

Bible Memory

Competition will be conducted in the traditional spelling bee fashion. The six year cycle by school year is stated below:

2020–2021	The Wisdom of God
2021–2022	Soul-winning
2022–2023	The Triune God
2023–2024	Sin and Salvation
2024–2025	Prayer
2025–2026	God’s Promises

2020–2021: The Wisdom of God

- I. God alone is the source of wisdom.
 - A. Wisdom is with God (Job 12:12–13).

With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding. With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.
 - B. By wisdom God founded the earth (Proverbs 3:19).

The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.
 - C. God’s wisdom is beyond man’s understanding (Romans 11:33–34).

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
 - D. The wisdom of God is personified in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:23–24).

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
 - E. God’s wisdom, salvation in Christ, was a mystery before its revelation (1 Corinthians 2:7–8).

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
 - F. God’s Word gives wisdom (Psalm 119:130).

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
 - G. God’s wisdom is perfect and easily entreated (James 3:17).

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
 - H. God’s wisdom will prevail over man’s wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:27–29).

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.
- II. God grants His wisdom to man beginning at salvation and continuing as the Christian seeks it.
 - A. Man must reject the world’s wisdom and believe God’s wisdom at salvation (1 Corinthians 1:20–21).

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by

wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

B. Wisdom has been revealed to man through the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit

(1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16).

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

C. Wisdom begins with fearing the Lord and departing from evil (Psalm 111:10; Job 28:28).

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

D. Wisdom comes from seeking God (Proverbs 28:5).

Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

E. Wisdom comes from desiring and seeking it (Proverbs 18:1).

Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

F. It is God's will that the Christian be filled with wisdom (Colossians 1:9–10).

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

G. Wisdom should be the principal goal in the life of the Christian (Proverbs 4:7).

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

H. Wisdom may be petitioned from God (James 1:5).

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

I. Wisdom is gained from hearing and receiving instruction (Proverbs 19:20).

Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

J. Wisdom proceeds from the Christian's heart to his speech (Proverbs 16:23).

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

K. Wisdom can be forsaken (Proverbs 4:13).

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

III. True wisdom does not exist apart from God.

A. Wisdom is not found in human existence (Job 28:12–13).

But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

B. Wisdom of this world is foolishness to God (1 Corinthians 3:19).

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

C. The natural man cannot discern God's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:14).

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

D. God's plan of salvation is foolish in the eyes of man (1 Corinthians 1:18).

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

- E. The reasonings of the worldly wise are vain (1 Corinthians 3:20).
And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.
 - F. Wisdom is not synonymous with importance or age (Job 32:9).
Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.
 - G. Wisdom apart from God increases grief (Ecclesiastes 1:18).
For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.
 - H. Man's wisdom can pervert him (Isaiah 47:10).
For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.
 - I. Wisdom apart from God will not stand (Proverbs 21:30).
There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.
 - J. Wisdom in one's own eyes brings woe (Isaiah 5:21).
Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
 - K. Man's wisdom ends in death (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).
There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
- IV. Wisdom is a God-given possession that shapes a joyous, righteous life.
- A. Wisdom is a preserver of life (Proverbs 2:10–11).
When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:
 - B. Wisdom is peace (Proverbs 3:17).
Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
 - C. Wisdom is strength (Proverbs 24:5).
A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
 - D. Wisdom is stability (Isaiah 33:6).
And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.
 - E. Wisdom is a defense (Ecclesiastes 7:12).
For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.
 - F. Wisdom is a guide (Ecclesiastes 10:10).
If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.
 - G. Wisdom is obedience (Matthew 7:24).
Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
 - H. Wisdom is more valuable than wealth (Proverbs 8:10–11).
Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.
 - I. Wisdom is sweet to the soul (Proverbs 24:13–14).
My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

