



George Good

BE KIND!

Preaching goodness. Proverbs.

2019

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This book is a personal diary of the author. The book contains published texts and parables, with references to Bible verses. The preaching of kind deeds is represented by three entries - kindness, love and angel. The sermon narrates the meaning of kindness, the love of kind works and our condition in receiving the Holy Spirit for kind works. The second part of the book includes 125 parables, which is the author's most comprehensive collection to date.

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Ukraine, 2019

BY THE AUTHOR

I am a Christian, Georgy Good (in the world Yuri Panchenko) was born (1973, 01 May) in Debaltsevo, Ukraine. Son of Vladimir (shoemaker, descendant of Zaporozhian Cossacks) and Galina (economist, daughter of the Voloshskiy family).

In 1995, on 28 July I married Tatiana Kalabina (1974, 09 July). Daughter Anna (1996, 21 February). I thank God for my spouse Tatiana, she helped me to become a human being.

Before 2001, I had three higher education degrees, completed postgraduate studies and taught at a university. I always worked and gave work to others. I managed to work with my father as a shoemaker in Kamchatka.

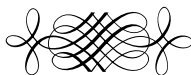
I lived in Constantinople (Turkey) and published a newspaper. I was engaged in commerce and had a private business in Ukraine. I love applied maths and honey production. I spent 1024 days during the investigation in prison on false accusations and was released by the court without conviction.

After Russia's aggression and the start of hostilities in Donbass in 2014, I left with my family for the city of Kyiv.

The book «Be Kind!» is a personal diary with my notes, which I decided to publish after the collection «Dobroslovie» («Kindwords»). In the collection «Dobroslovie» («Kindwords»), I collected the statements of the holy scriptures about kindness and these are my small steps on the way back to God.

The book «Be Kind!» consists of two parts. In the first, the preaching of goodness is presented in three entries - kindness, love and angel. The sermon recounts the meaning of kindness, love for kind deeds and our condition in receiving the Holy Spirit for kind deeds. The second part presents the parables. The parables have references to Bible verses that inspired me to write the parables (the texts are from The New American Bible, published at <https://www.vatican.va>).

I am thankful to the Lord and his helpers for overcoming all the challenges along the way.



A decorative border composed of a repeating pattern of small, stylized floral or scroll motifs, forming a rectangular frame around the central text.

Preaching goodness

KINDNESS

You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:8)

My good and beloved friends, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not want to keep you in the dark, until the end of our dialogue about spiritual gifts. I will write you wisdom: in the definition of good (Mic 6, 8) the mystery of the connection - body, soul and spirit - is revealed. As the body is able to act, the soul man can love. But humble in body with a merciful soul, only a man born of the Spirit of God can stand before Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches that God created man in His own image and likeness: *the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. (Gen 2:7).*

Adam had a body made from the clay of the ground, a soul to give life to the body, and a spirit (the breath of life) to communicate with God. *The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die."* (Gen 2:16-17). Adam's body died many years after the day he ate, since the soul is what enables the body to live, but God is always accurate in what He says, and we now know what had to die. Adam was one in body, soul and spirit before God and as soon as he ate of the tree of knowledge, his body and soul stopped listening to the Holy Spirit. Adam became a soulish man and ceased to walk humbly before God. He still had a soul that loved and spoke to the body, but his soul was disobedient to the spirit. This was spiritual death for Adam. It is such people to treat with repentance, the Jesus calls, and told in the Holy Gospel: *I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live (John 11:25).*

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one. (1 Cor 15:42-44). And if Adam died, it is given to us to be born.

Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" (John 3:4). The Lord Jesus Christ, answering these questions, gives us the wisdom of returning to God: Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' (John 3:5-7).

The Apostle Paul also shows us the way to seek kindness and be born in the Spirit: *See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Thess 5:15-23)

How can we be kind and receive the Holy Spirit? When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, in His resurrection and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are no longer just body and soul, but spirit, soul and body. We are the whole body of Christ, *for God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.* (John 4:24).

Many have read the Bible and the natural person can understand the meaning - Only to do right and to love goodness. But kind deeds can only be done by a spiritual person who walks humbly before God. For it is said: *Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually.* (1 Cor 2:14).

How can we collect kind deeds, flying like a bee collecting nectar? For example, a guy helped his grandmother, and she answered him: "Thank you, grandson!". The guy acted justly, loving mercy, like many others from the bottom of his heart. But a Christian (spiritual man), who walks humbly before God, a Christian himself will thank God for this trial. And to his grandmother he will answer: "Grandmother, thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be there for you and help you." - Having done a kind deed, thank Him who said: *I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will*

bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

And how can you determine whether a deed is kind deed or not before you do it? If there is doubt and no wisdom. The heart is silent to make a quick decision and choice: yes, yes or no, no. Man begins to think and rely on his mind, and as a result he goes down the invisible path following Adam. And whatever decision a person makes, it will be not from the Lord, but from the mind of the person himself. Pray to the Lord before your difficult deed and you will receive a signal from your heart. As Jesus taught: *Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one* (Matt 5:37). If a visible decision comes from your heart, then do a kind deed and dedicate it (give thanks) to the Lord. *But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it.* (James 1:5). Don't rely on your brain and reason, or you will get an answer from the evil one and go through the trial with it. If there is no wisdom from the heart, then it is not your trial now. Go away from this task with the words: Lord, Your will be done. Time will pass and the Lord will give you wisdom and you will receive an answer. Or the Lord Himself will solve everything and lead you through this trial.

The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and his soul hates him that loves violence. (Ps 11:5). The Lord loves you and sends you trials. You must go through the trials in love for the Lord, and not convince yourself or those close to you. Your choice is yes, yes - in thanking the Lord for the opportunity to do a kind deed, or no, no - in trusting the Lord and His decisions.

A man who walks humbly before God is a kind man. And when a man is not good, he is dead like Adam. *Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* (John 14, 6)

Be kind in your deeds, pleasing to the Lord!

LOVE

Love and be loved as children of God.

Love is the foundation of the New Covenant God made with people in His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us. *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.* (John 15:13). In the Mosaic Law, as well as in many other religions, the main thing is to do good, to fulfil the commandments. But the spirit of the New Testament is qualitatively different - love, which is above the law. *In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.* (Gal 5:22-23).

It is God's will that when we do good, we thank God for His love for us and fulfil His commandments. *and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, "Teacher, 21 which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."* (Matt 22:35-40)

The law and the prophets are founded on commandments based on love for God and neighbour, but it was only in Jesus Christ that perfect love was perfectly revealed. *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.* (John 3:16). God and love are identical. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:8). And those who believe in God abide in this holy love. *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.* (1 John 4:11-12).

How can we learn to love our neighbour? For without the little we cannot have the greater. Without learning to love our neighbour, how can we abide in the love of the Lord?

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever

humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. (Matt 18:1-6).

Here is the wisdom that reveals love of neighbour: *humbles himself like this child and whoever receives one child like that.* When you see children of God in your neighbours, you treat them as children. Joy and love are what we feel when we see children.

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt 19, 13-14)

Love of neighbour is revealed in the love of children. The birth of a neighbour in the Holy Spirit is a grace that brings tears of joy after long wandering and suffering. We love because we know how much God loves us and how difficult it is for a person to be born again: *I will intensify the pangs of your childbearing; in pain shall you bring forth children. (Gen 3:16).* Jesus said: *Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. (John 16:20-21).*

As you live in love with the Lord, you love His children, your brothers and sisters. *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves (also) the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome (1 ИИ 5, 1-3).*

It is natural for us to love our neighbours as children. Since no one can tell us or show us the moment when he/she became an adult from a child. When a child asks for food, is there much doubt in our heart and answers to the questions: feed? help? earned? punished? And the Lord shows us, who constantly turn away from Him, His love for His children: *Instead of this, you nourished your people with food of*

angels and furnished them bread from heaven, ready to hand, untoiled-for, endowed with all delights and conforming to every taste. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children, and serving the desire of him who received it, was blended to whatever flavor each one wished. (Wisd 16:20-21)

When you look at your neighbour as a child, you see his kind deeds, you help him to pass the trials, you thank the Lord and you have no time and attention for evil. *For as I see it, God has exhibited us apostles as the last of all, like people sentenced to death, since we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and human beings alike. We are fools on Christ's account, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clad and roughly treated, we wander about homeless and we toil, working with our own hands. When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently. We have become like the world's rubbish, the scum of all, to this very moment. I am writing you this not to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. (1 Cor 4:9-14).*

Love people like children and be loved!

ANGEL

*When you do kind deeds, be like an angel,
So that people will thank God.*

Angels are our oldest friends, but Adam stopped walking humbly before God and left the house of his Creator and Father. *In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth* (Gen 1:1) — so begins the Old Testament of Scripture. "Heaven" is most often understood to mean the whole variety of angelic spiritual, immaterial ranks and worlds. Angels are older than men and this is what God shows man when he asks him: *Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its size; do you know? Who stretched out the measuring line for it? Into what were its pedestals sunk, and who laid the cornerstone, While the morning stars sang in chorus and all the sons of God shouted for joy?* (Job 38:4-7). There is nothing left for man but only to do right, to love goodness and to realise his sins in humility before God. People need to understand their weakness in comparison to the sons of God, the angels.

In heaven, accompanied always by angels, the Lord shows us true love for human beings and sets out to find the lost son - man. Man is called to realise his royal dignity, his dominion over the universe - in the image of the Almighty Heavenly King. And what does man say in response? Jesus Christ answers: *If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.* (John 3:12-13)

By the earthly example of a guy helping his grandmother, I tried to show how a lost person can take steps to return to the family of God's children. The guy helping the grandmother did a kind deed and pointed her to the Lord. The elderly woman came home and told her daughter about the good guy. The daughter happily replied: "Mum, I have been praying to God all day that He would help you on the road. It's a miracle! He sent you an angel!". In this way, by doing kind deeds and dedicating them to the Lord, we are born angels for others. One should have a good way of life, so that not only people, but also the Lord called you an Angel. *Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like*

lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.' (Luke 10:18-20). Because the love of our neighbour and of the Lord surrounds us, if we return to God in repentance through kind deeds.

Angels doing kind deeds, like Michael the Archangel, do not pronounce a reproachful judgement before the Lord even about a fallen angel: *But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."* (Jude 1:9). Whatever the answer - yes, yes or no, no - they rely on the Lord in all matters and thank Him for this trial. It is a joy for us earthly men to be like the Angels in kind deeds and to receive the Holy Spirit.

Be kind and loved like Angels!



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Proverbs

KINDNESS WILL BE MULTIPLIED. (1)

The more you are pressed down on earth,
Tempted by the wicked and the deceitful,
Then your kindness will increase,
Hear, see and rejoice.

References:

- ❖ Besides all this, we should be grateful to the Lord our God, for putting us to the test, as he did our forefathers. (Jud 8:25)
- ❖ My days are swifter than a runner, they flee away; they see no happiness; (Job 9:25)
- ❖ But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. (Ps 115:3-7)
- ❖ Son of man, you live in the midst of a rebellious house; they have eyes to see but do not see, and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious house. (Ezek 12:2)
- ❖ Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.' (Matt 13:11-13)
- ❖ For this reason they could not believe, because again Isaiah said: «He blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they might not see with their eyes and understand with their heart and be converted, and I would heal them.» (John 12:39-40)
- ❖ Hence I ask, did they stumble so as to fall? Of course not! But through their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make them jealous. Now if their transgression is enrichment for the world, and if their diminished number is enrichment for the Gentiles, how much more their full number. (Rom 11:11-12)
- ❖ He said to them, «You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. (John 8:23)

THE WAY TO THE TRUTH. (2)

He who fears the Lord,
Studies and rightly meditates,
Who shows kindness and wisdom,
Goes to his truth!

References:

- ❖ And now, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Act carefully, for with the LORD, our God there is no injustice, no partiality, no bribe-taking. (2 Chr 19:7)
- ❖ He has weighed out the wind, and fixed the scope of the waters; When he made rules for the rain and a path for the thunderbolts, Then he saw wisdom and appraised it, gave it its setting, knew it through and through. And to man he said: Behold, the fear of the LORD is wisdom; and avoiding evil is understanding. (Job 28:25-28)
- ❖ The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward. (Ps 19:9-11)
- ❖ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; wisdom and instruction fools despise. (Prov 1:7)
- ❖ My son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands, Turning your ear to wisdom, inclining your heart to understanding; Yes, if you call to intelligence, and to understanding raise your voice; If you seek her like silver, and like hidden treasures search her out: Then will you understand the fear of the LORD; the knowledge of God you will find; For the LORD gives wisdom, from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; He has counsel in store for the upright, he is the shield of those who walk honestly, Guarding the paths of justice, protecting the way of his pious ones. (Prov 2:1-8)
- ❖ The fear of the LORD is training for wisdom, and humility goes before honors. (Prov 15:33)
- ❖ He who fears the LORD will have a happy end; even on the day of his death he will be blessed. (Sir 1:11)
- ❖ That which makes her seasons lasting, the riches that save her, are wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is her treasure. (Is 33:6)

LOOK TO THE GOOD. (3)

Rejoice in all that we have been given,
For it is given to us from God.
Look with awe at what is good,
And give thanks to God for all things!

References:

- ❖ Go, then, rejoice over the children of the righteous, who shall all be gathered together and shall bless the Lord of the ages. (Tob 13:13)
- ❖ exult and rejoice in the LORD, your God! He has given you the teacher of justice: he has made the rain come down for you, the early and the late rain as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. (Joel 2:23-24)
- ❖ And coming to her, he said, «Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.» (Luke 1:28)
- ❖ They must be present every morning to offer thanks and to praise the LORD, and likewise in the evening (1 Chr 23:30)
- ❖ Besides all this, we should be grateful to the Lord our God, for putting us to the test, as he did our forefathers. (Jud 8:25)
- ❖ Whoever observes the day, observes it for the Lord. Also whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while whoever abstains, abstains for the Lord and gives thanks to God. (Rom 14:6)
- ❖ We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, (Col 1:3)
- ❖ And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe. (1 Thess 2:13)
- ❖ See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:15-18)
- ❖ and said: «We give thanks to you, Lord God almighty, who are and who were. For you have assumed your great power and have established your reign. (Rev 11:17)

PRAYER OF THE PRISONER. (4)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, speak to me,

Help me to open my eyes and hear You,

Help me to come out of prison with You,

I want to understand with my heart and speak wisely.

