

Is your faith biblical?

1. What is the Gospel??

- The good news of forgiveness of sins through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The good news of victory over the wrath of God...we will all die...where will we spend eternity?
- The good news of the certainty of eternal life with God through Jesus' resurrection

*What is the message of the Gospel? Here it is: Man has fallen. We are hopeless sinners, separated from God. We are all dead in our sin and owe a debt to God we cannot pay. We cannot save ourselves. We need someone to save us, someone to pay for our sin, someone to pay our debt. We cannot, no man can. Sin carries the death penalty, payable only by a sinless blood sacrifice. [we can't pay for our own sins because we are all sinners] but God sent His Son [Jesus], who lived a sinless life so He could die for us, paying the penalty He didn't owe. God requires that we repent and trust in the only One [Jesus] who can truly save us.*¹

It is about believing that God took on flesh and became a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14). Jesus taught us the truth about God and lived a perfectly righteous and sinless life (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus then died on the cross in our place, taking the punishment that we deserve (Romans 5:8). Jesus rose from the dead to prove His victory over sin, death, and hell (Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians chapter 15). Because of all of this, we can have our sins forgiven and be promised an eternal home in Heaven - if we will place our faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that He died in our place and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9-10). We can be saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. Ephesians 2:8 declares, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." ²

The Gospel is the good news of salvation for those who do not deserve it and have done nothing to earn it. It is freely given to those who will believe God.

Simple? Way too simple? Yes. For those who will perish it is [foolishness]. Yet it is difficult. It is difficult because it demands death to self. It demands admitting we can do nothing on our own. It demands picking up a cross and following Jesus by obeying Him and yielding to His will as revealed in scripture. ¹

1 Corinthians 15:3 **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures.

Romans 5:6-11 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be **saved from wrath through Him**. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, **having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life**. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom **we have now received the reconciliation**.

Romans 10:7-10 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2. There is only One True and living God...

- He is the creator
- All other Gods are false gods
- He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- He is the God who sent Jesus Christ to be savior of the world

God is like nothing we could have imagined. ¹

God is utterly other than us—other in a way we express with the word holiness. Yes, He dwells within each Christian, but He’s not you. He isn’t the same as you, He isn’t a part of you, and He isn’t a “higher” you. Yes, you’re made in His image, but you’re not Him. You’re not the same as Him, you’re not a part of Him, and you aren’t a “splinter” of Him—nor will you ever be. He doesn’t depend on anything else because He is what everything else depends on. He can’t be explained by anything else because He is what everything else must be explained by. Although we can know what He has taught us about Himself, we can never comprehend Him completely because He is greater than our minds. Anything He wills, He can do. He not only holds supreme power but He also uses it. Nothing can defeat Him and nothing can happen contrary to His will. He is also supremely good—light with no darkness. Although evil is real, He detests it and brings it to judgment. He knows everything, He pays attention to everything, and nothing escapes His notice. He’s not just a What and a Who, like me or you, but one What in three Whos—one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no one like Him. He is set apart. He is what He is, and there was never a time when He was not. ¹

He is the creator and sustainer of the universe who has provided humankind with a revelation of Himself through the natural world and through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God; it simply affirms His existence by declaring, “In the beginning God . . .” (Gen. 1:1). ²

God is spirit and thus He does not have a physical body. God fills heaven and earth. He is everywhere but He is not “in everything”. God is not His creation. The Bible teaches us that in all existence, from all eternity, there has been and always will be only one God. God is eternal and infinite...God has always been.

God has revealed Himself through the physical universe (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:19–20). Creation reveals the results of a universal mind that devised a master plan and executed it rather than the idea that our orderly universe came into existence apart from a divine being. The greatest revelation of God, however, comes through the Bible. Through the inspired written record, both the existence of God and the nature of God are revealed in and through Jesus Christ. Jesus stated, “He that has seen me, has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Although the full revelation of God was in Jesus Christ, the human mind cannot fully understand God. One reason for this is that Scripture does not record all the actions and teachings of Jesus (John 21:25). Another reason is the limitation of the human mind. How can our finite minds understand the infinity of God? It is not possible. Although we cannot fully understand God, we still can know Him. We know Him through a personal relationship of faith and through a study of what the Bible teaches about His nature. ²

1. [How to Stay Christian in College](#), J. Budziszewski 2. [www.studytheword.citymax.com](#)

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it... Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Exodus 20:1-6 And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

Exodus 3:15 The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob... This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.

1 John 4:14 The Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

3. God is sovereign...

- God is in control
- He is seated on the throne...He is not in heaven wringing His hands wondering how things will turn out
- He knew us before we were formed...the very hairs on our head are numbered

Psalms 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

Deuteronomy 32:39 Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

Isaiah 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.