- J. Wisdom is sincere, yet practical (Matthew 10:16).
Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
- K. Wisdom is winning souls (Daniel 12:3; Proverbs 11:30).
And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.
The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
- L. Wisdom is living as an example of Christ to the unsaved (Colossians 4:5).
Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.
- M. Wisdom is using our life and time to bring honor to God (Ephesians 5:15–17).
See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
- N. Wisdom is exercising discernment between good and evil, good and better (Philippians 1:9–10; Hebrews 5:14).
And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- O. Wisdom glories only in the Lord (Jeremiah 9:23–24).
Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.
- P. Wisdom seeks counsel (Proverbs 1:5).
A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
- Q. Wisdom accepts reproof (Proverbs 17:10).
A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.
- R. Wisdom teaches self-control (Proverbs 11:12).
He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.
- S. Wisdom teaches the foolishness of mischief (Proverbs 10:23).
It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.
- T. Wisdom teaches that humility comes before honor (Proverbs 15:33).
The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.
- U. Wisdom teaches the principle of saving (Proverbs 21:20).
There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.
- V. Wisdom receives commendation (Proverbs 12:8).
A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.
- W. Wisdom promotes health and long life (Proverbs 4:20–22; Proverbs 9:10–11).

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

X. Wisdom gains favor (Proverbs 13:14–15).

The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

Y. Wisdom establishes and furnishes the Christian home (Proverbs 24:3–4).

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Z. Wisdom values eternity (Psalm 90:12).

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

2021–2022: Soul-Winning

I. The worth of a soul

- A. A soul is worth more than the entire world (Matthew 16:26).
For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
- B. A soul is worth God's long-suffering (2 Peter 3:9).
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- C. A soul is worth God's love (1 John 4:10).
Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- D. A soul is worth Christ's sacrificial death (1 Peter 2:24).
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
- E. A soul is worth Christ's humility (Philippians 2:5–8).
Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

II. Separation of the soul from God by sin

- A. Man's nature is sinful (Romans 5:12–14).
Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
- B. All mankind has committed sinful acts (Romans 3:23).
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- C. Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2).
But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
- D. Separation from God is darkness (1 Peter 2:9).
But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- E. Separation from God is spiritual death (John 5:24).
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

III. Physical and spiritual death for the unbelievers

- A. Physical death is not the end of man's existence (John 5:28–29).
Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.
- B. Judgment for sins occurs after physical death (Hebrews 9:27).

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

C. Hell is referred to as the second or spiritual death (Revelation 21:8).

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1. Jesus confirmed the reality of Hell (Luke 16:22–23).

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

2. Hell is a place of bodily punishment (Matthew 10:28).

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

3. Hell is a place of fire (Mark 9:43–44).

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

4. Hell is everlasting (Matthew 25:46).

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

5. Hell is the punishment for not believing on Christ (John 3:36).

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

IV. Physical death and spiritual life for the believer

A. Physical death for the believer is termed "sleep" (1 Thessalonians 4:13–15).

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

B. Physical death for the believer is merely absence from the body (2 Corinthians 5:6–8).

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

C. The believer shall never experience spiritual death or separation from God (John 11:25–26).

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

D. Eternal life for the believer is both physical and spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:42–44).

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

E. Eternal life is the believer's possession now (1 John 5:11–13).

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

F. Eternal life will be spent with God (John 14:1–6).

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

V. The imperative of soul-winning

A. Death is certain (Psalm 89:48).

What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.

