Barnabas went with John Mark to Cyprus. Silas joined Paul for his next journey.

Jesus, at your Last Supper you prayed for the unity of your followers. Help us avoid arguments

Acts 16.1-10

In the town of Lystra, Paul recruited Timothy, whose mother was a Jewish Christian and whose father was Greek. As they visited one town after another, they announced the decisions taken in Jerusalem about what Jewish practices to follow. The local churches continued to grow strong in faith as well as grow in numbers. One night Paul had a vision: a Macedonian appeared and said "Come across to Macedonia and help us". We (Luke was now with Paul) immediately crossed the sea to Macedonia.

Jesus, if someone asks me for help, may I say yes

29

Acts 16.11-15 We went to a number of towns in Macedonia. In Philippi, the Jews had no prayer hall. They met on the river bank. We went there one Sabbath and preached to the women who were meeting there. One of these women was Lydia. The Lord opened her heart to what Paul was saying. She and her whole household were baptized. **Jesus, open the hearts of more people to accept your word**

Acts 16.16-24 One day we met a slave girl who made a lot of money for her owners by telling fortunes. The girl followed us each day shouting



"These are the servants of God". Paul said to the spirit possessing her "I order you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to leave her". The spirit

immediately left her, but her owners were angry that she could no longer tell fortunes. The owners seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to court, saying to the magistrate "These people are causing a disturbance in our city". A crowd supported the owners in calling for their punishment. They were given many lashes and put into prison with their feet in irons.

Jesus, please help Christians who are suffering in prison because they announced your message

30

Acts 16.25-37

Late that night in prison, Paul and Silas were praying and singing God's praises, while the other prisoners listened to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the prison. All the doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners



The main jailer drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul shouted to him "Don't hurt yourself. We are all still here". Trembling, the jailer threw himself at the feet of Paul and Silas. Then he escorted them out of the prison asking "What must I do to be saved?".

They said "Become a believer in the Lord Jesus, and both you and your household will be saved". They explained the word of God to him and his family. He washed their wounds, and then they "washed his wounds" by baptizing him and all his household. They had a meal together in the jailer's home, to celebrate the family's conversion to belief in God.

Jesus, let more people know the joy of conversion

31

Acts 17.1-9

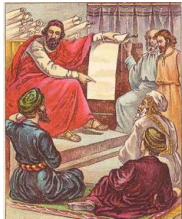
Paul and his friends next went to the town of Thessalonika. On three Sabbaths, Paul spoke at the local prayer hall, explaining how Jesus is the Anointed One. Some Jewish listeners and many non-Jewish people became believers. But the religious leaders, out of jealousy, stirred up a gang from the market place. The gang dragged some believers to the city council. The leaders shouted "The people who have been turning the whole world upside down, have come to our town. They claim there is another emperor, Jesus". The believers were eventually allowed to go on bail.

Jesus, please don't let jealous people stop anyone from becoming a Christian

Acts 17.10-12

That night Paul and Silas left for the town of Beroea. At the local prayer hall, the Jews were very open-minded and they warmly welcomed the word of the Lord. Every day they studied the Scriptures to check that Paul's words were true. Many Jews and many non-Jewish people became believers.

Jesus, please help people be open-minded when hearing your message



Acts 17.16-28

In Athens, Paul was sad to see so much idol worship. Each day he talked to as many people as he could about Jesus. He was invited to a meeting of intellectuals. He said to them "The Creator of the world does not make his home in shrines made by human hands. He wants everyone to know him as the living God. It is in him that we live and



move and have life"

In its mother's womb, a baby lives and moves and has life. The universe is like a giant womb, God's womb, in which we live and move and have life. Jesus, please help me understand Paul's words

Acts 17.29-34

Paul continued speaking to the intellectuals: "We have no excuse for thinking that the Creator looks like something carved in gold, silver or stone. God overlooked that sort of thing when we were ignorant. But now he is telling everyone to repent and believe in Jesus raised from the dead". Some intellectuals laughed at Paul. A few became believers. **Jesus, please give intellectuals the humility to believe in you**

Acts 18.1-4

Paul left Athens and went to the city of Corinth. He met a Jewish couple who had recently left Italy when the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome. The couple were tentmakers, like Paul himself. Paul stayed with them and they worked together.



Each Sabbath Paul preached in the prayer halls, trying to convert Jews as well

as non-Jewish people.

Jesus, help me be like Paul. He worked to support himself and didn't live off others

Acts 18.5-11

In Corinth, Paul was rejected by the Jews, so he spent his time preaching to non-Jewish people. Many Corinthians became believers and were baptized. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid to speak out, nor allow yourself to be silenced. I am with you". So Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months preaching the word of God.

Jesus, give Christians more courage to speak your message

Acts 19.1-7

Paul left Corinth and went to the city of Ephesus where he found a dozen men who had been baptized by John the Baptist. He asked them "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied "We have not been



taught about the Holy Spirit". When Paul explained Jesus to them, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul then prayed with them using the laying on

of hands, and the Holy Spirit came down on them. They began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.

Holy Spirit, please fall afresh on me and increase your influence in my life

Acts 19.8-10

For three months, Paul went to the Jewish prayer hall in Ephesus, speaking boldly about the kingdom of God. When some Jews strongly attacked the Way, he stopped going to the prayer hall, and began daily discussions in a lecture room. He kept doing this for two years, with the result that people from many places, both Jews and non-Jews, were able to hear the word of God.

Jesus, please give more and more people the opportunity to hear your word

Acts 19.11-20 So remarkable were the miracles worked by God through Paul, that even handkerchiefs which had touched him, were taken to the sick, and they were healed and evil spirits came out of them. Some believers admitted how they had practised magic. They collected their expensive books on magic and burnt them in public. Things like these helped the word of the Lord to continue spreading. **Jesus, what can I do to help your message spread?**

Acts 19.23 – 20.1 In Ephesus there was a silversmith who employed many craftsmen making shrines of the local idol, Diana. The silversmith called a meeting of the city's silversmiths and said to them "Not just here in Ephesus, but in many parts of the region, this man Paul has converted many people with his argument that gods made by hand are not gods at



all. This is a threat to our trade". A mob was formed and dragged two of Paul's companions to a local theatre. The town clerk eventually calmed the mob and dismissed them. By now

Paul had decided to leave Ephesus. He went to Greece and spent three months there. **Jesus, please help people give up the worship of idols made by human hands**

Acts 20.7-12 In the city of Troas Paul and his group joined the local believers for the Breaking of Bread one Saturday night. Paul's sermon went on till the middle of the night. As Paul went on and on, a young man who was sitting on the window-sill, went to sleep and fell to the ground three



floors below. He was dead when they picked him up. Paul went down to the boy and prayed over him. The boy came back to life. Paul kept on talking till dawn. That same day he left Troas.

Jesus, is it ok if I pray that someone who has died will come back to life?

Acts 20.17-21

Paul's journey took him to Meletus where he met the elders of the church from Ephesus. He said to them "You know what my way of life has been from the first day I arrived among you. I have served the Lord in all humility, facing all the sorrows and trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. I have not hesitated to do anything what would be helpful to you. I have preached to you and instructed you, both in public and in your homes, urging everyone to believe in our Lord Jesus". **Jesus, help me be a bit more like Saint Paul**

Acts 20.22-24

Paul continued "Now you see me a prisoner already in spirit. I am on my way to Jerusalem, and have no idea what will happen to me there. The Holy Spirit has made it clear that imprisonment and persecution await me there. But life to me is not a thing to waste words on.

What matters is that when I finish my race, I have carried out the mission the Lord Jesus gave me - to bear witness to the Good News of God's grace".

Jesus, please help me live a worthwhile life

Acts 20.28-38



Paul continued "You elders are the leaders of the Church of God. Be on your guard against bad leaders trying to mislead people. Remember my example. I never asked anyone for money or clothes. You know how my

work as a tentmaker earned enough to support my companions and me. Remember Jesus' words *There is more happiness in giving than in receiving*". When he finished speaking, he knelt down with them and prayed. Then they took him to the ship.

Jesus, please help Gospel workers imitate Paul

Acts 21.1-14

Our sea voyage took us to the city of Caesarea. A prophet there took Paul's belt and used it to tie up his own feet and hands, as a sign of what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem. Everyone implored Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Paul replied "I am ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus". And so we packed up and headed for Jerusalem.

Jesus, please give me a bit of Paul's courage

Acts 21.15-40

In Jerusalem Paul gave a report to James and other Christian leaders of all that God had done for non-Jews through his ministry. But Paul was



soon seen by Jews from where he had traveled. He was dragged out of the Temple and beaten by a wild crowd.

The beating was stopped by a Roman captain who had Paul bound with chains. The crowd was calling out for Paul to be killed. Paul asked for permission to speak to the crowd and the captain agreed. Paul then spoke to the crowd in Hebrew.

Jesus, please protect Christians who live in dangerous places

Acts 22.1-23

Paul said to the crowd "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus. I was brought up here in Jerusalem. I studied under Gamaliel. I fully observed the Law of our ancestors. I even persecuted this Way to the death, and sent many people to prison. But once when I was on my way to Damascus to arrest followers of the Way, Jesus appeared to me and said 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, and you are persecuting me'. Then a believer in Damascus told me I was to be Jesus' witness in many places."

Up to now, the crowd had listened quietly to Paul, but when he said that Jesus was sending him to non-Jews in far away places, the crowd shouted "Rid the earth of this man! He's not fit to live!"

Jesus, please help Jewish people accept you as the Anointed One

Acts 22.24-29

Paul was taken into the soldiers' barracks. The captain ordered Paul to be tortured to find out the truth about his situation. But when they tied him down, Paul said "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen?"



40

The captain said "It cost me a lot of money to acquire Roman citizenship". Paul replied "I was born a Roman citizen". Paul was untied without being flogged.

Jesus, help people who are being tortured today

Acts 22.30 – 23.11

To find out why the Jews were attacking Paul, the captain arranged a meeting of the religious leaders, and allowed Paul to speak to them. Paul realized that the leaders had two groups: Sadducees (who didn't believe in angels or an after-life) and Pharisees (who did believe in angels and an after-life).

So Paul called out "I am a Pharisee. It is for our hope in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial". This caused the Pharisees and Sadducees



to begin a violent argument that put Paul's life in danger. The captain ordered Paul to be taken back into the barracks. The next night, the Lord appeared to him and said "Courage! You have born witness for me in

Jerusalem. Now you must do the same in Rome".

Jesus, please give courage to Christians who live in dangerous places

41

Acts 23.12-22

The next day about 40 Jews held a meeting. They decided not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. They asked the religious leaders to arrange another meeting so that they could attack Paul. But the son of Paul's sister heard of the plot. He got into the barracks and told Paul. Paul got



the boy to tell the captain. The captain immediately arranged for a large group of soldiers to take Paul to Caesarea to be tried by Felix the governor. Felix said "I will wait till your accusers come here too, then I will hear your case"

Jesus, please help people who are in danger of being murdered

Acts 24.1-26

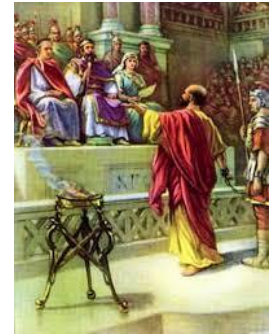
When the religious leaders arrived, they put their case to Felix. They summed up their accusations by saying "The plain truth is that we find this man to be a perfect pest. He stirs up trouble among Jews everywhere, and is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect"

Paul replied "In regard to the Way, which they malign as a sect, I serve and worship the very same God worshipped by our ancestors. I live in hope that God will raise the dead. If that's my crime, my accusers are just as guilty as I am". Felix postponed a decision. He met with Paul many times, hoping Paul would offer him a bribe.

Jesus, please help judges to avoid bribery

Acts 24.27 – 25.12

After two years, Felix was succeeded by Festus. Festus arranged a new trial for Paul. The religious leaders repeated their accusations. Paul repeated his innocence. Festus wanted to gain favor with the leaders, so he said to Paul "Are you willing to go to Jerusalem for a trial with the full council of religious leaders, at which I would preside?"



Paul knew his rights, and stood his ground, not wanting to go to a kangaroo court in Jerusalem. So he invoked his right as a Roman citizen: "I appeal to Caesar". Festus replied "You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar (Rome) you shall go".