Acts 17:26-27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

Psalms 139:13-16 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made....My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Matthew 10:29-30 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

4. God is triune...

- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- God is an infinite, all-knowing Spirit (John 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).¹ ¹MacArthur, J. (2001). The MacArthur quick reference guide to the Bible. Includes index. (Student ed.) (345). Nashville, Tenn.: W Pub. Group.
- Each member of the Trinity is God
- The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son
- Salvation is the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Titus 3:4-7 ...but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

5. Depravity of man...

- We are all sinners
- We are born sinners
- Sin is any transgression of God's holy standards

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

6. The wrath of God

- The wrath of God is in response to His holiness, righteousness and justice
- We can only be saved from the wrath to come through faith in Jesus Christ

Luke 12:4-5 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"

Hebrews 10:30-31 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Romans 1:18-19 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Romans 2:5-6 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds".

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Revelation 19:15-16 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 6:15-17 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

7. Substitutionary atonement...

- substitutionary atonement: the doctrine that Christ died on the cross as a substitute for the death of sinners, so that those who believe in him may have eternal life. ⁵Kurian, G. T. (2001). Nelson's new Christian dictionary : The authoritative resource on the Christian world. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Pubs.
- Only a blood sacrifice can atone for sin and appease the wrath of God against the sinner.
- Forgiveness is impossible without a satisfactory, substitutionary sacrifice
- The sin of an individual was symbolically transferred to the sacrificed animal, thereby providing a temporary substitutionary atonement that had to be repeated annually because it only partially dealt with sin
- Sinners cannot atone for their own sins in any way
- Christ is the only worthy substitute because He was sinless
- Substitutionary atonement is therefore the whole ground of God's forgiveness. Apart from Christ's atoning work, no sinner would ever have any hope of salvation.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:22 Without shedding of blood there is no remission [of sin].

1 John 1:7 The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Corinthians 5:7 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Isaiah 53:5-6 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin.

Hebrews 1:3 ...when He [Jesus] had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 10:12 But this Man [Jesus], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

John 1: 7 The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God

8. Jesus is God...

- Jesus is God the Son
- He is 100% God and 100% man
- He is of the same essence and nature as God
- He is God in the flesh

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word [Jesus] was with God, and the Word [Jesus] was God.

John 1:14 And the Word[Jesus] became 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.

Colossians 2:8-9 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

1 Timothy 3:16 God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

9. Jesus is sinless...

- As God...Jesus is not capable of sinning
- As man Jesus never committed sin...He was tempted but never succumbed to sin

1 John 3:5 And you know that He [Jesus] was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

2 Cor 5:21 For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

10. The resurrection...

- Jesus' resurrection is the surety that all God has said and done is true
- The resurrection is our proof that He is coming back, and that we will one day be raised as well

1 Cor 15:17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Acts 17:31 He [God] has appointed a day on which He [God] will judge the world in righteousness by the Man [Jesus] whom He [God] has ordained. He [God] has given assurance of this to all by raising Him [Jesus] from the dead.

2 Cor 4:14 Knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

11. The second coming...

- The Lord will return one day to take the saved, dead and alive, to be with Him forever
- When He returns, He will pour out his wrath on the wicked and destroy them
- Nobody knows when He will return, it will catch everyone by surprise

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Rev 1:7-8 Behold, He [Jesus] is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him [Jesus], even they who pierced Him [Jesus]. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him [Jesus]. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

John 14:1-4 "Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Hebrews 9:28 To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 The Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day.

Titus 2:13 ...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...

Matthew 24:36-42 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only...Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

12. Authority of scripture...

- The Bible is the very word of God, it is God breathed
- It is inerrant and does not contradict itself
- It is the only source of truth for spiritual matters
- Faith comes by hearing the word of God
- It can only be understood by the power of the Holy Spirit

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your [God's] truth. Your [God's] word is truth.

Revelation 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

2 Timothy 3:15 From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Peter 1:20-21 No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

13. What is sin?

Men tell us in these days that sin is what you think it is. Well, it is not. Sin is what God thinks it is. You may think according to your own conscience. God thinks according to His. –John G. Lake

Sin is primarily an offense against God. It is anything that is contrary to His law. It is doing what is wrong (commission), as well as not doing what is right (omission). Sin is also referred to as lawlessness, unrighteousness and iniquity. With relationship to God's laws, it means that one has failed to meet the standard (missed the mark) set by God for us. God's mark or standard is His law. Thus sin is the transgression of any of the laws of God. It is anything which causes us to be opposed to, or adversarial against God. All of God's instructions are His laws, and transgression against any of them (whether in

thought or deed) are sins against God. The source of sin doesn't come from outside of us but from within us. We are drawn away by our own desires (the Greek means to be lured into a trap). Sin is not a single act but a process that begins in our heart.