References:

❖ Listen to the petitions of your servant and of your people Israel which they offer in this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling and grant pardon. «If a man sins against his neighbor and is required to take an oath sanctioned by a curse, when he comes and takes the oath before your altar in this temple, listen in heaven; take action and pass judgment on your servants. Condemn the wicked and punish him for his conduct, but acquit the just and establish his innocence. (1 Kin 8:30-32)

❖ Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. (Ps 5:2)

❖ Turn to me and be gracious to me, For I am lonely and afflicted. (Ps 25:16)

❖ For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing; My strength has failed because of my iniquity, and my body has wasted away. (Ps 31:10)

❖ Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (Ps 51:2-3)

❖ Hear, O LORD, for you are a God of mercy; and have mercy on us, who have sinned against you: for you are enthroned forever, while we are perishing forever. (Bar 3:2-3)

❖ The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God,” they are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; there is no one who does good. (Ps 53:1)

❖ Every proud man is an abomination to the LORD; I assure you that he will not go unpunished. By kindness and piety guilt is expiated, and by the fear of the LORD man avoids evil. (Prov 16:5-6)

❖ But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance. (Luke 8:15)

❖ He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men’s ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. (Eccl 3:11)

WORLD IS UNITED AND GOD IS ONE. (5)

The world is united and God is one.

References:

- ❖ The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! (Deut 6:4)
- ❖ Therefore, O LORD, our God, save us from the power of this man, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God.» (2 Kin 19:19)
- ❖ Dominion and awesomeness are his who brings about harmony in his heavens. (Job 25:2)
- ❖ I form the light, and create the darkness, I make well-being and create woe; I, the LORD, do all these things. (Is 45:7)
- ❖ My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD. (Lam 3:17-18)
- ❖ Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, ‘He is One and there is no other than he.’ And ‘to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself’ is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. (Mark 12:32-33)
- ❖ He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. (John 1:10)
- ❖ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:17)
- ❖ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid (John 14:27)
- ❖ You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, (Acts 10:36)
- ❖ Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (1 Pet 5:14)
- ❖ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom 5, 1)
- ❖ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Spirit; (Rom 14:17)
- ❖ Now there is no mediator when only one party is involved, and God is one. (Gal 3:20)
- ❖ And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. (Col 3:15)
- ❖ You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble. (James 2:19)

BEING A CHRISTIAN. (6)

If you're a Christian always,
 And safe in Jesus Christ,
 Then upward in the way of the Lord,
 No unnecessary words are allowed.

References:

- ❖ He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.» (Matt 22:37-40)
- ❖ the beloved of the LORD, who shelters him all the day, while he abides securely at his breast. (Deut 33:12)
- ❖ he gives safety and support. He sustains the mighty by his strength, and his eyes are on their ways. (Job 24:23)
- ❖ Then you may securely go your way; your foot will never stumble; When you lie down, you need not be afraid, when you rest, your sleep will be sweet. Honor is the possession of wise men, but fools inherit shame. Be not afraid of sudden terror, of the ruin of the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from the snare. (Prov 3:23-26)
- ❖ But to the wicked God says, “What right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth? For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you. When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers. You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son. These things you have done and I kept silence; you thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes. Now consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you in pieces, and there will be none to deliver. He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; and to him who orders *his way aright* I shall show the salvation of God.” (Ps 50:16-23)
- ❖ Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God. (1 Pet 3:3-4)

LOOK, FORGIVE AND PRESERVE. (7)

Look kindly, Forgive and Preserve us Lord!

References:

- ❖ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. (Matt 6:9-13)
- ❖ The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them. (Num 6:24-27)
- ❖ Look kindly on the prayer and petition of your servant, O LORD, my God, and listen to the cry of supplication your servant makes before you. (2 Chr 6:19)
- ❖ And now, O Lord, may you be mindful of me, and look with favor upon me. Punish me not for my sins, nor for my inadvertent offenses, nor for those of my fathers. They sinned against you, (Tob 3:3)
- ❖ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. (Ps 25:16)
- ❖ Turn to me, and be gracious to me; oh grant Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your handmaid. (Ps 86:16)
- ❖ Come to our aid, O God of the universe, and put all the nations in dread of you! Raise your hand against the heathen, that they may realize your power. (Sir 36:1-2)
- ❖ When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions. (Mark 11:25)
- ❖ I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. (John 17:15)
- ❖ If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. (1 John 1:9)
- ❖ (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Eph 4:32)
- ❖ The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Tim 4:18)
- ❖ Because you have kept my message of endurance, I will keep you safe in the time of trial that is going to come to the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. (Rev 3:10)

CLEAN AND SPACIOUSNESS. (8)

In prison, walking on concrete,
 Caged from above
 Praying to the Lord Jesus
 I find clean and spaciousness!

References:

- ❖ Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. (Matt 5:8)
- ❖ The impious in heart lay up anger for themselves; they cry not for help when he enchains them; Therefore they expire in youth, and perish among the reprobate. But he saves the unfortunate through their affliction, and instructs them through distress. Therefore he will give you most ample salvation from the narrow mouth which has no foundations beneath it; but the repose of your table will be filled with fatness. (Job 36:13-17)
- ❖ Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. (Ps 5:1- 2)
- ❖ For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise His who are prisoners. (Ps 69:34)
- ❖ The LORD loves the pure of heart; the man of winning speech has the king for his friend. (Prov 22:11)
- ❖ For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion, and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her. For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. (Wisd 7:24-26)
- ❖ When an unclean spirit goes out of someone, it roams through arid regions searching for rest but, finding none, it says, 'I shall return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and brings back seven other spirits more wicked than itself who move in and dwell there, and the last condition of that person is worse than the first. (Luke 11:24-26)
- ❖ Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Cor 5, 7-8)

OLD SINS AND NEW SINS. (9)

Lord!

Have compassion on the sins of old!

Help and keep us from new sins!

References:

- ❖ I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners. (Luke 5:32)
- ❖ And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; (John 16:8-9)
- ❖ Peter (said) to them, «Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- ❖ Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)
- ❖ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly. (1 John 5:17)
- ❖ Then David said to Nathan, «I have sinned against the LORD.» Nathan answered David: «The LORD on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. (2 Sam 12:13)
- ❖ So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin. (James 4:17)
- ❖ When the LORD saw how great was man's wickedness on earth, and how no desire that his heart conceived was ever anything but evil, (Gen 6:5)
- ❖ Why should any living man complain, any mortal, in the face of his sins? (Lam 3:39)
- ❖ the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. (Rom 3:22-23)
- ❖ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)
- ❖ He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14)
- ❖ «This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord: 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds,'» he also says: «Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more.» Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin. (Heb 10:16-18)

GOD IS IN THE HEART. (10)

Word to Word,
God in my heart,
Tear to tear,
Salvation in God!

References:

- ❖ But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. (Matt 6:7-8)
- ❖ «Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. (Matt 6:19-21)
- ❖ He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.» (Matt 22:37-40)
- ❖ He responded, «Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.’ (Mark 7:6-7)
- ❖ Have faith in God. Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him. (Mark 11:22-23)
- ❖ and his mother kept all these things in her heart. (Luke 2:51)
- ❖ Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. (John 14:1)
- ❖ When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. (John 16:21-23)

REJOICE IN YOUR HEART. (11)

Rejoice in works of righteousness,
Fearing the Lord in your heart.

References:

- ❖ Light is sown like seed for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart. Be glad in the Lord, you righteous ones, and give thanks to His holy name. (Ps 97:11-12)
- ❖ May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel! (Ps 20:4)
- ❖ listen from your heavenly dwelling place and forgive. You who alone know the hearts of all men, render to each one of them according to his conduct; knowing their hearts, so treat them that they may fear you as long as they live on the land you gave our fathers. (1 Kin 8:39-40)
- ❖ «O LORD, remember how faithfully and wholeheartedly I conducted myself in your presence, doing what was pleasing to you!». (2 Kin 20:3)
- ❖ Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD! (1 Chr 16:10)
- ❖ He gave them this command: You shall act faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the LORD. (2 Chr 19:9)
- ❖ Come to terms with him to be at peace. In this shall good come to you: Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart. (Job 22:21-22)
- ❖ The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. (Ps 19:8-9)
- ❖ Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. (Ps 86:11)
- ❖ In his mind a man plans his course, but the LORD directs his steps. (Prov 16:9)
- ❖ My son, if your heart be wise, my own heart also will rejoice; and my inmost being will exult, when your lips speak what is right. Let not your heart emulate sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD always (Prov 23:15-17)
- ❖ Fear of the LORD warms the heart, giving gladness and joy and length of days. (Sir 1:10)
- ❖ Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. (Matt 5:12)
- ❖ For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. (Matt 6:21)

YOUR TRUTH. (12)

Where you grew up, your truth will be the last to be realised.

References:

- ❖ He departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, «Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?» And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, «A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.» So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. (Mark 6:1-5)
- ❖ For even your own brothers, the members of your father's house, betray you; they have recruited a force against you. Do not believe them, even if they are friendly to you in their words. (Jer 12:6)
- ❖ He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. (John 1:11)
- ❖ Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them. (Mark 6:11)
- ❖ You are righteous, O Lord, and all your deeds are just; All your ways are mercy and truth; you are the judge of the world. (Tob 3:2)
- ❖ Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations. (Ps 100:4-5)
- ❖ The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure. They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness. (Ps 111:7-8)
- ❖ because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)
- ❖ They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. (John 17:16-19)
- ❖ This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth. (1 Jphn 5:6)

REPENTANCE AND FREEDOM. (13)

Repentance is your will
Being free according to God's will,
Praying for His forgiveness.

References:

- ❖ ENOCH walked with the LORD and was taken up, that succeeding generations might learn by his example. (Sirach 44:16)
- ❖ But now, give praise to the LORD, the God of your fathers, and do his will (Ezra 10:11)
- ❖ Turn and be converted from all your crimes, that they may be no cause of guilt for you. (Ezek 18:30)
- ❖ Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! (Matt 3:2)
- ❖ After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: «This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.» (Mark 1:14-15)
- ❖ Jesus heard this and said to them (that), «Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.» (Mark 2:17)
- ❖ I tell you, in just 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)
- ❖ You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. (John 15:14-15)
- ❖ Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- ❖ Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven. (Acts 8:22)
- ❖ Those whom I love, I reprove and chastise. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne. (Rev 3:19-21)

ETERNAL LIFE. (14)

Repent and live forever in goodness.

References:

- ❖ Then the LORD God said: «See! The man has become like one of us, knowing what is good and what is bad! Therefore, he must not be allowed to put out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life also, and thus eat of it and live forever.» (Gen 3:22)
- ❖ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)
- ❖ Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne. (Rev 3:19-21)
- ❖ You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:8)
- ❖ The LORD shall reign forever and ever. (Ex 15:18)
- ❖ Depart from evil and do good, so you will abide forever. (Ps 37:27)
- ❖ For You have heard my vows, O God; You have given me the inheritance of those who fear Your name. You will prolong the king's life; His years will be as many generations. (Ps 61:5-6)
- ❖ Now someone approached him and said, «Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?» (Matt 19:16)
- ❖ who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, (Rom 2:6-7)
- ❖ Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Tim 6:12)
- ❖ Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life. (1 Tim 6:17-19)

KIND DEEDS AND SINS. (15)

Kind deeds are remembered,
but a man is judged by his sins.

References:

- ❖ Thank God! Give him the praise and the glory. Before all the living, acknowledge the many good things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds, and do not be slack in praising him. A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be declared and made known. Praise them with due honor. Do good, and evil will not find its way to you. Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life; but those habitually guilty of sin are their own worst enemies. (Tob 12:6-10)
- ❖ If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master. (Gen 4:7)
- ❖ Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (Ps 34:14)
- ❖ It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; he will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever. (Ps 112:5-6)
- ❖ Fools my people are, they know me not; Senseless children they are, having no understanding; They are wise in evil, but know not how to do good. (Jer 4:22)
- ❖ Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. (Matt 5:16)
- ❖ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. (Luke 6:33)
- ❖ and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation. (John 5:29)
- ❖ So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin. (James 4:17)
- ❖ For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. (Eph 2:10)

RICH, TALENTED AND RIGHTEOUS. (16)

They see those proud of power and money,
They remember the talented,
and the righteous are granted eternity.

References:

- ❖ The good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the just. (Prov 13:22)
- ❖ A good name is more desirable than great riches, and high esteem, than gold and silver. (Prov 22:1)
- ❖ Good and evil, life and death, poverty and riches, are from the LORD. (Sir 11:14)
- ❖ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. (Matt 6:19-21)
- ❖ For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ 3 and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: 4 if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom 12:3-8)
- ❖ Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: «He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.» (2 Cor 9:8-9)
- ❖ Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life. (1 Tim 6:17-19)

MONEY AND MAN. (17)

Money is made for man, not man for money.

References:

- ❖ So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil. (Matt 6:31-34)
- ❖ If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. (Ex 22:24)
- ❖ Become not a glutton and a winebibber with nothing in your purse (Sir 18:33)
- ❖ He who builds his house with another’s money is collecting stones for his funeral mound. (Sir 21:8)
- ❖ A man’s riches serve as ransom for his life, but the poor man heeds no rebuke. (Prov 13:8)
- ❖ Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, «Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood. (Mark 12:41-44)
- ❖ Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, «Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.» (John 2:13-16)
- ❖ When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, «Give me this power too, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the holy Spirit.» But Peter said to him, «May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money. You have no share or lot in this matter, for your heart is not upright before God. (Acts 8:18-21)

THE LORD HAS BEEN OUR SLAVE. (18)

Many people want to be like gods,
and God was our slave.

References:

- ❖ But the serpent said to the woman: «You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad.» (Gen 3:4-5)
- ❖ I said, “You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High. “Nevertheless you will die like men and fall like any one of the princes.” (Ps 82:6-7)
- ❖ For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)
- ❖ Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: «Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.» (Matt 12:15-21)
- ❖ Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. (Matt 24:45-47)
- ❖ So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, «Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. (John 13:12-16)
- ❖ For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor 5:21)
- ❖ you keep your covenant of kindness with your servants who are faithful to you with their whole heart. (1 Kin 8:23)

GOOD AND EVIL. (19)

God gave the choice, for He loves the truth.
 He who is good in heart is the salvation of the people.
 Falsehood is man's choice, and only birth to evil.

References:

- ❖ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?» The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request(1Kin3:9-10)
- ❖ When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. (Acts 11:23-24)
- ❖ who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. (Tit 2:14)
- ❖ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. (3 John 1:11)
- ❖ Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; (Rom 12:9)
- ❖ For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil; (Rom 16:19)
- ❖ Hate evil, you who love the Lord, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked. (Ps 97:10)
- ❖ If a man returns evil for good, from his house evil will not depart. (Prov 17:13)
- ❖ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who change darkness into light, and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet, and sweet into bitter! (Is 5:20)
- ❖ Seek good and not evil, that you may live; Then truly will the LORD, the God of hosts, be with you as you claim! (Amos 5:14)
- ❖ Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool. If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land; But if you refuse and resist, the sword shall consume you: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken! (Is 1:16-20)

CROSS. (20)

The Cross in the light, the Light in the Cross!

References:

- ❖ Jesus spoke to them again, saying, «I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.» (John 8:12)
- ❖ Then Jesus said to his disciples, «Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. (Matt 16:24-27)
- ❖ For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. (Heb 12:2)
- ❖ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:17-18)
- ❖ Jesus answered, «Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. (John 3:5-6)
- ❖ He replied, «My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left (, this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.» (Matt 20:23)
- ❖ Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:3-4)
- ❖ I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.» (Mark 1:8)
- ❖ Then Jesus approached and said to them, «All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.» (Matt 28:18-20)

FATHER AND MOTHER. (21)

A father lights your path by testing you,
Mother keeps the darkest places of your home in the truth.