Acts 27.1-8 For the journey to Rome, Paul and some other prisoners were put in the custody of a soldier named Julius. After sailing for one day, we arrived at the city of Sidon, where Julius



kindly allowed Paul to meet with some friends. Then we sailed past Cyprus and reached the city of Myra in Lycia, where we changed to a ship bound for Italy.

The wind was against us near Crete. We struggled along the coast to a place called Fair Havens.

Jesus, help prison guards to be kind like Julius



Acts 27.9-20 Navigation at that time of the year was dangerous, since winter was starting. But the ship's captain set sail hoping to reach Phoenix, a harbor in Crete. Suddenly a fierce storm began and the ship could not be turned

head-on to the wind. We had to let ourselves be driven by the wind. The ship was badly damaged by the storm. On the second day, the cargo was dumped overboard. For several days both sun and stars were invisible as the storm raged. We lost all hope of surviving. **Jesus, help sailors who are in danger at sea today**

Acts 27.21-37 Paul then spoke to everyone: Don't despair. There will be no loss of life. Last night an angel of God said to me: "Do not be afraid, Paul. You are destined to go to Rome. Therefore God grants you the safety of all who are sailing with you" . On the 14th day, Paul took some bread, gave thanks to God in front of them all, broke it and gave it to everyone to eat. This gave them courage. There were 276 of them on the ship.



Jesus, thank you for the courage that Communion gives us

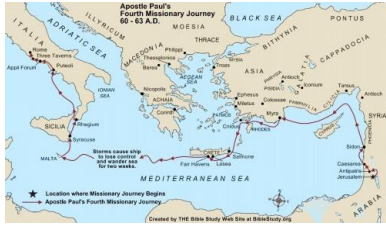
Acts 27.39-44 The next day they could see land: a bay with a beach. They tried to reach the beach, but the ship ran aground on a reef and began to



break up. The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to stop them from escaping, but Julius would not allow this. Some people swam. Some used pieces of

wreckage. All of them got to shore safely. **Jesus, help people in danger of ship-wreck today**

Acts 28.1-10



We were on the island of Malta. The local people were really kind to us. They made us welcome.

They lit a huge fire because the weather was cold and rain was falling. Paul collected a bundle of sticks and was putting them on the fire, when a snake bit his hand and held on.

The locals expected him to die. But he just shook the snake into the fire. He was ok.

The local Roman governor kindly gave us hospitality for three days. The governor's father was very sick in bed with fever and dysentery. He was healed when Paul prayed for him with the laying on of hands.

Word of the healing got around fast, and soon everyone on the island who was sick, came and got healed

Jesus, please bless the people of Malta



Acts 28.11-16

After three months we set sail in a ship going to Italy. Our trip took us to Syracuse, Rhegium and Puteoli before we arrived in Rome. Believers in Rome heard of Paul's arrival and came to meet us. When Paul saw them, he thanked God with all his heart. Paul was allowed to stay in lodgings of his own, with a soldier to guard him.

Jesus, thank you helping Paul reach Rome safely. Thank you for protecting me on all my journeys

Acts 28.17-31

Not long after his arrival in Rome, Paul had a meeting with a large number of Jews. The meeting went from early morning until evening. Paul talked to them about the kingdom of God. He tried to help them believe in Jesus. Some



accepted Jesus. Paul was in detention for two years, in his own rented house. He welcomed everyone who came to visit him. With boldness and without hindrance, he taught people about the Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus, thank you for the Acts of the Apostles.

May I help more people know and love you, like Paul

Romans

1.1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David

This news is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, by his resurrection from the dead, proved he was the Son of God. From him I received my mission to preach the obedience of faith to non-Jewish nations. You are one of these nations. You belong to Jesus Christ



To you who are God's beloved friends in Rome, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give grace and peace

Jesus, Son of God, may all nations know and love you

Romans 1.8-16

I thank God for the way people everywhere speak of your faith. I never fail to mention you in my prayers. I pray for the opportunity to visit you if God wills. I long to see you to encourage you and to be encouraged by you. For I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is the power of God saving everyone who has faith, Jews first then everyone else. **Jesus, help me to pray for others the way Paul prayed for others**

Romans 1.18-25

Everyone needs the Good News, especially people who put truth in prison. Ever since the world began, people could know God by seeing the wonders of creation. But even though they saw the



beauty of creation, they refused to honor the Creator. They replaced honor for God with honor for images of men and beasts. They worshipped a god they made instead of God who made them.

Jesus, may the beauty of creation help people know you and your Father and the Holy Spirit

Romans 1.26-32

Refusing to honor the Creator is why people's behaviour went bad: why women turned from natural intercourse to unnatural practices, and why men gave up natural intercourse to be consumed with passion for each other, men doing shameless things with men, and getting an appropriate reward for their perversion. Since people refused to honor God, they have dishonored themselves.

Jesus, help people not be misled by false teaching which says that a "gay" lifestyle is ok
(See: "Can Homosexuality Be Healed?", by F. MacNutt)

Romans 2.13-29

People become holy in God's sight by doing what is right. Listening to God's Law is not enough. We have to put it into practice in our lives. Non-Jewish people who follow a good conscience and do what is right, have God's Law engraved on their hearts.

What matters is not circumcision of the body, but circumcision of the heart. The real Jew is one who is a Jew in their heart.

Jesus, help me to love you with all my heart. May my love for you not be just something external, but something real, in my heart

Romans 3.20-24

Only by faith in Jesus can we really become holy in God's sight. This faith is a free gift of God's grace to us. Only when Jesus is in our hearts, can our hearts become holy in God's sight



Jesus, please live in my heart! May you live in me, and I in you

Romans 4.1-25

Remember our ancestor Abraham.



He put his faith in God, and this was how he became holy. We too must put our faith in God the Father who raised Jesus

from the dead to make us holy

Jesus, please increase my faith. Help me believe like Abraham

Romans 5.1-5

By faith and through Jesus we can live in the friendship of God. We look forward to heaven and an end to all suffering. In the meantime our suffering teaches us patience. Patience produces perseverance. Perseverance produces hope. This hope is not imaginary. It's real, since the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Jesus, through your Holy Spirit, please give me more hope

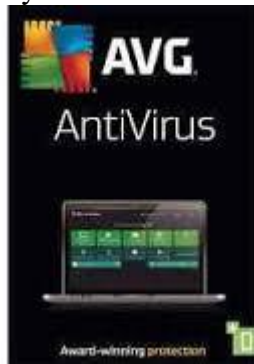
Romans 5.12-21

Through one man, Adam, the virus of sin entered the world, and sin infected everyone with death.

Through one man, Jesus, the divine anti-virus of grace entered the world, and brought the gift of eternal life to everyone who allows it to be installed in their heart.

The divine anti-virus of grace is more powerful than any sin virus

Jesus, please download and install in my heart your anti-virus program of grace



Romans 6.3-11

When we were baptized, two things happened:



1: We went into Jesus' tomb and joined him in death. We died.

2: We rose from the dead with Jesus. We came back to life. This dying and rising means we have died to sin,

and risen to a new life. We died to an old life, and we came back to a new life. We have been re-born, born again

Jesus, please help me leave my old life behind. Help me live a new life with you

Romans 6.12-23

Do not let sin control your life

Always remember which team you play for: God's Grace Guys, not Satan's Sin Side



Playing for SSS is a recipe for death.

Playing for GGG

leads to eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Jesus, help me remember I'm on your team

Romans 7.14-25

Even though I'm on God's team, I don't always play as well as I should. At times I cannot understand my behavior. I fail to do good things, and I find myself doing bad things. It's as if there is a battle going on inside me. In my heart I dearly love God, but my will is weak, and I do things that I know are wrong. Who can help me keep going? Who can fix up things in my life?

Jesus can. He is the one who sorts out things in my life, and changes chaos into order, by the working of the Holy Spirit

Jesus, my life is in your hands.

**Please arrange my life
the way you want to**

Romans 8.9-13

You are on God's team. God the Father is the manager. Jesus is the captain. The Holy Spirit is the coach, a coach living in your heart. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead, is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will help you live a risen life. By the grace of the Holy Spirit you can stop doing bad things.

**Holy Spirit of Jesus, Holy Spirit of the Father,
fall afresh on me!** 54



Romans 8.14-21

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a child of God. The Spirit lets us use children's language to speak to God tenderly as "Abba, Father".



Since we are God's children, we are also his heirs, coheirs with Jesus, sharing his suffering so as to share his glory.

What we suffer in this life can never be compared with the

glorious life we will have in heaven. The whole of creation looks forward to sharing the same glory, to sharing immortality.

**Abba, Father, may everyone love and honor
you. Help everyone get to heaven**

Romans 8.26-29

When we are not sure of what to say in prayer, we ask the Spirit to pray in us. We know that by turning everything to their good, God blesses everyone who loves him. God the Father wants us to become living images of his Son, so that his Son will be the eldest of many brothers and sisters

**Jesus, brother Jesus, please help me to be
more like you** 55

Romans 8.35-39

Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus, even if we are in big trouble of any kind. By the power of Jesus who loves us, we can get through any trouble

Jesus, when I am in trouble, help me remember your love

Sometimes
when things are
falling apart
they may
actually be
falling into place.

Romans 9.1-5

There is a great sorrow in my heart. It's with me day and night. It's the situation of the Jewish people, how they will not accept the Anointed One.

I am willing to do anything to help them accept Jesus. I am willing to undergo the greatest suffering if that would help them believe

They are my nation, my family. They have been so blessed by God. From their flesh and blood came Christ, who is God

Jesus, God-made-flesh, I pray with Paul that the Jewish people will believe in you

Romans 10.1-4

I have a really great love for the Jews. I pray to God for them to be saved. They have a strong belief in God, but their zeal is misguided

They can't see that friendship with God is a gift from God, not just a matter of external practices

Jesus, some people have mixed up ideas about religion (.. Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses). Help them know the truth as you revealed it

Romans 10.9 & 11.33-36

If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved.

How wonderful is God !
How great his wisdom and knowledge. What finite creature could ever

understand the mind of our infinite Creator? All that exists comes from him. To him be glory for ever!

Jesus, Father, Spirit - three persons, one God - to you be glory for ever!



Romans 12.1-2

I beg you, trust in God's mercy, and worship him in a spiritual way, not just in an external way. Offer your whole life to him as a holy sacrifice.



Do not blindly follow the fashions of the world. Instead, let your behavior change, fashioned by your enlightened mind.

This is the way to discover the will of God, the way to know what God wants us to do.

Jesus, help me give more time to things that are important, less time to things not so important

Romans 12.9-13

Do not let your love be superficial, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Have a family love for each other, and a profound respect for each other. Persevere in your love for the Lord and your service of the Lord. Hope will make you cheerful. Do not give up when trials come. Keep on praying. Help people who are in need. Make hospitality your special care

Jesus, please help me grow in love. Help me love you and other people a bit better

58

Romans 12.14-21

Pray for people who are unkind to you. Be kind to them. Rejoice with those who are happy. Console people who are sad. Treat everyone with kindness. Never be condescending. Make real friends with the poor. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone. Resist evil and conquer it with good.

Jesus, I pray for (.. name ..) who was unkind to me

Romans 13.1-7

Be a good citizen. Respect all civil authorities. Authority comes from God and is answerable to God. Don't break laws. Live honestly. Fulfill your obligations as a citizen. Pay your taxes.

Jesus, please help me be a good citizen

Romans 13.8-9

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of love we owe each other. Love other people as you should, and you will keep all the commandments. All the commandments concerning other people - You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal etc - are summed up in the words "You must care about your neighbor as much as you care about yourself".

Jesus, help me care about others as much as I care about myself

59

Romans 13.12-14

Let us stop our bad behavior of the past:
drunken orgies, immorality, quarreling, jealousy

Let us live good lives.

Let the Lord Jesus protect and help us

Jesus, please help me give up bad behavior

Romans 14.7 – 15.2

The life and death of each of us,
has its influence on others

If we live, we live for the Lord.

If we die, we die for the Lord.

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord

Never pass judgment on other people.

Never treat other people with contempt

The kingdom of God is not about
eating special food.