Sin includes...but is not limited to...blasphemy, heresies, idolatry, unbelief, sorcery, cowardness, pride, proud looks, selfishishness, ambitions, envy, jealousies, foolishness, foolish talking, coarse jesting, contentions, dissensions, sowing discord, drunkenness, revelries, hatred, outbursts of wrath, an evil eye, evil thoughts, evil desire, covetousness, wicked plans, wickedness, running to evil, extortion, theft, false witness, lying, deceit, passion, lewdness, uncleanness, filthiness, adulteries, fornications, sexual immorality, homosexuality, sodomy, shedding of innocent blood, murder.

Romans 6:23 ; Romans 3:22-23 ; 1 John 1:8,10 ; James 1:13-15 ; Matthew 18:8-9 ; James 2:10; James 4:17 ; Proverbs 6:16-19 ; Mark 7:21-23 ; Colossians 3:5-7 ; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-7 ; Revelation 21:8

14. What is repentance?

Biblical repentance is a change of mind, prompted by a change of heart, resulting in a change of life. Repentance is both internal and external. Internally we change our way of thinking; externally we change our way of acting.¹

When someone who has understanding and knowledge of God's way then leaves, or departs from that way, God calls that person to 'return', or repent, to stop sinning. ²

The Greek word repent ('metanoia') means 'to change one's mind', 'to turn', 'to change direction'. It includes expressing regret for sin. It is a basic change of attitude towards God. It means a change of life direction; a turning away from one thing and a turning to another. A U-turn.

The reason we need to "turn around" is that we have been going the wrong way. We have not been going God's way. Instead, we have been going our own way.³

To repent is to hate the way we are going, what we have become or what we are doing and return to the way God has set for us. We then follow His commandments (obey), and trust Him (have faith) that He knows what is best for us. These instructions are given to us in His Word, the Bible. ²

To repent does not just mean to be sorry for our sins but to 1) change our attitude towards God and 2) change our life's direction. Repentance will always be evident by our actions...actions that demonstrate our obedient hearts.

*Repentance means that we stop living for ourselves and we turn around and start living for God. We stop serving ourselves and we turn around and start serving God. Very often we misunderstand repentance. Instead of seeing it as a u-turn we see it as a right turn. We turn to the right. We try to do things better. We think that all we have to do is say we are sorry to God and behave a bit better than we have in the past. We try and live according to **our** list of religious rules. That is not what it means to repent. To repent does not mean to try harder. It doesn't mean to turn more to what is right according to our religious laws. To repent is to do a u-turn not a right turn. When we repent we turn our life completely around from ourself and towards God.⁴*

Those who come to God decide to leave sin behind...that is repentance. This doesn't mean that a Christian is perfect, but it does mean that a Christian is trying to do God's will and live righteously according to His word. ⁵

Ezekiel 18:30-32 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

Ezekiel 14:6 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

Mark 1:14-15 Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 5:31-32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Romans 2:4 ...the goodness of God leads you to repentance

Acts 26:20 That they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

Psalms 51:1-17

A Prayer of Repentance

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. ⁹Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. ¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. ¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

15. The love of God

“I have loved you,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’”

Malachi 1:2

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall **love** the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 7:9 “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who **love** Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may **love** the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.

1 John 4:19 We **love** Him because He first **loved** us.

John 3:16-17 For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us **love** one another, for **love** is of God; and everyone who **loves** is born of God and knows God. He who **does not love** does not know God, for **God is love**. In this the **love** of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is **love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another.

Ephesians 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great **love** with which He **loved** us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 5:7-8 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:16 By this we know **love**, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

John 15:13-14 Greater **love** has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I [Jesus] command you.

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the **love** of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the **love** of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has **loved** us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of **love** and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:12-16 No one has seen God at any time. If we **love** one another, God abides in us, and His **love** has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His

Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the **love** that God has for us. **God is love**, and he who abides in **love** abides in God, and God in him.

1 Peter 1:7-9 ...Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you **love**. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

John 15:9-10 “As the Father **loved** Me [Jesus], I also have **loved** you; abide in My **love**. If you keep My [Jesus] commandments, you will abide in My **love**, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His **love**.

John 16:27 for the Father Himself **loves** you, because you have **loved** Me [Jesus], and have believed that I came forth from God.

John 14:15 “If you **love** Me [Jesus], keep My [Jesus] commandments.

1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we **love** the children of God, when we **love** God and keep His commandments. For this is the **love** of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

John 13:34-35 Jesus said...A new commandment I [Jesus] give to you, that you **love** one another; as I have **loved** you, that you also **love** one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another.”

2 John 5-6 The apostle John said...And now I plead with you...not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we **love one another**. This is **love**, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

1 John 2:15 Do not **love** the world or the things in the world. If anyone **loves** the world, the **love** of the Father is not in him.

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, **love**, patience, gentleness.

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”

Joel 2:12-13 “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.