References:

- ❖ Thus will you be like a son to the Most High, and he will be more tender to you than a mother. (Sir 4:10)
- ❖ For I will sing the LORD'S renown. Oh, proclaim the greatness of our God! The Rock - how faultless are his deeds, how right all his ways! A faithful God, without deceit, how just and upright he is! Yet basely has he been treated by his degenerate children, a perverse and crooked race! Is the LORD to be thus repaid by you, O stupid and foolish people? Is he not your father who created you? Has he not made you and established you? (Deut 32:3-6)
- ❖ I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. (Luke 10:21-22)
- ❖ On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. (John 16:26-27)
- ❖ Now may God himself, our Father, and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you, (1 Thess 3:11)
- ❖ Do not be afraid, for God has come to you only to test you and put his fear upon you, lest you should sin. (Ex 20:20)
- ❖ for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the mind's thoughts. (1 Chr 28:9)
- ❖ The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. (Ps 11:5)
- ❖ Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any [n]hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way. (Ps 139:23-24)
- ❖ A wise son makes his father glad, but a fool of a man despises his mother. (Prov 15:20)
- ❖ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Cor 6:19)

EMBRACE OF LOVE. (22)

The weaker the embrace, the stronger the love.

References:

- ❖ Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor; It spans the heavens with its glory, this bow bent by the mighty hand of God. (Sir 43:12-13)
- ❖ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)
- ❖ So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little. (Luke 7:47)
- ❖ So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)
- ❖ For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. (2 Cor 5:14)
- ❖ He will be your comfort and the support of your old age, for his mother is the daughter-in-law who loves you. She is worth more to you than seven sons! Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and became his nurse. (Ruth 4:15-16)
- ❖ But God changed the king's anger to gentleness. In great anxiety he sprang from his throne, held her in his arms until she recovered, and comforted her with reassuring words. (Esther D:8-12)
- ❖ There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. ... A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. (Eccl 3:1-8)
- ❖ He brings me into the banquet hall and his emblem over me is love. Strengthen me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. His left hand is under my head and his right arm embraces me. (Song 2:4-6)
- ❖ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. (Gen 2:24)

SALVATION TO THE SINCERE. (23)

Serve sincerely,
And keep your heart pure
And the Lord will bring salvation.

References:

- ❖ Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him completely and sincerely. Cast out the gods your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. (Josh 24:14)
- ❖ And the LORD requited me according to my justice, according to my innocence in his sight. Toward the faithful you are faithful; toward the wholehearted you are wholehearted; Toward the sincere you are sincere; but toward the crooked you are astute. You save lowly people, though on the lofty your eyes look down. (2 Sam 22:25-28)
- ❖ Behold, now I open my mouth; my tongue and my voice form words. I will state directly what is in my mind, my lips shall utter knowledge sincerely; For the spirit of God has made me, the breath of the Almighty keeps me alive. (Job 33:2-4)
- ❖ Better is an open rebuke than a love that remains hidden. (Prov 27:5)
- ❖ For the first step toward discipline is a very earnest desire for her; then, care for discipline is love of her; love means the keeping of her laws; To observe her laws is the basis for incorruptibility; and incorruptibility makes one close to God; thus the desire for Wisdom leads up to a kingdom. (Wisd 6:17-20)
- ❖ if he lives by my statutes and is careful to observe my ordinances, that man is virtuous - he shall surely live, says the Lord GOD. (Ezek 18:9)
- ❖ When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the holy Spirit and faith. (Acts 11:23-24)
- ❖ Therefore, brothers, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have «a great priest over the house of God,» let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy. (Heb 10:19-23)

THE WAY TO GOD. (24)

The righteous man walks towards God,
without condemning the one who comes his way.

References:

- ❖ Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. «Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.» And he told them a parable, «Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? (Luke 6:36-39)
- ❖ Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin. (Mark 3:28-29)
- ❖ Who prescribes for him his conduct, or who can say, «You have done wrong»? (Job 36:23)
- ❖ They band themselves together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death. (Ps 94:21)
- ❖ He who gloats over evil will meet with evil, and he who repeats an evil report has no sense. (Sir 19:5)
- ❖ Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:18)
- ❖ Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, «Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?» They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, «Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.» Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, «Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?» She replied, «No one, sir.» Then Jesus said, «Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more.» (John 8:3-11)

FOOD AND GRACE. (25)

Everyone eats and does not hesitate,
For they are delivered from hunger.
They receive grace, but they doubt,
And the soul is saved from hell.

References:

- ❖ He who finds a wife finds happiness; it is a favor he receives from the LORD. (Prov 18:23)
- ❖ As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Pet 4:10)
- ❖ Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: «He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.» (2 Cor 9:8-9)
- ❖ «Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. (Matt 6:25-33)
- ❖ We are fools on Christ's account, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clad and roughly treated, we wander about homeless and we toil, working with our own hands. When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently. We have become like the world's rubbish, the scum of all, to this very moment. (1 Cor 4:10-13)

COURT. (26)

That we may not judge:
Love in the Lord to plead,
Ask God for mercy.

References:

- ❖ Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)
- ❖ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. (1 John 4:7-9)
- ❖ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: «Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.» (Eph 5:8-14)
- ❖ Then Jesus said, «Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more.» Jesus spoke to them again, saying, «I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.» (John 8:11-12)
- ❖ Whoever loves his brother remains in the light, and there is nothing in him to cause a fall. (1 John 2:10)
- ❖ On Mount Sinai you came down, you spoke with them from heaven; You gave them just ordinances, firm laws, good statutes, and commandments (Neh9:13)
- ❖ It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgment. (Ps 112:5)
- ❖ If anyone cleanses himself of these things, he will be a vessel for lofty use, dedicated, beneficial to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (2 Tim 2:21)
- ❖ When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” (Luke 9:54-56)

TO HOLD A LIFE OF LOVE. (27)

My body HOLDS my soul,
My soul gives LIFE to my body,
The Holy Spirit is in me in LOVE.

References:

- ❖ Then God said, «Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.» And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: «Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. (Gen 1:24-26)
- ❖ the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. (Gen 2:7)
- ❖ The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave man this order: «You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.» (Gen 2:15-17)
- ❖ Since the life of every living body is its blood. (Lev 17:14)
- ❖ He made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions, so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being,' as even some of your poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' (Acts 17:26-28)
- ❖ He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. (Matt 22:37)
- ❖ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Cor 5:10)
- ❖ Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. (1 Cor 2:14)
- ❖ May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. (1 Thess 5:23-24)

THE TRUTH IN LOVE. (28)

Sincere love is truthful,
Truth in the love of mercy.

References:

- ❖ Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life; (Tob 12:8-9)
- ❖ The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. (Ps 36:3)
- ❖ You love evil more than good, falsehood more than speaking what is right. (Ps 52:3)
- ❖ For the LORD gives wisdom, from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he has counsel in store for the upright, he is the shield of those who walk honestly, Guarding the paths of justice, protecting the way of his pious ones. Then you will understand rectitude and justice, honesty, every good path; (Prov 2:6-9)
- ❖ Entrust your works to the LORD, and your plans will succeed. (Prov 16:3)
- ❖ He who pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor. (Prov 21:21)
- ❖ Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. (Is 1:16-17)
- ❖ Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. (1 Cor 13:4-8)
- ❖ Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)
- ❖ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. (James 3:17)
- ❖ Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:10)

GOD'S PARADISE. (29)

Paradise does not contain sin,
For in paradise God speaks.

References:

- ❖ the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and he placed there the man whom he had formed. (Gen 2:7-8)
- ❖ He makes the winds His messengers, flaming fire His ministers. He established the earth upon its foundations, so that it will not totter forever and ever. (Ps 104:4-5)
- ❖ May you be blessed of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men. (Ps 115:15-16)
- ❖ Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; The things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind. Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness in what I create; For I create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight; I will rejoice in Jerusalem and exult in my people. No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there, or the sound of crying; No longer shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not round out his full lifetime; He dies a mere youth who reaches but a hundred years, and he who fails of a hundred shall be thought accursed. They shall live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant; They shall not build houses for others to live in, or plant for others to eat. As the years of a tree, so the years of my people; and my chosen ones shall long enjoy the produce of their hands. They shall not toil in vain, nor beget children for sudden destruction; For a race blessed by the LORD are they and their offspring. Before they call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking, I will hearken to them. (Is 65:17-24)
- ❖ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves (also) the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. (1 John 5:1-4)

FASTING. (30)

Fasting is a loving, spiritual meal.
 He who feeds the needy is merciful,
 And fasts with him.

References:

- ❖ Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. (Tob 12:8)
- ❖ except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; (Gen 2:17)
- ❖ Thus says the LORD of hosts: The fast days of the fourth, the fifth, the seventh, and the tenth months shall become occasions of joy and gladness, cheerful festivals for the house of Judah; only love faithfulness and peace. (Zech 8:19)
- ❖ He replied: «While the child was living, I fasted and wept, thinking, 'Perhaps the LORD will grant me the child's life.' (2 Sam 12:22)
- ❖ I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. (Dan 9:3)
- ❖ So we fasted, and prayed to our God for this, and our petition was granted. (Ezra 8:23)
- ❖ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. (Matt 4:1-2)
- ❖ While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, «Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.» Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)
- ❖ They appointed presbyters for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith. (Acts 14:23)
- ❖ they drew water and poured it out on the ground before the LORD, and they fasted that day, confessing, We have sinned against the LORD. (1 Sam 7:6)
- ❖ when I had gone up the mountain to receive the stone tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you. Meanwhile I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights without eating or drinking, (Deut 9:9)
- ❖ Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; (Joel 2:12)

JUDGES AND PEOPLE. (31)

When a judge is not fair,
He causes the people's anger to be destructive.
Be sensible, judges, and trust in the Lord,
For His eyes see every man.

References:

- ❖ That year, two elders of the people were appointed judges, of whom the Lord said, «Wickedness has come out of Babylon: from the elders who were to govern the people as judges.» (Dan 13:5)
- ❖ Their hands succeed at evil; the prince makes demands, The judge is had for a price, The great man speaks as he pleases, The best of them is like a brier, the most upright like a thorn hedge. The day announced by your watchmen! your punishment has come; now is the time of your confusion. (Mic 7:3-4)
- ❖ Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. (Ps 2:10-11)
- ❖ God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day. (Ps 7:11)
- ❖ The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. (Ps 11:4-5)
- ❖ The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Prov 15:3)
- ❖ He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; Let not the rebellious exalt themselves. (Ps 66:7)
- ❖ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come. (Rev 4:6)
- ❖ because God will bring to judgment every work, with all its hidden qualities, whether good or bad. (Eccl 12:14)
- ❖ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matt 12:27-28)
- ❖ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Cor 5:10)

LIGHT AND DARKNESS. (32)

Man grows and rises from the Light,
From darkness he will rot when he sees decay.

References:

- ❖ Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, «We have fellowship with him,» while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)
- ❖ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who change darkness into light, and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet, and sweet into bitter! (Is 5:20)
- ❖ Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. (Matt 5:16)
- ❖ My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, and in My name his horn will be exalted. (Ps 89:24)
- ❖ In days to come, The mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; (Is 2:2)
- ❖ thus says the Lord GOD: Off with the turban and away with the crown! Nothing shall be as it was! Up with the low and down with the high! (Ezek 21:31)
- ❖ Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matt 23:12)
- ❖ Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever. (Ps 16:9-11)
- ❖ The lover of gold will not be free from sin, for he who pursues wealth is led astray by it. (Sir 31:5)
- ❖ because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith. (Gal 6:8-10)

THE JESUS PRAYER IN THE WOMB. (33)

The pregnant woman says:
 «Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
 have mercy on me, a sinner.»
 The child in the womb breathes more often,
 Every word of the womb is filled with awe.

References:

- ❖ On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, «Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.» (Mark 10:47)
- ❖ And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, «Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.» (Matt 15:22)
- ❖ But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ (Luke 18:13)
- ❖ the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. (Gen 2:7)
- ❖ But it is a spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding. It is not those of many days who are wise, nor the aged who understand the right. (Job 32:8-9)
- ❖ I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me. (Ps 119:100-102)
- ❖ I will state directly what is in my mind, my lips shall utter knowledge sincerely; For the spirit of God has made me, the breath of the Almighty keeps me alive. (Job 33:3-4)
- ❖ Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. (Ps 38:9)
- ❖ For haphazard were we born, and hereafter we shall be as though we had not been; Because the breath in our nostrils is a smoke and reason is a spark at the beating of our hearts, (Wisd 2:2)
- ❖ For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her. (Wisd 7:25)
- ❖ Pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:17)

OCEAN AND MARSH. (34)

The righteous man is a living ocean,
 With the ebb and flow of the Lord's trials,
 The wicked is a swamp,
 Standing water that runs dry.

References:

- ❖ The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. (Ps 11:5)
- ❖ Make ready to slaughter his sons for the guilt of their fathers; Lest they rise and possess the earth, and fill the breadth of the world with tyrants. I will rise up against them, says the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon name and remnant, progeny and offspring, says the LORD. I will make it a haunt of hoot owls and a marshland; I will sweep it with the broom of destruction, says the LORD of hosts. (Is 14:21-23)
- ❖ For the devices of the wicked man shall be scrutinized, and the sound of his words shall reach the LORD, for the chastisement of his transgressions; Because a jealous ear hearkens to everything, and discordant grumblings are no secret. (Wisd 1:9-10)
- ❖ For the Lord of all shows no partiality, nor does he fear greatness, Because he himself made the great as well as the small, and he provides for all alike; but for those in power a rigorous scrutiny impends. (Wisd 6:7-8)
- ❖ The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs, and an attentive ear is the wise man's joy. Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins. He who does a kindness is remembered afterward; when he falls, he finds a support. (Sir 3:28-30)
- ❖ When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him (Sir 6:7)
- ❖ As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in his conversation is the test of a man. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does a man's speech disclose the bent of his mind. Praise no man before he speaks, for it is then that men are tested. (Sir 27:5-7)
- ❖ Of the wise men, some shall fall, so that the rest may be tested, refined, and purified, until the end time which is still appointed to come. (Dan 11:35)
- ❖ Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

FEAR IS WISDOM.(35)

The fear of the Lord is the Wisdom of the Reasonable.

References:

- ❖ The LORD, your God, shall you fear; him shall you serve, and by his name shall you swear. (Deut 6:13)
- ❖ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Cor 1:25).
- ❖ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; wisdom and instruction fools despise. (Prov 1:7)
- ❖ Then will you understand the fear of the LORD; the knowledge of God you will find; For the LORD gives wisdom, from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; (Prov 2:5-6)
- ❖ Happy the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding! (Prov 3:13)
- ❖ The beginning of wisdom is: get wisdom; at the cost of all you have, get understanding. (Prov 4:7)
- ❖ The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the LORD, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Prov 9:10)
- ❖ The fear of the LORD is training for wisdom, and humility goes before honors. (Prov 15:33)
- ❖ But if one loves God, one is known by him. (1 Cor 8:3)
- ❖ To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; (1 Cor 12:8)
- ❖ Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and power are his. (Dan 2:20)
- ❖ The last word, when all is heard: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all; (Eccl 12, 13)
- ❖ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever. (Ps 111:10)
- ❖ That which makes her seasons lasting, the riches that save her, are wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is her treasure. (Is 33:6)
- ❖ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:13)
- ❖ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. (James 3:17)

RELIGION AND TEACHINGS. (36)

The Christian religion is a way of returning to God, and the teachings of Jesus your steps along the way.