The kingdom of God is about friendship with
God, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Do whatever you can

to help other people become stronger Christians

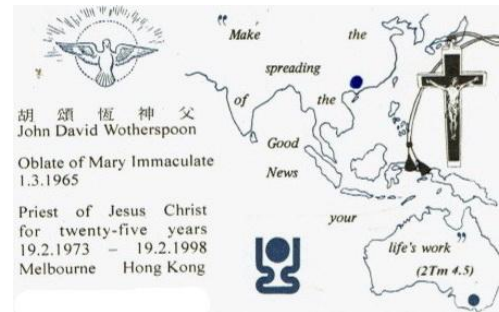
Jesus, please help me be a good Christian

Romans 15.4-13

Learn hope from the Scriptures, from the example
of people who did not give up, and were helped
by God. May the God of hope bring you such joy
and peace in your faith, that the power of the
Holy Spirit will remove all bounds to *hope*.

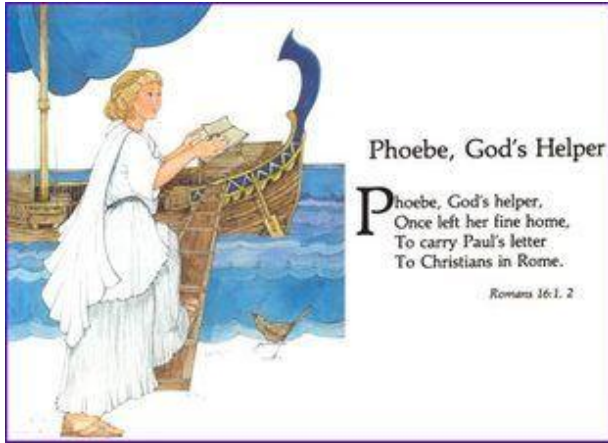
**Holy Spirit of God, help me understand
that no situation in this life is ever *hopeless*,
that you can enlighten even the darkest place**

Romans 15.15-33 The reason I have written to
you is to encourage you in your faith. This is my
job from God. He has appointed me as a priest of
Jesus Christ. I must do all I can to spread the
Good News.



I hope to see you on my way to Spain. Please
pray for me that I may be protected from people
who want to eliminate me. **Jesus, help me do all
I can to spread your Good News**

Romans 16.1-25



Please welcome our friend Phoebe, a deaconess in the church at Cenchrea. She has helped many people, including myself. Greetings to all my friends in Rome, especially Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked death to save my life. Be careful of people whose teaching is suspect. Avoid them

Glory to him who is able to give you strength to live according to the Good News

Jesus, help me live according to your Good News. Thank you for the beautiful letter to the Romans

1 Corinthians

1.1-10

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. The witness to Christ has been strong among you

God shares with us the life of his Son, Jesus. God helps us to be faithful as followers of Jesus

I appeal to you to be united in belief and practice. Put an end to the differences between you.

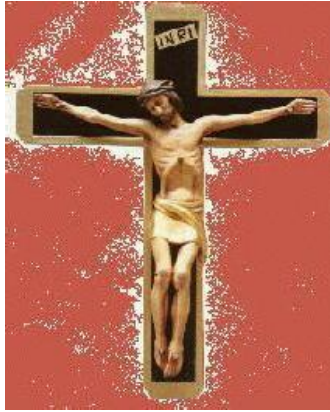
Jesus, Son of God, thank you for all the graces I have received

1.18 – 2.9

The language of the Cross doesn't make sense for some people. But for us it is God's power to save

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks require philosophy, here we are preaching a crucified Christ: to the Jews an obstacle they cannot get over, to the pagans madness

During my stay with you, I relied not on philosophy or my own efforts, but only on the power of the Spirit. The wisdom we teach is



about things no eye has seen, and no ear has heard, things beyond human understanding - all that God has prepared for those who love him.

Jesus, crucified Lord, please increase my faith in you

1 Corinthians 3.5-15

Apollos and I are servants who brought the faith to you. I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God made things grow. You are God's building. By God's grace, I laid the foundation, the only foundation there can be: Jesus Christ. On that foundation you can build a house with good or poor materials. At the end of your life, your building will be judged by God.

Jesus, you are the foundation of my life. Help me build a house with good material (= good deeds)

1 Corinthians 4.15-19

You now have many people teaching you about Christ, but remember that it was I who introduced you to Jesus and his Good News. Imitate my example, the way I live the Christian life.

Jesus, help me be a good example to other people

1 Corinthians 5.8-11

Get rid of all evil and wickedness from your life. Replace them with sincerity and truth. People who do wrong will not inherit the kingdom of God: people of immoral lives, idolaters, adulterers, catamites, sodomites, thieves, usurers, drunkards, slanderers and swindlers. Some of you were like that once, but now you have been washed clean and sanctified by Jesus Christ and his Spirit.

Jesus, help me avoid doing bad things.

Help me do more good things

1 Corinthians 6.18-20

We should respect our bodies as a gift from the Lord. Our bodies are not meant for fornication. Avoid sexual activity that avoids commitment. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. Let people know that your body is not something to be profaned.

Jesus, please help me avoid sex outside marriage

1 Corinthians 9.12-27

I put up with anything, rather than obstruct the Good News of Christ in any way. I make myself all things to all people, in order to save some

All the runners at the stadium are trying to win, but only one of them gets the prize. You must run in the same way, meaning to win the gold medal of eternal life. That is how I run, intent on winning. Therefore I try to stay in top condition, avoiding sloppy living.

Jesus, may I run a good race till my last day

1 Corinthians 10.16 – 11.1

The cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ. The bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. Avoid anything to do with idol worship. It doesn't make sense to share in the table of the Lord and in the table of demons. Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone. Try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for your own advantage, but for the advantage of others, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Jesus, please help me imitate you in my daily life

1 Corinthians 11.20-26 Concerning the Lord's Supper, this is what I received from the Lord and then taught you: On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, broke it and said "This is my body which will be broken for you". After supper he took a cup and said "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Each time you drink this cup, drink it in memory of me".



Until the Lord comes, therefore, each time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you re-enact the death of the Lord.

Jesus, help me

understand how bread and wine become your body and blood when Christians celebrate the Eucharist

1 Corinthians 12.4-10

The Holy Spirit gives us many different gifts. Some people have the gift of wise preaching. Some people have the gift of an extra strong faith. Some people have the gift of healing sick people. Some people have other gifts like the power of miracles, prophecy, recognizing spirits, and the ability to speak in tongues. **Holy Spirit, increase your influence in my life. Please give me the gift of (.. name ..)** 67

1 Corinthians 12.2-30

A human body is made of many parts: arms, legs, muscles, eyes etc. Every part is important and needed for the body to be healthy. The church is like a body. We are the body's members. Some are apostles, some prophets etc. The members of the church must care about every member of the church. Everyone is important. The spiritual health of each member affects the health of the whole body.

**Jesus, help me understand
how your church is like a human body**

1 Corinthians 13.1-13

If I am the most brilliant speaker, but don't have love, I am just a gong booming. If I understand all mysteries, and if I have faith that will move mountains, but don't have love, I am nothing. Love is always patient and kind. It is never jealous, never boastful, never conceited, never rude or selfish. Love does not take offence. It's not resentful. Love delights in the truth. Love is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love is virtue Number One, greater than faith or hope.

Jesus, please help me love like you

1 Corinthians 15.1-8



Let me remind you of the basic facts of the Good News: Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He was raised to life on the third day. He appeared to Peter, then to the other apostles, then to more than 500 of the believers - most of whom are still alive. Then he appeared to James and the other disciples. Last of all he appeared to me. I was like an unexpected child.

**Jesus, I have not yet seen you,
but I believe in you and I love you**

1 Corinthians 15.9-11

I am the least of the apostles. In fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle. But by God's grace I am what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God in my heart, have worked harder than any of the others, preaching the same message that they preach.

Jesus, may your grace in me be more fruitful

1 Corinthians 15.20-22

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first to rise of all who have died.
Death came through one man, Adam, and rising
from the dead has come through one man, Jesus.
Just as all people die because of Adam,
so all people can live because of Christ.

Jesus, may all people have eternal life

1 Corinthians 15.54-58

When this mortal nature has put on immortality,
then the words of Scripture will come true:

"Death has been defeated. Death, where is your
victory? Death, where is your sting?"

Never give up, dear friends, never admit defeat.

Keep on working at the Lord's work always.

Know that, in the Lord, no work is in vain.

**Jesus, please give me more faith to "keep
going"**

1 Corinthians 16.5-24

I hope to visit you after I have been to Macedonia.
I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost, because an
important door has opened for my work, despite
opposition. Be brave and strong. Let everything
be done in love. The grace of the Lord Jesus be
with you.

Jesus, help me be brave and strong, like Paul

2 Corinthians

1.1-10

From Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle
of Christ Jesus, and from Timothy, one of the
brothers, to the church of God at Corinth. Blessed
be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
a gentle Father and the God of all consolation.
He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can
comfort others in their sorrows. The recent
persecutions I experienced made me think I
would not survive. This has taught me to rely not
on myself but only on God for help. God saved
me from being killed. My hope is he will
continue to save me.

**Jesus, please help people who are in danger of
being killed today**

1.19-21

The Son of God, Christ Jesus, was not sometimes
"Yes" and sometimes "No" in his words and
actions. He was always crystal clear "Yes" - you
knew exactly where he stood on every issue.



That is why it is "through him"
that we pray and then answer
"Amen" (= "yes").

**Jesus, help me be a committed
"Yes" person - not someone
who "sits on the fence" about**

the important issues of life

2 Corinthians 4.8 – 5.1

We are in difficulties on all sides, but never cornered. We see no answer to our problems, but never despair. Even though our bodies are aging and decaying, our hearts are renewed day by day. Our troubles seem great now, but they don't stand comparison with the eternal glory coming soon. When the temporary tent that we live in here on earth is folded up, we will move to an everlasting house built by God for us in heaven.



**Jesus, help me remember Heaven
- especially when life gets tough**



2 Corinthians 5.14-19

The love of Christ is like a tsunami. It *overwhelms us and sweeps us away* when we remember how Jesus died for everyone. God, through Christ,

has repaired his friendship with humanity. We must spread the news of this reconciliation

"And when I think, that God his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in"
- from the song "How Great Thou Art"

2 Corinthians 8.9 – 9.7

Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was. He was rich, but he became poor for our sake, to make us rich.

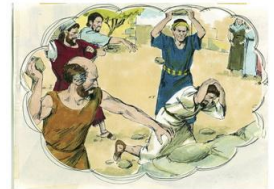
So we also should help people who are poor. If we have extra, we should help people who don't have enough. Maybe some day, the same poor people will be rich, and we will be poor, and they will help us

And don't forget, God loves a cheerful giver.
Jesus, help me do more to help poor people

2 Corinthians 11.24 – 12.14

Remember how much I have suffered for the sake of the Good News:

- 5 times I had the 39 lashes from the Jews
- 3 times I was beaten with sticks
- once I was stoned
- 3 times I was shipwrecked
- I have often been starving



This should prove to you that I am a genuine apostle, not after money or fame or power. It is *you* I want, not your possessions

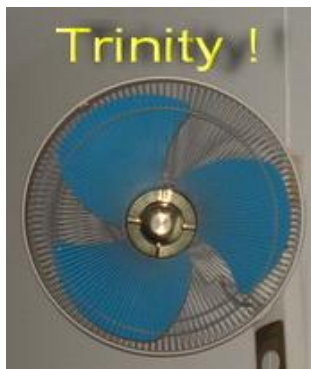
**Jesus, help church workers want souls,
not money/fame/power**

2 Corinthians 13.1-13

Soon I will be with you for a third time.
What I ask is that you live the way
God wants you to live.
So, grow in your Christian life.
Help one another. Be united.
Live in peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God the Father,
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
help me live the way you want me to live**



Galatians

1.1-7



To the church of Galatia,
from Paul, an apostle appointed not by man but
by Jesus Christ. Trouble makers among you have
changed the Good News. I am astonished that you
have begun following their false version of the
Good News.

**Jesus, don't let people be deceived by anyone
who waters down or changes your Good News**

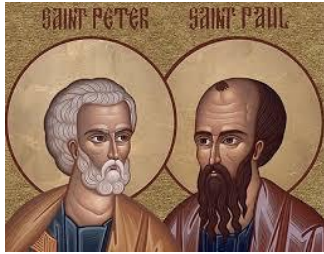
1.11-24

The Good News I preach is not a human message.
It is something I received from Jesus Christ.
I used to persecute the church, but then God
called me to follow Jesus. I am a one-time
persecutor who is now preaching the faith I had
previously tried to destroy. When I visited
Jerusalem three years after my conversion, the
believers gave glory to God for what he had done
for me. **Jesus, please turn more persecutors
into preachers!**

2.1-9

14 years after that first visit, I again went to
Jerusalem, with Barnabas and Titus. I explained
to the Christian leaders how I had been
proclaiming the Good News to non-Jews.

