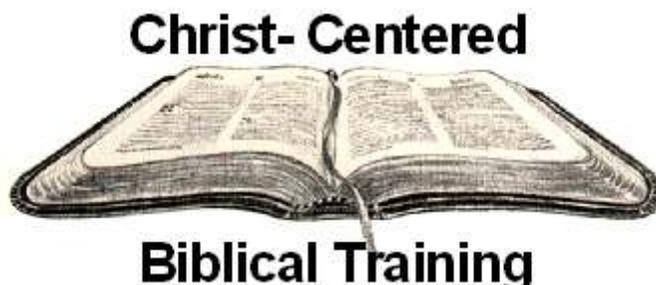


Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity,

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by
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Colossians 1:28- 29 - And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

2 Chronicles 16:9 - "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. Acts 13:22 - a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'Matthew 22:37 -'"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ...'

1 John 2:6 - the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. John 5:19 - the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

This is a helpful document for personal devotions and spiritual growth in Christ.

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LIVING BY GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

BLUEPRINT FOR RIGHTEOUS LIVING

We should learn and live by God's righteousness. God has given us the following ways to implement His righteousness:

1. "Praising God using the Psalms." This turns our hearts towards God.
2. "God's Promises To Memorize." Memorizing and applying over 40 promises to escape the world's lusts.
3. "God's Commandments That Implement Our Faith." Learning and obeying God's commandments demonstrates our love for God and Christ and brings us to maturity.
4. "We Know God By Knowing His Attributes." Learning of God's attributes to know God and use those which apply to our lives.
5. "God Desires Us To Meet Elder And Deacon Qualifications." Implementing the qualifications for elder and deacon into our lives brings us to a higher level of maturity.
6. "We Are To Have Love Characteristics In Our Lives." Implementing the characteristics of love into our lives allows us to live sacrificially for God and others.
7. "God Desires Us To Pray." Praying regularly with a faithful heart.

The above listed sections follow in the same sequence. Their Biblical teachings are meant to be repeatedly read and reviewed to improve our righteous walk with God. We can review them monthly and mark those in which we do poorly. We can then work on these to make improvements in our lives. In time our lives will be closer to where God desires them.

PRAISE GOD USING THE PSALMS

The following Psalms can be used in our prayers and meditations to give praise to God. They give us a greater appreciation for Him. We can memorize them to give praise to God wherever we may be.

Psalm 18:1-3 - I love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 34:1-3 - I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble

shall hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 48:9,10 - We have thought on Thy lovingkindness, O God, In the midst of Thy temple. As is Thy name, O God, so is Thy praise to the ends of the earth; Thy right hand is full of righteousness.

Psalm 57:9-11 - I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to Thee among the nations. For Thy lovingkindness is great to the heavens, and Thy truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God; let Thy glory be above all the earth.

Psalm 63:1-5 - O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have beheld Thee in the sanctuary, to see Thy power and Thy glory. Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name. My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

Psalm 66:1-10 - Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are Thy works! Because of the greatness of Thy power Thine enemies will give feigned obedience to Thee. "All the earth will worship Thee, and will sing praises to Thee; they will sing praises to Thy name." Selah. Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot; there let us rejoice in Him! He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah. Bless our God, O peoples, and sound His praise abroad, Who keeps us in life, and does not allow our feet to slip. For Thou hast tried us, O God; Thou hast refined us as silver is refined.

Psalm 73:25,26 - Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 84:11,12 - For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in Thee!

Psalm 90:1,2 - Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

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Psalm 100:1-5 - Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 103:1-5 - Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle. Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples.

Psalm 105:1-4 - Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually.

Psalm 111:1-10 - Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly. Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them. Splendid and majestic is His work; and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate. He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever. He has made known to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure. They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness. He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.

Psalm 113:1-3 - Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord From this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the Lord is to be praised. Who is like the Lord our God, Who is enthroned on high,

Psalm 116:1,2 - I love the Lord, because He hears my voice and my supplications. Because He has

inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.

Psalm 136:1-3 - Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Give thanks to the God of gods, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

GOD'S PROMISES TO MEMORIZE

God has given us many promises to claim. They bring God's actions that allow us to partake of His divine nature, avoid sin, and escape the corruption in the world. They give action we are to take to have living faith. They influence our lives to be dependent upon God.

II Peter 1:3,4 - seeing that His divine power has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

We can memorize many promises to bring us close to God, and allow Him to intervene into our lives to make them successful. When memorized, they are instantly available as the situation requires. Although they are shown in the New American Standard translation, they may be memorized in another version.

Joshua 1:8 - "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

II Chronicles 16:9a - "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.

Job 19:25,26 - "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. "Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

Psalm 37:4,5 - Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalm 37:23,24 - The steps of a man are established by the Lord; and He delights in his way. When he falls, he shall not be hurled

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headlong; because the Lord is the One who holds his hand.

Psalm 55:22 - Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

Psalm 56:3 - When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee.

Psalm 84:11 - For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Psalm 118:8 - It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in man.

Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 8:17 - "I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.

Proverbs 16:7 - When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Isaiah 26:3 - "The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee."

Isaiah 40:31 - Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 41:10 - 'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Jeremiah 33:3 - 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Matthew 4:19 - "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

Matthew 7:7,8 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

Matthew 21:22 - "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

John 15:7 - "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

I Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

II Corinthians 12:9 - "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Galatians 6:9 - And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Philippians 1:6 - For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6,7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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Philippians 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:18 - in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

James 1:5 - But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

I Peter 3:12 - "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

I Peter 5:7 - casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

II Peter 1:4 - For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

I John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

GOD'S COMMANDMENTS TO OBEY FROM FAITH

The Bible teaches many commandments for us to obey as we trust God to work all things together for our ultimate good. Our obedience shows our love for God and demonstrates our living faith and abiding in Christ. As we obey God's commandments, we place our lives under God's control. We rest in God for success and abandon our own efforts. If we regularly keep God's commandments, God brings great blessings and works all things together for good.

John 15:10 - "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

Below are over 300 paraphrased commandments from the Old and New Testaments. They maintain the words and meaning of Scripture. The Scripture references are given for us to read the Scriptures directly if we prefer. We should read the commandments twice a week for six months and then weekly for the rest of our lives. We should sift them through our minds and lives and begin to make changes in our lives to be more obedient to God. This allows us to grow to possess God's intended spiritual maturity.

They are as follows (Parentheses added in the commandments are by the author):

Old Testament Commandments

1. Love and worship God with your total being, walk in His statutes, and be diligent to keep His commandments. You are always to obey and serve God with all your heart and soul. (Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 6:5,7; 10:12,13,20,21; 11:1; 27:10)
2. Teach God's commandments diligently to your family including your sons and daughters. (Deuteronomy 6:7)
3. Have only the true God and worship only Him. You are not to have any other god to worship. (Deuteronomy 5:7; 6:13; Exodus 20:3; 23:24)
4. Do not have any false worship, burn incense or have images of any kind to which you bow down and you are not to walk after any other gods, serve them, worship them at their shrines (churches) or offer sacrifices to them. You are not to make idols or images of any god such as configured from stone to which you bow down. You shall not bring images into your homes and are to burn any of those which you have. (False gods and worship would include your greatest motivations, drive or reason why you wish to live exclusive of the true God. These reasons could be marriage, wealth, fame, achievement, pleasure, survivability, and retirement. Any higher priority in life you have above the true God is idolatry and false worship because in practice we worship the wrong god. God will not allow you to have another god. Doing what is right in your eyes rather than obeying God is idolatry, sin and false worship. When you do this you worship false gods.) (Exodus 20:4,5; 23:24; Deuteronomy 4:15-19,23,24; 5:8,9; 6:14,15; 7:25,26; 27:15; 28:14; Leviticus 26:1; Jeremiah 7:6; Ezekiel 18:6)
5. Destroy the altars and images of false gods that are in your midst. (Deuteronomy 12:1-3)
6. Do not shed innocent blood or commit murder. (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Proverbs 6:17; Jeremiah 7:6)
7. Do not commit immorality, adultery, fornication, incest or defile your neighbor's wife. (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; 27:20-23; Leviticus 18:6-18; 20:10-21)
8. Restore all debtors their pledge and use

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- honest and just weight or deal honestly with people so no one is cheated. (Deuteronomy 25:13-15; Leviticus 19:35,36; Proverbs 11:1; Ezekiel 18:7)
9. Do not lend money on interest or take interest among Israel or Christian brothers, but only among unbelievers. (Exodus 22:25; Deuteronomy 23:19; Ezekiel 18:8)
 10. Do not commit robbery or steal. (Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19; Leviticus 19:11; Ezekiel 18:7)
 11. Give bread to the hungry and cover the naked with clothing; give justice to the alien and orphan by giving them clothing and food. (Deuteronomy 10:18,19)
 12. Do not approach a woman in her menstrual period. (Leviticus 20:18; Ezekiel 18:6)
 13. Do not slander or bear false witness against anyone including your neighbor. You are not to be a witness against your neighbor without cause and you are not to deceive. (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20; Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 5:19; 16:28; 19:5; 21:28; 24:28,29)
 14. Do not use profanity or swear falsely so as to take the name of the Lord in vain and profane the Name of God. (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12; Deuteronomy 5:11)
 15. Always honor, obey and never curse or bring shame to your father and mother. (Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 5:16; 27:16; Proverbs 19:26; 20:20; 23:22-25)
 16. Do not curse God or a ruler of the people. (Exodus 22:28)
 17. As believers, you are not to marry unbelievers. (The implication is that you are not to go into partnership with unbelievers.) (Exodus 34:15,16; Joshua 23:12)
 18. Do not distort justice due or oppress the needy, orphan, widow, alien or the poor, particularly those who have no means to resist. (Exodus 22:22; Deuteronomy 24:17; 27:19; Jeremiah 7:6; Ezekiel 18:7)
 19. Do not be proud or great in your own eyes, but rather you are to be humble seeing only God as being great. (Proverbs 6:17; 8:12; 11:2; 16:5,18; 18:12; 21:4)
 20. Do not do what is right in your own eyes as according to your own views, but rather you are to obey God's commandments. (Deuteronomy 12:8)
 21. Act justly with righteousness and without distortion and prejudice toward all persons, and you are not to show partiality regardless of their wealth or station in life. (Leviticus 19:15; Jeremiah 7:5; Ezekiel 18:5,8)
 22. Do not move your neighbor's boundary marker to his property. (Deuteronomy 27:17)
 23. Do not accept bribes or otherwise strike down your neighbor or innocent person in secret or spread strife among the believers. (Deuteronomy 27:24,25; Proverbs 6:19)
 24. Obey the laws of the nation in which you live.
 25. Always speak the truth, never lie or deal falsely using deception. (Proverbs 6:16)
 26. Always hate and avoid doing evil to anyone. (Proverbs 6:18; 8:13)
 27. Love others as you love yourselves and do not take vengeance or revenge, nor bear a grudge against anyone. (You are to allow God to act if vengeance is needed.) (Leviticus 19:18)
 28. Be holy for God is holy. (Leviticus 19:2; 20:7)
 29. Do not practice divination, soothsaying, or fortune telling. (Leviticus 19:26)
 30. Do not utilize or seek a medium or spiritist; otherwise you will be defiled by them. (Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27)
 31. Do not learn from or have among you anyone who practices false religion, uses divination, practices witchcraft, interprets omens, is a sorcerer, cast spells or is a medium, a spiritist or one who calls up the dead. (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)
 32. Rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged. (Leviticus 19:32)
 33. Never do wrong or oppress a stranger including those who reside with you, and you are to love him as yourself. (Leviticus 19:33,34; Exodus 22:21)
 34. Never allow your children to enter false religions, as this profanes the holy name of God. (Leviticus 20:1-5)
 35. Do not be homosexuals. (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)
 36. Do not make or allow your daughters to become harlots or prostitutes. (Leviticus 19:29)

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37. Do not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor including his wife and property. (Deuteronomy 5:21; Exodus 20:17)
38. Do not have a perverted mouth. (Proverbs 8:13)
39. Accept accusations against another person only if it is confirmed by two or three witnesses. (Deuteronomy 19:15)
40. Do not put to death someone else because of the sin of another, such as a father for the sin of his son or vice versa. (Deuteronomy 24:16)
41. Observe the sabbath (Saturday) day in rest to keep it holy as the Lord has commanded. You are to rest on the seventh day after six days of work. However, after the cross and the day of Pentecost, the sabbath rest became a continual 7 day rest in the Lord (Hebrews 4:9-11).