References:

- ❖ Jesus said to him, «I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)
- ❖ and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, «Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?» He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.» (Matt 22:35-40)
- ❖ There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved. (Acts 4, 12)
- ❖ Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few. (Matt 7:13-14)
- ❖ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)
- ❖ For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. (2 Tim 4:3-4)
- ❖ But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. (John 1:12-13)
- ❖ For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, (1 John 5:3)
- ❖ Jesus answered them and said, «My teaching is not my own but is from the one who sent me. Whoever chooses to do his will shall know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on his own seeks his own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him is truthful, and there is no wrong in him. (John 7:16-18)
- ❖ And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. (John 12:47)

RIGHTEOUS MAN SEES AND HEARS. (37)

The righteous One sees and hears,
And His wise way is in the Light.
The wicked creeps in darkness,
And his mind destroys flesh and soul.

References:

- ❖ Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)
- ❖ But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Matt 13:16-17)
- ❖ The just man will never be disturbed, but the wicked will not abide in the land. (Prov 10:30)
- ❖ The just man escapes trouble, and the wicked man falls into it in his stead. (Prov 11:8)
- ❖ Virtue directs toward life, but he who pursues evil does so to his death. (Prov 11:19)
- ❖ The fruit of virtue is a tree of life, but violence takes lives away. (Prov 11:30)
- ❖ The just man surpasses his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. (Prov 12:26)
- ❖ Lie not in wait against the home of the just man, ravage not his dwelling place; For the just man falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble to ruin. (Prov 24:15-16)
- ❖ The father of a just man will exult with glee; he who begets a wise son will have joy in him. (Prov 23:24)
- ❖ For there have been some intruders, who long ago were designated for this condemnation, godless persons, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:4)
- ❖ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. (Matt 25:46)
- ❖ Then the LORD God said to the serpent: «Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. (Gen 3:14)

TEARS OF GRACE. (38)

Like a flower waiting for dew,
Gazing at the sun,
So the tears of Thy grace
Washes my heart in mercy.

References:

- ❖ Now someone approached him and said, «Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?» He answered him, «Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.» (Matt 19:16-17)
- ❖ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. (Eph 2:4-10)
- ❖ The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ (Jesus) will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little. (1 Pet 5:10)
- ❖ For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, with the simplicity and sincerity of God, (and) not by human wisdom but by the grace of God. (2Cor 1:12)
- ❖ Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: «In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.» Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Cor 6:1-2)
- ❖ My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” (Ps 42:3)
- ❖ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you. (James 4:8-10)

DESERT OF BODIES. (39)

Lord, in the desert of bodies, I am weary,
 And only devil tempts me.
 Thou hast founded the seas of the Universe,
 On the rivers of the Earth, have mercy on me.

References:

- ❖ All you who inhabit the world, who dwell on earth, When the signal is raised on the mountain, look! When the trumpet blows, listen! (Is 18:3)
- ❖ He said: «I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert, «Make straight the way of the Lord,»’ as Isaiah the prophet said.» (John 1:23)
- ❖ Then he said to me, «The waters that you saw where the harlot lives represent large numbers of peoples, nations, and tongues. (Rev 17:15)
- ❖ Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, «[Lord,] Son of David, have pity on us!» The crowd warned them to be silent, but they called out all the more, «Lord, Son of David, have pity on us!» Jesus stopped and called them and said, «What do you want me to do for you?» They answered him, «Lord, let our eyes be opened.» Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight, and followed him. (Matt 20:30-34)
- ❖ But you are «a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises» of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were «no people» but now you are God’s people; you «had not received mercy» but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet 2:9-10)
- ❖ For he says to Moses: «I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will.» So it depends not upon a person’s will or exertion, but upon God, who shows mercy. (Rom 9:15-16)
- ❖ Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may (now) receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:30-32)
- ❖ He was indeed ill, close to death; but God had mercy on him, not just on him but also on me, so that I might not have sorrow upon sorrow. (Phil 2:27)
- ❖ And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, «Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.» (Matt 15:22)

RIGHTEOUS MAN HAS COMPASSION. (40)

A righteous person is compassionate and merciful,
As the good man loves God.

References:

- ❖ As the LORD lives, the man who has done this merits death! He shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this and has had no pity. (2 Sam 12:5-6)
- ❖ Reproach has broken my heart and I am so sick. And I looked for sympathy, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. (Ps 69:20)
- ❖ The light of the just shines gaily, but the lamp of the wicked goes out. (Prov 13:9)
- ❖ Compassionate and merciful is the LORD; he forgives sins, he saves in time of trouble. (Sir 2:11)
- ❖ Thus says the LORD of hosts:) Render true judgment, and show kindness and compassion toward each other. Do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the alien or the poor; do not plot evil against one another in your hearts. (Zech 7:9-10)
- ❖ Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of the perseverance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, because «the Lord is compassionate and merciful.» (James 5:11)
- ❖ Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing. (1 Pet 3:8-9)
- ❖ All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Eph 3:31-32)
- ❖ If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others. (Phil 2:1-4)

A MISSION IN LOVE. (41)

Mission is the grace of God,
And by loving your neighbour,
You are part of the body of Christ.

References:

- ❖ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 4:9-11)
- ❖ To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. (1 Cor 12:8-14)
- ❖ For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom 12:3-8)
- ❖ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:19)
- ❖ For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power.(Col2:9-10)

SLAVES AND FRIENDS. (42)

The wicked makes slaves of his friends,
But to the righteous even slaves are friends.

References:

- ❖ I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another. «If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, ‘No slave is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (John 15:15-20)
- ❖ In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. (Ps 9:23)
- ❖ The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes at him with his teeth. (Ps 37:12)
- ❖ Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked. (Ps 37:16)
- ❖ The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives. (Ps 37:21)
- ❖ The wicked spies upon the righteous and seeks to kill him. (Ps 37:32)
- ❖ Like a roaring lion or a ravenous bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people. (Prov 28:15)
- ❖ When the just prevail, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan. (Prov 29:2)
- ❖ The just man has a care for the rights of the poor; the wicked man has no such concern. (Prov 29:7)
- ❖ Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. (Is 53:11)
- ❖ Jesus said to them in reply, «Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners.» (Luke 5:31-32)

SIN AND PURIFICATION. (43)

My sin is my executioner,
I have condemned myself by it,
Lord, have mercy on me.

References:

- ❖ I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners. (Luke 5:32)
- ❖ And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; (John 16:8-9)
- ❖ Peter (said) to them, «Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- ❖ Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)
- ❖ If we say, «We have fellowship with him,» while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin. If we say, «We are without sin,» we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. If we say, «We have not sinned,» we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:6-10)
- ❖ Then David said to Nathan, «I have sinned against the LORD.» Nathan answered David: «The LORD on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. (2 Sam 12:13)
- ❖ So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin. (James 4:17)
- ❖ the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. (Rom 3:22-23)
- ❖ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)
- ❖ «This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord: 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds,» he also says: «Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more.» Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin. (Heb 10:16-18)

TEARS IN DARKNESS ARE LIGHT IN THE SOUL. (44)

Tears in darkness are Light in the soul.

References:

- ❖ God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. (Gen 1:4)
- ❖ Jesus spoke to them again, saying, «I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.» (John 8:12)
- ❖ Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, «We have fellowship with him,» while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)
- ❖ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who change darkness into light, and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet, and sweet into bitter! (Is 5:20)
- ❖ Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. (Matt 5:16)
- ❖ You are the light of the world. (Matt 5:14)
- ❖ the Spirit of Christ within them (1 Pet 1:11)
- ❖ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, (Eph 5:8)
- ❖ The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. (Rev 21:23)
- ❖ Thus says the LORD, the God of your forefather David: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. (2 Kin 20:5)
- ❖ You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book? Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; this I know, [q]that God is for me. (Ps 56:8-9)
- ❖ he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. (Is 25:8)
- ❖ Jesus said to him, « 'If you can!' Everything is possible to one who has faith.» Then the boy's father cried out, «I do believe, help my unbelief!» (Mark 9:23-24)

A LIFE OF SUFFERING. (45)

I want to live for the One I'm willing to suffer for.

References:

- ❖ Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:10)
- ❖ Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me. (John 15:20-21)
- ❖ In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2 Tim 3:12)
- ❖ For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. (2 Cor 1:5)
- ❖ For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (2 Cor 4:17)
- ❖ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)
- ❖ For my yoke is easy, and my burden light. (Matt 11:30)
- ❖ For whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering because of consciousness of God, that is a grace. But what credit is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? But if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. (1 Pet 2:19-21)
- ❖ Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, (1 Pet 3:13-14)
- ❖ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name. (1 Pet 4:14-16)
- ❖ These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. «For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. (Rev 7:14-15)

THE CHRISTIAN PATH. (46)

The Christian path is one to God,
and it can only be travelled in love.

References:

- ❖ Jesus said to him, «I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)
- ❖ He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.» (Matt 22:37-40)
- ❖ The LORD is a stronghold to him who walks honestly, but to evildoers, their downfall. (Prov 10:29)
- ❖ False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect (Matt 24:24)
- ❖ For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. (2 Tim 4:3-4)
- ❖ «Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few. (Matt 7:13-14)
- ❖ There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved. (Acts 4:12)
- ❖ For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, (1 Tim 2:5)
- ❖ realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (1 Pet 1:18-21)
- ❖ Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. (John 17, 3)
- ❖ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)

EARTH AND THE ENEMY.(47)

The righteous man loves the Earth and all that fills it,
The wicked hates the enemy.

References:

- ❖ In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, (Gen 1:1)
- ❖ But the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. (Ps 37:11)
- ❖ The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. (Ps 36:29)
- ❖ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. (Matt 5:5)
- ❖ The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. (Ps 24:1-2)
- ❖ everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)
- ❖ Hatred stirs up disputes, but love covers all offenses. (Prov 10:12)
- ❖ The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all it contains, You have founded them. (Ps 89:11)
- ❖ O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas. (Ps 8:2-9)
- ❖ If anyone sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; For in the image of God has man been made. Be fertile, then, and multiply; abound on earth and subdue it. (Gen 9:6-7)
- ❖ The plans of the just are legitimate; the designs of the wicked are deceitful. The words of the wicked are a deadly ambush, but the speech of the upright saves them. (Prov 12:5-6)
- ❖ The evildoer is an abomination to the just, and he who walks uprightly is an abomination to the wicked. (Prov 29:27)

BLINDNESS AND ENLIGHTENMENT. (48)

Power and money blind,
The light of Christ enlightens.

References:

- ❖ All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1, 3-9)
- ❖ And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. (John 3:19-21)
- ❖ And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him, «Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness.» (Luke 22:52-53)
- ❖ The covetous man is never satisfied with money, and the lover of wealth reaps no fruit from it; so this too is vanity. (Eccl 5:9)
- ❖ Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, «I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.» (Luke 4:5-7)
- ❖ Rather, their thoughts were rendered dull, for to this present day the same veil remains unlifted when they read the old covenant, because through Christ it is taken away. (2 Cor 3:14)
- ❖ For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. (1 Tim 6:10)
- ❖ Favors and gifts blind the eyes; like a muzzle over the mouth they silence reproof. (Sir 20:29)
- ❖ He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matt 6:24)

LIGHT AND TABOO. (49)

Light helps to go, sanctifying the way,
Taboo is like a fence falling down,
no salvation in the darkness.

References:

- ❖ Jesus spoke to them again, saying, «I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.» (John 8:12)
- ❖ Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, «If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.» They answered him, «We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. 16 How can you say, ‘You will become free’?» Jesus answered them, «Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free. (John 8:31-36)
- ❖ But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted. Freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your nature. For just as you presented the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness for lawlessness, so now present them as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. (Rom 6:17-19)
- ❖ For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, «You shall love your neighbor as yourself.» (Gal 5:13-14)
- ❖ But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does. (James 1:25)
- ❖ whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Phil 4:8)
- ❖ Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. (Matt 5:17-18)

COMMANDMENTS. (50)

If you succeed in one commandment,
the other will be revealed to you.

References:

❖ and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, «Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?» He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.» (Matt 22:35-40)

❖ Then God delivered all these commandments: «I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me.

You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth;

you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

«You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain.

«Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

«Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

«You shall not kill. «You shall not commit adultery.

«You shall not steal. «You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

«You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.» (Ex 20:1-17)

PARENTS AND CHILDREN. (51)

The future of the children is the past of the parents,
But the future of the parents depends on the children of
today.

References:

- ❖ What now is has already been; what is to be, already is; and God restores what would otherwise be displaced. (Eccl 3:15)
- ❖ Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, «The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity, continuing his kindness for a thousand generations, and forgiving wickedness and crime and sin; yet not declaring the guilty guiltless, but punishing children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation for their fathers' wickedness!» (Ex 34:6-7)
- ❖ Thus the word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, what is the meaning of this proverb that you recite in the land of Israel: «Fathers have eaten green grapes, thus their children's teeth are on edge»? As I live, says the Lord GOD: I swear that there shall no longer be anyone among you who will repeat this proverb in Israel. For all lives are mine; the life of the father is like the life of the son, both are mine; only the one who sins shall die. (Ezek 18:1-4)
- ❖ From the time of our fathers even to this day great has been our guilt, and for our wicked deeds we have been delivered over, we and our kings and our priests, to the will of the kings of foreign lands, to the sword, to captivity, to pillage, and to disgrace, as is the case today. (Ezra 9:7)
- ❖ Let us lie down in our shame, let our disgrace cover us, for we have sinned against the LORD, our God, From our youth to this day, we and our fathers also; we listened not to the voice of the LORD, our God. (Jer 3:25)
- ❖ for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges. Endure your trials as «discipline»; God treats you as sons. For what «son» is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are without discipline, in which all have shared, you are not sons but bastards. Besides this, we have had our earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not (then) submit all the more to the Father of spirits and live? They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share his holiness. At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it. (Heb 12:6-11)

FROM THE SAME BLOOD. (52)

The body is the servant,
 The Spirit in the Soul is the Master,
 The servant is no greater than his master.

References:

- ❖ the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. (Gen 2:7)
- ❖ Since the life of every living body is its blood, (Lev 17:14)
- ❖ He made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions, so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being,' as even some of your poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' (Acts 17:26-28)
- ❖ When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God; he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and named them «man.» Adam was one hundred and thirty years old when he begot a son in his likeness, after his image; and he named him Seth. (Gen 5:1-3)
- ❖ Jesus said to them, «Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. (John 6:53-56)
- ❖ Evil men understand nothing of justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all. (Prov 28:5)
- ❖ If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' (John 15:19-20)
- ❖ Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. (John 13:16)
- ❖ Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment 9 by anyone. For «who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?» But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2:14-16)

WORD. (53)

Silent, blind and deaf.