James, Peter and John shook hands with us as a sign of partnership. We were to preach to the non-Jews, and they to the Jews. **Jesus, please help all Christians to avoid disunity**



Galatians 2.11-14

Not long after this, when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, since he was in the wrong. He had been accustomed to eating

with non-Jews, but when some friends of James arrived (people who insisted that all believers should be circumcised) he kept away from the non-Jews. When I saw that Peter was not respecting the true meaning of the Good News, I said to him in front of everyone "You have no right to make non-Jews adopt Jewish customs".

Jesus, help me understand that it's sometimes ok to criticize top Christian leaders

Galatians 2.16-20

What makes us God's friends is not obedience to the Law, but faith in Jesus Christ. I have been crucified with Christ, and I live now, not with my own life, but with the life of Christ who lives in me

The life I now live in this body, I live in faith: faith in the Son of God who loved me and who sacrificed himself for my sake.

Jesus, help me understand how you live in me, and I live in you



Galatians 3.26-28

Through faith in Christ Jesus, you are children of God. When you were baptized, you entered into a special relationship of friendship with Christ. This relationship cancels out old labels like Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. These old labels have been replaced by a new one hanging around your heart: Made in Christ. **Jesus, help me better understand our relationship**

Galatians 4.4-6

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law, and to enable us to be adopted as children of God, brothers and sisters of his Son. The proof that we are children is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries "Abba, Father".

Jesus, help me understand how I have been adopted, how you are my Brother

Galatians 5.1-6

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm then and do not return to a life of slavery to Jewish Law. As a Christian, it doesn't matter if you are circumcised or not. What matters is faith that is put into loving action.

Jesus, please help people whose lives are being damaged by unreasonable religious laws

Galatians 5.13-15



Serve one another in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summed up in the command "Love your neighbor as yourself".

If you go in for non-stop criticism and personal attacks, you will destroy the church community.

Jesus, help me avoid unfair/unnecessary criticism of other people

Galatians 5.19-26

When self-indulgence is at work, the results are obvious: sexual irresponsibility, sorcery, feuds and wrangling, jealousy and drunkenness. What the Spirit brings is very different:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, truthfulness, gentleness and self-control

You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent desires. Let us be directed by the Spirit. We must stop being conceited, provocative and envious.

Holy Spirit, increase your influence in my life

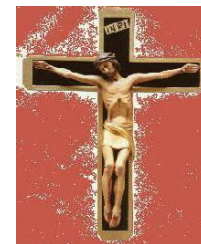
Galatians 6.7-9

God cannot be cheated. Where we sow is where we will reap. If we sow in the field of self-indulgence, we will get a harvest of corruption. If we sow in the field of the Spirit, we will get a harvest of eternal life. Never tire of doing good.

Jesus, help me sow in the field of the Spirit by doing good

Galatians 6.14-18

As for me, the only thing I boast about is the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It doesn't matter if a person is circumcised or not.



What matters is that we become a new creature. From now on, I want no more trouble from you. The scars on my body were suffered for the sake of Jesus. May his grace be with you.

Jesus, may I look at everything in the world from up on your Cross

Ephesians

1.1-7

From Paul, appointed to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us in Christ, to live through love in his presence. He chose us, in Christ, to be his adopted children, to make us praise the glory of his grace. This grace is his free gift to us in his Beloved Son, through whose blood we gain our freedom and the forgiveness of our sins.

Father, thank you for upgrading me from human child to Divine Child!

1.9-13

God the Father has let us know his sacred plan: the whole show, everything in heaven and everything in earth, is one big orchestra with Christ as the conductor. We Jews are special instruments in the orchestra. We were chosen to put our hope in Christ before he came.



And you non-Jews are also on the stage, now that you have believed the truth of the Good News. All of us have been stamped with the Holy Spirit. He's the composer whose music we are playing. **Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank you for the gift of life and the gift of faith. Help me play well!**

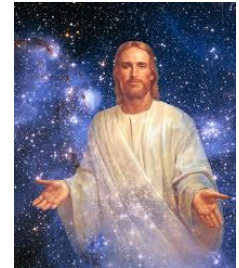
Ephesians 1.16-18

I never fail to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you more and more wisdom and knowledge, to see ever more clearly his great love for you. May he enlighten your mind to hope for the glorious life he has prepared for us in heaven.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may I see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day

Ephesians 1.19-23

God the Father raised Christ from death, and put him on the divine throne. Christ is the C.E.O. of the universe, in charge of everything, from galaxies to governments. No one and nothing is exempt from his rule.



At the center of everything is the church.
It is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts

Jesus, help me understand how the church is the heart of the world, pumping your life and love to all parts of the world

Ephesians 2.4-10

God loved us so much, that when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ

We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live a life of goodness, as God originally intended us to live.

Heavenly Father, help me live my life the way you want me to live it

Ephesians 2.11-14

You non-Jews were once without hope and without God. But now by the blood of Christ, you who had nothing in common with us Jews, have been united with us into one family. Christ is the peace between us. He has broken down the barrier which used to keep us apart

Jesus, break down barriers of misunderstanding which divide the peoples of the world

Ephesians 2.19-22



In God's Church you are not foreigners. You are citizens. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its base. Christ Jesus himself is the foundation stone. You are being built

into a house where God lives.

Jesus, be the foundation stone of my life

Ephesians 3.14-21

This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name:

May he give you power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong.

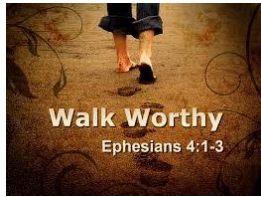
May Christ live in your hearts through faith.

Planted in love and built on love, may you continually focus on the love of Christ, until your life is filled with that love

Glory be to him whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4.1-16

I implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably,



in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. If we live by the truth and in love, we shall become more and more like Christ. We are parts of the Body of

Christ. Christ is the head. Each part must do its bit to keep the Body healthy and growing in love. **Jesus, help me understand how the Church is your Body**

Ephesians 4.17-19

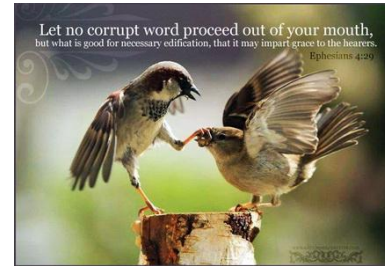
Do not go back to living the aimless kind of life that many non-believers live. Intellectually they are in the dark, because they have shut the door on God's grace. They have a poor sense of right and wrong, and have abandoned themselves to reckless living. **Jesus, help people who are confused about the meaning of life**

Ephesians 4.22-32

You must give up your old way of life. You must put aside your old self and its delusions. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution, so that you can follow a way of life based on goodness and truth. **84**

From now on, no more lies. Delete anger from your mind at the end of each day. Anyone who was a thief must stop stealing. Try to find a decent job. Guard against foul talk. Let your conversation encourage people, not drag them down. Avoid grudges. Don't lose your temper. Don't raise your voice to anyone. Don't call people names. Be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving one another as readily as God forgives us in Christ.

Jesus, help me put these words into practice



Ephesians 5.1-4

Follow Christ by loving as he loved us. Among you there must be not even a mention of promiscuity or impurity in any of

its forms. There must be no coarseness, or salacious talk and jokes - all this is wrong for you. **Jesus, help me control my mind and my tongue**

Ephesians 5.10-20

Try to discover what the Lord wants of you. Have nothing to do with the futile works of darkness. Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you **85**

Be very careful about the sort of life you live. Follow your enlightened mind, not your unruly passions. Avoid drunkenness. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Sing prayer songs when you are together, and when you're by yourself, keep on singing to the Lord in your heart, always giving thanks to God. **Jesus, make my heart sing right through the day**

Ephesians 5.21-33

In your families, treat each other as Christ wants you to: Wives, in your husbands see Christ the head of the Church. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the Church. When men and women get married, they become one body. This sacred action helps us understand the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Jesus, please help husbands and wives to love each other the way you love the Church



Ephesians 6.1-9

Children, be obedient to your parents. Parents, never drive your children to resentment. Slaves, respect your employers. Employers, treat your workers fairly
Jesus, please help me treat everyone with respect

Ephesians 6.10-17

To resist the Devil's tactics, put on God's armor:



- the belt of truth
- the breastplate of integrity
- the shoes of eagerness to spread the Good News of peace
- the shield of faith
- the helmet of salvation
- the sword of God's word

Jesus, help me put

on these six pieces of armor

Ephesians 6.18-24 Pray all the time, asking for what you need. Pray in the Spirit on every possible occasion. Never tire of praying.

Pray for me that I may proclaim the Good News boldly. Grace and eternal life to everyone who loves our Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus, help me to put Paul's teaching into practice in my life

Philippians

1.1-9

From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the believers in the Church at Philippi.

We wish you the grace and peace of God our Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank God whenever I think of you. Every time I pray for you, I pray with joy, remembering how you helped to spread the Good News. You have a permanent place in my heart. God knows how much I miss you. I love you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other will increase more and more, helping you always to know what is good and to avoid what is bad.

Jesus, thank you for all the people who have a permanent place in my heart

1.13-25

My chains have become famous and have given courage to many other believers. Many others are now becoming more daring in announcing the Message without fear. I hope and trust that I will always have courage for Christ to be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. My heart wants to go two ways. One part wants to depart this world and live for ever with Christ in heaven. The other part wants to stay in this world to help more people to know the Lord.

Jesus, give me courage to spread the Good News

Philippians 1.27 – 2.4

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Good News of Christ.

Be united in your convictions, and united in your love. There must be no competition among you, no conceit. Everyone should be self-effacing. Always regard others as better than yourself. Put others' interests before your own.

Jesus, help me say "no" to anything unworthy of your Good News

Philippians 2.6-11

Though you were God in state divine, you did not cling to what you were. No, you shed your glory's shine, so as to live just like a slave.

You came on earth in human form, and you shared our troubled life. A humbler man there never was, even in death obedient. Yes, Lord, death upon a cross, yes, upon a cross

Therefore are you raised on high, and you have the name of names. At that name should bend the knee, and tongue confess: Jesus Christ is LORD. To the glory of God the Father

www.simplebible.info/Bible%20Artwork/phil2.6.htm

Phil 2.13-16 It is God who gives us the spiritual energy to be good and to do good. Don't be someone who is always complaining and arguing. Live a life of light in our dark world. May your life of light offer the world the word of life.

Jesus, help me avoid complaining and arguing

Phil 3.7-11 Because of Christ, I have come to consider all my former advantages as a scholar as disadvantages. Nothing is more important than knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. I want to share his sufferings by carrying the Cross with him. This is the way I can hope to receive eternal life.

Christ Jesus my Lord, knowing you is No. 1

Phil 3.12-14 I am not yet perfect. I have not yet won the race. But I am still running, trying to



capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I forget the past, and strain ahead for what is still to come. I am racing for

the finish, for the prize to which God calls us to receive in Christ Jesus.

Jesus, please help me keep running each day!

Philippians 3.2 – 4.1

Our homeland is in heaven. We wait for the Savior from heaven who will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do this by the same power he has as C.E.O. of the universe. So, do not stop running, but remain faithful in the Lord.

Jesus, please increase my longing for heaven

Philippians 4.4-9

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord.

Let your tolerance be evident to everyone.

If there is anything you need, with prayer and thanksgiving ask God for it.

Fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that is worthwhile.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

Jesus, please fill my mind with good things

Philippians 4.11-20

I have learnt how to manage on whatever I have.

I am ready for anything anywhere:

full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty.

There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.

I thank you my friends for supporting me financially, especially when I was in great need.

Jesus, please bless everyone who has helped me in any way since the day I was born

Colossians

1.1-6

From Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, to the Christians in Colossae. Grace and peace to you from God our Father. I always pray for you and give thanks for your *faith* in Christ Jesus, and the *love* you show to others because of the *hope* which is stored up for you in heaven

The Good News is spreading all over the world, bringing blessings to so many people.