(The picture of the Sabbath day is a reminder that God rested on the seventh day after six days of creation. On the seventh day he rested after His labors. Israel was to do the same thing. (Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Exodus 20:8; 23:12; 31:15-17; 35:2)
42. As you worship the Lord, give Him a portion of what He has supplied you. What you give must have originated from Him and must not be a product of your own hands, which you have initiated, for He rejects the work of your hands. We can give a portion of our wages because He gives us jobs and businesses. (Genesis 4:4:2-7; Exodus 20:22-26; Numbers 18:26; Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Proverbs 3:9,10; Malachi 3:10)
43. Abstain from seed planting or harvesting your land every seven years. It may be possible to portion the land into seven sections so a portion of the land is always at rest. (Exodus 23:10,11)
44. Grant a remission of debt at the end of every seven years from your brothers and believers. In this manner every creditor shall release what he has loaned to a neighbor. (This commandment does not apply between believers and unbelievers.) (Deuteronomy 15:2)
45. Lend or give generously to your brothers in need and do not harden your heart against the poor in your midst. The poor will always be in the land. You who have been given much are always to extend your hands out to them. (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)
46. Do not wear clothing that is indicative of the opposite sex, for this is an abomination to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 22:5)
47. Do not mislead anyone, particularly blind persons, along the road of life. (Deuteronomy 27:18)
48. Seek after the wisdom and the commandments of the Lord and walk in them. You are not to be ignorant of the ways of the Lord. If you know the ways of the Lord and follow them, you will discern righteousness and justice. You will walk in the ways of the Lord and keep yourselves from sin and destruction. (Proverbs 1:7; 2-1-22; 21:3)
49. Trust in the Lord and His understanding and not in your own. You are to share with Him all your ways and trust Him to guide your life. In this way you avoid being wise in your own eyes which is sin. You are to commit your way and works to God and He will establish the plan for your life. You are to delight yourselves in His ways and then He will give you the desires of your heart (those desires which are already His). (Psalms 37:3,4; Proverbs 3:5-7; 16:3,9,10)
50. Honor the Lord for who and what He is and what He has done for you by giving to Him the first of your produce. If you do, your barns will be full and your vats of wine will be overflowing. (Proverbs 3:9,10)
51. Do not reject the discipline of the Lord because this is a way that He shows His love for you. He will discipline you like a father does his son. (Proverbs 3:11,12; 13:1,24)
52. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to give it. You should give to your neighbor what you owe him when you have the means to pay it. (Proverbs 3:27-29)
53. Do not proceed in the way or lifestyle of evil men, but you are to turn away from it and go another way. You are to keep yourselves from doing evil. (Proverbs 4:14-16,26,27)
54. Walk in the paths of God's righteousness and justice, for this is better than possessing gold and silver. The way of the Lord is to live God's righteousness and to do His justice. (Genesis 18:21; Proverbs 8:18-21)
55. Do not gossip, slander or malign any person or divulge matters, but rather you are to conceal matters and be held trustworthy and loyal. (Proverbs 4:24; 11:13; 12:16; 20:19)
56. Have many counselors around you to

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overcome your blind spots, and be sure you are acting with the mind and will of God. (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 13:20; 27:17)

57. Do not be lazy, for if you are, you will suffer hunger in life from lack of food and all the good things that life offers. (Proverbs 19:15)
 58. As parents, discipline your children and bring them up in the wisdom of the Lord. (Proverbs 13:18; 19:18,20; 22:6,15; 23:13,14; 29:17)
 59. Do not constantly complain and gripe because this drives other people away from you. (Proverbs 21:9,19; 22:10; 25:24; 27:15)
 60. Be greatly skilled in your work, and then you will stand before kings. (Proverbs 22:29)
 61. Be generous toward others and you will be prosperous. He who waters will himself be watered. (Proverbs 11:25)
 62. Do not seek after riches and wealth. You are to cease from consideration of it. Rather you are to obey the Lord, and He will supply your needs. (Proverbs 23:4,5)
 63. Do not associate with heavy drinkers of wine and liquor or those who are gluttonous eaters of meat, for they will come to poverty. (Proverbs 20:1; 23:20,21)
 64. Do not associate with evil men or be envious of them, for the lamp of the wicked will be put out. Do not associate with men given to anger or of hot temper, lest you learn their ways and find a snare for yourselves. (Proverbs 24:1,2,19,20; 22:24,25)
 65. Have a vision or goal of what God wants you to do. (Proverbs 29:18)
 66. Do not sign debt papers for others that cause you to make payment if your friends do not make payment. (Proverbs 22:26)
2. Immediately follow Christ when He calls you. The disciples left their father and work to follow Christ in ministry. He will make you fishers of men and allow you to lead your friends to Christ. Take people to the Savior for spiritual healing and the forgiveness of sins and salvation. (Matthew 4:18-22; 9:1-3,9; Mark 2:1-7,13,14; Luke 5:10,11,17-20,27,28; John 1:41-45)
 3. Become born again to see the kingdom of God. He who drinks the water that Christ gives for the answer to life will never thirst again. To be saved and have eternal life, you must believe that the Father sent Christ. (John 3:3-7,16,36; 4:10-15; 5:24)
 4. Christ must increase and you must decrease in the running of your life. He must have first place in everything. (John 3:30; Colossians 1:18)
 5. Worship God the Father in truth and in spirit. (John 4:23,24)
 6. Your food is to do the Father's will of keeping His commandments and to accomplish His work of disciplining and evangelizing. The fields are white and ready for harvest. (John 4:34-38 with I John 2:6)
 7. A prophet is not without honor except in his local area, home town, church, and family. People who know you well before you are called, do not accept you as a prophet of God. (Mark 6:4-6; Luke 4:24; John 4:44)
 8. Pray in a lonely or private place part of the time. (Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42)
 9. Be among unbelievers to lead them to Christ; do not just live among believers. (Matthew 9:10-13; Mark 15-17; Luke 5:29-32)
 10. Being born again, use the Word of God in your new life, do not try to add it to your old life. Put new wine in new wineskins. (Matthew 9:15-17; Mark 2:21,22; Luke 5:37-39)
 11. Live your life under the initiative of God, not on your own initiative. Seek the will of God. God has taken the initiative to give you His Scriptures to follow. Learn these and do what they say. Live your life to honor and glorify God and not yourself. (John 5:19,20,30 with I John 2:6)
 12. Do not try to be your own witness or it will not be true. You must obey the Scriptures and they will give witness that your new life is true. The Scriptures bear witness of Christ. (John 5:31-34,39)

For additional lists of Old Testament commandments see: Exodus 21,22,23; Leviticus 19,20; Numbers 5,6,35,36; Deuteronomy 8,11,12,15,18-28; Proverbs.

New Testament Commandments

1. Do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God. You shall not tempt the Lord your God (tempting God is asking God to participate in your plans and activities which are sin). You shall worship the Lord your God and only Him shall you serve. (Matthew 4:4,7,10; Luke 4:4,8,12)

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13. Be poor in spirit, mourn for the truth, gentle to all, hunger and thirst after righteousness, be merciful to all, have a pure heart, be a peacemaker with the gospel, and be persecuted for the sake of righteousness. (Matthew 5:1-11; Luke 6:20-26)
14. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)
15. Do not be angry with your brother, for this can be equivalent to murder; you shall be guilty before the court. (Matthew 5:21,22)
16. If your brothers have something against you, be reconciled to them before you present your offerings to God. (Matthew 5:23,24)
17. Make friends and work things out with your opponent at law before you get to court in order that your opponent may not deliver you to the judge who may cast you into prison. If you are cast into prison you will pay the full penalty. (Matthew 5:25,26)
18. Do not commit adultery (This includes mental fantasies). A person who has looked at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery. If any part of your members causes you to sin such as an eye, it would be better for it to be removed than for you to be cast into hell. If your eye is bad, your whole body will be filled with darkness. But if your eye seeks the things of God, it will bring light into your life and body. (Matthew 5:27-30; 6:22,23)
19. Do not make any oaths for any reason; simply use either yes or no. (Matthew 5:33-37)
20. Do not resist him who is evil. If he strikes you on one cheek, offer him the other. If any one sues you to take your shirt, offer him your coat also. If anyone forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you. Do not turn away the person who wants to borrow from you. (Matthew 5:38-42)
21. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. What reward do you have if you love those who love you? Do not the unbelievers do the same? (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36)
22. Do not practice your righteousness before men to be noticed by others. Give to the work of God privately. When you pray, do not pray in public to be seen of men, but pray in private. And when you pray, do not use meaningless repetition, but pray after the manner of, what has been termed, the Lord's prayer. (Matthew 6:1-13; Luke 11:1-4)
23. Forgive the transgressions of others toward you, and your heavenly Father will forgive yours. But if you will not, He may not. The more you realize how great a sinner you are and realize you have been forgiven by God and Christ, the more you will love them. This comes with a humble spirit. The less you believe you are a sinner, the less love you will have for Him. (Matthew 6:14,15; Luke 7:36-50)
24. Do not lay up treasures on the earth, but lay up treasures in heaven. Where your treasure is, is also where your heart will be. (Matthew 6:19-21)
25. Do not try to serve two masters. You cannot serve Christ with the kingdom of God and riches with the world system at the same time. You must choose or focus. If you try to serve both, you will not serve either very well and you will end up with a lukewarm life which is neither useful to Christ or to the world. (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13; Revelation 3:15,16)
26. Do not be anxious for your life's needs. God takes care of those who are His. Therefore, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and God will supply your life's needs. (Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-34)
27. Do not judge or condemn others, for you may be judged or condemned by God in the same manner. Pardon others and you will be pardoned by God. For in the way you judge, you shall be judged. Be sure you take the log out of your own eye before you look for the speck in your brother's eye. Do not be a hypocrite and believe you are the perfect one. (Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 6:42)
28. Do not give what is holy to dogs and do not throw your pearls before swine lest they trample them underfoot and turn and tear you to pieces. In other words, do not give the spiritual teachings of the Word of God to those who are not obedient to God; for not understanding they will move against you. (Matthew 7:6)
29. You must exercise faith-action to receive from

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God. You must ask to be given, seek to find, and knock for doors to open. You must have faith that God will respond. For he that comes to God must believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Seek Him with persistence. (Matthew 7:7,8; Luke 11:5-10; Hebrews 11:6)