O Lord, have mercy and speak.

References:

- ❖ But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matt 10:17-20)
- ❖ O Lord God, almighty King, all things are in your power, and there is no one to oppose you (Esther C:2)
- ❖ But in order that the word written in their law might be fulfilled, 'They hated me without cause.' «When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:25-27)
- ❖ And he replied: Go and say to this people: Listen carefully, but you shall not understand! Look intently, but you shall know nothing! You are to make the heart of this people sluggish, to dull their ears and close their eyes; Else their eyes will see, their ears hear, their heart understand, and they will turn and be healed. (Is 6:9-10)
- ❖ Son of man, you live in the midst of a rebellious house; they have eyes to see but do not see, and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious house. (Ezek 12:2)
- ❖ As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, «Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?» Jesus answered, «Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. (John 9:1-3)
- ❖ He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, «Ephphatha!» (that is, «Be opened!») And (immediately) the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, «He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and (the) mute speak.» (Mark 7:33-37)

DIALOGUE AND MONOLOGUE. (54)

The righteous man speaks to God in love,
The wicked is alone in his monologue.

References:

- ❖ Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.» (Matt 18:18-20)
- ❖ (Jesus) said to them again, «Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.» And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, «Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.» (John 20:21-23)
- ❖ Come and hear, all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer nor His lovingkindness from me. (Ps 66:16-20)
- ❖ The LORD is far from the wicked, but the prayer of the just he hears. (Prov 15:29)
- ❖ When one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (Prov 28:9)
- ❖ For what can the impious man expect when he is cut off, when God requires his life? Will God then attend to his cry when calamity comes upon him? Will he then delight in the Almighty and call upon him constantly? (Job 27:8-10)
- ❖ When you spread out your hands, I close my eyes to you; Though you pray the more, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood! Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool. (Is 1:15-18)

WARRIOR OF LIGHT. (55)

Any one of us with a pivot,
will be a pillar of Light only in Truth.

References:

❖ So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And what you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well. Bear your share of hardship along with me like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. To satisfy the one who recruited him, a soldier does not become entangled in the business affairs of life. Similarly, an athlete cannot receive the winner's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer ought to have the first share of the crop. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. Remind people of these things and charge them before God to stop disputing about words. This serves no useful purpose since it harms those who listen. Be eager to present yourself as acceptable to God, a workman who causes no disgrace, imparting the word of truth without deviation. (2 Tim 2:1-15)

❖ Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. (1 Cor 9:25)

❖ Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:11-17)

REVELATION IN GENESIS. (56)

Everyone has his own Revelation,
Salvation in the simplicity of Genesis.

References:

- ❖ the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and he placed there the man whom he had formed. (Gen 2:7-8)
- ❖ When the LORD had finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the commandments, the stone tablets inscribed by God's own finger. (Ex 31:18)
- ❖ ENOCH walked with the LORD and was taken up, that succeeding generations might learn by his example. (Sir 44:15)
- ❖ They shall not toil in vain, nor beget children for sudden destruction; For a race blessed by the LORD are they and their offspring. Before they call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking, I will hearken to them. (Is 65:23-24)
- ❖ I must boast; not that it is profitable, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know someone in Christ who, fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows), was caught up to the third heaven. And I know that this person (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows) was caught up into Paradise and heard ineffable things, which no one may utter. About this person I will boast, but about myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. (2 Cor 12:1-5)
- ❖ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him, to show his servants what must happen soon. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who gives witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ by reporting what he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud and blessed are those who listen to this prophetic message and heed what is written in it, for the appointed time is near. (Rev 1:1-3)
- ❖ How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart. (Ps 118:1-2)
- ❖ The Spirit and the bride say, «Come.» Let the hearer say, «Come.» Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water. (Rev 22:17)

SOUL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. (57)

The soul in the Holy Spirit,
Like a torch of flame in the Graceful radiance of Light.

References:

- ❖ Upward from what resembled his waist I saw what gleamed like electrum; downward from what resembled his waist I saw what looked like fire; he was surrounded with splendor. Like the bow which appears in the clouds on a rainy day was the splendor that surrounded him. (Ezek 1:27-28)
- ❖ The hair of his head was as white as white wool or as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame. (Rev 1:14)
- ❖ There an angel of the LORD appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, «I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned.» When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, «Moses! Moses!» He answered, «Here I am.» (Ex 3:2-4)
- ❖ Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke, for the LORD came down upon it in fire. (Ex 19:18)
- ❖ «These words, and nothing more, the LORD spoke with a loud voice to your entire assembly on the mountain from the midst of the fire and the dense cloud. He wrote them upon two tablets of stone and gave them to me. (Deut 5:22)
- ❖ The LORD preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire to give them light. Thus they could travel both day and night. Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people. (Ex 13:21-22)
- ❖ As they walked on conversing, a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. (2 Kin 2:11)
- ❖ Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:3-4)
- ❖ Of the angels he says: «He makes his angels winds and his ministers a fiery flame»; (Heb 1:7)
- ❖ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. Seven flaming torches burned in front of the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. (Rev 4:5)

FAITH IN DEEDS. (58)

The deeds of sinfulness cause the body to decay,
Lack of kind deeds destroys the soul.

References:

❖ Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them. «Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. (Matt 7:17-21)

❖ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, «Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,» but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, «You have faith and I have works.» Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble. Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, «Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,» and he was called «the friend of God.» See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different route? For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:14-26)

❖ They claim to know God, but by their deeds they deny him. They are vile and disobedient and unqualified for any good deed. (Tit 1:16)

❖ Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation. «I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me. (John 5:28-30)

LOVE FOR THE NEIGHBOUR AND FIGHT AGAINST EVIL. (59)

Love your neighbour, but speak the truth,
Humbly denouncing his evil deeds.

References:

- ❖ Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? (Matt 7:1-2)
- ❖ If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. (Matt 18:15-17)
- ❖ Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; it is oil upon the head; do not let my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against their wicked deeds. (Ps 140:5)
- ❖ It is much better to admonish than to lose one's temper, for one who admits his fault will be kept from disgrace. (Sir 20:2)
- ❖ «You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly. You shall not go about spreading slander among your kinsmen; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake. I am the LORD. «You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow man, do not incur sin because of him. (Lev 19:15-17)
- ❖ Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry,' you should forgive him.» (Luke 17:3-4)
- ❖ Stop judging by appearances, but judge justly. (John 7:24)
- ❖ Reprove not an arrogant man, lest he hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. (Prov 9:8)
- ❖ On those who waver, have mercy; save others by snatching them out of the fire; on others have mercy with fear, abhorring even the outer garment stained by the flesh. (Jude 1:22-23)

INVITED AND CHOSEN. (60)

The Invited is far from the Truth in vanity,
The Chosen One knows what he's asking.

References:

- ❖ He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? (Or) am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.» (Matt 20:13-16)
- ❖ The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen.» (Matt 22:10-14)
- ❖ Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. (Rom 8:33)
- ❖ before they had yet been born or had done anything, good or bad, in order that God's elective plan might continue, not by works but by his call - she was told, «The older shall serve the younger.» As it is written: «I loved Jacob but hated Esau.» (Rom 9:11-13)
- ❖ Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. (Col 3:12-14)
- ❖ They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and king of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful.» (Rev 17:14)
- ❖ Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.» (Luke 14:13-14)

THE GOOD OF TRINITY. (61)

In the name of the Father, to act justly,
And of the Son, to love works of mercy,
And of the Holy Spirit, to walk humbly before your God.

References:

- ❖ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.» (Matt 28:19-20)
- ❖ You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:8)
- ❖ This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. (1 John 5:6-8)
- ❖ I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:1-6)
- ❖ Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. (1 Cor 2:11-13)
- ❖ «And now, Israel, what does the LORD, your God, ask of you but to fear the LORD, your God, and follow his ways exactly, to love and serve the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul, to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD which I enjoin on you today for your own good? (Deut 10:12-13)

MOST IMPORTANT IN THE NAME OF THE TRINITY. (62)

In the name of the Father, judgement,
And of the Son, mercy,
And of the Holy Spirit, faith.

References:

- ❖ «Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. (But) these you should have done, without neglecting the others. (Matt 23:23)
- ❖ Then Jesus approached and said to them, «All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.» (Matt 28:18-20)
- ❖ Therefore, I tell you that nobody speaking by the spirit of God says, «Jesus be accursed.» And no one can say, «Jesus is Lord,» except by the holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:3-11)
- ❖ This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, (1 John 5:6-7)
- ❖ But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. (John 16:7-11)

FEAR. (63)

The devil's fear is torment from the mind,
The fear of the Lord is wisdom from the Word of God.

References:

- ❖ Do not be afraid, for God has come to you only to test you and put his fear upon you, lest you should sin. (Ex 20:20)
- ❖ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; wisdom and instruction fools despise. (Prov 1:7)
- ❖ (The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;) Pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth I hate. (Prov 8:13)
- ❖ He who fears the LORD will have a happy end; even on the day of his death he will be blessed. The beginning of wisdom is fear of the LORD, which is formed with the faithful in the womb. With devoted men was she created from of old, and with their children her beneficence abides. Fullness of wisdom is fear of the LORD; she inebriates men with her fruits. Her entire house she fills with choice foods, her granaries with her harvest. Wisdom's garland is fear of the LORD, with blossoms of peace and perfect health. Knowledge and full understanding she showers down; she heightens the glory of those who possess her. The root of wisdom is fear of the LORD; her branches are length of days. One cannot justify unjust anger; anger plunges a man to his downfall. A patient man need stand firm but for a time, and then contentment comes back to him. For a while he holds back his words, then the lips of many herald his wisdom. Among wisdom's treasures is the paragon of prudence; but fear of the LORD is an abomination to the sinner. If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the LORD will bestow her upon you; For fear of the LORD is wisdom and culture; loyal humility is his delight. Be not faithless to the fear of the LORD, nor approach it with duplicity of heart. (Sir 1:11-25)
- ❖ There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. (1John 4:18)
- ❖ I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: (Eph 4:1-3)
- ❖ And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. (Matt 10:28)

WORD AND GOODNESS. (64)

You let the word out and you can't get it back,
No matter how much good you give, you get it back.

References:

- ❖ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1,1)
- ❖ Not a single promise that the LORD made to the house of Israel was broken; every one was fulfilled. (Josh 21:45)
- ❖ My son, to your charity add no reproach, nor spoil any gift by harsh words. Like dew that abates a burning wind, so does a word improve a gift. Sometimes the word means more than the gift; both are offered by a kindly man (Sir 18:14-16)
- ❖ Anxiety in a man's heart depresses it, but a kindly word makes it glad. (Prov 12:25)
- ❖ But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. (Matt 13:23)
- ❖ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you should respond to each one. (Col 4:6)
- ❖ Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also. I say this not by way of command, but to test the genuineness of your love by your concern for others. (2 Cor 8:7-8)
- ❖ One who is being instructed in the word should share all good things with his instructor. Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. (Gal 6:6-9)
- ❖ No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Eph 4:29)
- ❖ As for yourself, you must say what is consistent with sound doctrine, namely, that older men should be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, love, and endurance. Similarly, older women should be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to drink, teaching what is good, so that they may train younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good homemakers, under the control of their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. (Tit 2:1-5)

EVIL CALLS, GOOD GIVES. (65)

The Evil One calls, the Good One gives.

References:

- ❖ The LORD God then asked the woman, «Why did you do such a thing?» The woman answered, «The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.» (Gen 3:13)
- ❖ From the end of the earth we hear songs: «Splendor to the Just One!» But I said, «I am wasted, wasted away. Woe is me! The traitors betray: with treachery have the traitors betrayed! (Is 24:16)
- ❖ A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. «Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them. That one is like a person building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who listens and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed.» (Luke 6:45-49)
- ❖ «Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. (Matt 7:15-17)
- ❖ Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good. (Rom 12:21)
- ❖ He who seeks the good commands favor, but he who pursues evil will have evil befall him. (Prov 11:27)
- ❖ Cast your bread upon the waters; after a long time you may find it again. (Eccl 11:1)
- ❖ Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. (Luke 4:1-2)
- ❖ I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, (Acts 20:19)

BELIEVE AND GIVE THANKS. (66)

Believing in the Fear of the Lord,
Thank God for His wisdom.

References:

- ❖ As he was entering a village, ten lepers met (him). They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, «Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!» And when he saw them, he said, «Go show yourselves to the priests.» As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, «Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?» Then he said to him, «Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.» (Luke 17:12-19)
- ❖ At that time Jesus said in reply, «I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. (Matt 11:25-26)
- ❖ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; (Ps 102:2)
- ❖ In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matt 6:7-8)
- ❖ The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: «Because you have asked for this - not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right - I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you. In addition, I give you what you have not asked for, such riches and glory that among kings there is not your like. And if you follow me by keeping my statutes and commandments, as your father David did, I will give you a long life.» When Solomon awoke from his dream, he went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered holocausts and peace offerings, and gave a banquet for all his servants. (1 Kin 3:10-15)

KNEELING UP TO HEAVEN. (67)

On our knees in tears, God's grace we cry out.
With prayer on our lips, we give thanks to God.

References:

- ❖ Do not the tears that stream down her cheek cry out against him that causes them to fall? He who serves God willingly is heard; his petition reaches the heavens. (Sir 35:15-16)
- ❖ I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, «Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away.» (Rev 21:3-4)
- ❖ 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your forefather David: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you. In three days you shall go up to the LORD'S temple; (2 Kin 20:5)
- ❖ In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, (Heb 5:7-9)
- ❖ I am weary with my sighing; every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears. My eye has wasted away with grief; it has become old because of all my adversaries. Depart from me, all you who do iniquity, for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication, the Lord receives my prayer. (Ps 6:6-9)
- ❖ My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go along with the throng and [e]lead them in procession to the house of God, with the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you [f]in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence. (Ps 42:3-5)
- ❖ Your vows are binding upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to You. For You have delivered my soul from death, Indeed my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living. (Ps 56:12-13)

JOURNEY OF THE SOUL. (68)

God saves the soul on the way by sanctifying it.

If you turn away from God, you will be lost in darkness.