B. Judgment is certain (Romans 2:5–9).

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

C. A man's earthly future is uncertain (Proverbs 27:1).

Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

D. Earthly life is uncertain (James 4:14).

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

E. We know the terror of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:11).

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

F. Christ, our Example, came to win souls (Luke 19:10).

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

G. Christ commands us to win souls (Matthew 28:19–20).

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

H. To obey Christ's command is our duty and not our choice (Luke 17:10).

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

I. Christ's love constrains us (2 Corinthians 5:14–15).

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

J. Our love for others should compel us (Mark 12:30–31).

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

K. We are responsible to the lost about us (Romans 1:14).

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

L. It is a sin not to win souls (James 4:17).

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

VI. Attributes of the soul-winner

A. The soul-winner is saved (John 15:5).

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

B. The soul-winner is faithful in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Pray without ceasing.

C. The soul-winner's life evidences truth and righteousness (Ephesians 5:8–10).

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

D. The soul-winner exercises wisdom (Colossians 4:5).

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

E. The soul-winner lives in readiness (1 Peter 3:15).

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

F. The soul-winner daily dies to self (Luke 9:23).

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

G. The soul-winner lives a separated life (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

H. The soul-winner practices faith in God's goodness (Matthew 7:11).

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

I. The soul-winner realizes he is but a messenger (Matthew 10:20).

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

J. The soul-winner is filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

K. The soul-winner faithfully reads and studies the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15).

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

L. The soul-winner has been obedient to believer's baptism and church membership (Acts 2:41, 47).

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

M. The soul-winner practices faithful church attendance (Hebrews 10:25).

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

VII. The plan of salvation

A. We must acknowledge that we are all sinners (Romans 3:10).

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

B. We must acknowledge that we can do nothing about our sinful condition (Isaiah 64:6).

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

C. The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

D. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin (Romans 5:8).

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

E. Salvation is a gift, nothing we can earn (Ephesians 2:8–9).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

F. Each person must appropriate God's forgiveness by an act of faith in Christ (Romans 10:9–10).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2022–2023: The Triune God

I. God the Father

A. His nature

1. God is holy (Psalm 99:9).
Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.
2. God is just (Isaiah 45:21).
Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.
3. God is love (1 John 4:16).
And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
4. God is good (Psalm 118:29).
O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
5. God is merciful (Psalm 100:5).
For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.
6. God is long-suffering (2 Peter 3:9).
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
7. God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6).
For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
8. God is incorruptible (Romans 1:23).
And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.
9. God is faithful (1 Corinthians 10:13).
There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
10. God is true (John 7:28).
Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.
11. God is jealous (Exodus 34:14).
For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

B. His attributes

1. God is invisible, a spirit (John 4:24).
God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
2. God is a distinct being (Exodus 3:14).
And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.
3. God is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27).
The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.
4. God is immortal (1 Timothy 1:17).

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

5. God is light (1 John 1:5).

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6. God is life (John 5:26).

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

7. God is glorious (Exodus 15:11).

Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

8. God is unique (Isaiah 45:5).

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

9. God is personal (Romans 8:15).

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

10. God is omniscient (1 John 3:20).

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

11. God is omnipresent (Jeremiah 23:24).

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

12. God is omnipotent (Revelation 19:6).

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

13. God is a trinity with three personalities (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

II. God the Son

A. His nature

1. Jesus Christ is God incarnate (Colossians 1:13–15; John 8:58).

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

2. Jesus Christ is one with the Father (John 10:30).

I and my Father are one.

3. Jesus Christ was virgin-born (Matthew 1:23).

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

4. Jesus Christ was man (Hebrews 2:14).

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

5. Jesus Christ was sinless (Hebrews 4:15).
For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
 6. Jesus Christ's love is characterized by its greatness (John 15:13).
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 7. Jesus Christ was obedient to the Father (John 4:34).
Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.
 8. Jesus Christ was humble (Philippians 2:8).
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
 9. Jesus Christ is truth (John 14:6).
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 10. Jesus Christ is life (John 11:25).
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
 11. Jesus Christ is changeless (Hebrews 13:8).
Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.
- B. His ministry
1. Jesus Christ is the creator (John 1:3).
All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 2. Jesus Christ is the Word, the expression of God's being (John 1:14).
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
 3. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17).
Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
 4. Jesus Christ is the Saviour (Titus 2:13).
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
 5. Jesus Christ was the substitutionary lamb, the Atonement (John 1:29).
The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
 6. Jesus Christ is the mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
 7. Jesus Christ is our intercessor (Hebrews 7:25).
Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
 8. Jesus Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews 8:1).
Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
 9. Jesus Christ is the judge (John 5:22).
For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:
 10. Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

III. God the Holy Spirit

A. His nature

1. The Holy Spirit is God (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2. The Spirit of God is holy (Ephesians 4:30).