Jesus, increase my *faith, hope and love*. Help me spread the Good News in my corner of the world

1.9-14

I pray that you will continue to grow in your Christian life, a life full of good deeds. Never give in when trials come, but bravely, even joyfully, carry your cross each day

Keep on thanking the Father who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.
Father, thank you for letting me be a Christian. Help me be a good Christian

Colossians 1.15-20

Christ is the image of the unseen God. In him were created all things. All things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed. He holds all things in unity. The Church is his body. He is its head. God wants all things to be reconciled through him who brought peace by his death on the Cross
Jesus, God the Son become man, may our world find reconciliation and peace in you

Colossians 1.24 – 2.2

As I sit in my prison, I am at peace in my suffering, offering up my suffering to Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. God chose me to reveal to you his sacred message: Christ, your hope of glory, is among you.



My aim is to bind you together in love, and to keep you growing in your knowledge of God's plan for your lives.

“Bind us together, Lord, with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together in Love” (song)

Colossians 2.6-8

You must live your whole life according to the Christ you have received - Jesus the Lord.

You must be built on him and held firm by the faith you have been taught. Make sure no one deceives you with any teaching based on the principles of this world instead of on Christ.

Jesus, please protect people from false teaching

Colossians 2.9-18

In Christ's body lives the fullness of divinity. In him, you too find fulfillment. In baptism, you were buried with him and then raised to new life. Our real life is life with and in Christ.

Be careful of people who are always going on about some vision they have had, giving such visions more importance than Christ himself.

Jesus, may my focus always be on you

Colossians 3.1-2

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, focus on heaven, where Christ is, sitting at the Father's right hand.

Let your thoughts be more on heavenly things, less on the things that are on earth.

Jesus, please help me think more often about heaven.....since that's where I hope to spend all eternity! Help me understand how this present world is just a temporary arrangement

Colossians 3.5-11

Kill all the bad things that trouble earthly life: fornication, impurity, evil desires, greed, anger, bad temper, spitefulness, abusive language, dirty talk and lying

You have deleted your old self, and have downloaded a fresh copy of the divine image. That image is Christ. He must be installed in every part of your life



Jesus, take over my life.

Install yourself in every part of my life

Colossians 3.12-14

You are God's special friends. He loves you. You should be clothed in sincere compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience

Allow for other's weaknesses. Forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you. You must forgive others

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and to complete them, put on love

Jesus, help me be a better and kinder person

Colossians 3.15-16

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.
Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ,
in all its richness, find a home in you.
Help each other grow in wisdom.
With gratitude in your hearts, sing songs to God.
Jesus, live in my heart. Please live in my heart

Colossians 3.18 – 4.1

Wives and husbands, understand and support
each other. Children, be obedient to your parents.
Parents, treat your children fairly or else they will
rebel. Slaves, be obedient and respectful to your
owners. Offer up your work to the Lord, our
Heavenly Owner. Owners, be just and fair to your
slaves. Remember your Heavenly Owner.
Jesus, help families to live together in harmony

Colossians 4.3-21

Pray for me, in my chains, that I may proclaim
the message of Christ as clearly as I should.
Be tactful with people who are not Christians.
Use friendly conversation with them.
Greetings from the believers here with me.
Greetings to all the believers in your area.
Grace be with you all.
**Jesus, may my conversation with non-
Christians help them know you**

1 Thessalonians

1.1-6 From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the
Church of God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ in Thessalonika.
Wishing you grace and
peace. In my prayers
for you, I thank God
our Father for your
faith in action, your
work for *love*, and your persevering *hope*. When
we brought the Good News to you, it came to you
not just as words, but as power from the Holy
Spirit. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, you
accepted the Good News, despite great opposition
from many quarters.
**Jesus, help people accept the Good News,
despite opposition**



1.7 - 2.12

You are a great example to other believers,
since it was from you that the word of the Lord
spread to many places.
Everyone knows how we planted the Good News
in your hearts, and how you broke with idolatry
and became servants of the living God.
Let me remind you how we loved and served you,
like loving parents caring for their dear children.
**Jesus, thank you for the people who nurtured
me as a Christian**

1 Thessalonians 2.13-16

As soon as you heard the Good News, you accepted it as God's message and not just some human thinking. This message is still a living power among you. For the sake of the Good News, you have been badly treated by your own countrymen, just as Christians in Judea have been badly treated by the Jews. The Jews have been persecuting us also, and hindering us from spreading the Good News. **Jesus, please help people who are being hindered from spreading the message of your love**

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

May God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ make it easy for us to visit you again. May the Lord be generous in increasing your love, and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you.

May the Lord so confirm your hearts in holiness, that you may be blameless in the

sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

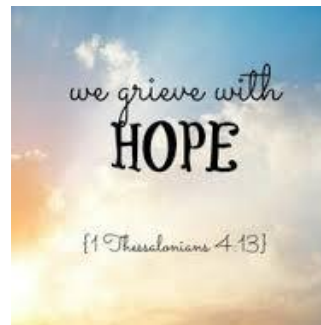
Jesus, please increase my love for the whole human race



1 Thessalonians 4.1-11

We urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life you are meant to live. God wants you to be holy. He wants you to keep away from fornication. Live life peacefully. Get a decent job and earn your living. **Jesus, make me a better person, a better Christian**

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18



You asked us about the situation of people who have died. Do not mourn in an unhealthy way for them, like people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will

be the same for everyone who dies in God's friendship: God will give them life with Jesus. They will live in God's House for ever. With thoughts such as these you should comfort one another in times of mourning. **Jesus, please increase my faith in the life to come**

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

The Lord's coming will not find us unprepared if we live a good life. You are not children of the night and of darkness. You are children of the light and of the day.

Put on *faith* and *love* for a breastplate.
Put on the *hope* of salvation for a helmet.
Encourage one another. Strengthen one another.

Jesus, please help me be a person of encouragement, not discouragement

1 Thessalonians 5.12-18

Respect your Christian leaders. Be at peace among yourselves. Warn idlers, give courage to people who are struggling, care for the weak, and be patient with everyone. Never try to take revenge. Focus on what is best for each other and for the community. For all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Jesus, thank you for everything, even for unhappy things

1 Thessalonians 5.19-28

Let the Holy Spirit have a free reign in your life. Hold on to what is good. Avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you holy. May you be kept safe in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you. He will not fail you. Pray for us. Greet all the believers with the holy kiss. Read this letter to all the believers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Holy Spirit of Jesus, Holy Spirit of the Father, I open my life to you. My heart is yours

2 Thessalonians

1.1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the Church in Thessalonika: grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We take special



pride in you because of your perseverance, despite persecutions and other troubles you have to face

People who refuse to accept the Good News are facing an eternal penalty: to be excluded forever from the presence of the Lord.

So we pray that God will help you be the sort of people he wants you to be. In this way our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you.

Jesus, help me "keep going" when trials come

2.1-17

Regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, don't be deceived by wild speculation

Stand firm in your faith and avoid speculation. Keep the traditions we taught you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May God strengthen you in everything good you do or say.

Jesus, stop people spreading false information

2 Thessalonians 3.1-5

Pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honor as it was by yourselves. Pray that we may be protected from the interference of bigoted people



May your hearts focus on the love of God our Father and the fortitude of Christ.

Jesus, don't let bigoted people influence me

2 Thessalonians 3.10-16

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Yet we hear that some of you are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's work. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on such people to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

Never grow tired of doing what is right. May the Lord of peace give you peace always and everywhere.

Jesus, don't let me interfere in other people's business

1 Timothy

1.1-10

From Paul, apostle of Christ Jesus, to Timothy, true child of mine in the faith. I wish you grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Please stay at Ephesus and insist that no one teaches misleading doctrines or empty speculation about the Law of God. As a penal code, the aim of the Law is to make provision not for good people but for offenders: for murderers, for people who are immoral with women or with boys or with men, for liars and for perjurers - and for everything else that is contrary to sound teaching.

Jesus, please help law offenders not to offend again, and to make up for what they have done

1.12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who called me into his service, even though I was an offender. Mercy was shown me, because I was acting in ignorance. Christ Jesus came into the world to save offenders. I myself am the greatest offender. Christ Jesus' patience and mercy to me is available to all offenders.

I am a demonstration model of Christ's mercy.

To the eternal King, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen

1 Timothy 1.18 – 2.8

Timothy, my son, as I give you advice for practical issues, remember how the church elders prayed over you that you would be a good leader

My first bit of advice is that there should be prayers offered for everyone, especially for kings and others in authority, so that we can live our life of faith in peace and quiet.

God wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth



There is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humanity, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for everyone.

In every place, I want believers to lift up their hands in reverent prayer.

God our Father, through Jesus your Son, I ask a blessing on the leaders of our world, especially the leaders of my own country

1 Timothy 3.1-15

To want to be a presiding elder is to want to do a noble work. That is why the president must be above reproach: **104**

He must not have been married more than once. He must be temperate, discreet, courteous, hospitable, a good teacher, not a heavy drinker, not hot-tempered, but kind and peaceable.

He must not be a lover of money. He must be a man who manages his family well and brings up his children well. How could anyone who can't manage his own family be given responsibility to manage God's family? He should not be a new convert in case he becomes full of pride.

The Church of the living God is God's family. The Church is the guardian of the truth.

Jesus, please give the Church good leaders

1 Timothy 4.1-7 Don't be surprised if some people come up with strange ideas about how to live life. Satan and his friends are always trying to sow lies and deception in the Lord's field of truth. Have nothing to do with strange ideas like



"marriage is forbidden" or "you are not allowed to eat certain foods". Everything God made is good, and no food is to be

rejected, provided grace is said for it. The word of God and prayer make food holy.

Jesus, please help me remember to say a little prayer before I eat **105**

1 Timothy 4.8-10

It's good to keep fit physically, and even more important to keep fit spiritually. We have put our trust in the living God. He is the savior of the whole human race, especially of believers.



Jesus, may I keep fit, physically & spiritually

1 Timothy 4.12-16

Do not let people disregard you because you are young. Be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and act. You have in you a spiritual gift which was given you when the church elders prayed over you with the laying on of hands. Do not let this gift go unused. Take



great care about what you do and what you teach. In this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you. **Jesus, help me be a good example to other people**

1 Timothy 5.1-14

Do not speak harshly to a man older than yourself, but advise him as you would your own father. Treat younger men as brothers. Treat older women as you would your mother. Treat younger women with propriety, as if they were your sisters.

Be considerate to widows. If a widow wishes to be enrolled as a church worker, she must be at least 60 years old, the wife of one husband. As regards young widows, it's best if they re-marry.

Jesus, help church workers to be kind and caring

1 Timothy 5.19-23

Never accept an accusation brought against a church elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses. If an elder is at fault, reprimand him publicly as a warning to others. Be fair to everyone and never be influenced by favoritism. As regards your frequent illnesses, I suggest you give up drinking only water, and have a little wine for the sake of your digestion. **Jesus, help**

church works to be fair and impartial

1 Timothy 6.3-10

Some people, because of ignorance and pride, have a craze for questioning and arguing about everything. Such a craze breeds jealousy and mistrust and unending disputes. People who have a craving to be wealthy are a prey to temptation. They get trapped into all sorts of foolish and dangerous schemes which ruin their lives. The love of money is the root of all evils. It can cause people to leave the faith.

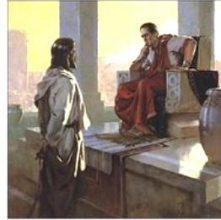


1 Timothy 6.11-13

As a man of God, avoid things like greed and disputes. You must aim to be a saint, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith, and win for yourself eternal life

Be a constant witness to goodness and truth, like Jesus who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate

Jesus, help me be a witness to goodness and truth



1 Timothy 6.17-19

Warn people who are rich in this world's goods that they are not to look down on others. Tell them not to set their hopes on money, but on God who, out of his riches, gives us all we need for happiness. Tell rich people to do good, to be rich



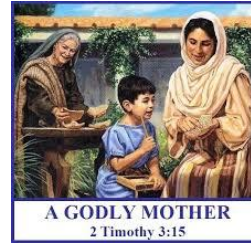
in good works, to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will have a healthy account in the Bank of Heaven.