30. Treat others as you would have them treat you, for this is the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31)
31. Beware of false prophets who come to you disguised in sheep's clothing. Inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You can know them by their fruits. Their lives and actions will not match with the Word of God. Just because they preach and teach from the Bible does not mean that the Lord Jesus knows them, that they are believers and that they are going to heaven. (Matthew 7:15-23; Luke 6:43-46)
32. Hear and obey the Words of Christ and you will be like a wise person who builds his house on a rock rather than on the sand. (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
33. Be humble, love people and help them. Believe that Christ has the authority to do what He (the Word of God) says, and you will have greater faith than was found in all Israel. (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)
34. Obey Christ and believe in Him. By your faith, Christ can work many miracles in your life. If you do not repent of your sin and obey Christ, your unbelief will prevent Him from working many miracles in your life. If you have been given great light of the Word of God and you still remain in disobedience, you will be greatly judged. We who are weary and heavy laden are to go to Christ and He will give us rest. We are to take His yoke upon us and lean on Him. We will find His yoke easy and His load light. (Matthew 11:20-30)
35. Make sure your house (family and church) is in unity or it will fall. A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. People in disunity will drift apart. Since the efforts of God in the kingdom of God are in unity, it will stand. The efforts of Satan are divided; and his house cannot stand. (Matthew 12:22-27; Mark 3:22-26)
36. Christ considers those who do the will of His Father to be members of His family. This is more important than blood relationships. (Matthew 12:45-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21)
37. Be sure you hear the Word of Christ. Be sure to remove the rocks (sin) from your personal soil and fertilize it with obedience to the Word of God. This will cause your life to yield crops many fold. (Matthew 13:3b-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:5-15)
38. Be careful that your standard of measure is truly the Word of God. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. If you have the right standard of measure, more will be added. If you have the wrong standard, it will be taken from you. (Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18)
39. Have compassion on the multitudes, for they are like sheep without a shepherd. The harvest is plenty, and the workers are few. Beseech God that He will send workers. (Matthew 9:36-37)
40. Obey Christ's instructions as His workers:
 - a. Preach the gospel and the kingdom of God (Heaven).
 - b. Freely give as you have received.
 - c. Do not take money with you when you go out to do the work of God. It will be given you because the worker is worthy of His hire. Those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel.
 - d. Preach to those who will listen and give them your blessing; do the opposite for those who will not listen.
 - e. Be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves as I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.
 - f. Beware of men, for they will deliver you up to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues.
 - g. Do not be anxious about how and what to speak when you are arrested and are brought before governors and kings for my sake as a testimony before them and to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit of My Father will speak in you and give you the words to speak. (Mark 13:11; Luke 21:12-15)
 - h. Flee to the next city when they persecute you in this one. For brother will deliver up brother to death. And father against his child, and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated on account of My name, but he who endures to the end will be saved.
 - i. Speak in the light what you have heard from Me in darkness. Proclaim from the

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housetops what is whispered to you.

- j. Do not fear those who can kill the body, but not the soul; but fear those who can destroy both the soul and the body in hell.
- k. Confess Me before men, and I will confess you before My Father in heaven. But those who deny me, I will also deny before My Father in heaven.
- l. Do not love your father, mother, and family more than Me, or you are not worthy of Me. He who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.
- m. Lose your life for My sake, and you will find it. Otherwise you will lose it.
- n. Receive Me in order to receive My Father who sent Me.
- o. Give little ones a cup of water to drink in a disciple's name and you will not lose your reward.

(Matthew 10:1-42; Mark 6:7-11; Luke 9:1-5; 10:1-16)

- 41. Work for the food that endures to eternal life which the Son gives you, and do not work for the food that perishes. (John 6:27)
- 42. Eat My flesh or the bread which is My body and drink My blood to have eternal life and to be raised up on the last day. My flesh is true food and My blood is true drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (John 6:30-56)
- 43. Be careful of your speech and what comes out of your mouth that you do not become defiled. (Matthew 15:10-20; Mark 7:14-23)
- 44. Deny yourself daily, take up your cross for My sake and the gospel's, and follow Me. If you lose your life for My sake and the gospel's, you will find it. But if you try to save your life for your sake, you will lose it. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose or forfeit his own soul. (Matthew 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-37; Luke 9:23-25)

Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, I will also be ashamed of Him when I come in the glory of My Father with the holy angels. (Matthew 16:27; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26)

- 45. Become last and servant of all to be first. Unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not see the kingdom of God (heaven). Humble yourself as a child

and you will be the greatest in the kingdom of God (heaven). And whoever receives one such child receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is the least among you is the greatest. Allow the little children to come to and receive Christ, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. The one who does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it. (Matthew 1-5; 19:13-15; Mark 9:33-37; 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48; 18:15-17)

- 46. Go and reprove your brother in private if he sins. If he listens to you, you have won a brother. If he will not listen, then take one or more with you. If he still will not listen, tell it to the church. If he still refuses, then, treat him like an unbeliever (Gentile).

If two or three agree on earth regarding this matter, ask what you will and it will be done for you. For when two or three are gathered together for prayer in the name of Christ, there He is in the midst. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. And whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:15-20)

- 47. You shall forgive your brother seventy times seven if required if he sins against you. (Matthew 18:21,22)
- 48. You shall have mercy on others from your heart just as your Lord has had mercy on you. (Matthew 18:23-35)
- 49. Follow the Lord immediately. Do not make excuses for not doing it such as having to go and bury your father first or having to go to say good bye to those at home (meaning you plan to postpone following Christ). (Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62)
- 50. Do the will of God and you will know of His teaching whether or not anyone tells you the teaching. (John 7:17)
- 51. Do not speak from yourself to seek your own glory, but rather seek the glory of God, and there will be no unrighteousness found in you. (John 7:18)
- 52. Judge with righteous judgment, not according to appearance. (John 7:24)
- 53. Believe in Christ and you shall have the light of life and not walk in darkness; nor die of your sins. (John 8:12,24)
- 54. Abide in the word of Christ to be truly His disciple, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free. You shall never see death. (John 8:31,32,51)

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55. Do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice that your name is written down in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20)
56. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind (understanding) and your neighbor as yourself. There are no other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-30)
57. Show mercy and help those in need that come into your life. Spend your money on them if need be without any expectation of any return. These are your neighbors. (Parable of the good Samaritan.) Luke 10:29-37)
58. Listen to the Word of God from the Lord as a higher priority than doing regular household chores. (Story of Mary and Martha.) (Luke 10:38-42)
59. Be faithful in obedience to the Lord and do His work He left you. Then when He comes, He will find you faithful and will say, "Well done good and faithful servant." When He comes He will put you in charge of His household and all his possessions. Blessed is the slave, who, when his master comes, finds him doing his will and taking charge of his household. Do not be careless and not do His work because you think His coming will be delayed.

Where God has given much, much will be required. Be careful to do the work of the ministry that God has called you to do. Bring a return to Him from what He has given you or what you have will be take away in eternity. If you do give Him a return, you will receive more responsibility in eternity, and if you do not, even what you have will be taken away. (Matthew 24:44-51; Luke 12:35-48; 19:11-28)
60. Receive the repentant person with a joyous heart. Give him the best that you have. (Parable of the Prodigal Son) (Luke 15:10-32)
61. Be faithful in little, and you will be faithful in much. Do not be unrighteous in little, for you will be unrighteous in much. (Luke 16:10-12)
62. Pray at all times, and do not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)
63. Exalt yourself, and you shall be humbled; Humble yourself, and you shall be exalted. (Matthew 23:12; Luke 18:14)
64. Anyone who has left houses and family and farms for My name's sake and the gospel's sake shall receive great reward in the present age and in the age to come, eternal life. (Matthew 19:29,30; Mark 10:29-31; Luke 18:29,30)
65. Do not commit adultery, murder, steal, or bear false witness; honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 19:18,19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20)
66. Do not ask to sit at Christ's right or left hand in eternity in order to rule over others. Do not lord over people to be in authority over them, but become their servant. Whoever wants to be first and great in this world must be the slave of others just as the Lord Jesus came to serve, not to be served and to give His life a ransom for many. The greatest among you shall be your servant. (Matthew 20:20-28; 23:11; Mark 10:35-45)
67. Move with compassion to help those who cannot help themselves such as the blind, and give them mercy. (Matthew 20:29-34)
68. Your life must die to self as a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies. For when it dies, it will bear much fruit. He who loves his life shall lose it, and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. Let the one who serves Christ follow Him. Where Christ is will also be His servant. The Father will honor the one who serves Christ. Do not do things for the approval of men, but rather for the approval of God. (John 12:24-26,43)
69. Walk in the light which is Christ. Be careful that the darkness does not overtake you. While you have the light, believe in the light in order that you may become the sons of light. If we walk in the light as God is in the light and we have fellowship with each other. (John 12:35,36; I John 1:7)
70. Believe that what you ask in prayer, you have already received, and that shall be granted you. As you pray, forgive anything you have against a brother, and your Father in heaven will forgive your transgressions. If you do not forgive those of others, the Father will not forgive yours. (Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24-26)
71. Render to Caesar (the government) the things that are Caesar's, and to God, the things that are God's. (Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25)
72. Only place requirements on others that you are willing to do yourself. Do not ask others to carry heavy loads which they cannot carry.

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- (Matthew 23:4)
73. Do not do deeds to be noticed of men and to have the place of honor before people. (Matthew 6:1-18; 23:5,6; Mark 12:38,39; Luke 20:46)
74. Do not call any religious leader "father" on this earth. For the only one who is Father is your Father who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders who are the top authorities, for there is but one leader and top authority for the earth, and He is Christ. (Matthew 23:9,10)
75. Visit the sick and those in prison. Give to the hungry and the thirsty. Do this, and you will give to Christ. (Matthew 25:32-46)
76. Let not your heart be troubled with this world for someday you will be with Me; for in My Father's house there are many dwelling places. (John 14:1-3)
77. Love Me and keep My commandments. For He who has and keeps My commandments, loves Me and abides in My love just as I have kept My Father's commandments and have abided in His love. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I will love Him and disclose Myself to him. My Father and I will make our abode with him. (John 14:15,21,23; 15:10)
78. Abide in Me and My words in you. Then you can ask whatever you wish in My name, and it shall be done for you. Pray to the Father for anything in My name, and He will give it to you. (John 15:7; 16:23,24)
79. Bear much fruit of God in your life, and so prove to be Christ's disciples. In this the Father is glorified. You are commanded to bear fruit, and when you do, it shall remain. (John 15:8,16)
80. Love one another as Christ has loved you, for this is His commandment. You will have the greatest love if you lay down your life for your friends. The Lord said that He commands you to love one another. (John 15:12,13,17)
81. Be prepared to be persecuted. They persecuted Christ, they will also persecute you. Those who kept My word will also keep yours. (John 15:20)
82. Go and preach the gospel to all creation and disciple the world's people to observe what I have commanded you. Water baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This do because I have received all power of heaven and earth, and I will be with you until the consummation of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16)
83. Be a witness for Christ starting at your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the earth's remotest parts with the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
84. Commit yourself to prayer with one mind. (Acts 1:14)
85. Repent (believe the gospel of Christ) and be water baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
86. Continue to devote yourselves to the teaching of the Word of God, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42,46)
87. Do not stop speaking about the things you have seen and heard concerning Christ, even under persecution. You must obey God rather than men; continue to preach the gospel, even if it means imprisonment. (Acts 4:20; 5:25-29)
88. Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you and your household shall be saved. (Acts 16:31)
89. Search the Scriptures yourself to see that what you are being taught is true. Be a good Berean. (Acts 17:11)
90. Obey the heavenly vision given to you for ministry regardless of the difficulty because Christ is with you. (Acts 18:9-11; 26:19)
91. Do not shrink from declaring the whole purpose of God, and you will not be guilty of the blood of any people. Guard the flock if the Holy Spirit has made you an overseer. (Acts 20:26-28)
92. Do not speak evil of a high priest (spiritual ruler) of the people. (Acts 23:4,5)
93. Be of good courage to carry out your ministry as given to you, for things will turn out just as God said they will. (Acts 27:25)
94. Do not blaspheme the name of God among the people by teaching His commandments and not keeping them yourself. (Romans 2:20-24)
95. Consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God. (Romans 6:11)
96. Present the members of your body and yourself to God as an instrument of righteousness and as a living sacrifice. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God