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

B. His ministry

1. The Holy Spirit imparts life (Job 33:4).

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

2. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8).

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

3. The Holy Spirit is the author of the new birth (John 3:5; Titus 3:5).

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

4. The Holy Spirit indwells every Christian (Romans 8:9).

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

5. Through the Holy Spirit we are baptized into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

6. The Holy Spirit is the proof of our salvation (Romans 8:16).

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

7. The Holy Spirit is the seal or bond of our eternal salvation

(Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22).

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

8. The Holy Spirit leads the Christian (Romans 8:14).

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

9. The Holy Spirit comforts the Christian (John 14:16).

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

10. The Holy Spirit teaches the Christian (John 14:26).

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

11. The Holy Spirit is our indwelling intercessor (Romans 8:27).

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

12. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ (John 16:14).
He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.
13. The Holy Spirit inspired Scripture (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16).
For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
14. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11).
Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
15. The Holy Spirit controls the submissive Christian (Ephesians 5:18).
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
16. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in the Christian (Galatians 5:22–23).
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2023–2024: Sin and Salvation

- I. Sin is defined Scripturally.
 - A. Sin is “missing the mark” or a failure to meet God’s standards (Romans 3:23; James 4:17).
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.
 - B. Sin is transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4).
Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
 - C. Sin is committed against God (Psalm 51:4).
Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.
- II. Sin originated in the angelic realm.
 - A. The Devil (Lucifer) committed sin (1 John 3:8).
He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.
 - B. Other angels committed sin (2 Peter 2:4).
For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
- III. Sin spread to the human race.
 - A. The Devil (Satan) was the chief agent in the Fall of Man (2 Corinthians 11:3).
But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - B. Sin entered the world through Adam (Romans 5:12).
Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
 - C. The sinful nature is transmitted to all Adam’s posterity, with the exception of Christ (Romans 5:19; 1 John 1:8).
For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 - D. Sin is perpetuated by mankind because his heart is evil (Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:19).
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:
- IV. Sin is damaging and degrading to mankind.
 - A. Man’s sinful nature has placed him in a state of spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1).
And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
 - B. Sin creates guilt and unrest in man (Isaiah 57:20–21).
But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.
 - C. The sin of one generation affects its posterity (Exodus 20:5).
Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
 - D. Man is in bondage to sin and cannot free himself (John 8:34).
Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

- E. Sin keeps man in spiritual darkness (John 8:12).
Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- F. Sin makes man at enmity against God (Romans 8:7).
Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
- G. Man's sin repays him with wickedness (Isaiah 3:11; Proverbs 13:2).
Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.
A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.
- H. Sin afflicts mankind with pain and anguish (Job 14:1).
Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.
- I. Sin brings death which is inescapable outside Christ (James 1:15).
Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
1. The first death is physical, bodily (Hebrews 9:27).
And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
 2. The second death is spiritual, eternal separation from God, Who is Life (Revelation 21:8).
But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
- V. Sin and the holiness of God are irreconcilable.
- A. God is righteous (Psalm 119:137).
Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.
- B. God abhors sin (Psalm 5:4–6).
For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.
- C. God knows our sins (Psalm 69:5).
O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.
- D. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1–2).
Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
- E. God judges sin (Ecclesiastes 12:14).
For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.
- F. God's judgment is according to truth (Romans 2:2).
But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.
- G. The Law was given to condemn man's sins and to show his need for Christ (Galatians 3:24).
Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- H. God will not tolerate sin or defilement in Heaven (Revelation 21:27).
And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- VI. Salvation from sin and death is impossible apart from God's plan.
- A. Old Testament sacrifices could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).
For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
 - B. The Law cannot give righteousness and life (Galatians 3:21–22).
Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.
 - C. Works cannot give righteousness and life (Isaiah 64:6).
But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
 - D. No person or god can provide salvation (Acts 4:12).
Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
 - E. Grace, unmerited favor, came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).
For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
- VII. Salvation from sin and death is made possible by God's plan.
- A. Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, sent to redeem us (Galatians 4:4–5).
But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
 1. The shedding of Christ's blood was necessary for the remission or forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22).
And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
 - a. Our sins were imputed or reckoned to Christ's account (1 Peter 2:24).
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
 - b. Christ was the propitiation or satisfaction for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2).
And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
 - c. Christ was our substitute on the cross, and now His righteousness has been imputed to us (2 Corinthians 5:21).
For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
 - d. Christ's death reconciles man to God (Romans 5:10).
For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
 - e. We are justified or declared righteous through faith in Christ's redemptive work (Romans 5:1).
Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - f. God has removed our sins from us (Psalm 103:12; John 1:29).
As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

