

The Good News of Jesus Christ

1. The Gospel Begins With God

The Good News starts with the living God who made us and has spoken in His Son.

- **Word Incarnate:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...So **the Word became human and made his home among us**. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." (John 1:1 NKJV, 14 NLT)
- **Word is Life and light:** "He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. **The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.**" (John 1:1–4 NLT)
- **God Speaks:** "Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and **through the Son he created the universe.**" (Hebrews 1:1–2 NLT)
- **Creator God Revealed:** "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that **they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us**. For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill." (Acts 17:24–29 NIV)

- **God's Image and Fatherhood:** "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven." (Hebrews 1:3 NLT) "**Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!**" (John 14:9 NLT)
- **God is Relational:** "...the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.**" (1 John 1:1-3 NLT)
- **Christ is the Supreme Creator:** "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and **he holds all creation together.**" (Colossians 1:15–17, NLT)
- **God is light:** "For God is the One having said, 'Light will shine out of darkness,' who **shone in our hearts for the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**" (2 Corinthians 4:6 Berean Literal)
- **God's Love Demonstrated:** "And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, **so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.** For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.** God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but **to save the world through him.** There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who

does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil." (John 3:14-19 NLT)

- **Worthy Creator:** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For **You created all things**, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11 NJV)

2. The Kingdom Has Come Near

In Christ, God's reign (authority) breaks into history; the King has arrived.

- **The Rule of God is Here and Now:** "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God's purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Matthew 4:17, Amplified)
- **From Darkness to Light:** "...who delivered us from the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**" (Colossians 1:13-14, Berean Literal)
- "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7, ESV)
- **Enter the Kingdom:** "Jesus replied, 'I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being **born of water and the Spirit.**'" (John 3:5, NLT)
- **Kingdom Lifestyle:** "God's kingdom isn't about eating and drinking. It is about **pleasing God, about living in peace, and about true happiness. All this comes from the Holy Spirit.**" (Romans 14:17, CEV)

3. Our Deepest Problem: Sin and Separation

All have sinned; sin means guilt, bondage, death, and separation from a holy God.

- **All Sinned:** "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23, NLT) "as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.' (Romans 3:10–12, ESV)
- **Sin Leads to Death:** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23, Amplified)
- **Admit Sin:** "If we say we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts." (1 John 1:8, CEV)
- **Sin entered:** "just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12, ESV), Genesis 2:17
- **Sin separates:** "But your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2, NASB), Genesis 3:7–10
- **Carnal Mind is Hostile to God:** "because the mind of the flesh is hostile to God: It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." (Romans 8:7, Berean Standard)

4. Jesus Christ, the Savior We Need

The gospel centers on a Person - fully God, fully man, the one Mediator who came to save.

- **Saves sins:** "She will give birth to a Son, and you shall **name Him Jesus (The LORD is salvation)**, for **He will save His people from their sins**" (Matthew 1:21, Amplified) "...they will call him Immanuel, which means '**God is with us.**'" (Matthew 1:23, NLT) Luke 2:10–11
- **Lamb of God:** "...Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, ESV)
- **One Mediator:** "For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. **He gave his life to purchase**

freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time." (1 Timothy 2:5-6, NLT)

- **Jesus Saves sinners:** "For **the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**" (Luke 19:10, ESV) "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:15-17, ESV)
- **Ransom:** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom for many.**" (Mark 10:45, NKJV) "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV)
- **Calls sinners:** "...It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but [only] those who are sick. I did not come to call the [self-proclaimed] righteous [who see no need to repent], but sinners to repentance [to change their old way of thinking, to turn from sin and to seek God and His righteousness]." (Luke 5:31–32, Amplified)
- **The Way:** "Jesus told him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one can come to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, NLT)
- **Abundant life:** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10–11, NKV)
- **Jesus Christ is God as a human:** "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body." (Colossians 2:9, NLT)
- **Christ supreme:** "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the

Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled" (Colossians 1:15–20, NKJV)

- **Godliness' mystery:** "Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory." (1 Timothy 3:16, NLT)
- **I AM:** "Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'" (John 8:58, NJV)
- **Great Priest:** "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." (Hebrews 4:14–16, NLT)

5. The Cross - Christ Died for Our Sins

At the center stands Christ's atoning death: sin borne, curse lifted, enemies reconciled, evil defeated. The cross stands for vertical and horizontal relationship (reconciliation with God and neighbors)

- "It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day..." (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, NLT)

- **God Loves us, Died for sinners:** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NKJV)
- **Peace with God:** "...God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." (Romans 4:24-25, 5:1, NKJV)
- "...because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Peter 2:21-25, NKJV)
- "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit..." (1 Peter 3:18, NKJV)
- **Takes away the curse:** "But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing..." (Galatians 3:13, NLT)
- **Reconciled to God:** "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'" (2 Corinthians 5:19-20, NLT)
- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21, NKJV)
- "He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:14, NLT)

- **Devil defeated:** "Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." (Hebrews 2:14, NLT)
- **God's Love:** "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. **This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.**" (1 John 4:9-10, NLT)
- "...But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice. And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:26-28, NLT)
- **Eternal redemption:** "So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever...Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant." (Hebrews 9:11–15, NLT)
- **Perfecting forever:** "For by the one offering He has perfected forever and completely cleansed those who are being sanctified [bringing each believer to spiritual completion and maturity]." (Hebrews 10:14, Amplified)
- **Redemption:** "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins." (Ephesians 1:7, NLT)

- **God's Love for the World:** "No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:13–16, NKJV)
- "He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave." (Isaiah 53:3-9, NLT)
- "...He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us." (Revelation 1:5, NLT)

6. Jesus Rose From the Dead

The resurrection declares Jesus Lord, judges sin, and begins the new creation. Those who receive Christ confess Him openly and are baptized into His death and resurrection.

- **Resurrection Hope:** "But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead

has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, NLT)

- **Christ is Life Giving Spirit:** "The Scriptures tell us, 'The first man, Adam, became a living person.' But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit." (1 Corinthians 15:45, NLT) "...our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: 'Death is swallowed up in victory...For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! **He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.**' (1 Corinthians 15:50-57, NLT)
- "The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, **so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.**" (Romans 1:3-5 NLT)

- "...God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!..**repent of your sins and turn to God**, and **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**. Then you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." (Acts 2:36–39, NLT)
- "But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven." (Hebrews 7:24-26, NLT)

7. Salvation by Grace, Not Works

Salvation is a gift for the ungodly - justification by faith alone, never earned.

- "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 shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through 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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:4–10, NKJV)
- **Faith in God:** "For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'" (Romans 4:3, NKJV)
"Blessed are those whose disobedience is forgiven and whose sins are pardoned. Blessed is the person whom the Lord no longer considers sinful." (Romans 4:8, God's Word) "For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through [observing the requirements of] the Law, but through the righteousness of faith." (Romans 4:13, Amplified)

- "Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But— When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life." (Titus 3:3–7, NLT)
- **Faith Pleases God:** "But we know that God accepts only those who have faith in Jesus Christ. No one can please God by simply obeying the Law. So we put our faith in Christ Jesus, and God accepted us because of our faith." (Galatians 2:16, CEV) "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, NLT)
- **Justified freely:** "We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are...Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (Romans 3:22, 24 NLT)
- "We see that people are acceptable to God because they have faith, and not because they obey the Law." (Romans 3:28, CEV) "There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles." (Romans 3:30, NLT)
- "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes..." (Romans 1:16 NLT) "The good news tells how God accepts everyone who has faith, but only those who have faith. It is just as the Scriptures say, "The people God accepts because of their faith will live." (Romans 1:17, CEV)
- "But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may

gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;" (Philippians 3:7-9, NASB)

- "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." (1 Corinthians 1:27-30, NIV)
- "But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:4-10, NLT)

8. Your Response - Repent and Believe

God commands all to turn from sin and self-rule and to trust Christ as Lord.