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- as a workman that does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. (Romans 6:13; 12:1; II Timothy 2:15)
97. Do not maintain sin in your life for the wages of sin is death. (Romans 3:23)
98. Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth confesses, resulting in salvation. For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:9-13)
99. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds with the Word and will of God. (Romans 12:2)
100. Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think, but think so as to have sound judgment as God has given to each a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3; I Corinthians 3:18)
101. Let each one exercise and use the gift that he has been given: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and mercy. (Romans 12:4-8)
102. Love without hypocrisy, abhor what is evil, cleave to what is good, be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor, do not lag behind in diligence, be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and curse not. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Do not bite and devour one another. Do good to all men, particularly to those of the household of God. (Romans 12:9-15; Galatians 5:15; 6:10)
103. Be of the same mind towards one another. Do not be haughty. Associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. You are to agree and not have divisions among yourselves. You are to be of the same mind maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. (Romans 12:16; I Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2)
104. Do not pay back evil for evil or insult for insult to anyone. Never take revenge, leave vengeance to God. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. Be at peace with all men as far as its depends upon you. See that no one repays evil for evil but seek after that which is good for one another and for all men. Give a blessing to others when someone gives you evil, for you were called for this very purpose. (Romans 12:17-19; I Thessalonians 5:15; I Peter 3:8-12)
105. Feed your enemies and give them drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:20, 21)
106. Be subject to the authorities over you and the government and particularly of God, not only because of the wrath of the authority and of God, but because of conscience sake. For because of this, you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. (Romans 13:3-6)
107. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Owe nothing to anyone except love to one another, for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. Because of this you shall not commit adultery, murder, steal, and covet. Love your neighbor as yourself and do no wrong to them. (Romans 13:7-10)
108. You are not to pass judgment on the opinions of those weak in the faith. Those who are strong ought to bear the weakness of others without strength. (Romans 14:1; 15:1)
109. You are not to judge the servant of another. He rises and falls by his own master. (Romans 14:4)
110. He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and the one who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. For not one of you lives for himself and not one dies for himself. For if you live your life for the Lord, or if you die, you die for the Lord; whether you live or die, you are the Lord's. (Romans 14:5-8)
111. Do not judge your brother, for you, too, will stand before the judgment seat of God. (Romans 14:10,13)
112. Pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another. Please your neighbor around you. Help restore a brother caught in a trespass. Bear one another's burdens and help him to carry his own. Speak the truth to one another, for we are members of one another. Do not be angry with one another and do not let the sun go

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- down on your anger. Do not give the devil an opportunity. Be kindhearted towards one another and walk in love and forgive others as Christ has forgiven you. Encourage one another. (Romans 14:19; 15:2,3; Galatians 6:1-5; Ephesians 4:25-27,32; 5:2; I Thessalonians 5:11)
113. It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or do anything by which your brother stumbles. (Romans 14:21; I Corinthians 8:13)
114. Those who are strong ought to bear the weakness of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of you please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself. (Romans 15:1-3a)
115. Now I urge you brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with others in your prayers for them. Pray that they may be delivered from those who are disobedient where they labor. Pray that their service there may prove acceptable to the saints so that they may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing in your company. (Romans 15:30-32)
116. Continue to greet the brethren and fellow workers in the faith and who are beloved in the Lord. Greet one another and the brethren with a holy kiss. May all the churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:3-16; I Thessalonians 5:26)
117. Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eyes on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching you have learned, and turn away from them. For such men are not slaves of our Lord Christ, but of their own appetites. By their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. (Romans 16:17,18)
118. Now I exhort you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. (I Corinthians 1:10)
119. Let no man boast before the Lord. If any man boast, let Him boast in the Lord Himself. (I Corinthians 1:29-31; II Corinthians 10:17)
120. Live as a faithful servant to God and be found trustworthy. (I Corinthians 4:2)
121. Do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and each man's praise will come to him from God. (I Corinthians 4:5)
122. Do not judge yourself as superior. For what you have, you have received from God, and you did not earn it. (I Corinthians 4:7)
123. Do not associate with a so-called brother who is immoral, covetous, an idolater, a reviler, a drunkard, and swindler - do not even eat with such a person. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves. (I Corinthians 5:11-13)
124. Do not take a brother in Christ to court. It is better to be defrauded than take him to a court operated by unbelievers. Take him rather to a court run by the church or by the saints of God. (I Corinthians 6:1-11)
125. Flee immorality, for when you sin, you sin against your own body. You have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body. (I Corinthians 6:18-20)
126. It is not good for a man to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife and vice versa. Let each fulfill their duty to the other. Neither has authority over their own body, but the other does. Do not deprive one another except by agreement when you devote yourselves to prayer for a short time. Do not allow Satan to tempt you because of lack of self control. (I Corinthians 7:1-6)
127. Do not send away an unbelieving spouse if they consent to live with you. The marriage and the children are sanctified by the believer. Yet if the unbeliever leaves the marriage, let him leave, for God has called you to peace in Him. (I Corinthians 7:12-15)
128. Adapt yourself to the local culture without sin to win many to Christ. That is, become a Jew to the Jews that you may win them to Christ. (I Corinthians 9:20-23)
129. Run the race with God to win. Run in such a way as not to be disqualified. Set aside every encumbrance and sin which easily entangles you, and run the race before you with endurance fixing your eyes on the Lord Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. (I Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:1,2)
130. Look for God's way out when you experience trials, testings, temptations, and persecutions. For He has provided the way of escape and also that you may be able to endure it. (I Corinthians 10:13)

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131. Flee from idolatry. Guard yourselves from idols. (I Corinthians 10:14; I John 5:21)
132. Whatever you think and do, do to the glory of God. Whatever you do, do your work heartily at the work place as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing you will receive the reward of inheritance from the Lord whom you serve. (I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23,24)
133. Give no offense to anyone so that they may be saved. Let all that you do be done in love. Give no cause for offense that the ministry may not be discredited. (I Corinthians 10:32,33; 16:14; II Corinthians 6:3)
134. Be an imitator of Paul as he is of Christ. Be an imitator of God. Live in the same manner as Christ lived. Imitate the faith of those who led you to Christ. (I Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; Hebrews 13:7; I John 2:6)
135. If you are a man, do not have anything on your head, for it disgraces your head. If you are a woman, have your head covered while praying and prophesying, or you disgrace your head. The man ought not have his head covered since he is in the image and glory of God, but the woman is in the glory of man. The woman ought to cover her head, indicating she is under the authority of her husband for the sake of the angels. (I Corinthians 11:3-12)
136. If you are a man, do not have long hair, for it brings you dishonor. If you are a woman, have long hair, for it brings you glory. (I Corinthians 11:14-16)
137. Do not eat of the Lord's table in an unworthy manner, for you will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. Let each person examine himself for eating and drinking in an unworthy manner will bring judgment on yourself. Many of you are sick and die for this reason. If you rightly judge, you shall not be judged. But when you are judged, you are disciplined by the Lord in order that you may not be condemned along with the world. (I Corinthians 11:27-32)
138. Do not have divisions among you because you have different gifts. You are all of the same body of Christ with equal value and importance, but simply called by God to different functions in Christ's body or the church. (I Corinthians 12:19-27)
139. Earnestly desire the greater gifts such as prophesying. Christ has called His church to different functions with different gifts. Therefore, not all will be apostles, prophets, or speak in tongues. The gifts are given at the time of salvation by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:28-31)
140. Pursue love, yet desire spiritual gifts and especially that you may prophesy. The entire church assembly is not to speak in tongues (unknown foreign languages) that you do not know. Only three are allowed to speak in tongues in sequence and only when an interpreter is present in the church. Women are never allowed to speak in tongues in the church. Desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in foreign languages. Desire more to speak five words in your own language than to speak 10,000 in a foreign language which you do not know. (I Corinthians 14:1,19,23,27-29,35,34,39)
141. Do not be deceived and continue in bad company, for it will corrupt good morals. (Bad company today would include watching immorality and impurity in movies and on television; including VCR movies.) (I Corinthians 15:33)
142. Be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain. (I Corinthians 15:58)
143. Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (I Corinthians 16:13,14)
144. Preach Christ Jesus and His gospel and not yourselves or anything else. You are to be an ambassador for Christ. (II Corinthians 4:5; 5:20; Galatians 1:6-10)
145. Allow death to occur in you for the sake of life in others. You are not only to believe in Christ, but you are to suffer for His sake. Paul and his associates were afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus might be manifested in your body. Paul went through a shipwreck, was stoned, beaten with rods, was in danger from robbers, and many other dangers for the sake of the ministry, Christ, and the unbeliever. (II Corinthians 4:7-12; 11:23-29; Philippians 1:29)
146. Look for the things which are not seen, not for the things which are seen; for the things which are seen are temporal and the things which are not seen are eternal. (II

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Corinthians 4:18)

147. Walk by faith and not by sight. Be of good courage, and prefer to be absent from the body and present with the Lord. Therefore, your ambition whether here in the body or absent from the body with the Lord, is to be pleasing to Him. For you must appear before the judgment seat of Christ where everyone will be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (II Corinthians 5:7-10)
148. Live for Christ and no longer for yourselves, for He died for all and rose again for your behalf. (II Corinthians 5:14,15)
149. Act as ambassadors for Christ with the ministry of reconciliation of others to Him. (II Corinthians 5:20,21)
150. Give no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited, but in everything commend yourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, afflictions, hardships, distresses, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, sleeplessness, hunger, purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, the word of truth, and the power of God. Do so by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, you live; as punished yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing, yet possessing all things. (II Corinthians 6:3-10)
151. Make no partnerships with unbelievers such as in marriage, business, or the ministry. (II Corinthians 6:14)
152. Sow bountifully, not sparingly, and in God's direction, to reap bountifully. You are not to lose heart in doing good, for you will reap in due time if you do not grow weary. You are to sow to God and not to the world. You cannot reap what you do not sow, and you will only reap in the direction you sow. (II Corinthians 9:6-8; Galatians 6:7-9)
153. Do not make war according to the power of the flesh even though you are in the flesh. The weapons of your warfare are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. But bring every thought and action captive in obedience to Christ, and let God fight the warfare. (II Corinthians 10:3-5)
154. Be content with weaknesses, with insults, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when you are weak you are strong. In your weakness, the power of Christ will dwell in you. Christ may keep you weak through a thorn in the flesh to buffet you; and keep you from boasting and exalting yourself. God's grace is sufficient for you. (II Corinthians 12:5-10)
155. Do not have any of the following found in you: strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, and disturbances. Be sure to repent of any impurity, immorality, and sensuality. (II Corinthians 12:20,21)
156. Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. (II Corinthians 13:5a)
157. You have begun in the spirit when you were saved by faith; you are to continue to live in the spirit by faith and not by sight as you used to live. If you live by the law again, you become transgressors of the law. (Galatians 2:18; 3:3)
158. You are to die to the control of the law. You are now to live by faith in Christ Jesus as you have been co-crucified with Him. (Galatians 2:19,20; Philippians 3:9)
159. You, as the righteous of God, are to live by faith, for no one is justified by keeping the law. Keep standing firm in a walk of faith and do not become subject to the law again as a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 3:11,12; 5:1)
160. Do not turn your freedom into an opportunity of the flesh because you have been called to freedom. But through love serve one another. You are to love others as you love yourself. (Galatians 5:13,14)
161. Do not become involved in sexual sin and immorality such as adultery, fornication, uncleanness, or homosexualities. Consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desires, and greed which is idolatry. Abstain from sexual immorality, impurity, and lustful patterns. Make your conduct with your body towards sanctification and honor. Do not defraud a brother or sister in this matter for the Lord will avenge. Be solemnly warned. Abstain from every form of evil.