- g. God will never remember our sins (Hebrews 10:17).

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

- h. Condemnation for our sins is no longer possible (Romans 8:1).

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- 2. Christ's resurrection proved that He is God, with power over death (John 11:25).

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

- a. Christ's resurrection was necessary for proof of forgiveness and justification (Romans 4:24–25).

But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

- b. Christ's resurrection proves that the saved shall also rise (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23).

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

- B. Conversion is a sinner's turning from his sin toward God (Acts 3:19).

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

- 1. A sinner must repent of his sins (Luke 5:32).

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

- 2. A sinner must have faith, or personal trust, in Christ's finished work on the cross (John 1:12; Romans 10:9).

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

- 3. While the sinner must exercise repentance and faith by his own will, it is God who leads him to both (Romans 2:4; Ephesians 2:8).

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

- C. Regeneration is being "born again" at conversion, and it is accomplished by God (Titus 3:5).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- D. Salvation is a gift imparted at conversion (Romans 10:10, 13).

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- 1. We are saved from the bondage which makes us continue to sin (1 John 3:9).

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

- 2. We are saved from sin's penalty and are given eternal life (John 3:36).

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

3. The completion of our salvation will be the sinless glorification of our bodies (Philippians 3:20–21).

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

- E. At salvation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit as security and indwelt by Him until our final redemption (Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

- F. At salvation, we are sanctified or set apart in God's eyes from the unsaved world (Hebrews 10:10).

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- G. At salvation, Christ's intercession for us with the Father begins (Hebrews 7:25).

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

2024–2025: Prayer

I. Prayer is verbal expression of our feelings and needs to God.

A. We pray directly to God (Psalm 5:2).

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

1. We are to pray with humility (Psalm 10:17).
LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:
2. We are to pray in Jesus' name (John 16:23).
And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.
3. We are to pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20–21).
But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
4. We are to pray truthfully (Psalm 145:18).
The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.
5. We are to pray boldly (Hebrews 10:19–22).
Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
6. We are to pray confidently (1 John 5:14).
And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
7. We are to pray about matters persistently, importunately, without shame (Luke 11:8–10).
I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

B. We are to pray from the heart, expressing our feelings and thoughts (Psalm 62:8).

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.
Selah.

1. Prayer may be audible (Psalm 77:1).
I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.
2. Prayer may be silent because God knows the heart and its thoughts (1 Chronicles 28:9).
And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

C. We are to pray concerning everything (Philippians 4:6).

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1. Prayer is adoration, expressing praise and thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15).

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

2. Prayer is supplication, expressing a petition for mercy (Psalm 55:1).

Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.

- a. We are to confess our sins and seek forgiveness (Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:9).

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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

- b. We are to express our needs (Matthew 6:11).

Give us this day our daily bread.

- c. We are to express our desires (Psalm 37:4).

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

3. Prayer is intercession, pleading another's cause (Romans 15:30).

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

- a. We are to pray for all men (1 Timothy 2:1).

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

- b. We are to pray for kings and all in authority (1 Timothy 2:2).

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

- c. We are to pray for our persecutors (Matthew 5:44).

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- d. We are to pray for fellow believers (Ephesians 6:18).

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- e. We are to pray for the sick (James 5:14–15).

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

- f. We are to pray for the ministers of the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 3:1–2).