References:

- ❖ When he expelled the man, he settled him east of the garden of Eden; and he stationed the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen 3:24)
- ❖ In the eyes of God the earth was corrupt and full of lawlessness. When God saw how corrupt the earth had become, since all mortals led depraved lives on earth, (Gen 6:11-12)
- ❖ Thus, it was always at the bidding of the LORD that they encamped, and at his bidding that they set out; ever heeding the charge of the LORD (Num 9:23)
- ❖ You are my lamp, O LORD! O my God, you brighten the darkness about me. For with your aid I run against an armed band, and by the help of my God I leap over a wall. God's way is unerring; the promise of the LORD is fire-tried; he is a shield to all who take refuge in him.» «For who is God except the LORD? Who is a rock save our God? The God who girded me with strength and kept my way unerring; Who made my feet swift as those of hinds and set me on the heights; Who trained my hands for war till my arms could bend a bow of brass. (2 Sam 22:29-35)
- ❖ His flesh is wasted so that it cannot be seen, and his bones, once invisible, appear; His soul draws near to the pit, his life to the place of the dead. If then there be for him an angel, one out of a thousand, a mediator, To show him what is right for him and bring the man back to justice, He will take pity on him and say, «Deliver him from going down to the pit; I have found him a ransom.» (Job 33:21-24)
- ❖ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way. All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. (Ps 24:8-10)
- ❖ Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday. (Ps 37:5-6)
- ❖ In his mind a man plans his course, but the LORD directs his steps(Prov 16:9)
- ❖ All the ways of a man may be right in his own eyes, but it is the LORD who proves hearts.. (Prov 21:2)

RIVER OF BLOOD. (69)

The righteous man goes to God,
even against the flowing river of blood from the wicked.

References:

- ❖ The path of life leads the prudent man upward, that he may avoid the nether world below. (Prov 15:24)
- ❖ My son, walk not in the way with them, hold back your foot from their path! (For their feet run to evil, they hasten to shed blood.) It is in vain that a net is spread before the eyes of any bird - These men lie in wait for their own blood, they set a trap for their own lives. This is the fate of everyone greedy of loot: unlawful gain takes away the life of him who acquires it. (Prov 1:15-19)
- ❖ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (Ps 1:6)
- ❖ Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life; let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me. Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them on. Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them. For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my soul. (Ps 35:4-7)
- ❖ This is the way of those who are foolish, and of those after them who approve their words. As sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd; and the upright shall rule over them in the morning, and their form shall be for Sheol to consume so that they have no habitation. But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He will receive me. (Ps 49:13-16)
- ❖ The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; the lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was in the sea and Your paths in the mighty waters, and Your footprints may not be known. (Ps 77:18-19)
- ❖ The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord protects the [g]strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked. (Pc 146:8-9)
- ❖ The just man surpasses his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. (Prov 12:26)
- ❖ The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves the man who pursues virtue. (Prov 15:9)
- ❖ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. (Is 55:8)

LOVE. (70)

Love can only be returned by love.

Love! And you will abide in love.

References:

- ❖ I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.» (John 13:34-35)
- ❖ Hatred stirs up disputes, but love covers all offenses. (Prov 10:12)
- ❖ Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; (Rom 12:9)
- ❖ The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, wanting to be teachers of the law, but without understanding either what they are saying or what they assert with such assurance. (1 Tim 1:5-7)
- ❖ Better a dish of herbs where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it. (Prov 15:17)
- ❖ He brings me into the banquet hall and his emblem over me is love. (Song 2:4)
- ❖ Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away. Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love, he would be roundly mocked. (Song 8:6-7)
- ❖ With three things I am delighted, for they are pleasing to the LORD and to men: Harmony among brethren, friendship among neighbors, and the mutual love of husband and wife. (Sir 25:1)
- ❖ I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.» (John 17:26)
- ❖ The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 4:7-11)

ANGEL OF KINDNESS. (71)

When you do kind deeds, be kind like an angel,
So that people will thank God.

References:

- ❖ In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, (Gen 1, 1)
- ❖ Let the word of my lord the king provide a resting place; indeed, my lord the king is like an angel of God, evaluating good and bad. The LORD your God be with you. (2 Sam 14:17)
- ❖ he returns to you safe and sound. So, no such thought; do not worry about them, my love. For a good angel will go with him, his journey will be successful, and he will return unharmed. (Tob 5:21-22)
- ❖ Raphael called the two men aside privately and said to them: «Thank God! Give him the praise and the glory. Before all the living, acknowledge the many good things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds, and do not be slack in praising him. A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be declared and made known. Praise them with due honor. Do good, and evil will not find its way to you. Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life; (Tob 12:6-9)
- ❖ Gird up your loins now, like a man; I will question you, and you tell me the answers! Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its size; do you know? Who stretched out the measuring line for it? Into what were its pedestals sunk, and who laid the cornerstone, While the morning stars sang in chorus and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:3-7)
- ❖ If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. (John 3:12-13)
- ❖ Yet the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil in a dispute over the body of Moses, did not venture to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him but said, «May the Lord rebuke you! (Jude 1:9)
- ❖ Sovereign of the heavens, send a good angel now to spread fear and dread before us. (2 Mac 15:23)

TEST. (72)

The trial is not the end, it is only the beginning.
 Because starting at the end
 will bring you back to the beginning.

References:

- ❖ «I am the Alpha and the Omega,» says the Lord God, «the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty.» (Rev 1:8)
- ❖ The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. (Ps 11:5)
- ❖ They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, «It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.» (Acts 14:22)
- ❖ The crucible for silver, and the furnace for gold, but the tester of hearts is the LORD. (Prov 17:3)
- ❖ For perverse counsels separate a man from God, and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy; (Wisd 1:3)
- ❖ For the devices of the wicked man shall be scrutinized, and the sound of his words shall reach the LORD, for the chastisement of his transgressions; Because a jealous ear hearkens to everything, and discordant grumblings are no secret. (Wisd 1:9-10)
- ❖ When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him (Sir 6:7)
- ❖ As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in his conversation is the test of a man. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does a man's speech disclose the bent of his mind. Praise no man before he speaks, for it is then that men are tested. (Sir 27:5-7)
- ❖ He observed the precepts of the Most High, and entered into an agreement with him; In his own flesh he incised the ordinance, and when tested he was found loyal. (Sir 44:20)
- ❖ Of the wise men, some shall fall, so that the rest may be tested, refined, and purified, until the end time which is still appointed to come. (Dan 11:35)
- ❖ Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

KIND PEOPLE. (73)

In a good man, all men are good.

References:

- ❖ and there will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16)
- ❖ Yet these men were very good to us. (1 Sam 25:15)
- ❖ Act firmly, and the LORD will be with the good. (2 Chr 19:11)
- ❖ For a good angel will go with him, (Tob 5:22)
- ❖ How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty [e]on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious and compassionate and righteous. It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever. He will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is upheld, he will not fear, until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries. He has given freely to the poor, His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted in honor. (Ps 112:1-9)
- ❖ Do good, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are upright in their hearts. (Ps 125:4)
- ❖ Thus you may walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the just. (Prov 2:20)
- ❖ The good man wins favor from the LORD, (Prov 12, 2)
- ❖ The good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, (Prov 13:22)
- ❖ Evil men must bow down before the good, (Prov 14:19)
- ❖ The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Prov 15:3)
- ❖ He who is pleasing to God will escape her, (Eccl 7:26)
- ❖ in the assembly I should appear noble, and in war courageous. (Wisd 8:15)
- ❖ Now, I was a well-favored child, and I came by a noble nature; or rather, being noble, I attained an unsullied body. (Wisd 8:19-20)
- ❖ A good man goes surety for his neighbor, (Sir 29:14)
- ❖ Good things for the good he provided from the beginning, (Sir 39:25)
- ❖ A good person brings forth good out of a store of goodness, (Matt 12:35)
- ❖ I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, (John 10:14)
- ❖ for he was a good man, filled with the holy Spirit and faith. (Acts 11:24)

A KIND SOUL. (74)

As fire is to straw, so is evil to good,
Only in the Lord is the soul saved.

References:

- ❖ A fire that should burn down to the abyss till it consumed all my possessions to the roots. (Job 31:12)
- ❖ From the fruit of his words a man eats good things, but the treacherous one craves violence. (Prov 13:2)
- ❖ Should a man have a hundred children and live many years, no matter to what great age, still if he has not the full benefit of his goods, or if he is deprived of burial, of this man I proclaim that the child born dead is more fortunate than he. Though it came in vain and goes into darkness and its name is enveloped in darkness; (Eccl 6:3-4)
- ❖ Thus says the LORD: Stand beside the earliest roads, ask the pathways of old Which is the way to good, and walk it; thus you will find rest for your souls. (Jer 6:16)
- ❖ And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, «Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!» But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God.» (Luke 12:18-21)
- ❖ for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire (itself) will test the quality of each one's work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. (1 Cor 3:11-14)
- ❖ You conceive dry grass, bring forth stubble; my spirit shall consume you like fire. (Is 33:11)
- ❖ I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.» (Matt 3:11-12)

TIME FOR KINDNESS. (75)

When you do kind deed, there's no time for evil.

References:

- ❖ Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith. (Gal 6:9-10)
- ❖ Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and to eat their own food. But you, brothers, do not be remiss in doing good. (2 Thess 3:12-13)
- ❖ Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; (Rom 12:9)
- ❖ all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. (James 1:17)
- ❖ Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. (Matt 5:16)
- ❖ Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation. (1 Pet 2:12)
- ❖ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. (3 John 1, 11)
- ❖ It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument. Similarly, (too,) women should adorn themselves with proper conduct, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hairstyles and gold ornaments, or pearls, or expensive clothes, but rather, as befits women who profess reverence for God, with good deeds. (1 Tim 2:8-10)
- ❖ Thus you may walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the just. For the upright will dwell in the land, the honest will remain in it; But the wicked will be cut off from the land, the faithless will be rooted out of it. (Prov 2:20-22)
- ❖ May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever (and ever). Amen. (Heb 13:20-21)

BEAUTY AND KINDNESS. (76)

Beauty surprises. Kindness saves!

References:

- ❖ Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates. (Prov 31:30-31)
- ❖ Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone forth. (Ps 50:2)
- ❖ Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods, let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these; for the original source of beauty fashioned them. Or if they were struck by their might and energy, let them from these things realize how much more powerful is he who made them. For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original author, by analogy, is seen. (Wisd 13:3-5)
- ❖ Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home. (Sir 26:16)
- ❖ When these men saw Judith transformed in looks and differently dressed, they were very much astounded at her beauty and said to her, «May the God of our fathers bring you to favor, and make your undertaking a success, for the glory of the Israelites and the exaltation of Jerusalem.» Judith bowed down to God. Then she said to them, «Order the gate of the city opened for me, that I may go to carry out the business we discussed.» (Jud 10:7-9)
- ❖ One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. (Ps 27:4)
- ❖ Gird Your sword on Your thigh, o Mighty One, in Your splendor and Your majesty! And in Your majesty ride on victoriously, for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let Your right hand teach You awesome things. (Ps 45:3-4)
- ❖ Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them. splendid and majestic is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. (Ps 111:2-3)
- ❖ Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God. (1 Pet 3:3-4)

KIND TO CHILDREN.(77)

Kindness to children is the rainbow of life.

References:

- ❖ I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings. As the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and recall the everlasting covenant that I have established between God and all living beings - all mortal creatures that are on earth.» (Gen 9:13-16)
- ❖ Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor; (Sir 43:11)
- ❖ Be careful to heed all these commandments I enjoin on you, that you and your descendants may always prosper for doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD, your God. (Deut 12:28)
- ❖ Therefore, in the presence of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, I exhort you to keep and to carry out all the commandments of the LORD, your God, that you may continue to possess this good land and afterward leave it as an inheritance to your children forever. (1 Chr 28:8)
- ❖ Should a man have a hundred children and live many years, no matter to what great age, still if he has not the full benefit of his goods, or if he is deprived of burial, of this man I proclaim that the child born dead is more fortunate than he. Though it came in vain and goes into darkness and its name is enveloped in darkness; (Eccl 6:3-4)
- ❖ For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution, That your holy ones should share alike the same good things and dangers, having previously sung the praises of the fathers. (Wisd 18:9)
- ❖ with a reputation for good works, namely, that she has raised children, practiced hospitality, washed the feet of the holy ones, helped those in distress, involved herself in every good work. (1 Tim 5:10)
- ❖ Fools my people are, they know me not; Senseless children they are, having no understanding; They are wise in evil, but know not how to do good. I looked at the earth, and it was waste and void; at the heavens, and their light had gone out! (Jer 4:22-23)

WINGS OF KINDNESS. (78)

The wings of goodness are like Angels,
carrying the mercy of God to our neighbour.

References:

- ❖ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. (Eph 2:4-10)
- ❖ A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; For he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself. (Sir 6:14-17)
- ❖ On a man generous with food, blessings are invoked, and this testimony to his goodness is lasting; He who is miserly with food is denounced in public, and this testimony to his stinginess is lasting. (Sir 31:23-24)
- ❖ Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)
- ❖ He found them in a wilderness, a wasteland of howling desert. He shielded them and cared for them, guarding them as the apple of his eye. As an eagle incites its nestlings forth by hovering over its brood, So he spread his wings to receive them and bore them up on his pinions. The LORD alone was their leader, no strange god was with him. (Deut 32:10-12)
- ❖ The priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place beneath the wings of the cherubim in the sanctuary, the holy of holies of the temple. The cherubim had their wings spread out over the place of the ark, sheltering the ark and its poles from above. (2 Chr 5:7-8)
- ❖ They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint. (Is 40:31)
- ❖ For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. (James 2:13)

WHO SEES? WHO LEADS? (79)

He who discerns between good and evil sees and leads.

References:

- ❖ He summoned the crowd and said to them, «Hear and understand. It is not what enters one's mouth that defiles that person; but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles one.» Then his disciples approached and said to him, «Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?» He said in reply, «Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind). If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit.» Then Peter said to him in reply, «Explain (this) parable to us.» He said to them, «Are even you still without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled into the latrine? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.» (Matt 15:10-20)
- ❖ You who are deaf, listen, you who are blind, look and see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like the messenger I send? You see many things without taking note; your ears are open, but without hearing. Though it pleased the LORD in his justice to make his law great and glorious, (Is 42:18-21)
- ❖ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?» The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. (1 Kin 3:9-10)
- ❖ Yet with his great knowledge the LORD makes men unlike; in different paths he has them walk. Some he blesses and makes great, some he sanctifies and draws to himself. Others he curses and brings low, and expels them from their place. Like clay in the hands of a potter, to be molded according to his pleasure, So are men in the hands of their Creator, to be assigned by him their function. As evil contrasts with good, and death with life, so are sinners in contrast with the just; See now all the works of the Most High: they come in pairs, the one the opposite of the other. (Sir 33:11-15)
- ❖ Whoever observes the day, observes it for the Lord. Also whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while whoever abstains, abstains for the Lord and gives thanks to God. (Rom 14:6)

WHY A SLAVE? (80)

The master gives with love, the slave works and gives thanks.

References:

❖ have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will become free?’» Jesus answered them, «Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free. (John 8:33-36)

❖ For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Of course not! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted. Freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your nature. For just as you presented the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness for lawlessness, so now present them as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. But what profit did you get then from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit that you have leads to sanctification, and its end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:14-23)

❖ Were you a slave when you were called? Do not be concerned but, even if you can gain your freedom, make the most of it. For the slave called in the Lord is a freed person in the Lord, just as the free person who has been called is a slave of Christ. You have been purchased at a price. Do not become slaves to human beings.. (1 Cor 7:21-23)

❖ Slaves, be obedient to your human masters with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ, not only when being watched, as currying favor, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, willingly serving the Lord and not human beings, knowing that each will be requited from the Lord for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. (Eph 6:5-8)

A WORLD OF PASSIONS. (81)

The world of passion is a flame of evil,
that turns good into ashes.