If widows or anyone gives themselves to wanton pleasures, they are dead while they live. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles so if they

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- slander you, it will be because of good deeds. (Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3,5; Colossians 3:5; I Thessalonians 4:1-7; 5:22; I Timothy 5:6; I Peter 2:11,12)
162. Since you live by the spirit, walk by the spirit. (Galatians 5:25)
163. Do the works of God that He has chosen for you to do beforehand (before the foundation of the world). (Ephesians 2:10)
164. Walk in a manner worthy of your calling with all humility, gentleness, and patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Conduct yourself worthy of the gospel of Christ; stand firm in one spirit striving together for the faith of the gospel. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:27)
165. Do not let an unwholesome word proceed from your mouth. Do not use foul language. Put aside all anger, wrath, malice, slander, lying, and abusive speech from your mouth. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to respond to each person. (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8-10; 4:6)
166. Do not partake of the deeds of darkness in secret, but rather expose them. (Ephesians 5:11)
167. Be filled with the Holy Spirit of God, letting the Word of God richly indwell you and control your conduct. Speak to one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16)
168. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it; and wives are to be subject to their husbands in obedience as unto the Lord. Husbands are to act in an understanding way to their wives as the weaker vessel; husbands are to grant wives honor as fellow heirs to the grace of life so that the husband's prayers may not be hindered. (Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18,19; I Peter 3:1-7)
169. Children are to obey their parents in the Lord and give honor to their fathers and mothers. Fathers are not to provoke their children. (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20,21)
170. Slaves and employees are to obey their masters and employers. Masters are to grant slaves and workers justice and fairness knowing that you have a master in heaven. Let slaves and workers regard their masters as worthy of honor so that the name of God and your doctrine may not be spoken against. This is to be particularly true if the masters are believers. Bondslaves are to be subject to their masters (the Christian is a bondslave to Christ) in everything, to be well pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God your Savior in every respect. (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22; 4:1; I Timothy 6:1,2; Titus 2:9,10)
171. Believers are to put on the whole armor of God using the shield of faith to trust God and use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:11-20)
172. Do nothing from selfishness or empty deceit, but with humility let each regard one another as more important than himself. Do not look out only for your own interests, but also the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3,4)
173. You are to believe that you cannot live the god role of managing your own lives. You are to take on the attitude of a bond servant to God even if it means your death, such as Christ going to the cross. You may be poured out as a drink offering in suffering and death for the sake of Christ. (Philippians 2:5-8,17,29,30)
174. Do all things without grumbling and disputing. In this manner you will prove yourselves blameless and above reproach in this crooked and perverse generation. (Philippians 2:14,15)
175. You are to consider all things of the world worthless and for loss that you may gain and know Christ. To know Him, you should be willing to suffer the loss of all things in this world. You want to be found in Him, not having a righteousness of your own, but one that comes from Him on the basis of faith in Christ that you may know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings being conformed to His death in order that you may obtain the resurrection from among the dead. (Philippians 3:8-11)
176. Press forward to the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)
177. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. (Philippians 4:4; I Thessalonians 5:16)

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178. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Pray without ceasing. Men in every place are to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or dissension. (Philippians 4:6,7; I Thessalonians 5:17; I Timothy 2:8)
179. Let your mind dwell on the things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and worthy of praise. (Philippians 4:8)
180. Learn to be content in whatever circumstances you are in. Be prepared to know how to get along in both humble and prosperous means; having to go without and having abundance. (Philippians 4:11,12)
181. Do all things through Christ who strengthens you. (Philippians 4:13)
182. Cease not to continue to pray for others that they be filled with the knowledge of His will with all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit in good works and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:9,10)
183. Strive for the purpose, according to the power of God which works in you, to proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching every man with all wisdom to present every man complete in Christ. (Colossians 1:28,29)
184. Be careful not to follow the philosophies of the world which produce empty deception according to the traditions of men. (Colossians 2:8)
185. Being a Christian, keep on seeking the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Do not seek the things of this world for you will be revealed with Him in His glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)
186. Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, forgiving one another. Forgive those against whom you have a complaint, just as the Lord has forgiven you. (Colossians 3:12,13)
187. Be careful not to do wrong for you will receive the consequences of the wrong which was done and that without partiality. (Colossians 3:25)
188. Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving. Pray for others that God may give them an open door to the ministry. Pray for the workers in the ministry. Pray that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified just as it did with you and that the workers may be delivered from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. (Colossians 4:2,3; I Thessalonians 5:25; II Thessalonians 3:1,2)
189. Carry out the great commission of Christ to take His gospel to and disciple all the earth's people. Do this even under great mistreatment, affliction, and opposition to please God and not men. Do not seek glory from men, and be steadfast in the Lord. Suffer hardship as a good soldier of Christ. Do not entangle yourself in the affairs of everyday life so you may please Christ who enlisted you as a soldier.
- You must endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen to salvation. If you deny Him to carry out this work, He will deny you. If you endure with Him for the sake of the elect, you will reign with Him. Preach the word in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort with great patience and instruction. Endure hardship, do the work of the ministry, and fulfill your ministry. (I Thessalonians 2:2-4,6; 3:3-4,7,8; II Timothy 2:3,4,10,11; 4:2,5)
190. Exhort others to walk in a manner worthy of God who calls you into His kingdom and glory. Hold fast to what is good. (I Thessalonians 2:11,12; 5:21)
191. Show love towards one another. Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, attend to your own business, and work with your hands. In this manner you may behave properly towards outsiders and not be in any need. (I Thessalonians 4:9-12)
192. Appreciate those who labor diligently among you and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction. Esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable to you. (I Thessalonians 5:12,13; Hebrews 13:17)
193. Admonish the unruly, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, and be patient with all men. (I Thessalonians 5:15)
194. In everything give thanks, for this is the will

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of God for you in Christ Jesus. (I Thessalonians 5:18)

195. You are commanded in the name of the Lord Jesus to stay aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the teachings of the Bible. (II Thessalonians 3:6)
196. Do not give food to those who will not work; those who have an undisciplined life doing no work at all acting like busybodies. Do not associate with such persons so that they may be put to shame. Do not treat them as enemies, but admonish them as brothers. (II Thessalonians 3:8-15)
197. Pray for all men and those who are in authority in government, that you may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (I Timothy 2:1,2)
198. Women are to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discretely, not with braided hair, gold, pearls, or costly garments. Let women have good works as befits them making a claim to godliness. Let women receive quiet instruction with entire submissiveness. (I Timothy 2:9-11)
199. Do not allow women to teach or to exercise authority over men; let them remain quiet. (I Timothy 2:11,12)
200. Have nothing to go with worldly fables fit only for old women. Remind the people that they are to live this ministry hardship for the sake of the chosen, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness and its talk will spread like gangrene. Refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.

A Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but kind to all. He must be able to teach, and be patient when wronged, correcting those who are in opposition. Perhaps God may then grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. Some may gain their senses and escape the snare of the devil having been held captive by him to do his will. Correct others in gentleness so that God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth. Speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. Shun foolish controversies, genealogies, strivings, and disputes about the law for they are unprofitable and worthless. (II Timothy

2:14,16,17,23-26; Titus 2:1,9)

201. Discipline yourself for the sake of godliness. Bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (I Timothy 4:7,8)
202. Do not look down at the youthfulness of Christian workers. They are to show themselves as an example to those who believe by their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. (I Timothy 4:12)
203. Give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift that God has put within you. Guard the ministry which has been entrusted to you. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching (spiritual gift), persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation for both yourself and those who hear you. (I Timothy 4:14,16; 6:20)
204. Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father; appeal to the younger men as brothers; the older women as mothers; and the younger women as sisters, in all purity. Honor widows who are widows indeed. (I Timothy 5:1-3)
205. Widows are to practice piety towards their families of children and grandchildren. Children are to make some return to their parents, for this is acceptable in God's sight. Younger widows are to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach. (I Timothy 5:4,14)
206. If any one does not provide the needs for his own and especially those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. (I Timothy 5:8)
207. Give double honor to those elders who rule well, especially to those who work hard at preaching and teaching. (I Timothy 5:17,18)
208. Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. Those who continue to sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest may be fearful of sinning. (I Timothy 5:19,20)
209. Do not appoint elders or leaders too hastily by the laying on of hands and thus share responsibility for their sins; keep yourself from sin. (I Timothy 5:22)
210. No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and

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- your frequent ailments. (I Timothy 5:23)
211. Have contentment with your godliness and it will be the means of great gain. You have brought nothing into this world. You will take nothing out when you die. (I Timothy 6:6,7)
212. Flee from the love of riches and pursue after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight and take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called. Instruct those who are rich not to be conceited and fix their hopes in riches. But let them fix their hopes in God who richly supplies you with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to be rich in good works storing up treasures in heaven. Let your life be free from the love of money being content with what you have. Christ has promised that He will never desert nor forsake you. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil and some longing for it, have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many a pang. (I Timothy 6:9-12,17-19; Hebrews 13:5)
213. Entrust to faithful men who are able to teach others what you have been taught. This will expand and continue the ministry. Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life so he may please the One (Christ) who enlisted him as a soldier. (II Timothy 2:2-4)
214. Suffer hardship and endure all things even imprisonment as a criminal (but the Word of God is not imprisoned) for the sake of those who are chosen so that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. And if you endure for the sake of the chosen, you shall reign with Him. (II Timothy 2:9,10,12)
215. Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness. Cleanse yourself from all forms of dishonor to be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful to the master for every good work. (II Timothy 2:19-21)
216. Flee from youthful lusts and pursue after righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call upon the Lord with a pure heart. Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God. (II Timothy 2:22; III John 1:11)
217. Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, love, and perseverance. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and their children, and to be sensible, pure, workers at home, being kind, subject to their own husbands, that the word of God many not be dishonored. (Titus 2:2-5)
218. Young men are to be sensible in all things showing themselves to be good examples with purity in doctrine, with dignity. They are to be sound in speech which is above reproach in order that their opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about you. (Titus 2:6-8)
219. Deny ungodliness and worldly desires and live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age denying ungodliness and worldly desires. Look for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of your great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself to you that He might redeem you from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14)
220. Be subject and obedient to the rulers and authorities over you to be ready for every good deed. Younger men are to be subject to their elders and clothe themselves with humility. Malign no one, be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. For you were once yourself in that state. (Titus 3:1-3; I Peter 2:13-17; 5:5)
221. Reject a factious man after a first and second warning knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self condemned. (Titus 3:10,11)
222. Be diligent to enter the rest of God through being obedient to His promises lest anyone fall as they did in the wilderness times of the Old Testament. (Hebrews 4:1,11)
223. Since you have a perfect high priest in Christ, draw near with confidence to the throne of grace that you may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)
224. Lay aside the elementary teaching about Christ and press on towards maturity, not continually relying just on the foundation of salvation in Christ. (Hebrews 6:1-3)
225. Let the love of the brethren continue. Do