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

II. The Bible clearly states who may pray.

- A. Only believers may pray with the assurance that they are heard by God (John 9:31).

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

- B. The prayer for salvation from anyone will be heard by God (Romans 10:9–10, 13).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- C. All believers share the privilege of prayer. (Matthew 6:6; 1 Timothy 2:8).

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

- D. The Bible teaches that Christ continues to intercede for believers (Hebrews 7:25).
Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
- E. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit also intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).
Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

III. It is wrong for the Christian to fail to pray.

- A. Prayer is commanded (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
Pray without ceasing.
- B. Prayer is pleasing to God (Psalm 141:2).
Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- C. We will not have if we do not ask (James 4:2).
Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

IV. The Bible teaches us when to pray.

- A. The believer's heart is to remain in an attitude of continuing prayer and gratitude to God (Romans 12:12; Ephesians 5:20).
Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 - 1. We are to pray at all times (Luke 18:1).
And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
 - 2. We are to pray day and night (Psalm 88:1).
O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:
- B. We are to pray in thankfulness before eating, as exemplified by Christ (Mark 8:6; 1 Timothy 4:4–5).
And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.
For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
- C. We are to pray in times of trouble (Psalm 86:6–7).
Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.
- D. We are to pray in times of need (Hebrews 4:16).
Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- E. We are to pray in times of affliction (James 5:13).
Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.
- F. We are to pray when fearful (Psalm 55:5, 16).

Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.
As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

- G. We are to pray for restored fellowship after confession of sin (Psalm 51:10, 12).
Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

V. Answers to prayer may take different forms.

- A. God has promised to answer requests made in His will (1 John 5:14–15).
And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
- B. God may answer prayer above our expectations (Ephesians 3:20).
Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
- C. God may answer prayer directly and immediately (Matthew 7:7–11).
Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?
- D. God may delay an answer to prayer (Luke 18:7).
And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
- E. God may answer a prayer differently from our request (2 Corinthians 12:7–9).
And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

VI. There are hindrances to answers to prayer which the believer must avoid.

- A. God will not answer if there is unconfessed sin in the heart (Psalm 66:18).
If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
- B. God will not answer prayer if the motive is wrong or selfish (James 4:3).
Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.
- C. God will not answer prayer if it is not made in faith (Matthew 21:22).
And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.
- D. God will not answer prayer from an unforgiving heart (Mark 11:25–26).
And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.
- E. God will not answer prayer made without regard to his will (Matthew 6:10).
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
- F. God will not answer prayer from an unthankful heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- G. God will not answer prayer from a disobedient heart (1 John 3:20–22).

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

H. God will not answer prayer from an ungiving heart (Luke 6:38).

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

I. God will not answer prayer from a heart which is not abiding in Him (John 15:7).

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

J. God will not answer prayer from the partners in an inharmonious marriage relationship (1 Peter 3:1, 7).

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

2025–2026: God’s Promises

- I. God has expressed His promises in clear, simple language.
 - A. God’s promises are recorded in the Scriptures (Romans 1:2).

(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
 - B. God’s promises are backed by His faithfulness (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;
 - C. God has confirmed His faithfulness by an oath (Hebrews 6:17–18).

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
 - D. God’s promises are to motivate His children to duty and holiness (2 Corinthians 6:17–18; 7:1).

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - E. Although not all promises are made to the Christian, all are for our edification (Romans 15:4).

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
 - F. God’s promises have been confirmed and fulfilled in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:19–20).

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
 - G. Man does not know God’s timetable for the fulfillment of His promises (2 Peter 3:9).

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
 - H. God’s promises are obtained or possessed through faith (Romans 4:16; Hebrews 6:12).

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,
That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- II. Scripture describes God’s promises in several terms.
 - A. God’s promise is called good (1 Kings 8:56).

Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.
 - B. God’s promise is called holy (Psalm 105:42).

For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.
 - C. God’s promises are called great and precious (2 Peter 1:4).

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- III. God has given promises concerning the physical welfare of His children.