References:

- ❖ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. (James 3:13-18)
- ❖ For when we were in the flesh, our sinful passions, awakened by the law, worked in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, dead to what held us captive, so that we may serve in the newness of the spirit and not under the obsolete letter. (Rom 7:5-6)
- ❖ Their eyes are full of adultery and insatiable for sin. They seduce unstable people, and their hearts are trained in greed. Accursed children! Abandoning the straight road, they have gone astray, (2 Pet 2:14-15)
- ❖ If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. But you, man of God, avoid all this. Instead, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Tim 6:8-12)
- ❖ For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, «You shall love your neighbor as yourself.» But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another. I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (Gal 5:14-18)

CHURCH WITH THE PEOPLE. (82)

As the wife is always by her husband's side,
So is the Church with the people,
Together they weep and rejoice.

References:

- ❖ Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. (Eph 5:23)
- ❖ And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. 14 Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.» (Matt 16:18-19)
- ❖ Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. (Acts 20:28-30)
- ❖ So if the whole church meets in one place and everyone speaks in tongues, and then uninstructed people or unbelievers should come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if everyone is prophesying, and an unbeliever or uninstructed person should come in, he will be convinced by everyone and judged by everyone, and the secrets of his heart will be disclosed, and so he will fall down and worship God, declaring, «God is really in your midst.» (1 Cor 14:23-25)
- ❖ For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. (Eph 5:29-32)
- ❖ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me. (Col 1:24-29)

HUMBLE. (83)

The humble man does not wise against the Church,
but endeavours to follow the wisdom of Christ.

References:

- ❖ At that time Jesus said in reply, «I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. «Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, 16 and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.» (Matt 11:25-30)
- ❖ And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for: «God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble.» So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. (1 Pet 5:5-6)
- ❖ Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. (Rom 12:16-17)
- ❖ If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, (Phil 2:1-3)
- ❖ Let no one, then, pass judgment on you in matters of food and drink or with regard to a festival or new moon or sabbath. These are shadows of things to come; the reality belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, delighting in self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, inflated without reason by his fleshly mind, and not holding closely to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and bonds, achieves the growth that comes from God. (Col 2:16-19)
- ❖ But the law does not depend on faith; rather, «the one who does these things will live by them.» Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, «Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree,» (Col 3:12-13)

IT'S BETTER TO BE A SLAVE. (84)

It is better to be a slave in the kingdom of God,
than a king made by the devil.

References:

- ❖ Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, «I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.» Jesus said to him in reply, «It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'» (Luke 4:5-8)
- ❖ Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone. (John 6:15)
- ❖ The LORD, your God, shall you fear; him shall you serve, and by his name shall you swear. You shall not follow other gods, such as those of the surrounding nations, lest the wrath of the LORD, your God, flare up against you and he destroy you from the face of the land; for the LORD, your God, who is in your midst, is a jealous God. (Deut 6:13-15)
- ❖ For rulers are not a cause of fear to good conduct, but to evil. Do you wish to have no fear of authority? Then do what is good and you will receive approval from it, for it is a servant of God for your good. But if you do evil, be afraid, for it does not bear the sword without purpose; it is the servant of God to inflict wrath on the evildoer. Therefore, it is necessary to be subject not only because of the wrath but also because of conscience. This is why you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:3-8)
- ❖ Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground.. (Eph 6:11-13)
- ❖ She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. (Rev 12:5)

DO ONLY GOOD THINGS. (85)

By listening and observing different things,
Do only good things.

References:

- ❖ Do you not realize that everything that enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled into the latrine? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.» (Matt 15:17-20)
- ❖ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. This need not be so, my brothers. Does a spring gush forth from the same opening both pure and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, produce olives, or a grapevine figs? Neither can salt water yield fresh. Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:8-13)
- ❖ For: «Whoever would love life and see good days must keep the tongue from evil and the lips from speaking deceit, must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears turned to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against evildoers.» Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? (1 Pet 3:10-13)
- ❖ Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. (Now) this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if (our) hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us. (1 John 3:18-24)

KIND IS FIRM. (86)

The kind is firm and works for God.

References:

- ❖ Act firmly, and the LORD will be with the good. (2 Chr 19:11)
- ❖ Then God said, «Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.» And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. (Gen 1:6-8)
- ❖ The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6:4-9)
- ❖ This rather is what I commanded them: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper. (Jer 7:23)
- ❖ You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:8)
- ❖ what does the LORD, your God, ask of you but to fear the LORD, your God, and follow his ways exactly, to love and serve the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul, to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD which I enjoin on you today for your own good? (Deut 10:12-13)
- ❖ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Cor 15:58)
- ❖ Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love. (1 Cor 16:13-14)
- ❖ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands, bearing this inscription, «The Lord knows those who are his»; and, «Let everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord avoid evil.» (2 Tim 2:19)

KINDNESS GROWS. (87)

A little with justice grows,
A lot with unrighteousness dries up.

References:

- ❖ Love justice, you who judge the earth; think of the LORD in goodness, and seek him in integrity of heart; Because he is found by those who test him not, and he manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him. For perverse counsels separate a man from God, and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy; (Wisd 1:1-3)
- ❖ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty, so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?» (Gen 18:25)
- ❖ The Rock - how faultless are his deeds, how right all his ways! A faithful God, without deceit, how just and upright he is! Yet basely has he been treated by his degenerate children, a perverse and crooked race! (Deut 32:4-5)
- ❖ Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life; (Tob 12:8-9)
- ❖ We ought to thank God always for you, brothers, as is fitting, because your faith flourishes ever more, and the love of every one of you for one another grows ever greater. Accordingly, we ourselves boast of you in the churches of God regarding your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the afflictions you endure. This is evidence of the just judgment of God, so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering. (2 Thess 1:3-5)
- ❖ Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, realizing that you too have a Master in heaven. (Col 4:1)
- ❖ The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' (John 4:36-37)
- ❖ What then are we to say? Is there injustice on the part of God? Of course not! For he says to Moses: «I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will.» So it depends not upon a person's will or exertion, but upon God, who shows mercy. (Rom 9:14-16)

KIND THOUGHT. (88)

A kind thought in deeds.
saves from the addiction of sins.

References:

- ❖ Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. (Heb 4:15)
- ❖ «You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.» (Ex 20:17)
- ❖ The happy thought came to them to tear it down, lest it be a lasting shame to them that the Gentiles had defiled it; so they tore down the altar. They stored the stones in a suitable place on the temple hill, until a prophet should come and decide what to do with them. (1 Mac 4:45-46)
- ❖ With closest custody, guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life. (Prov 4:23)
- ❖ Pride goes before disaster, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (Prov 16:18)
- ❖ For perverse counsels separate a man from God, and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy; (Wisd 1:3)
- ❖ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God. (2 Cor 7:1)
- ❖ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy. Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: «He catches the wise in their own ruses,» and again: «The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.» (1 Cor 3:17-20)
- ❖ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. These are what defile a person, (Matt 15:18-20)
- ❖ No one experiencing temptation should say, «I am being tempted by God»; for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one. Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire conceives and brings forth sin, and when sin reaches maturity it gives birth to death. (James 1:13-15)

LIVING WITH A GOOD CONSCIENCE. (89)

You live with a good conscience before God,
but without kind deeds you die in sins.

References:

- ❖ Whoever sins belongs to the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. Indeed, the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is begotten by God commits sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot sin because he is begotten by God. In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:8-10)
- ❖ For even though no monstrous thing frightened them, they shook at the passing of insects and the hissing of reptiles, and perished trembling, reluctant to face even the air that they could nowhere escape. For wickedness, of its nature cowardly, testifies in its own condemnation, and because of a distressed conscience, always magnifies misfortunes. For fear is nought but the surrender of the helps that come from reason; (Wisdom 17:9-11)
- ❖ Because of this, I always strive to keep my conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:16)
- ❖ This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him. (1 Peter 3:21-22)
- ❖ Therefore, it is necessary to be subject not only because of the wrath but also because of conscience. (Romans 13:5)
- ❖ When you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:12)
- ❖ I mean not your own conscience, but the other's. For why should my freedom be determined by someone else's conscience? (1 Corinthians 10:29)
- ❖ Therefore, since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. Rather, we have renounced shameful, hidden things; not acting deceitfully or falsifying the word of God, but by the open declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 4:1-2)
- ❖ The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5)

HONOURING IN LOVE. (90)

Sick are those who do not honour the good in love.
Those who reject the truth are like cattle.

References:

- ❖ For God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'Whoever curses father or mother shall die.' (Matt 15:4)
- ❖ What God has made clean, you are not to call profane. (Acts 10:15)
- ❖ Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king. (1 Pet2:17)
- ❖ Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as (being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. (Rom 6:11)
- ❖ If anyone thinks that he is a prophet or a spiritual person, he should recognize that what I am writing to you is a commandment of the Lord. If anyone does not acknowledge this, he is not acknowledged. So, (my) brothers, strive eagerly to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues, but everything must be done properly and in order. (1 Cor 14:37-40)
- ❖ Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deluding himself. (Gal 6:2-3)
- ❖ He heard this and said, «Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.» (Matt 9:12-13)
- ❖ If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, (Phil 2:1-3)
- ❖ More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Phil 3:8-11)
- ❖ The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. (1 Tim 1:5)

REWARD IN KIND DEEDS. (91)

Kind deeds get the soul rewarded for virtue.

References:

- ❖ His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divinenature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love. If these are yours and increase in abundance, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pet 1:3-8)
- ❖ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:8-9)
- ❖ Better is childlessness with virtue; for immortal is its memory: because both by God is it acknowledged, and by men. When it is present men imitate it, and they long for it when it is gone; And forever it marches crowned in triumph, victorious in unsullied deeds of valor. (Wisd 4:1-2)
- ❖ Like a ship traversing the heaving water, of which, when it has passed, no trace can be found, no path of its keel in the waves. Or like a bird flying through the air; no evidence of its course is to be found - But the fluid air, lashed by the beat of pinions, and cleft by the rushing force Of speeding wings, is traversed: and afterward no mark of passage can be found in it. Or as, when an arrow has been shot at a mark, the parted air straightway flows together again so that none discerns the way it went through. Even so we, once born, abruptly came to nought and held no sign of virtue to display, but were consumed in our wickedness.» (Wisd 5:10-13)
- ❖ Or if one loves justice, the fruits of her works are virtues; For she teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude, and nothing in life is more useful for men than these. (Wisd 8:7)

THE HUMILITY OF A GOOD MAN. (92)

A good man does good from his heart,
but from the mind he considers himself a sinner.

References:

- ❖ You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6, 8)
- ❖ «A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:43-45)
- ❖ «Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.» (Matt 11:28-30)
- ❖ Likewise, you younger members, be subject to the presbyters. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for: «God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble.» So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. (1 Pet 5:5-7)
- ❖ But he bestows a greater grace; therefore, it says: «God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.» So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you. (James 4:6-10)
- ❖ Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, (Phil 2:3)
- ❖ No man is built up by wickedness, but the root of the just will never be disturbed. (Prov 12:3)
- ❖ Anything deceitful the just man hates, but the wicked brings shame and disgrace. (Prov 13:5)

THE LIKENESS OF HUMANITY. (93)

He has accepted all ours,
so that we might receive His love
and be renewed by the strength of the Holy Spirit.

References:

- ❖ That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. (Eph 4:20-24)
- ❖ We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:4)
- ❖ This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (John 15:12-14)
- ❖ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. (1 John 4:11-17)
- ❖ Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. (1 Cor 13:4-8)
- ❖ For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Cor 8:8-9)

CHRIST'S WARRIOR WITHOUT A NAME - ME. (94)

The warrior of Christ is strong with God in his heart, without a name - Me.

References:

- ❖ Then he said to the crowd, «Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.» (Luke 12:15)
- ❖ For he sees that even wise men die; the stupid and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses are forever and their dwelling places to all generations; they have called their lands after their own names. (Ps 49:10-11)
- ❖ He is 'the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.' There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.» (Acts 4:11-12)
- ❖ Ибо един Бог, един и посредник между Богом и человеками, человек Христос Иисус, предавший Себя для искупления всех. (1 Тим 2, 5-6)
- ❖ For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all. (Acts 2:44-45)
- ❖ «The victor will thus be dressed in white, and I will never erase his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name in the presence of my Father and of his angels. (Rev 3:5)
- ❖ I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word according to all Your name. (Ps 137:2)
- ❖ Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:11-17)

SEARCH FOR TRUTH. (95)

Many seek and try to understand evil,
Love and preach good to them.

References:

- ❖ Seek good and not evil, that you may live; Then truly will the LORD, the God of hosts, be with you as you claim! (Amos 5:14)
- ❖ The commandments, «You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,» and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, (namely) «You shall love your neighbor as yourself.» Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law. (Rom 13:9-10)
- ❖ who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:14)
- ❖ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. (3 John 1:11)
- ❖ Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; (Rom 12, 9)
- ❖ For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil; (Rom 16:19)
- ❖ Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. (Ps 37:3)
- ❖ Hate evil, you who love the Lord, who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked. (Ps 97:10)
- ❖ He who seeks the good commands favor, but he who pursues evil will have evil befall him. (Prov 11:27)
- ❖ If a man returns evil for good, from his house evil will not depart. (Prov 17:13)
- ❖ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who change darkness into light, and light into darkness, (Is 5:20)
- ❖ Thank God! Give him the praise and the glory. Before all the living, acknowledge the many good things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds, and do not be slack in praising him. A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be declared and made known. Praise them with due honor. Do good, and evil will not find its way to you. (Tob 12:6-7)
- ❖ He did what was good, upright and faithful before the LORD, his God. (2 Chr 31:20)

PROTOTYPE. (96)

I don't want to be like my mother and father,
 I want to honour and love them without end,
 I want to be like Jesus Christ,
 To live according to the will of God the Father.

References:

- ❖ But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one person's sinning. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:14-19)
- ❖ «Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. (Ex 20:12)
- ❖ Children, obey your parents (in the Lord), for this is right. «Honor your father and mother.» This is the first commandment with a promise, «that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.» Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:1-4)
- ❖ Children, pay heed to a father's right; do so that you may live. For the LORD sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. He who honors his father atones for sins; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. He who honors his father is gladdened by children, and when he prays he is heard. He who reveres his father will live a long life; he obeys the LORD who brings comfort to his mother. He who fears the LORD honors his father, and serves his parents as rulers. (Sir 3:1-7)

EYE OF THE HEART. (97)

When Christ is in your heart,
 you love not only the one your eyes see,
 But also the one who sees you.