Jesus, please help rich people do more to help poor people

2 Timothy

1.1-5

From Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, to Timothy, dear child of mine in the faith, wishing you grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord



A GODLY MOTHER
2 Timothy 3:15

I always remember your sincere faith. It came first to live in your grandmother Lois, then in your mother Eunice, and now in yourself

Jesus, thank you for parents who pass on the faith to their children

1.6-8

I remind you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I prayed over you with the laying on of hands. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love and self-control

Never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord. Like me and with me, put up with hardships for the sake of the Good News

Jesus, help me put up with hardships for the sake of the Good News

1 Timothy 2.2-9

You have heard everything I teach in public. Hand it on to reliable people so that they in turn will be able to teach others. Put up with your share of difficulties like a good soldier of Christ Jesus, like an athlete who keeps all the rules, like a hard-working farmer. Remember the Good News that I carry: "Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David". On account of this Good News I am chained up like a criminal. But no-one can chain up the Good News.

Jesus, help people who are in prison on account of the Good News

1 Timothy 2.14-25 Remind everyone to avoid useless debates and discussions. These cause scandal and loss of faith. Be available for the Master to use you for any good work. Focus on goodness, faith, love and peace. Avoid futile speculations which only lead to quarrels. A servant of the Lord is not to engage in quarrels, but should be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and patient. Be gentle with anyone you have to correct.



Jesus, please help me avoid useless discussions and arguments

110

2 Timothy 3.2-5

For sure, some people will be self-centered and greedy; disobedient and ungrateful to parents; heartless, difficult to get along with; slanderers, profligates and enemies of everything that is good

They will keep up the outward appearance of religion, but will have rejected its inner power. Have nothing to do with people like that.

Jesus, may my faith be real, not just something external

2 Timothy 3.12-16 Anyone who tries to live a sincere Christian life will be persecuted. Stay faithful to what you have been taught and know to be true. Remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the Scriptures. From the Scriptures you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ



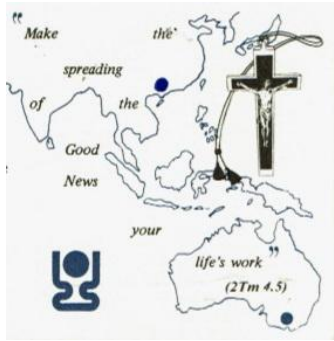
Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and can be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy.

Jesus, please give all Christians, especially pastors, a passion for the Scriptures

111

2 Timothy 4.1-5

In the presence of God our Father and of Christ Jesus, I give you this command: proclaim the Good News and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience - but do this with patience. Be



prepared to face people who jettison sound teaching in favor of the latest novelty. Instead of listening to the truth, they will turn to myths. *Make the spreading of the Good News your life's*

work. **Jesus, please protect me from junk ideas and misleading teachers**

2 Timothy 4.6-8

As for me, my life of service to the Lord is nearly over. I have fought the good fight to the end. I have run the race to the finish. I have kept the faith. The Lord will soon give me the best of all prizes: eternal life in heaven. He will give it not only to me, but to everyone who has loved him sincerely in this life.

Jesus, help me keep running to the finish line

Titus

1.1-9

From Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to Titus, true child of mine in the faith we share, wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Saviour.

The reason I left you behind in Crete was for you to appoint elders in every town: each of them a man of irreproachable character, married only once, not arrogant or hot-tempered, not a heavy drinker, not out to make money.

A man who is hospitable and a friend of all that is good; sensible, devout, with a firm grasp of the Good News, a good teacher, able to refute people who argue against sound doctrine.

Jesus, please help all pastors be good "elders"

2.1-10

It's your job to preach the behavior that goes with sound doctrine: the older men should be reserved, dignified, moderate, sound in faith and love. The older women should be teachers of good behavior, avoiding scandalmongering and too much wine. They should be an example to the younger women in their love for their husbands and children.

Younger men should be moderate, with yourself setting an example of sincerity for them.

Slaves should be obedient to their masters, and avoid petty thieving.

Jesus, help me be a good person, a good Christian

Titus 2.11-14

God's grace has made salvation available for the whole human race.

We must give up everything that does not lead to God. We must delete our worldly ambitions.

We must be self-restrained and live good lives here in this present world, while we wait in hope for the blessings that will come with the Coming of the glory of our God and savior Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from wickedness, and to purify us so that we would have no ambition except to do good.

Jesus, please help me give up everything that does not lead to you

Titus 3.1-7

Remind everyone to be obedient to government officials; to be ready to do good at every opportunity; not to go slandering other people or picking quarrels; to be courteous and polite to everyone

There was a time when we too were ignorant; when we lived in wickedness and ill-will, hating each other and hateful ourselves

But then the kindness and love of God our Saviour were revealed, and God saved us because of his compassion

God saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth, and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit whom he has poured over us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. So we are justified by his grace, and look forward to eternal life.

Jesus, Saviour of the world, you are our Saviour

Titus 3.8-15

Tell people to keep their minds occupied in doing good works

Avoid useless speculations about trivial matters. All believers, including elders, should try to be self-supporting. Grace be with you all



Philemon

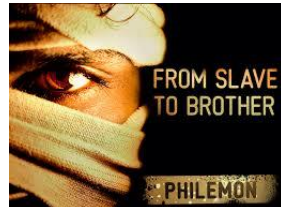
1 - 7

From Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy, to our dear fellow worker Philemon and the church that meets in your house. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ .I am so happy that your faith and love have given great encouragement to the believers. **Jesus, bless all house church groups and meetings**

9 - 25

While here in prison, I have helped someone you know to become a believer. He is carrying this letter, Onesimus. I'm sending him back to you, no longer your slave, but your brother in Christ. Please welcome him as you would welcome me And let me pay for anything he stole from you. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Jesus, please put an end to slavery in the world



Hebrews

1.1-4

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. But in our own time, he has spoken to us through his Son, through whom he made everything.



He is the radiant light of God the Father's glory. He has sacrificed himself for sinners. He has taken his place at the right hand of the Father. He

is far greater than any angel. **Jesus, deepen my understanding of who you are**

2.14-18 The Son did not become an angel. He became a man, so that he could die for us. By his death he took away the power of the devil. He himself experienced temptation. He is able to help us when we are tempted. **Jesus, when I am tempted to do something wrong, please help me say "no"**

3.1-13 Focus on Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our religion. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just like Moses.

Take care not to turn away from the living God. Keep encouraging one another, so that sin does not cause you to turn away from God.

Jesus, help me stay focused on you

Hebrews 4.12-16

The word of God is something alive and active. It goes deep into our hearts.

In Jesus we have the supreme high priest who is now in the highest heaven. He knows how weak we are. He himself was tempted in every way, but did not sin. Let us be confident in approaching his throne of grace. He will give us grace when we are in need of help.

Jesus, our high priest, help me when I'm weak

Hebrews 6.11-19

May every one of you persevere in your Christian life. Never give up. Remember how Abraham persevered in following God, despite so many difficulties. Take a firm grip on the hope that is held out to us by God. This hope is an anchor for us, a lifeline going right up to heaven.

Jesus, you are my anchor. You are my lifeline



Hebrews 7.1-28

Melchizedek was king of Salem and a priest of God. He blessed Abraham. Abraham gave Melchizedek 10% of all he had.

Melchizedek's priesthood continued down the ages in people dedicated to the service of God. It reached its perfection in the Son of God, the Eternal High Priest.

The Son of God, our Lord, did not come from the priestly tribe of Levi. Everyone knows he came from the tribe of Judah. This is because he established a new priesthood, coming not from Levi, but from Melchizedek. This is why the prophecy was made of him "You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, for ever".

Jesus' priestly power to save us is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

Jesus, Eternal High Priest, please help all pastors and priests be more like you every day

Hebrews 8.9 – 9.14 Jesus' priesthood is part of the new covenant predicted in the Scriptures:



"See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will establish a new covenant with the House of Israel!"

Christ has come as High Priest of all the blessings that were predicted. He has offered not the blood of animals like priests of the old covenant, but his own blood, by which he won our redemption

His blood can purify our inner self from dead actions, to help us in our life of dedication to the living God.

Jesus, by your precious blood, purify my heart and protect me

Hebrews 10.21-25

Jesus is the supreme High Priest of the whole house of God. As we enter that house, let us have sincere hearts that are filled with faith and hope

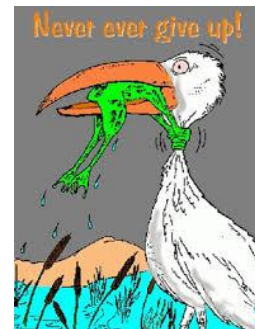
Let us be concerned for each other, encouraging each other to do good

Do not stay away from the meetings as some people do, but encourage each other to attend.

Jesus, may my life encourage others to do good



Hebrews 10.32-39 Remember all the suffering you experienced after you became Christians - the insults and violence, the loss of your possessions. Don't give up now. Keep going in your Christian life. You and I are not the sort of people who give up. We are the sort of people who stay faithful until our souls are saved.



Jesus, help me keep going, despite difficulties

11.1 – 12.15 Only faith can keep us going. Only faith kept Abraham going. Only faith gave perseverance to famous people in the Scriptures. So many of them were weak people who were given strength by God, to be brave when life became difficult. With so many witnesses in a great cloud all around us, we too should keep running in the race we have started. We should get rid of everything that slows us down. Keep focusing on Jesus. He is running beside us. His example going to the cross gives us courage. Try to live at peace with everyone. Don't let any seed of bitterness begin to grow and make trouble. This can poison a whole community.

Jesus, may I remember your presence in my heart

Hebrews 12.18 – 13.6

Your ancestors were at Mount Sinai when God spoke to Moses. But you already have one foot in the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, where millions of angels gather in praise.

So, continue to live a life of love and hospitality. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though

you were in prison with them. Keep your marriage undefiled. Avoid greed.

Be content with what you have.

Jesus, help me remember heaven and people in prison



Hebrews 13.8-21

Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by strange doctrines that teach a different Jesus.

Jesus died outside the city.

Let us go to him and share

his rejection. Our life in

this world is a temporary

arrangement, like a tent. We look for a permanent home in the life to come. Keep doing good works and sharing your resources.



God of peace, you brought Jesus back from the dead to be our Shepherd and Priest. Make me ready to do your will in any kind of good action.

122

James

1.1-12

From James, servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Greetings to believers scattered around the world



You will always have difficulties and things going wrong. When they happen, praise God for them and patiently keep going. Blessed are people who stand firm when trials come. They have proved themselves,

and will win the prize of eternal life which the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Jesus, please give me patience and praise when life gets tough

1,19-25

Be quick to listen, and slow to speak, and even slower to get angry. God's goodness is never helped by human anger. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in your heart and can save your soul. Do what the word tells you. Don't just listen to it. Actively put God's word into practice in your life.

Jesus, help me put your word into practice in my life each day

123

James 1.26-27

Don't go thinking you're "religious" while your tongue is out of control. That's the wrong idea of religion. Genuine religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows, and staying clear of bad values.

**Jesus, help me control my tongue
...and help me do more to help the poor**

James 2.1-13

Don't try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Suppose two men come into your prayer meeting, one beautifully dressed and with a gold ring; the other poor and in shabby clothes. If you welcome the rich man, and look down on the poor man, you are making a big mistake. It was those who are poor according to the world that God chose to be rich in faith. So, never make distinctions between classes of people.

Everyone is your neighbor. Love your neighbor as yourself. There will be judgment without mercy for people who have not been merciful. But merciful people need have no fear of judgment.

Jesus, help me treat everyone equally and fairly. No favorites

James 2.14-26 Faith and good works need to go together. Suppose someone is lacking clothes and food, and you say "I wish you well" and do nothing to help them. What good is that? Faith without good deeds is useless.

Jesus, please help me put my faith into action by good deeds

James 3.3-10 When a bit is put into a horse's mouth, the whole animal is under control. A tiny rudder can control a big ship. In the same way, if you can control your tongue, you can control every other part of yourself. The tongue is a whole wicked world in itself. It is so hard to control. We use it to bless God, but we also use it to curse people made in God's image.



Jesus, please help me control my tongue!

James 3.16-17

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony and evil practices. On the other hand, wisdom from heaven is good and peaceful and kindly and considerate. It is full of compassion, and does good. There is no trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. **Jesus, give me**

James 4.7-12

Turn towards God. Turn away from the Devil, and the Devil will run away from you. Clean your hearts and minds.



Be sorry for your sins. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. Do not slander one another.

Who are you to give a verdict on your neighbor?