- **Repent, believe:** "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" (Mark 1:15, NLT)
- **Repent, turn:** "So change the way you think and act, and turn [to God] to have your sins removed." (Acts 3:19, God's Word)

- **Repent from ignorance:** "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30, NIV)
- **Repent from sin and have faith:** "I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus." (Acts 20:21, NLT)
- **Repent and Do Good:** "Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will judge everyone according to what they have done. He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness." (Romans 2:4-7, NLT)
- "The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness." (2 Peter 3:9-13, NLT)
- **Believe to be saved:** "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.'" (Acts 16:31, NLT)
- "In fact, it says, 'The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.' And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly

declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.'" (Romans 10:9-11, NLT)

- "For 'Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.'" (Romans 10:13, NLT)
- "Then Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.' The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name." (John 20:31, NLT)
- ""There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son." (John 3:18, NLT)
- "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12, NLT)
- "Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12, NLT)
- **Repentance preached:** "And he said, 'Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'" (Luke 24:46-47, NLT)

9. Forgiveness, Justification, and Peace

The believer is forgiven, declared righteous, reconciled, and at peace with God.

- "...listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. **Everyone who believes in him is made right in**

God's sight—something the law of Moses could never do." (Acts 13:38-39, NLT)

- **Peace with God:** "Not only that, but we also rejoice in God [rejoicing in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received and enjoy our reconciliation [with God].**" (Romans 5:11, Amplified)
- "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation." (Romans 5:1-9, NLT)
- **No condemnation in the Spirit:** "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature

control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace." (Romans 8:1-6, NLT)

- "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross." (Colossians 2:13–15, NLT)
- **New Creation & Reconciliation:** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain." (2 Corinthians 5:17–6:1, NKJV)
- **Be Reconciled:** "For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault." (Colossians 1:19-20, NLT)
- "But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ."(Ephesians 2:13–18, NLT)

10. New Birth and the Holy Spirit

Beyond pardon: new life, the indwelling Spirit, adoption, and power.

- **Be Born again:** "Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.' (John 3:3, NLT)
- "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1:13–14, NKJV)
- **Be Spirit led:** "And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God." (Romans 8:9–10, NLT)
- **Love/Heart-Based Conscious Living:** "And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." (Romans 5:5, NLT)
- **Power to Witness from the Spirit:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..." (Acts 1:8, NLT)
- **Promised Spirit** "Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:14, NLT)
- "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves." (Galatians 5:16, NLT)
- **Bear Fruit to God:** "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," (Galatians 5:22–23, NLT) "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8, ESV) "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." (Matthew 3:8, ESV) "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." (John 15:1-8 ESV) "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to

you are spirit and life." (John 6:63, ESV) "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7, ESV)

- "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3, ESV)

11. Union With Christ and Fixed Identity

Joined to Christ in death and resurrection, the believer's standing is settled and secure.

- **New Creation in Christ:** "Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships." (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, God's Word)
- **Crucified with Christ:** "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, NLT)
- "For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross." (Colossians 2:12-15, NLT)
- "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." (Colossians 3:1-4, NLT)

- "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." (Romans 6:3-4)
- "For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6-7, NLT)
- **Christ in you:** "God wanted his people throughout the world to know the glorious riches of this mystery-which is Christ living in you, giving you the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27, God's Word)
- "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10, NLT)
- **Chosen:** "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes." (Ephesians 1:4, NLT)
- **Accepted, Beloved:** "So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." (Ephesians 1:6, NLT)
- "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Galatians 4:4-7, ESV)
- "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.' For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children." (Romans 8:15-17, NLT)

12. Assurance - Resting in His Finished Work

Assurance rests on Christ's completed work and God's promise, not on feelings.