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- not neglect to show hospitality to strangers. Remember the prisoners as though you were in prison with them, particularly those who are mistreated. (Hebrews 13:1-3)
226. Let marriage be held in honor among all and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4)
227. Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeals among you which come upon you for your testing as though some strange (and unwanted) thing were happening to you. Keep rejoicing that you may rejoice at His exultation at His revelation when you share in the sufferings of Christ. (James 1:2-4; I Peter 4:12,13)
228. If you lack wisdom ask of God in faith not being double-minded and unstable in all your ways. Persevere under trials, for you will be blessed. For once you have been approved, you will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to all who love Him. If you desire to have, be sure you ask of God. If you want to receive from God, be sure to ask with right motives. (James 1:5-8,12; 4:2b,3)
229. Let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position, and let the rich man glory in his humiliation because like flowering grass he will pass away. (James 1:10,11)
230. Let no man say he is tempted by God, for He tempts no one. Each one when he is tempted is carried away by his own lusts and when lust is conceived it gives birth to sin. And when sin is accomplished it brings forth death. Therefore do not be deceived my beloved brethren. (James 1:13-16)
231. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. For the anger of a man does not achieve the righteousness of God. (James 1:19)
232. Prove yourselves doers of the word and not hearers only who delude themselves. The effectual doer of the word will be blessed by what he does. (James 1:22-25)
233. Bridle your tongue to have your religion worthwhile. A person who does not bridle his tongue deceives himself. For the words of the tongue can be full of deadly poison.
- It can bless God or it can bring evil to men. (James 1:26; 3:2-12)
234. It is a pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God to visit orphans and widows in their distress. Keep yourself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)
235. Love everyone on an equal basis and show no partiality. Make no status distinctions between people. (James 2:1-9)
236. Let your wisdom and understanding be shown by good behavior in deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. If you act in bitter jealousy and selfish ambition and so lie against the truth, this wisdom is not from God, but earthly, natural, and demonic. There is disorder and evil things where jealousy and selfish ambition exist. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering and free from hypocrisy. (James 3:13-18)
237. Do not be a friend of the world to do, have, and become what you desire for as a friend of the world you have become an enemy of God. Love not the world and the lusts of the world; for he who loves the world, the love of God the Father is not in him. (James 4:4; I John 2:15-17)
238. Be humble and not proud, for God gives grace to the humble and is opposed to the proud. Submit, therefore, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts. Humble yourself in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you. (James 4:6-10; I Peter 5:5-7)
239. Do not speak against another brother. He who speaks against his brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge; one who is able to save or destroy; but who are you who judges his neighbor? Do not complain, brethren, against one another that you yourself may not be judged. (James 4:11,12; 5:9)
240. The one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin. (James 4:17)
241. Pray when you are suffering and sing praises when you are cheerful. (James 5:13)
242. Call for the elders if there is any one sick

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among you, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:15-16)

from the holy city written in Revelation. (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; 28:14; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18,19)

243. Suffer for the sake of righteousness and you will receive blessing. Do not fear the intimidation of others or be troubled by them. It is better that you suffer for doing what is right than for doing wrong. By no means suffer as a murderer or thief or evildoer or a troublesome meddler. Do good even if you are slandered so Christ will not be put to shame. Continue to love one another, for this covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. And after you have suffered for awhile, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself, perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (I Peter 3:14-17; 4:8,9,15-19; 5:10)
244. Elders are to shepherd the flock, but not under compulsion, but voluntarily according to the will of God and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness. Do not lord over your flock, but live proving to be an example to them. (I Peter 5:1-4)
245. Be on your guard lest you be carried away by the error of unprincipled men, and you fall away from your steadfastness; so therefore grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory, both now and to the day of eternity. (II Peter 3:17,18)
246. Lay down your life for the brethren as Christ laid down His life for us. By this we know love. (I John 3:16)
247. Love in deed rather than just in truth. Give to the needs of the brethren if you have this world's goods. Do not close your mind against those brothers in need. (I John 3:17,18)
248. Support the workers of the truth and those who preach the gospel. In this manner we are fellow workers in the truth. (III John 1:8)
249. Do not fear if you have to suffer for Christ. The devil may cast you into prison or be allowed to take your life. Be faithful unto death and Christ will give you the crown of life. Regardless what happens to you or in the world, hold fast until He comes. (Revelation 2:10,25)
250. Do not add any teachings to the Word of God or you will receive the plagues written in Revelation. Do not take away any teaching from the Word of God or He shall take away your part from the tree of life and

WE KNOW GOD BY KNOWING HIS ATTRIBUTES

God has revealed many of His attributes that form His abilities and character qualities. We can love and trust God more by knowing and appreciating them. We can live by His life transforming character qualities that He allows us to use. These include love, grace, holiness, long suffering, non changing, righteousness, lovingkindness, mercy, and faithfulness. We can meditate on His attributes on a regular basis.

Many of God's attributes are as follows:

1. Love - God is love. His love acts on the behalf of others. The fact that the Father was willing to lose fellowship with His Son on the cross to satisfy His justice demonstrated His great love for mankind. This kind of love may not be known by any other way. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; I John 4:8,12)
2. Grace - The fact that God through the cross was willing to forgive all sin, no matter how bad or ugly it was, and bring us into fellowship with Himself, demonstrates God's grace and mercy. Grace brings the best of God to those who do not deserve it. (Acts 11:23; 13:43; 14:26; 15:11; 20:24; Romans 3:24; 5:2; II Corinthians 4:15; 8:9; 9:8; Ephesians 1:7; 2:7-9; II Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 4:16; I Peter 5:10,12)
3. Glory - The totality of God's greatness, attributes, and character qualities is His glory. Believers can get a glimpse of it. (Psalm 19:1; 72:19; 104:31; 138:5; Isaiah 35:2b; Matthew 6:13b; Romans 5:2; 6:4)
4. Holiness - God has perfect moral excellence. He is without sin or error. His holiness demands that everyone live holy lives or face judgment for breaking His spiritual laws. (I Samuel 2:2; Psalm 22:3; 99:9; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; 15:4)
5. Immensity - He fills the entire universe with His presence. (I Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:24)
6. Long Suffering - God has long suffering kindness, patience, and forbearance to withhold His judgment for sin so that many will be led to repentance as He continues to draw people back into a personal relationship with Him in salvation and in spiritual growth. He does not desire that anyone go to the lake of fire. (Romans 2:1-8)

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7. Justice - God's holiness and righteousness require that a penalty be paid for sin or the transgressed laws of God, and only perfect righteousness can satisfy this justice. (Job 36:6; Psalm 89:30-37; 111:7; Isaiah 42:1-4; 51:4; Amos 4:2; Jeremiah 4:2; 23:5; Matthew 12:18; Luke 7:29; Romans 3:21-30)
8. Omnipotence - God's great power created the entire universe, the earth, people, and angels. He has infinite power to do anything. (II Chronicles 20:6; Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 115:3)
9. Omnipresence - God is everywhere throughout all universes. He deals with each person in the world at the same time, even though there are billions of people. (Psalm 139:7-12; Proverbs 15:13; Hebrews 4:13)
10. Omniscience - God has always known everything that can ever be known, past, present, and future. (Job 37:16; Psalm 139:6; 145:3; Isaiah 40:28; 55:9; Romans 11:33; I John 3:20b)
11. Immutability - God never changes. He can be relied upon to always act the same way according to His spiritual laws and character qualities. (I Samuel 15:29; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17)
12. Sovereignty - God can do anything He wants in accordance with His character. (Exodus 15:18; Deuteronomy 10:14,17; I Chronicles 29:11,12; II Chronicles 20:6; Psalm 135:5,6; Luke 1:37; Acts 17:24-26; Hebrews 6:13)
13. Righteousness - God's thoughts and actions are always done in perfection against perfect spiritual laws without sin or mistakes. He always thinks and acts in a right way. (Psalm 117:7; 111:3; 112:9; 119:142)
14. Truth - God has the knowledge of absolute truth and laws of all kinds that make and run a perfect universe in every respect. He also is the truth. He is the only source of how to live perfectly without sin and breaking spiritual laws. All of His commandments, concepts and laws of interpersonal relationships constitute His truth. (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:5; 86:11; 108:4; 117:2; 119:142, 151,160; Isaiah 65:16; John 14:6; 17:17; Romans 3:8)
15. Lovingkindness - He acts to help those who love Him and keep His commandments and will. God gives lovingkindness to afflicted believers. From His lovingkindness he provides salvation and help in need. God acts in lovingkindness toward His repentant subjects who turn toward Him from sin to obedience.
- (Exodus 15:13; 20:6; 34:6,7; Numbers 14:18,19; Deuteronomy 5:10; 7:9,12; II Samuel 2:6; I Kings 3:6; 8:23; I Chronicles 16:34,41; II Chronicles 6:42; 7:3; 20:21; Ruth 2:20; Nehemiah 1:5; Psalm 5:7; 6:4; 25:7,10; 31:7,16; 33:5,22; 36:7,10; 40:10,11; 59:17; 61:7; 63:3; 64:3; 66:20; 69; 85:10; 86:5,13; 89:2; 95:18; 106:1; 107:1,8; 118:2; 119:76,88; 136; Lamentations 3:22; Romans 11:22; Ephesians 2:7; Titus 3:4; I Peter 2:3)
16. Provider - God provides life's necessities to His own people as they obey Him and do His will. He also makes provision for all during times of prosperity and testing. But His provision is withdrawn from those in disobedience when His judgment comes. (Genesis 22:14; 45:11; 50:21; I Kings 17:4,9; Nehemiah 9:15,21; Psalm 78:20; Matthew 6:33; I Corinthians 10:13)
17. Light - God provides His light to guide our lives in truth and righteousness. He is the light Himself. His light is His presence, righteousness, and commandments we are to keep. The light He brings is to guide our paths into righteous living in intimate relationship with Himself. (Nehemiah 9:12,19; Psalm 4:6; 18:28; 27:1; 36:9; 37:6; 44:3; 78:14; 89:15; 90:8; 118:27; 119:105,130; Proverbs 6:23; 29:13; Isaiah 9:2; 60:19,20; Matthew 4:16; John 1:4-9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35,36,47; II Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:13; I Timothy 6:16; I Peter 2:9; I John 1:5; Revelation 21:24; 22:5)
18. Mercy - God's mercy provides for us when we do not deserve anything, have sinned, and are in great need. He brings us salvation by His mercy. He provides for us by His mercy. When we deserve judgment, he holds back and give us another chance. (Ezekiel 39:25; Daniel 4:27; Habakkuk 3:2; Luke 1:54, 78; Romans 9:16,18; 11:32; 15:9; I Corinthians 7:25; Ephesians 2:4; Philippians 2:27; I Timothy 1:2,13; II Timothy 1:2,18; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 4:16; I Peter 1:3; Jude 1:21)
19. Self Existence (Eternal Life) - Self existence is God's independent eternal life within Himself whereby He has existence throughout all eternities of past, present, and future. This self existence and eternal life is independent of any outside entity. Because of self existence, God has always existed and will always exist. As such He is able to impart eternal life to others as they draw life from Him. (Genesis 21:33; Psalm 9:7; 41:13; 102:12; Job 36:26; Isaiah 40:28; 57:15a; Daniel 4:34; John 5:26; I John 5:11)
20. Faithfulness - God is faithful to act by His character, do what He says, stand by the

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righteous, and to inflict judgment on unrepentant sinners. Great is the faithfulness of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 36:5; 40:10; 89; 91:4; 100:5; 119:75,90,138; 143:1; Lamentations 3:23; Romans 3:3)

GOD DESIRES US TO MEET HIS ELDER AND DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

God has given us spiritual qualifications to meet if we are to be leaders as elders and deacons. These qualifications should be the goal of every Christian because they are signs of Christian maturity. We can regularly review and use them to make spiritual changes in our lives. To be appointed to ministry, the elder and deacon must:

1. Be above reproach - There are no grounds for accusing him of improper Christian behavior. It is impossible to sustain a charge of wrongdoing by impartial examination. He has no shady business dealings or relationships with people. In this he should be fully tested. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6,7; Deacon: I Timothy 3:10)
2. Be a one-woman man - He is a loyal husband to only his wife, living in pure marriage relationship, without impure or adulterous attitudes, physical actions or sexual fantasies toward any other woman. He is not a bigamist, nor does he enter into illicit prostitional relationships (which were prevalent in New Testament times). He needs to be committed to his wife until death without any mental or overt disloyalty and has absolutely no intention for sexual disloyalty or divorce. This Scripture in the Greek does not require a person to have had only one wife in his lifetime. It does require a current single exclusive devotion to his wife. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6; Deacon: I Timothy 3:12)
3. Be temperate and self-controlled - He is a person who has a balanced life without being given to excess in any area of life. He is a person who is master over his own will and actions. He is a person not in bondage to the desires of the flesh. He does not give way to hysteria or panic. He does not lose control of his spirit. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; Deacon: I Timothy 3:12)
4. Be prudent - He is a person who is spiritually sensible, of sound mind, wise in judgment and objective. He is not given to quick and superficial decisions based upon immature spiritual thinking. He thinks and acts, obeying God's Word. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Deacon: No stated requirement)
5. Be respectable and have dignity - He has an orderly life and demonstrates good behavior. He is serious of mind and character. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Deacon: I Timothy 3:8,11)
6. Be hospitable - He is a person who unselfishly shares his home and blessings with others. His lifestyle is characterized by sharing his life goods in fellowship with others. He regularly invites people to his home. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; Deacon: no stated requirement)
7. Be able to teach - He is able to communicate God's Word to others without being quarrelsome and exhort others in all gentleness to follow and obey sound doctrine. He does not require the spiritual gift of teaching, but he does require a knowledge of sound and correct doctrine and the ability to use it to instruct and refute others to lead them to the knowledge of the truth. (Elder: I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9; II Timothy 2:24,25; Deacon: II Timothy 2:24,25)
8. Be not addicted to wine - He can drink wine, but He should not be a drunkard and should not spend much time drinking wine or any other alcoholic beverage. He is a person who does not have great desire to regularly drink alcoholic beverages such as participating in habitual social drinking. (In application this requirement could apply to narcotics and drugs.) (Elder: I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; Deacon: I Timothy 3:8)
9. Be not pugnacious - He should not be quarrelsome, pick arguments, or have a quick temper. He should not be a striker in either physical, literary, or verbal violence; but, rather, he is noted by his forbearance, politeness, and tenderness. (Elder: I Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7; Deacon: no stated requirement)
10. Be a gentle person - He should handle people with kindness and tenderness, firmly, and lovingly. (Elder: I Timothy 3:3; Deacon: no stated requirement)
11. Be uncontentious - He should not constantly criticize, have verbal quarrels, and selfish argumentation. (Elder: I Timothy 3:3; Deacon: no stated requirement)
12. Be free from the love of money and not fond of sordid gain - His life should not be primarily concerned with the amassing of material things, money, and wealth. This should not be his prime goal or occupy most of his time. He should use his wealth to support his family and to do the work of the ministry. (Elder: I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; I Peter 5:2; Deacon: I

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Timothy 3:8)

13. Be a good manager of his own children and household, keeping his children under control in all dignity - He should have the respect of his family and be recognized by his family to be a leader of his own household. His children should be obedient so as not to be accused of dissipation or rebellion. His family need not be perfect, but it should be well managed. (This requirement does not mean that his children must believe in Christ.) The Bible goes on to say, "But if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?" It implies that elders and deacons who manage the church are married men with older children. (Elder: I Timothy 3:4,5; Titus 1:6; Deacon: I Timothy 3:12)
14. Be not a new convert, and fully tested - He needs to be proven, through testing, to be a mature Christian. He must not be a new Christian, but rather one proven in the faith. He must have been a Christian for some time, long enough to be tested and demonstrate his loyalty to God and to Christ. Then he will not become conceited and fall into condemnation incurred by the devil. (Elder: I Timothy 3:6; Deacon: I Timothy 3:10)
15. Have a good reputation with those outside the church - Unbelievers and those who work with him in the secular world should think highly of him. He must not live a hypocritical life. Unbelievers should respect his character and integrity. He cannot live wrongly outside the church and rightly inside the church. In this manner, he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (Elder: I Timothy 3:7; Deacon: no stated requirement)
16. Not be self-willed - He needs to be interested in God's will and seek unity among the elders. He must not be insensitive, always forcing his own ideas and opinions on other people; stubborn, or one who always tries to have his own way. (Elder: Titus 1:7; Deacon: no stated requirement)
17. Not be quick tempered - He must not be one who quickly gets angry and flies off the handle. He must be able to control his own spirit. (Elder: Titus 1:7; Deacon: no stated requirement)
18. Love what is good - He should follow after what is good and righteous according to God's will. He must desire to do God's will. He must not follow after things (mentally or physically) that are evil and sinful. (Elder: Titus 1:8; I Peter 5:2; Deacon: no stated requirement)
19. Be sensible - He must do things by the Spirit of God rather than always by the letter of the Law. It is the Spirit that brings life. (Elder: Titus 1:8; Deacon: no stated requirement)
20. Be just - He must be objective and fair based on Biblical, spiritual principles. He must give men their due under God in fairness and with impartiality. (Elder: Titus 1:8; Deacon: no stated requirement)
21. Be devout - He must perform his duty and obey God. He should act and think in a holy manner, which is to be separated from sin. He has no planned or long term toleration of sin. (Elder: Titus 1:8; Deacon: no stated requirement)
22. Hold fast to the faithful Word of God - In clear conscience, he should hold fast the faithful Word. As he learns the teachings of God's Word, he should begin to practice them. He should not have a guilt complex or broken fellowship with God or with any believer. He needs to maintain fellowship with everyone as far as it depends upon him. He must obey God's Word rather than only professing to believe it. (Elder: Titus 1:9; Deacon: I Timothy 3:9,11)
23. Have children who believe, and are not accused of dissipation or rebellion - All of his children must be believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as savior. The implication is that they are following Christ in the faith of their father. His children must not be in rebellion toward God or toward him. This implies that an elder must be married and have children proven in the faith. (Elder: Titus 1:6; Deacon: no stated requirement)
24. Live as an example to others and not lord over others - He must be a person who obeys God using His word from faith and be a constant example to others that they may follow him. He never tries to lord over others, but he provides them leadership by example, being a servant to them. Since the elder is an example to others, he must also meet all of the qualifications for deacon as well as for elder. (Elder: I Peter 5:2; Deacon: no stated requirement)
25. Not be double-tongued - He should speak in constancy to what he believes and for which he stands. He needs to always act consistently toward all people as to what is said and done. He does not act in a two-faced manner in thought or deed toward different people because of circumstances. (Elder: no stated requirements; Deacon: I Timothy 3:8)

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26. Not be a malicious gossip - Men and women of God should not gossip regarding other people, including in times of group prayer. They must not damage the reputations of others in any conscious or unconscious, malicious sense by passing on bad things or things that should not be said about others. (Elder: no stated requirement; Deacon: I Timothy 3:11)
27. Have a good reputation among those inside the church - He needs to be a man who is held in esteem, approval, and in good reputation by the whole congregation; that is, the chosen deacon (or elder) should be known and approved of good reputation by the congregation at large and not by just a few people. (Elder: no stated requirement; Deacon: Acts 6:3,5)
28. Be a man full of spirit and wisdom - He needs to be a person who is filled with spirit and wisdom. This means that he is a man of great faith who is already doing a God-chosen ministry and trusting God for everything. He is a man who has transferred his direction from himself, based on reasoning, to God through faith based on God to perform. Being filled with spirit and wisdom involves the person in God's work through faith to fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; and Acts 1:8. People outside the faith will not be able to cope with the wisdom and spirit with which he will speak. (Elder: no stated requirement; Deacon: Acts 6:3,5,8,10)
3. Not jealous (not envious) - does not desire to have what others have, willing to listen to others better who are better, does not steam over others' successes, not glad for the failure of another, and is satisfied with God's provisions.
4. Does not brag (does not boast or vaunt itself) - is not boastful and does not verbalize pride, does not have intellectual pride, does not put others down if they do not believe the way it does, and does not blow its own horn about important and impressive accomplishments. No one can truthfully brag anything because whatever we have received, we have received from God without earning it.
5. Is not arrogant (is not conceited or puffed up, and does not put on airs) - does not believe it is better than others since what it has, came from God for His purposes. Love says, "I desire to know all about you, for I care for you." Even if we have superior knowledge, we think close relationships are more valuable.
6. Does not act unbecomingly (does not behave disgracefully, dishonorably, or indecently) - does not act rudely, tactlessly, or like a theological hothead or know-it-all, does not say, "I will do things whether you like it or not." Love is not critical, blunt, sharp, or pungent; the end does not justify the means.
7. Does not seek its own (is not selfish to have things for self) - is selfless and looks out for the interests of others. Love looks to serve others before self; does not look for reward.
8. Is not provoked - is selfless, tolerant, forgiving, kind, gracious, and patient. Love does not get upset and irritated with others even when time is usurped. It does not get mad at people.
9. Does not take into account a wrong suffered - does not take revengeful actions. Does not reckon, calculate, or take into account bad or evil things. Love thinks others are wonderful and lets God take any revenge needed. Love does not let the mind become a depository of resentment or bitterness.
10. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness (never rejoices in sin, with injustice, wickedness, or wrong doing) - does not brag about sin. Hates when God's name is taken in vain. Does not gossip about others who sin; likes to hide the sins and errors of people. Our heart is broken and grieved when we or our loved ones greatly sin or are rebellious.

WE ARE TO HAVE LOVE CHARACTERISTICS IN OUR LIVES

God desires that we love Him and others. His love characteristics are given in I Corinthians 13:1-8,13. We are to learn and implement them. As we do, we abandon our self life and live a life of sacrificial service to others. The principles of love can only be lived in the servant role. Love is:

1. Patient (forebearing, longsuffering) - never retaliates, not willing that any should perish, never attacks the other person, has forgiveness, never holds grudges, and never takes revenge even if it can. If we live by what God desires rather than by what we desire, then we cannot get impatient. Our patience reveals our love for God and one another.
2. Kind (merciful) - gives things to enemies in sweetness, does not mind being walked on if someone else is helped - such as Christ going to the cross, does kind things for people through sacrifice, is never rude, is not critical, is pleasant, and helpful to others.

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11. Rejoices with the truth - loves the truth and hates sin. Love cannot stand errors in doctrines or compromises with the truth. Love will not compromise the truth. Appreciates the triumph of ordinary people who live in God's truth. Love does what is right and walks in accord with the commandments.
12. Bears all things (covers, passes over, stands, endures) - does not gossip about sin, but rather covers over and puts a blanket around others' faults and sins. Love has redemptive quality, is never judgmental or condemning. (Proverbs 10:12; 12:16; 1 Peter 4:8)
13. Believes all things - it believes things will turn out all right; believes children will turn out all right. It believes in the people with whom we work; it thinks the best of people.
14. Hopes all things - it never stops hoping and refuses to accept failures as final.
15. Endures all things - it continues even if rejected, bears pain, or is attacked. Love hangs on in spite of opposition.
16. Never fails - it continues forever based on the character doing the loving regardless of what the other person does.

GOD DESIRES US TO PRAY

Prayer Is Communicating With God

God greatly desires us to pray in order to have a mutual intimate relationship. Prayer is communicating with God in harmony with His will and Word. The quality and effectiveness of our prayer depends upon our attitudes and esteem for God. True prayer admits that God alone can direct our lives and work all things together for good. Righteous prayers bring glory to God; they are God centered. God answers prayers through the revelation of His Word, life circumstances, and experiences in harmony with the Bible's teachings.