Jesus, help me understand

"the time to judge others is never"

James 4.13-15

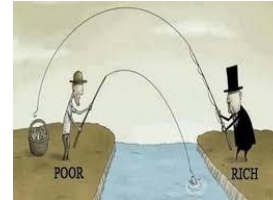
Avoid talking like this: "Tomorrow I'm going to another town, to do business there for a year". You don't know what will happen tomorrow. You are no more than a mist that is here for a little while, then disappears. What you should say is: "If it's the Lord's will, tomorrow I'm going to another town for a year"

Jesus, help me to remember to say to people:

"God willing, I will see you next month"

or "Please God, I will see you next month", rather than just "I'll see you next month"

James 5.1-6 Are you rich and powerful? Then start weeping for the miseries that are coming your way. Your wealth is rotting, **your** clothes are being eaten by moths. And your body also will soon be corroding in a burning fire. You cheated your workers. You lived a life of luxury without



any care for people who were suffering. You condemned and killed the innocent. **Jesus, give uncaring rich and powerful people a change of heart**

James 5.13-18

If one of you is in trouble, pray. If you are happy, sing a psalm. If someone is sick, send for the elders of the church. They must anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and pray over him. The prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, and this will heal you. The heartfelt prayer of a good person is very powerful. Elijah prayed for rain, and rain came. **Jesus, please help sick people have the opportunity to receive the "Anointing of the Sick"**



1 Peter

1.1-2

Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ, sends greetings to the believers living among foreigners .

You were chosen by God the *Father*.

You were made holy by the *Spirit*.

You are obedient to *Jesus Christ* and are sprinkled with his blood.

Grace and peace be with you more and more.

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- thank you for life and faith**

1.3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy, he has made us his children. He has prepared a place in heaven

for us to live with him forever.

This is a cause of great joy for you, even though life in this world has many trials.

You did not see Jesus, yet you love him, and you believe in him. Faith gives you confidence to look forward to the salvation of your souls.

Jesus, I have never seen you with my physical eyes, but I love you and believe in you



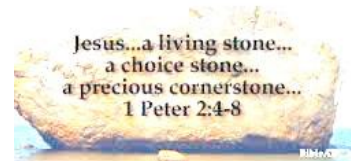
1 Peter 1.13 – 2.3

Delete rubbish from your minds. Control your thinking. Trust more in Jesus. Live the way he wants you to live, not like the way you used to live before you learnt the truth. Be good and holy. Let your love for each other be real and from the heart. You are born again by the everlasting word of the living God. Never be spiteful, or deceitful, or hypocritical or envious and critical of each other.



Jesus, help me live the way you want me to live

1 Peter 2.4-9 Jesus is Mr Livingstone, the living stone rejected by men, but chosen by God. Stay close to him, so that you too may be living stones in the spiritual



house of God's church. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Jesus, you are the foundation stone of my life.
May I build my life on your teaching, your values, your example**

1 Peter 2.11-15

Keep yourselves free from selfish passions that attack the soul. Behave honorably among non-Christians, even if they treat you badly

For the sake of the Lord,
accept the authority of every social institution.
God wants you to be good citizens.

**Jesus, bless government officials in my country.
Give them good health, courage and wisdom**

1 Peter 2.19-25

If you are treated unfairly, put up with it for the sake of God. Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow.

He had done nothing wrong. He was insulted and tortured, but did not retaliate. He bore our sins in his own body on the Cross, so that we might die to sin and live for holiness. Through his wounds you have been healed. You were like straying sheep, but now have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.



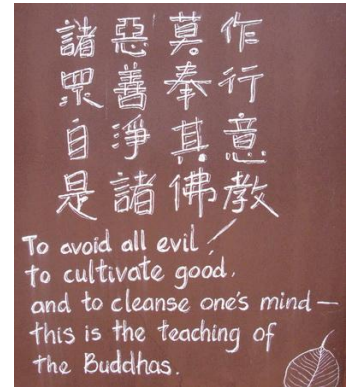
Jesus, please help me put up with difficulties for your sake

1 Peter 3.1-7

Wives, honor and respect your husbands. If some husbands are not yet believers, they may find themselves won over to the Lord, without a word spoken, by the goodness of their wives. Wives, do not dress up for show: special hair style, gold bracelets, expensive clothes - all outside stuff. What matters is what's inside: a sweet and gentle disposition, that's what God likes. Husbands, be kind and thoughtful to your wives, respecting them as equals. **Jesus, help husbands and wives imitate your love**

1 Peter 3.8-11

Be agreeable and sympathetic. Love everyone. Have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another, or an angry word with another one. Instead, pay back with a blessing. Anyone who wants to have a happy life must banish malice from his tongue; they must avoid evil, do good and seek peace. **Jesus, when people are unkind to me, help me to pray in my heart "Lord, please bless them"**



1 Peter 4.3-5

You spent enough time in the past living a careless life, behaving indecently, drinking all the time, having wild parties.



Now that you don't do these things anymore, people can't understand why you've changed, and they tell lies about you

They will have to answer for this to him who will judge everyone at the end of their lives.
Jesus, please rescue people from wild party life

1 Peter 4.13-19

If you have a share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because this means you will have an extra share of happiness in the life to come

It is a blessing for you when they insult you for being a Christian. It means you have the Spirit of God resting on you.

People who experience suffering for God's sake, must trust themselves to the grace of the Creator, and keep on doing good.

Jesus, give strength to persecuted Christians

1 Peter 5.1-4 To those of you who are elders I say: I am an elder myself, a witness to the sufferings of Christ. Be good shepherds of the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it, not simply as a duty, or for sordid money, but gladly, because that's what God wants you to do. Never be a dictator over any group that is in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Jesus, help pastors and elders be good shepherds

1 Peter 5.5-14 To everyone else I say: do what the elders tell you. Wrap yourselves in humility to be servants of each other. God refuses the proud and favors the humble. Bow down before the power of God, and he will raise you up.



Unload all your worries on to him, since he is looking after you. Be calm, but careful, because your enemy the Devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, looking for someone to eat. Stand up to him, strong in faith. Peace to all who are in Christ.

Jesus please protect me from Satan

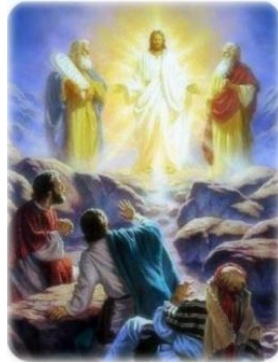
2 Peter

1.1-11 From Simon Peter, servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to all who have faith through our God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May you have more and more grace and peace as you come to know our Lord more and more. By his divine power, he has given us all we need for life and faith. He has called us to share his divine nature in his eternal kingdom. So we must do our best to live lives of goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, a love for prayer, kindness and love. **Dear Jesus, may I see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day**

1.12-18 As long as I am in this passing world, my duty is to keep on reminding you of the truths we hold dear. Writing this letter is one way of making sure that after my departure you will still have a way of recalling the truths we hold dear. These truths are not cleverly invented myths.

I myself saw the majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ.



He was honored and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory himself spoke to him and said "This is my Son, the Beloved. He enjoys my favor". I heard this myself, spoken from heaven, when I was with Jesus on the holy mountain.

Jesus, Beloved Son, may more and more people accept the truth of your Good News

2 Peter 1.20 – 3.8

We must be careful to understand Scripture according to God's mind. We are not free to make up our own interpretations as we like. In the past there were false prophets. So there will always be false prophets and teachers who twist the truth to



suit their own tastes and corrupt behavior. They will have much to answer for when the Day of the Lord comes. Our brother Paul has written to you about this issue. Sometimes his writing is not easy to understand, and is distorted by false teachers. Avoid false teaching. Stand firm in the

truth. Go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To him be glory, in time and in eternity. Amen

Jesus, protect me from people who distort the Bible message

1 John

1.1-2

Something which has existed since the beginning,
that we heard,
that we saw with our own eyes,
that we touched with our hands:
the Word, who is life
- this is our subject.

That life was made visible.

We saw it, and we are giving our
testimony,

telling you of the eternal life

which was with the Father

and has been made visible to us.

**Jesus, Word-made-flesh,
you are the Way, the Truth and the Life**



1.5-9

God is light. There is no darkness in him. If we
say we are in union with God while we are living
in darkness, we are lying, because we are not
living the truth. If we say we have no sin in us,
we are deceiving ourselves and refusing to admit
the truth. But if we acknowledge our sins, God
will forgive us and purify us from everything that
is wrong.

Jesus, forgive my sins. Please help me avoid sin

1 John 2.3-6

We can be sure we know God
only by keeping his commandments

Anyone who says "I know him"
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar, refusing to admit the truth

We can be sure we are in God
only if we are living the same kind of life
as Christ lived

Jesus, please help me live like you, live for you

1 John 2.9-16

Anyone who claims to be in the light
but hates his brother
is still in the dark

Do not love the ungodly values of this world
generated by the sensual body,
the lustful eye
and a pride in possessions.
Such things do not come from God

Jesus, please help me avoid worldly values

1 John 3.1-3

Think of the love
that the Father has lavished on us
by letting us be called God's children

And God's love
has even more in store for us in the future:
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is

This is why we must try to live good lives.
We must try to be as good as Christ.
Jesus, please help me be more like you

1 John 3.16-21

This has taught us love:
that Jesus gave up his life for us.
We too should give up our lives for others .
If you see someone in need
and refuse to help him, how can the love of God



be in you? Our
love must be put
into practice, not
be just words.
Anyone who

loves God must also love other people.

**Jesus, help me put my love into practice
by helping people in need**

1 John 4.7-16



Let us love one another.
Love comes from God.
God is love.
God showed his love
for us by sending his
Son as a sacrifice to

take away our sins. Since God has loved us so
much we should love one another. God is love.
Anyone who lives in love, lives in God, and God
lives in him.

**Jesus, you are love itself.
May I live in your love**

1 John 4.20 – 5.13

Anyone who says "I love God"
but hates his brother, is a liar.
A man who does not love the brother he can see
cannot love God whom he has never seen.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the person who believes

that Jesus is the Son of God.

God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.

You who believe in the Son of God
have eternal life

Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God

2 John

In our life of truth and love,
we have grace, mercy and peace
from God the Father
and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father

I write not to give you any new commandment,
but the one we were given at the beginning:
let us love one another; let us live a life of love

Keep to what Jesus taught. Don't follow anyone
who changes what Jesus taught.

**Jesus, please protect me
from people who distort your message**

3 John

From the Elder to my dear friend Gaius.
People have told me
of your faithfulness to the truth.
It is always a great joy for me
when I hear that my children
are living according to the truth

Thank you for your hospitality to believers
who travel to spread the Good News. Such people
deserve whatever support we can give them.

**Jesus, please bless people
who travel to spread the Good News**

Jude

From Jude,
servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
to those who are dear to God the Father and kept
safe, wishing you mercy and peace and love

I write with urgency to appeal to you:
stand up for the faith that has been entrusted to us

Some false teachers have infiltrated our ranks

They reject the teaching
of our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ

They say "anything goes" in the area of morality

Such teaching, such people, must be opposed

Be kind to such people, but with great caution

To God who saves us through Jesus Christ our
Lord, be glory and all honor, now and forever

**Jesus, please protect your church
from false teachers**

Revelation

1.4-8

From John,
to the seven churches of Asia province:
grace and peace to you
from him who is, who was, and who is to come,
from the seven spirits at his throne,
and from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness, the
First-born from the dead,
the Ruler of the kings of
the earth



Jesus Christ loves us and
has washed away our
sins with this blood, and made us a line of kings
and priests to serve his God and Father.

It is he who will come on the clouds

Everyone, in every part of the world, will see him.
All hearts will be moved by his coming

"I am the beginning and the end", says the Lord
God. "I am the originator and goal of all things"

**Jesus, please help more and more people know
who you are**

Rev 1.9-17 I, John, share your sufferings. I was
on the island of Patmos, imprisoned for having
preached about Jesus. One Sunday the Spirit
possessed me. I heard a voice shouting "Write
down all you see, and send it to the seven
churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum,
Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea".

I turned to
see who
had spoken
to me, and
I saw Jesus,
full of
glory. His
face was
like the sun
shining
with all its
force.