- **Know You Have Eternal Life:** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us." (1 John 5:13-14, ESV)

- **Belief in Christ Gives Life:** "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:9–11, ESV)
- **Walk in Life:** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7, ESV)
- **Christ Our Advocate:** "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1–2, ESV)
- **Purged conscience:** "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:14, ESV)
- "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6, ESV)
- "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:37, ESV)
- **Not Separated From God's Love:** "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37–39, ESV)
- **Blessed in Spiritual Places:** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in

the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints" (Ephesians 1:3–15, ESV)

13. Holiness - Walking by the Spirit

Freed from sin's dominion, the believer is transformed; living faith bears fruit.

- **Freedom Under Grace:** "Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace." (Romans 6:14, NLT)
- **Renewed mind:** "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:2, NLT)
- **Be Changed Like Christ:** "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image." (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT)
- **Renew Yourself:** "Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your

former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." (Ephesians 4:21–24, NLT)

- **Graceful Living:** "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds." (Titus 2:11–14, NLT)
- "...But what matters is a faith that expresses itself through love." (Galatians 5:6, God's Word)
- **Living faith:** "So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." (James 2:17, NLT)
- **Faith works:** "What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?" (James 2:14–26, NLT)
- **Love Others:** "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." (1 John 3:16–18, NLT)

14. Love, Fellowship, and the Church

The gospel creates a new people - one body, reconciled, sent as ambassadors.

- **United in One body:** "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13, NASB)
- **United in One man:** "For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us." (Ephesians 2:14–15, NLT)
- "Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers

and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19–22, NLT)

- "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself." (Ephesians 1:19–23, NLT)
- **Love Others:** "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34–35, NLT) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15, ESV)
- **Baptized into Christ:** "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you." (Galatians 3:27–29, NLT)

15. Suffering, Weakness, and the Shepherd's Care

Christ does not promise ease but Himself - sufficient grace and faithful keeping.

- **God's Grace is Enough:** "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." (2 Corinthians 12:9, NASB)

- **Christ the Good Shepherd:** "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11, NASB)
- **Christ the God of Peace:** "Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, that is, Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21, NASB)
- "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance." (Luke 15:7, NASB)
- **Living Hope:** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," (1 Peter 1:3–5, NASB)
- **Life is a Test of Faith:** "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:6–9, NASB)

16. Mission - The Gospel Proclaimed

Every believer is sent; faith comes by hearing the Word.

- **Great Commission:** "Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18–20, NLT) "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'" (Mark 16:15, ESV)

- "And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name." (Acts 10:42–43, NLT)
- **Faith From Hearing God's Word:** "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?'. So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for 'Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.'" (Romans 10:16-18, ESV)
- "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!' For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. For God says, 'At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.' Indeed, the 'right time' is now. Today is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2, NLT)

17. Future Hope - Return, Judgment, New Creation

Christ will return, raise the dead, judge evil, and make all things new.

- "And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died." (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14, NLT)
- **New heavens:** "But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live,

looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight." (2 Peter 3:10-14, NLT)

- "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.' And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!' And then he said to me, 'Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.' And he also said, 'It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.'" (Revelation 21:1–7, NLT) "Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God." (1 John 3:7-10, NLT)
- "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye

salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." (Revelation 3:17-21, NKJV)

- "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.' (Revelation 22:12–17, NKJV) "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." (Revelation 22:17, ESV)
- "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." (Romans 8:15-19, ESV) "For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?"..."And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:24, 8:28, ESV)
- **Love Others:** "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed

you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 'And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" (Matthew 25:31-41, NLT)

18. Guarding and Continuing in the Gospel

The once-delivered faith is to be defended and kept pure.

- **Abide in the Simplicity of the Teachings of Christ:** "...anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son." (2 John 1:9, NLT)
- **Live a Life of Grace:** "For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News." (2 Timothy 1:9–10, NLT)
- **Worship God:** "Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.'" (Revelation 14:6-7, ESV)