God Has Given Many Promises To Encourage Us To Pray

God's gives us many prayer promises that reveal the basis for His response:

Isaiah 65:24 - "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."

Jeremiah 33:3 - 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Matthew 21:22 - "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

Philippians 4:6,7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

1 John 5:14,15 - And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

God Gave Definite Structure And Purpose For Our Prayers

Prayers are to be addressed to God the Father (Matthew 6:6,9; 26:53; John 15:16; 14:16; 16:23; 17:1; Ephesians 5:20; 3:14; Colossians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:17), in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:13,14; 15:16; 16:23; 24:26; Ephesians 5:20), and in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 1:20). Prayers are given in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is our mediator to the Father. We cannot go to God in our own names.

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

The Bible does not authorize prayers addressed to the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ does not address the Holy Spirit in any of His prayers. On most occasions in the Bible, prayers are addressed to the Father who is the source of all things. Two Scriptures addressed prayers to the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 7:59; 1 Corinthians 1:2). The Lord Jesus said that we could pray to the Lord of the harvest (Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2). The Lord of the harvest most likely refers either to the Father or to Christ. God (the Father) brings the growth in the harvest (1 Corinthians 3:6). The Lord of the harvest is the one who sends the workers. The Father sent the Son. The great commission states that Christ sends His church to be workers in the world. Generally, all prayers are to be addressed to the Father in the name of the Son, since all things come from the Father and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6 - yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are

all things, and we exist through Him.

Our prayers are to bring glory to God, whether they refer to God's works or attitude fruit in our lives. Attitude fruit are the fruit of the Holy Spirit. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control (Galatians 5:22,23) I John 5:14,15 states that God answers prayers according to His will. Our prayers must be according to God's plan for our lives. Prayers are for God's and not our selfish purposes (James 4:3).

We can pray using Scripture such as the Psalms to bring our praise to God. If we need wisdom, we can use James 1:5. We can begin by searching the Scriptures to discover God's truths. If we need a job, we can use Matthew 6:33, praying that God will lead us to seek His kingdom and righteousness. We can begin by learning the commandments and obeying them.

James 1:5 - But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

We should put into faith-obedience what we are praying about to give God additional cause to act and a wider channel through which to work. This brings living faith to our prayers. If we need wisdom, we must search for wisdom. If we need a job, we must look for a job believing that God will produce Scripture's claims. Our prayers come more alive if we bring God's Word alongside our praises, thanksgivings, and requests. God's Word brings our prayers alongside God's will. It demonstrates our desire to pray according to God's will and purposes rather than according to our own. For example:

Matthew 22:37 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

We can pray that we will love God with our total being, and as husbands, that we will love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. As we do, we can obey God's commandments and take steps to demonstrate our love.

It may be best to speak rather than just think our prayers. This invokes a stronger cause for God to respond to our thoughts as the source and our vocalizing as the embodiment.

God Gives Prayer Methods, Places, And Times In The Bible

The Scriptures have many teachings regarding prayer. As examples, we can pray:

1. Aloud. (Luke 22:42; John 11:41-44; 17:1)
2. Secretly. (Matthew 6:6)
3. Without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17)
4. Bowing our knees to the Father. (Luke 22:41; Ephesians 3:14)
5. Lifting up eyes to heaven. (Matthew 14:19; Luke 9:16; John 11:41; 17:1)
6. Persistently. (Matthew 7:7,8; Luke 11:5-10; John 8:7; I Thessalonians 3:10; 5:17)
7. Only three times for important personal matters if the answer is a definite no. (Matthew 26:36-45; II Corinthians 12:7-10)
8. Briefly in public. (Matthew 6:5-7; 23:24)
9. At length in private. (Luke 6:12,13; John 17)
10. Not to be seen of men. (Matthew 6:5-7; 23:14; Mark 12:40)
11. Lifting up holy hands (Pray from a holy life). (I Timothy 2:8)
12. In every place. (I Timothy 2:8)
13. Early in the morning in a lonely place when it is still dark. (Mark 1:35)
14. Alone in the evening. (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:45,46)
15. All night, particularly when making major decisions. (Luke 6:12,13)
16. In the same place according to personal custom. (Luke 11:1; 22:39,40)

God Gave Us Many Reasons To Pray

We are to pray according to reasons given in the Bible; this is praying according to God's will.

1. Confession of sin. (Psalm 139:23,24; I John 1:9)
2. Thanksgiving. (Romans 1:8; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6,7; I Thessalonians 5:18)
3. Intercession for others. (John 14:16; 16:26; 17:9,20 ; Acts 8:24; Romans 1:9; 15:30; II Corinthians 8:4; Ephesians 1:16; 6:18;

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Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:3,9; 4:12; I Thessalonians 1:2; 5:25; II Thessalonians 1:11; 3:1; II Timothy 1:3; Hebrews 13:18)

4. Petition. (Proverbs 3:6; Jeremiah 33:3; Romans 1:10; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6,7; Hebrews 4:16; James 1:5; 4:2)
5. Praise and adoration. (I Chronicles 29:10-13; Acts 4:24; Ephesians 1:3;6,20-23; Hebrews 13:15)
6. Forgiveness. (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9)
7. Healing, suffering. (James 5:13,14)
8. Help for other saints. (I Thessalonians 3:10)
9. Wisdom. (James 1:5)
10. Help for saints held unjustly in prison. (Acts 12:12)
11. Help for the ministry. (Acts 6:4)
12. Fulfillment of God's promises in Scripture. (Daniel 9)
13. Help for enemies and those who spitefully use us. (Luke 6:28; 23:34; Acts 7:40)
14. That we will not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)
15. That we will not enter into temptation that is too strong for our flesh to handle. (Matthew 6:13; 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40,46)
16. Avoidance of difficulties that come upon the world. (Luke 21:34-36)
17. Insight and revelation of Christ and God's Word. (Ephesians 1:15-18; Philippians 3:8-10; Colossians 1:9,10)
18. Love to abound. (Philippians 1:8-10)
19. Things occur according to God's will. (James 4:2)
20. God's work and help for the saints. (Romans 1:10-12)
21. Revival. (Psalm 85:6)
22. Avoidance of our doing evil. (II Corinthians 13:7)
23. Tranquil and quiet life to be lived in godliness and dignity as a result of prayers for those in authority. (I Timothy 2:2)

Situations When God Desires Us To Pray

Christ demonstrated various situations when He desires us to pray (I John 2:6):

1. Before making major decisions; pray all night. (Luke 6:12-15)
2. Alone before teaching disciples. (Luke 9:18)
3. While being water baptized. (Luke 3:21)
4. Before ministering. (Mark 1:35-38; Luke 9:18)
5. Alone after ministering. (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:45,46)
6. Before a crisis. (Luke 22:39-46)
7. When very busy. (Luke 5:15,16)

God Gives Assurance That Our Prayers Will Be Answered

God gives us ways to have assurance of answered prayer. Prayers that achieve the following:

1. Glorifies the Father; we do things pleasing in His sight. (John 14:11-14; 15:7-11; I John 3:22-24)
2. Agrees with God's will. (I John 5:14,15)
3. Brings us fellowship with everyone. (Matthew 5:23,24)
4. Causes us to love one another. (I Peter 4:7,8)
5. Helps those who call upon the Lord in truth. (Psalm 145:18)
6. Helps those who pray believing. (Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24 with Hebrews 11:6)
7. Occurs while Christ's words abide in us. (John 15:7-11)
8. Confesses Christ before men. (Matthew 6:14,15)
9. Comes after we forgive others. (Matthew 6:14,15)
10. Comes from being righteous and godly men. (Psalm 4:1-4; James 5:16)

Our Life Can Bring Hindrances For God To Answer Our Prayers

God tells us that our conduct can hinder God from answering our prayers. These hindrances are:

1. Continuing with sin in our life and heart. (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1,2)
2. Being unforgiving of others. (Matthew 6:14,15; Mark 11:25)
3. Husbands not honoring their wives. (I Peter 3:7)
4. Praying while doubting. (James 1:5-8)
5. Asking with wrong motives such as for pleasures. (James 4:3)
6. Idolatry; having idols. (Ezekiel 14:1-11) (An idol is something or someone that we serve with higher priority than the true God. Our true god is the reason we desire to live - what drives us on.)
7. Having pride. (Job 35:12,13)
8. Not helping the poor; lack of compassion. (Proverbs 21:13)
9. Not confessing Christ before men. (Matthew 10:32,33)

We Must Pray; Emphasizing our Relationships

God desires our Christian lives to be lived in Scriptural dynamic relationships with God and people. Life's aspects of technology, health, finances, college, life's needs etc. are in logistic support to these relationships; they assist us in living these relationships. This is the mature perspective of life. Life's purpose is to be in relationships, not in seeking self interests. Self interests are benefits from the relationships rather than life's prime purpose. Seeking self interests first is an immature life perspective.

We must concentrate on God-directed relationships rather than on selfishly having, being, and becoming. Then we can fulfill God's plan for maturity and ministry. But if we concentrate on the world's pursuits, we may miss God's plan for our life.

We must live and pray according to relationship priorities. Our first priority is God, the second is spouse and parents, the third is family etc. The first priority in ministry is family, then the local church, and then the world. Priority in church ministry begins with the elder group, then with the worker group, then with the church fellowship, and

then with the world. We must live in and pray for all these relationships. If this is not done, our relationships with God and our family may suffer. Careers must not carry a higher priority than God or our family; otherwise our relationship with God may be lukewarm and our families may be neglected. Our families must have first priority in our ministry. If we do not live and pray according to these priorities, our lives and those around us will suffer. Even though we are to live by priorities, we must live all the relationships according to their demands. These demands often require immediate attention and pre-empt our relationship priority order for a time. But they never assume a priority rank. For example, our jobs may require occasional overtime. This places a demand on our life to which we must respond. Our wives and families are without our time for a period. But the job priority never replaces God or our families in the priority chain. If our family became very sick, we would leave our overtime work and tend to our family or get someone else to do it. Our family still remains in priority over the job.

Prayer And Fasting Demonstrates Our Seriousness To God

The Scriptures give counsel for our need of prayer and fasting (II Chronicles 20:1-13; Ezra 8:21; Nehemiah 1; Esther 4:3,9-17; 9:31; Isaiah 58; Jeremiah 36:4-10; Daniel 9:3; Joel 1:13-15; 2:12; Jonah 3:5; Matthew 6:17; 17:21; Acts 13:1-3; 14:23). God gives us direction as we pray and fast to meet important needs and difficult times. Fasting means that we only drink water for a specified time period such as for one or more days. Through fasting and long hours in prayer, we demonstrate great faith to God for Him to guide and direct our lives. The Lord Jesus prayed alone all night on a mountain before He chose His disciples (Luke 6:12-16).

The Bible shows people fasted when a major decision was to be made, great repentance was needed, and for great spiritual events to occur. They also prayed and fasted when danger was coming so God would protect them. They prayed and fasted when they realized God was bringing calamity war upon them in a day of the Lord judgment. The Jews prayed and fasted when Esther went before the king to get His permission for the Jews to return to Israel.

Daniel prayed and fasted when he was exiled to Babylon to have God return the Jews to the land and allow the temple and the city to be rebuilt. The church people prayed and fasted before they selected elders. While the church prayed and fasted, God said to separate out Barnabas and Saul (Paul) to the work to which God has called them.

Fasting in prayer times is going before the Lord in

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humbleness to seek His direction, forgiveness, protection, and great assistance in major circumstances and decisions in life. This may be required when major decisions are to be made. Through prayer and fasting, we acknowledge that only God can direct our lives and works all things together for good.