- A. God has promised longer life for obedience to Him (Proverbs 3:1–2).
My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
- B. God has promised longer life for honoring parents (Ephesians 6:2–3).
Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- C. God has promised peace and comfort in fear (John 14:27; Philippians 4:7).
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- D. God has promised help in illness (Psalm 41:3).
The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.
- E. God has promised the rest of sweet sleep (Proverbs 3:24).
When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.
- F. God has promised both afflictions and delivery in those afflictions (1 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 50:15).
That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
- G. God has promised to dry our tears (Revelation 7:17).
For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.
- H. God has promised renewal of strength (Isaiah 40:31).
But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- I. God has promised that nothing shall happen by chance (Proverbs 16:33).
The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.
- J. God has promised children as His heritage (Psalm 127:3).
Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.
- K. God has promised a blessed home life (Proverbs 3:33).
The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.
- L. God has promised preservation of orphans and widows (Jeremiah 49:11).
Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me.
- M. God has promised blessings upon the children of godly parents (Psalm 112:1–2; Proverbs 20:7).
Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.
The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
- N. God has promised our basic needs of food, drink, and clothing (Matthew 6:31–32).

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

- O. God has promised to meet our every need (Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:33).

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- IV. God has given spiritual promises to those who are saved.

- A. God has promised abundant life (John 10:10).

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- B. God has promised eternal life (1 John 2:25).

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

- C. God has promised the indwelling Holy Spirit as the earnest or pledge of His salvation (2 Corinthians 1:22).

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

- D. God has promised His eternal presence (Hebrews 13:5).

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- E. God has promised that He is slow to anger and merciful (Psalm 103:8).

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

- F. God has promised to forget only one thing: our sins (Hebrews 10:17).

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

- G. God has promised salvation from His wrath (Romans 5:9).

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

- H. God has promised us sonship (Galatians 4:6–7; John 1:12).

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

- I. God has promised that we will be His heirs (Galatians 3:29).

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- J. God has promised the advocacy of Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1).

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

- K. God has promised that He will never change (James 1:17).

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

- L. God has promised to hear and answer our prayers (1 John 5:14–15).

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- M. God has promised us victory over spiritual foes (Romans 8:37).

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- N. God has promised us angelic protection and care (Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14).

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

- O. God has promised that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38–39).
For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- P. God has promised His enabling to do His calling (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
- Q. God has promised rewards for our work (Revelation 22:12).
And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- R. God has promised that we shall bear life’s burdens with His help (Galatians 6:5; Psalm 55:22).
For every man shall bear his own burden.
Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
- S. God has promised us chastisement for disobedience for our profit (Hebrews 12:6, 11).
For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.
- T. God has promised never to test us beyond our endurance (1 Corinthians 10:13).
There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
- U. God has promised a spiritual harvest after labor (Galatians 6:9).
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- V. God has promised that He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
- W. God has promised us courage (2 Timothy 1:7).
For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- X. God has promised wisdom if we ask (James 1:5).
If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- Y. God has promised victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:54–57).
So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- V. God has given promises concerning eternity to the Christian.
 - A. God has promised us an eternal home in heaven (1 Peter 1:3–4).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
 - B. God has promised that Christ will return for His own (John 14:3).

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

- C. God has promised to those who die before Christ's return that the soul will have immediate entrance into heaven after death (2 Corinthians 5:8).
We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
- D. God has promised that, at Christ's return for His own, the dead in Christ will be bodily resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
- E. God has promised that, whether still living or resurrected, we all shall be changed to immortal beings (1 Corinthians 15:51–52).
Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- F. God has promised that we shall be like Christ (1 John 3:2).
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- G. God has promised that we must appear before the Judgment Seat for reward or loss for our earthly works (1 Corinthians 3:13–15).
Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
- H. God has promised that heaven will be sinless (Revelation 21:27).
And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- I. God has promised that there shall be no night in heaven (Revelation 22:5).
And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.
- J. God has promised that there will be neither pain nor sorrow in heaven (Revelation 21:4).
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- K. God has promised to dwell with His people for eternity (Revelation 21:3).
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.