

**Q → Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry → James 1:19**

Since we are sinful human beings, our tendencies are the opposite of this verse, so let us: **Listen** before answering, **choose** our words carefully, and **not** be easily angered. *God's ways are best!*

**R → Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy → Exodus 20:8**

This is the third commandment. The OT Sabbath of Saturday rest pointed ahead to Jesus, our ultimate rest! Now we focus on Sunday, the Lord's Day, *when Jesus was raised from the dead!* God wants us to gather and receive his blessings each week!

**S → Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness → Matthew 6:33**

Many people are consumed by their pursuit of food, clothing, and shelter, but God calls us to be different. Let us **first** be members of His kingdom and righteous in His sight *through Jesus!* **Then**, God will give us all we need!

**T → Trust in the LORD with all your heart → Proverbs 3:5**

To trust with our "heart" means to trust with our entire being! Then we will have ♦confidence in His promises and ♦His peace in every circumstance!

**U → Understand that the universe was formed at God's command → Hebrews 11:3**

God is so awesome that He simply spoke creation into existence! Look at the facts: *They strongly point to creation*, not to evolution. God made us sinless; then we sinned; now we all need Jesus; *through Jesus we are blessed now and forever!*

**V → Victory rests with the LORD → Proverbs 21:31**

What battles are you currently fighting? Who are

you trusting for help, strength, and victory? When we trust in the LORD, *He will give us the victory!*

**W → Walk as Jesus did → 1 John 2:6**

We cannot live without sin, so Jesus *did that for us!* Now, *forgiven through Jesus and powered by the Holy Spirit*, let us ♦speak the truth in love and ♦take action to love others in Jesus' name!

**X → Excel in gifts that build up the church → 1 Corinthians 14:12**

Church is not a religion, building, or service. The Church includes *all who trust in Jesus!* Believers in Jesus are gifted to serve! Let us use our gifts to build up believers! Parents: *Teach your children!*

**Y → You are the light of the world → Matthew 5:14**

Jesus is the true light of the world, but we, His followers, are called to reflect His light – *His truth and love* – to the world! As the moon reflects the sun, *let us actively reflect Jesus to others!*

**Z → Zion will be redeemed with justice → Isaiah 1:27**

God the Father is the Redeemer; He purchased us (Zion) with the precious blood of Jesus. God did not overlook our sins; instead, He punished Jesus for all our wrongs – past, present, and future. *Now, through Jesus, we are redeemed!*

**Scripture:** New International Version, 1984 version.

## Connect and Benefit

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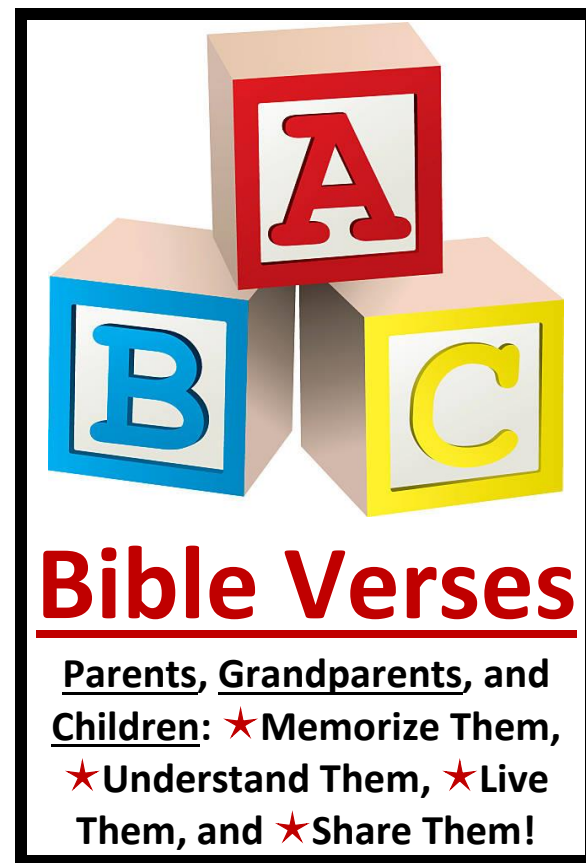
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The Bible Is true! It has been written for our *temporal* and *eternal* benefit. For example:

- ❖ **Spiritual Birth:** "[God] chose to give us birth through the word of truth ..." (NIV James 1:18).
- ❖ **Eternal Life:** "... these [words of John's Gospel] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (NIV John 20:31).
- ❖ **Christian Living:** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (NIV 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**A → All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God → Romans 3:23**

What is the “glory of God”? To live without sin. *But all have fallen short!* Imagine the need to cross a 40-foot canyon to get to heaven. Some could jump 10 or 20 feet, the world record is 29.4 feet, but no one could jump 40 feet. *Without Jesus we can never get to heaven!*

**B → Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved → Acts 16:31**

Since we have fallen short, Jesus lived a sinless life as our perfect substitute. Then, *on the cross*, He received our sins and our eternal punishment. But now, believing in Jesus as our Savior, *our sins are forgiven, and we are saved!*

**C → Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord → Colossians 3:20**

Because the Lord has saved us from our sins and promised us a place in heaven, *we are filled with joy and desire to know and do His will*. That includes children obeying their parents, *who are God’s visible representatives in their lives!*

**D → Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good → Romans 12:21**

Even Christians are tempted to get revenge. But, *as God’s forgiven children through Jesus*, we try to honor the Lord by doing good to all people – *even to those who do evil against us!*

**E → Even a child is known by his actions → Proverbs 20:11**

We know the phrase: *Actions speak louder than words!* If we claim to be Christians, but live like the world, *people will see that our words are not true*. So let us ♦be sorry for our sins, ♦rejoice in our Savior, and ♦honor Him in all we do!

**F → Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us → Luke 11:4**

This verse is from Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer; see [Matthew 6:9-13](#) for the full version. As God has *freely and fully* forgiven us in Christ, God calls us to extend that same *free and full* forgiveness to *all* who sin against us!

**G → God is love → 1 John 4:8**

God’s love moved Him to take *loving and powerful action to save us!* As He took action for us, *so let us take loving action for others!*

**H → Honor your father and your mother → Exodus 20:12**

This is the fourth commandment. Parents are God’s *visible* representatives to their children! When children honor their parents, they honor God; when they dishonor their parents, they dishonor God. Children honor their parents by *loving, cherishing, serving, and obeying them!*

**I → I am the vine; you are the branches → John 15:5**

A vine *CAN* survive without a branch, but a branch *CANNOT* survive without a vine. We received spiritual life through Jesus; *NOW, God nourishes that life through the Bible to keep us in Christ!*

**J → Jesus wept → John 11:35**

Jesus is true God, *begotten of His Father from eternity*, He is also true Man, *born of the Virgin Mary*. He ♦lived in our place, ♦died for sins, and ♦wept in connection with the death of His friend, Lazarus and with all who were grieving. *Jesus cares about everyone!*

**K → Keep your tongue from evil → Psalm 34:13**

When God made us His children through Baptism (see [Titus 3:5](#)), He also gave us a *new nature* that desires to please Him in every way. However, until we physically die, we also continue to have our *old nature*, which is opposed to God. Though we can go against God, *let us honor Him with our words!*

**L → Lead us not into temptation → Matthew 6:13**

This is the sixth petition of the Lord’s Prayer. *God does not tempt us* (see [James 1:13-15](#)). But we ask Him to lead us away from people and places that may tempt us to sin and could lead us away from Jesus!

**M → My sheep listen to my voice → John 10:27**

All who trust in Jesus as Savior are His sheep; they *desire to listen to Him* by doing whatever He says!

**N → No one can serve two masters → Matthew 6:24**

Who controls your life? *God or money!* To which one are you more devoted? *Having Jesus as our Savior and Lord and Master is always best!*

**O → O LORD my God, I take refuge in you → Psalm 7:1**

[Psalm 46:1](#) declares: “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*” Therefore, may the Almighty God always be our refuge – *our place of safety and protection!*

**P → Praise the LORD → Psalm 149:1**

The Lord ♦created us, ♦saved us, and ♦daily provides all our needs! *He is worthy of all these words and more: “Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” (Rev. 7:12).* *Let us praise Him every day and in every way!*