He said to me "Do not be afraid. It is I, the First
and the Last. I am the Living One". **Jesus, Living
One, we praise and adore you, Lord**

Rev 2.1-4

The Son of Man gave me this message for the
church in Ephesus: "I know all about you. I know
how much you have suffered for me. But your
love has grown cold. Repent, and revive your
original love". **Jesus, keep my love for you
strong. Don't let it grow cold**

Revelation 2.8-10

He gave me this message
for the church in Smyrna:
"I know the trials you have been through,
and how poor you are, and the slanderous attacks
that have been made on you

Do not be afraid of suffering, afraid of prison

Even if you have to die, keep faithful,
and I will give you the prize of eternal life".

**Jesus, help me stay faithful
when I experience trials and suffering**

Revelation 2.12-16

He gave me this message
for the church in Pergamum:
"I know you live in a place
where idol worship is strong.
I know you have stayed faithful,
even after one of you was killed

But some of you have compromised yourselves
by eating food sacrificed to idols.
And some of you have followed false teachers

Listen to this message and repent".

Jesus, don't let me ever compromise my faith

Revelation 2.18-22

He gave me this message
for the church in Thyatira:
"I know how charitable you are.
I see you faith and devotion,
and your courage in suffering

But some of you are being misled by a false
teacher. You are imitating her bad behavior.
Listen to this message and repent"

Jesus, please don't let me imitate bad behavior

Revelation 3.1-3

He gave me this message for the church in Sardis:
"I know all about you.
You are a shining red
apple on the outside,
but inside you are
rotten



Wake up, revive your
faith and love.
Remember the eagerness you showed
when you first heard the Good News
Listen to this message and repent"

Jesus, don't ever let me become a rotten apple

Revelation 3.7-9

He gave me this message for the church in Philadelphia: "I am opening a new door of opportunity for you to spread the Good News. I will move people to accept the Good News from you. I will keep you safe in time of trial"



Jesus, please give me more opportunities to spread the Good News

Revelation 3.14-17

He gave me this message for the church in Laodicea: "You are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other. But since you are lukewarm, you are cutting yourself off from me



You are rich in this world's goods, but you are spiritually poor. Listen to this message and repent"

Jesus, please don't ever let me become a lukewarm Christian

Revelation 4.1-11

In my vision I saw a door open in heaven. The same voice as before said to me "Come up here. I will show you what is to come in the future". I saw God in all his glory, being



worshipped by the angels who sang: "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty". And I saw 24 elders around the throne. They were praising

God saying "You are our Lord and our God. You are worthy of glory and honor and power because you are the Creator of the universe".

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God, Almighty. Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee"

Revelation 5.1-10

I saw a sealed scroll that no one could open. Then I saw a Lamb, which seemed to have been sacrificed. The Lamb took the scroll, and the 24



elders sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals because you were sacrificed, and by your blood you ransomed us for God out of every race, language, people and nation". **We praise you Jesus, Lamb of God in heaven**

Revelation 5.11-14

I heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered around God's throne. There were 10,000 times 10,000 of them, shouting:



"The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing". I heard all living things in creation - angels, people, animals - crying out: "To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honor, glory and power for ever and ever"

"Thou are worthy, Thou art worthy, Thou are worthy O Lord, to receive glory, glory and honor, glory and honor and power"

Revelation 7.9-17 I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, and language. They were standing in front of the throne, with palms in their hands. They shouted: "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb"

148

One of the elders told me who these people are: "These are the people who have been through the great persecution. They now serve God day and night in his sanctuary.

The Lamb is their Shepherd.



He leads them to springs of living water.

God has wiped away all tears from their eyes".

Jesus, please help sorrowing people who are crying today

Revelation 8.1 – 11.18

I saw how punishment was coming for all evil doers on the earth I heard voices shouting: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ. He will reign for ever and ever". The 24 elders worshipped God saying: "We give thanks to you, Almighty Lord God. The time has come for everyone to be judged. The time has come for good people to be rewarded and bad people to be punished".

Jesus, please help bad people stop being bad

149

Revelation 12.1-6

A great sign appeared in heaven: a Woman, dressed in the sun, standing on the moon, crowned with 12 stars.

She was giving birth to a Child, and she cried out in the pain of childbirth

Then a second sign appeared: a huge red dragon, which wanted to eat the Child.



The Woman gave birth to a Son, the ruler of all nations. The Son was taken straight up to heaven, to God on his throne. The Woman escaped to safety in the desert, to a place prepared for her by God

Jesus, protect us from Satan who goes round like a hungry lion wanting to eat us

Revelation 12.7-1`4

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought the dragon and his angels. Michael won. Satan and his followers were driven out of heaven.

The great dragon, the serpent, known as the Devil or Satan, was hurled down to earth. His angels were hurled down with him. The dragon began to make war on the children of the Woman - those who obey God and bear witness to Jesus. **Jesus, may your holy angels protect us from Satan**

Revelation 13.2-12

The dragon gave authority and power to a beast with seven heads. For a time, the beast waged war on the saints. Then I saw a second beast. It was a servant of the first beast, and made people everywhere worship the first beast. **Father, Son and Holy Spirit - may people worship you, and not worship Satan and the two beasts**

Revelation 14.6-13

I saw an angel flying high in the sky, sent to announce the Good News of eternity to every nation, race, language and tribe. He was calling: "Honor God and praise him. Worship the maker of heaven and earth and sea. The time has come for him to judge the world". A voice from heaven said to me "Happy are those who are the Lord's friends when they die. Now they can rejoice for ever, since their good deeds go with them".

Jesus, may I live, grow and die in your friendship

Revelation 15.1-4

Then I saw something great and wonderful: those who had fought against the beast and won, were singing the Song of the Lamb:



"Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord God almighty.

Just and true are all your ways, King of nations.

All nations will come and adore you"

Jesus, may all the nations of the earth adore you

Revelation 18.1-14

I saw another angel, shouting at the top of his voice: "Babylon has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen. Gone for ever, never to return, is your life of magnificence and ease". Another voice spoke from heaven: "Come out, my people, away from Babylon, so that you do not experience her punishment"

Jesus, please help us not be contaminated by worldly values

Revelation 19.1-9

After this I heard the sound of a huge crowd in heaven singing: "Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God!" The sound of the crowd was like the sound of the ocean or the roar of thunder as they called out:

"Alleluia!

The reign of the Lord our God the Almighty has

begun. Let us be glad and joyful, and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb"

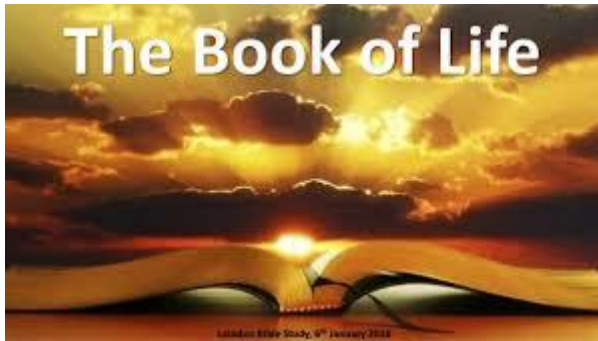


And an angel said "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb"

Jesus, even on this earth, may I start to hear the sounds of heaven

Revelation 20.11-15

Then I saw God sitting on a great white throne.
I saw the dead, both great and small,
standing in front of his throne,
while the Book of Life was opened,
in which was the record of everyone's life.
Everyone was judged
according to the way they had lived



Then Death and Hades were thrown into a burning lake. This burning lake is the second death.

Anyone whose name could not be found in the Book of Life was thrown into the burning lake

**Jesus, may all near and dear to me,
be in the Book of Life**

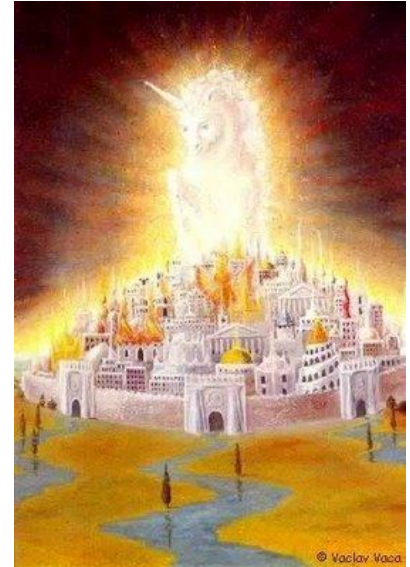
Revelation 21.1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The first heaven and the first earth had
disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea

I saw the holy city,
the new Jerusalem,
coming down from
God out of heaven,
as beautiful as a
bride all dressed for
her husband. I heard
a voice call from
the throne: "You
see this city?
Here God lives
among people.
He will make his
home among them.
They shall be his
people. He will be
their God. His name is God-with-them.

He will wipe away all tears from their eyes.
There will be no more death, no more sadness.
The world of the past has gone

**Jesus, may the thought of heaven
give us courage here on earth**



Revelation 21.5-8

Then the One sitting on the throne said "Now I am making the whole of creation new. I am the Beginning and the End. I give Eternal Life to all who die in my friendship. But for those whose evil deeds have removed themselves from my friendship, there is Eternal Death"

Jesus, have mercy on people who are rejecting your friendship

Revelation 21.10-23

I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. It had God's glory, and glittered like a precious diamond. There was no temple in the city, since the Lord God and the Lamb were themselves the temple. The city did not need sun or moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and of the Lamb

**Jesus,
Light of
the world,
Light of
Heaven,
we adore
you, Lord!**



Revelation 22.1-5

Then an angel showed me the River of Life, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flowing crystal-clear through the middle of the city. Here God's servants will worship him. They will see him face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. It will never be night again.



They will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. **Jesus, may your name be written on my forehead**

Revelation 22.16-20

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David's line, the Root of David, the



Bright Star of the Morning". The Spirit and the Bride say: "Come". Let all who want eternal life say: "Come". Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

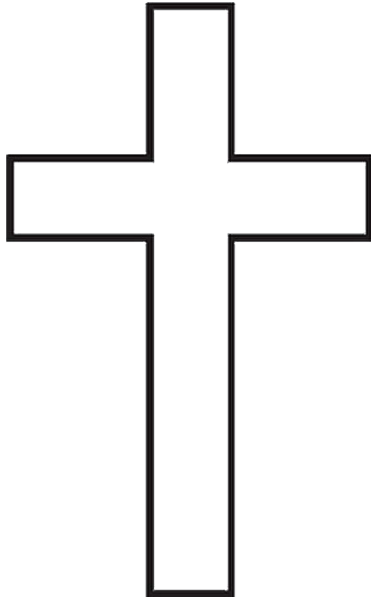
Come Lord Jesus! Come into my heart! Come into the hearts of all near and dear to me! 157

Simple Bible : Old Testament

**O Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Acclaim him, all you peoples!**

**Strong is his love for us.
He is faithful for ever.**

(Psalm 117)

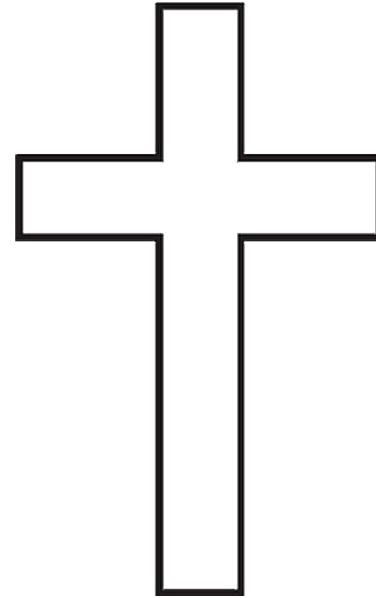


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**I am the Way
the Truth
and the Life**

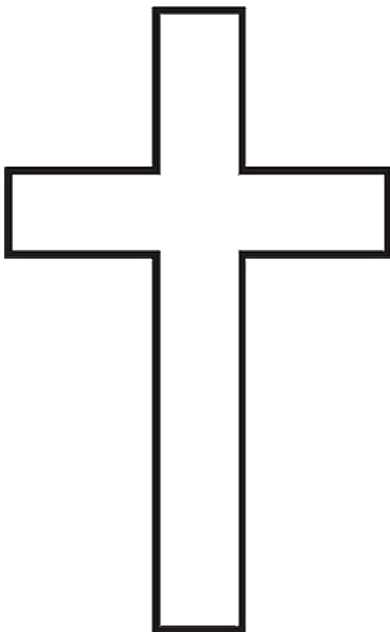
(John 14.6)



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Jesus please heal me



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