References:

- ❖ Jesus replied, «The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.» (Mark 12:29-31)
- ❖ But this is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Heb 8:10)
- ❖ Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, «Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree,» that the blessing of Abraham might be extended to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Gal 3:13-14)
- ❖ For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendant, heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:26-29)
- ❖ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?» The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. (1 Kin 3:9-10)
- ❖ “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.” (Ps 27:8)
- ❖ However, if you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, «You shall love your neighbor as yourself,» you are doing well. (James 2:8)
- ❖ For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, «You shall love your neighbor as yourself.» (Gal 5:14)
- ❖ The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. (Ps 18:9)
- ❖ The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Prov 15:3)

MAN AND POWER. (98)

People are like rivers flowing into seas,
Where live fish swim against the current to the source,
But not everything on the surface can walk.

References:

- ❖ All rivers go to the sea, yet never does the sea become full. To the place where they go, the rivers keep on going. (Eccl 1:7)
- ❖ He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. (Ps 18, 16-17)
- ❖ This is the word that came from the LORD to the prophet Jeremiah concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh attacked Gaza: Thus says the LORD: Behold: waters are rising from the north, a torrent in flood; It shall flood the land and all that is in it, the cities and their people. All the people of the land set up a wailing cry. (Jer 47:1-2)
- ❖ When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you. (Is 43:2)
- ❖ The fishermen shall mourn and lament, all who cast hook in the Nile; Those who spread their nets in the water shall pine away. The linen-workers shall be disappointed, the combers and weavers shall turn pale; The spinners shall be crushed, all the hired laborers shall be despondent. (Is 19:8-10)
- ❖ «Of the various creatures that live in the water, you may eat the following: whatever in the seas or in river waters has both fins and scales you may eat. But of the various creatures that crawl or swim in the water, whether in the sea or in the rivers, all those that lack either fins or scales are loathsome for you, (Lev 11:9-10)
- ❖ He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, «Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.» (Matt 4:18-19)
- ❖ Peter said to him in reply, «Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.» He said, «Come.» Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how (strong) the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, «Lord, save me!» Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, «O you of little faith, why did you doubt?» (Matt 14:28-31)

IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO GOD. (99)

The rabble is and will always be a rabble,
Unless everyone returns to God today.

References:

- ❖ Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind). If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit.» (Matt 15:14)
- ❖ He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'» (Luke 15:31-32)
- ❖ Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains. For the LORD comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted. But Zion said, «The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.» Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. (Is 49:13-15)
- ❖ We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:4)
- ❖ Therefore, it says: «Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.» Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. (Eph 5:14-17)
- ❖ This is the will of God, your holiness: that you refrain from immorality, (1 Thess 4:3)
- ❖ who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. (Rom 2: 6-8)
- ❖ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. But what profit did you get then from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit that you have leads to sanctification, and its end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:20-23)
- ❖ Jesus said to him, «I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

THE LOVE OF FRIENDS. (100)

Love your friends, love the people,
Be loved among friends.

References:

- ❖ This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, 6 because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. (John 15:12-16)
- ❖ The LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one man speaks to another. Moses would then return to the camp, but his young assistant, Joshua, son of Nun, would not move out of the tent. (Ex 33:11)
- ❖ As iron sharpens iron, so man sharpens his fellow man. (Prov 27:17)
- ❖ Two are better than one: they get a good wage for their labor. If the one falls, the other will lift up his companion. Woe to the solitary man! For if he should fall, he has no one to lift him up. (Eccl 4:9-10)
- ❖ Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, «Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,» and he was called «the friend of God.» (James 2:23)
- ❖ Walk with wise men and you will become wise, but the companion of fools will fare badly. (Prov 13:21)
- ❖ Do not be led astray: «Bad company corrupts good morals.» (1 Cor 15:33)
- ❖ Cherish your friend, keep faith with him; but if you betray his confidence, follow him not; For as an enemy might kill a man, you have killed your neighbor's friendship. Like a bird released from the hand, you have let your friend go and cannot recapture him; Follow him not, for he is far away, he has fled like a gazelle from the trap. (Sir 27:17-20)
- ❖ Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.» (Matt 18:19-20)

FRIENDS ARE NEAR. (101)

Don't look far away for someone you need.
Look near to those who need you.

References:

- ❖ Should you draw a sword against a friend, despair not, it can be undone. (Sir 22:23)
- ❖ A friend owes kindness to one in despair, though he have forsaken the fear of the Almighty. (Job 6:14)
- ❖ He who is a friend is always a friend, and a brother is born for the time of stress. (Prov 17:17)
- ❖ Some friends bring ruin on us, but a true friend is more loyal than a brother. (Prov 18:25)
- ❖ Perfume and incense gladden the heart, but by grief the soul is torn asunder. (Prov 27:9)
- ❖ As one face differs from another, so does one human heart from another. (Prov 27:19)
- ❖ I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. (Luke 11:8)
- ❖ A kind mouth multiplies friends, and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings. Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a thousand your confidant. When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him for one sort of friend is a friend when it suits him, but he will not be with you in time of distress. Another is a friend who becomes an enemy, and tells of the quarrel to your shame. Another is a friend, a boon companion, who will not be with you when sorrow comes. When things go well, he is your other self, and lords it over your servants; But if you are brought low, he turns against you and avoids meeting you. Keep away from your enemies; be on your guard with your friends. A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; For he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself. (Sir 6:5-17)
- ❖ In our prosperity we cannot know our friends; in adversity an enemy will not remain concealed. When a man is successful even his enemy is friendly; in adversity even his friend disappears. (Sir 12:8-9)

BE KIND. (102)

To be kind is to receive right in truth,
love in mercy, a soul in the Holy Spirit.

References:

- ❖ You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:8)
- ❖ If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master.» (Gen 4:7)
- ❖ Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (Ps 34:14)
- ❖ It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; he will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever. (Ps 112:5-6)
- ❖ A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45)
- ❖ The tongue of the wise pours out knowledge, but the mouth of fools spurts forth folly. (Prov 15:2)
- ❖ For: «Whoever would love life and see good days must keep the tongue from evil and the lips from speaking deceit, must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears turned to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against evildoers.» Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? (1 Pet 3:10-13)
- ❖ all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. (James 1:17)
- ❖ May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever (and ever). Amen. (Heb 13:20-21)
- ❖ (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Eph 4:32)
- ❖ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. (3 John 1:11)

JEALOUSY OF THE WISE. (103)

The wise man is jealous of his neighbour's goodness, and hates his own evil.

References:

- ❖ For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. Say these things. Exhort and correct with all authority. Let no one look down on you. (Tit 2:11-15)
- ❖ Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing. For: «Whoever would love life and see good days must keep the tongue from evil and the lips from speaking deceit, must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears turned to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against evildoers.» Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? (1 Pet 3:8-13)
- ❖ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- ❖ For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. (Eph 2:10)
- ❖ Hear, my son, and receive my words, and the years of your life shall be many. On the way of wisdom I direct you, I lead you on straightforward paths. When you walk, your step will not be impeded, and should you run, you will not stumble. Hold fast to instruction, never let her go; keep her, for she is your life. (Prov 4:10-13)
- ❖ So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin. (James 4:17)

CHURCH IN THE SOUL. (104)

Wise and good is he
who sees the soul filled with the Church,
not the Church filled with souls.

References:

- ❖ And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, 13 and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. 14 Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.» (Matt 16:18-19)
- ❖ Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)
- ❖ and to bring to light [for all] what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the principalities and authorities in the heavens. This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness of speech and confidence of access through faith in him. (Eph 3:9-12)
- ❖ For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Eph 5:22-27)
- ❖ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me. (Col 1:24-29)

3*5*7 PERSON. (105)

7*5 growth of the mental,
7*5 growth of the spiritual,
7*5 abandonment of the physical.

References:

- ❖ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one. So, too, it is written, «The first man, Adam, became a living being,» the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. (1 Cor 15:44-46)
- ❖ Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. (Heb 4:12)
- ❖ Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For «who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?» But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2:14-16)
- ❖ If you died with Christ to the elemental powers of the world, why do you submit to regulations as if you were still living in the world? «Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!» These are all things destined to perish with use; they accord with human precepts and teachings. While they have a semblance of wisdom in rigor of devotion and self-abasement (and) severity to the body, they are of no value against gratification of the flesh. (Col 2:20-23)
- ❖ Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor 4:15-18)
- ❖ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. (John 12:25)
- ❖ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)
- ❖ Then the LORD said: «My spirit shall not remain in man forever, since he is but flesh. His days shall comprise one hundred and twenty years.» (Gen 6:3)

STONE FOR THE TEMPLE. (106)

The stone in the hand is only a part of the earthly temple,
For a stone on the soul is a barrier to the heavenly.

References:

- ❖ The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is [i]the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (Ps 118:22-23)
- ❖ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: See, I am laying a stone in Zion, a stone that has been tested, A precious cornerstone as a sure foundation; he who puts his faith in it shall not be shaken. (Is 28:16)
- ❖ Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built 4 into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in scripture: «Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.» Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: «The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,» (1 Pet 2:4-7)
- ❖ So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Eph 2:19-22)
- ❖ Jesus said to them, «Did you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes'? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.» (Matt 21: 42-43)
- ❖ For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire (itself) will test the quality of each one's work. (1 Cor 3:9-13)

FAITHFUL. (107)

Faithful is when you don't choose the authorities, but the power of faith to keep the authorities from changing you.

References:

- ❖ Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, «I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.» Jesus said to him in reply, «It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'» (Luke 4:5-8)
- ❖ The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast. Its kingdom was plunged into darkness, and people bit their tongues in pain and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores. But they did not repent of their works. (Rev 16:10-11)
- ❖ The ten horns that you saw and the beast will hate the harlot; they will leave her desolate and naked; they will eat her flesh and consume her with fire. For God has put it into their minds to carry out his purpose and to make them come to an agreement to give their kingdom to the beast until the words of God are accomplished. (Rev 17:16-17)
- ❖ Then he said to them, «Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky. «Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. (Luke 21:10-13)
- ❖ This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim 2:11-13)
- ❖ For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. (1 Cor 15:22-24)

EGOISM. (108)

If your love for yourself is greater,
 Than your love for God and your neighbour,
 There's no time for repentance,
 Because you see only the sins of your neighbours.

References:

- ❖ Then Jesus said to his disciples, «Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? (Matt 16:24-26)
- ❖ each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others. (Phil 2:4)
- ❖ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.» (Mark 12:30-31)
- ❖ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)
- ❖ Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever. (1 John 2:15-17)
- ❖ you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things. We know that the judgment of God on those who do such things is true. Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance? By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. (Rom 2:1-8)

STONES. (109)

When stones are scattered,
Others can help pick them up.
And when stones are thrown at a target,
There may be no helpers.

References:

- ❖ There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. (Ecc 3:1-8)
- ❖ So Moses cried out to the LORD, «What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!» (Ex 17:4)
- ❖ They said to him, «Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?» They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, «Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.» (John 8:4-7)
- ❖ The Jews again picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus answered them, «I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?» The Jews answered him, «We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God.» (John 10:31-33)
- ❖ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. (1 Cor 10:1-4)
- ❖ Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit. (Matt 21:43-44)

SIN IS LIKE DIRT. (110)

Sin, like dirt, is eternal,
 But when you get dirty, you can get clean.
 Because when you're taken out of the mud by God,
 You can be a clean man!
 Or you can be a pig back in the mud again.

References:

- ❖ Ashes his heart is! more worthless than earth is his hope, and more ignoble than clay his life; Because he knew not the one who fashioned him, and breathed into him a quickening soul, and infused a vital spirit. (Wisd 15:10-11)
- ❖ He heard this and said, «Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.» (Matt 9:12-13)
- ❖ Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who remains in him sins; no one who sins has seen him or known him. (1 John 3:3-6)
- ❖ (and) saying, «Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!» (Matt 3:2)
- ❖ Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. (Matt 3:8)
- ❖ «When an unclean spirit goes out of a person it roams through arid regions searching for rest but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings back with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they move in and dwell there; and the last condition of that person is worse than the first. Thus it will be with this evil generation.» (Matt 12:43-45)
- ❖ Hence, now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death. For what the law, weakened by the flesh, was powerless to do, this God has done: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for the sake of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law might be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit. (Rom 8:1-5)

THE CALL OF THE BORN. (111)

He who is born in the Spirit will be called to live,
not stay together to die.

References:

- ❖ The LORD God gave man this order: «You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.» (Gen 2:16-17)
- ❖ Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned (Rom 5:12)
- ❖ Desire not a brood of worthless children, nor rejoice in wicked offspring. Many though they be, exult not in them if they have not the fear of the LORD. Count not on their length of life, have no hope in their future. For one can be better than a thousand; rather die childless than have godless children! Through one wise man can a city be peopled; through a clan of rebels it becomes desolate. (Sir 16:1-4)
- ❖ The wicked spies upon the righteous and seeks to kill him. The Lord will not leave him in his hand or let him be condemned when he is judged. (Ps 37:32-33)
- ❖ Jesus answered, «Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.» (John 3:5-8)
- ❖ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. (John 3:16-21)

HEART OR WALLET. (112)

If instead of your heart you have a wallet in mind,
they'll talk about your price,
Not your spiritual values.

References:

- ❖ Wealth is good when there is no sin; but poverty is evil by the standards of the proud. The heart of a man changes his countenance, either for good or for evil. (Sir 13:30-31)
- ❖ How blessed is he who considers the helpless; the Lord will deliver him in a day of trouble. (Ps 41:1)
- ❖ Do not trust in oppression and do not vainly hope in robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them. (Ps 62:10)
- ❖ If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? (1 John 3:17)
- ❖ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. (Matt 6:19-21)
- ❖ Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit. (Gal 6:7-8)
- ❖ Slaves, be obedient to your human masters with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ, not only when being watched, as currying favor, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, willingly serving the Lord and not human beings, knowing that each will be requited from the Lord for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. Masters, act in the same way toward them, and stop bullying, knowing that both they and you have a Master in heaven and that with him there is no partiality. (Eph 6:5-9)
- ❖ So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil. (Matt 6:31-34)

TEACHER'S TEACHING. (113)

The teacher could have given one commandment: Love!
But the Lord gave two in teaching.
Because He loves His disciples.

References:

- ❖ and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, «Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?» He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.» (Matt 22:35-40)
- ❖ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.» (John 4:23-24)
- ❖ «If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. (John 14:15-17)
- ❖ Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.» (John 14:21)
- ❖ Jesus answered and said to him, «Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. (John 14:23-24)
- ❖ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. «I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. (John 15:7-12)

GRATITUDE IN JOY. (114)

When you don't thank God,
Don't be surprised that people aren't happy for you.

References:

- ❖ He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. (Matt 22:37-38)
- ❖ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. (John 3:16-21)
- ❖ See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:15-18)
- ❖ And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)
- ❖ Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; (Col 4:2)
- ❖ Indeed, religion with contentment is a great gain. (1 Tim 6:6)
- ❖ Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. (Ps 136:1)
- ❖ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! (Ps 150:6)
- ❖ Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. (1 Pet 3:15-16)

LIAISING WITH PARENTS. (115)

The wicked will hide behind the deeds of his parents.
The righteous will repent for the sins of his ancestors.

References:

- ❖ For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Of course not! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted. Freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your nature. For just as you presented the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness for lawless ness, so now present them as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. (Rom 6:14-20)
- ❖ You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Ex 20:4-6)
- ❖ «Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for their fathers; only for his own guilt shall a man be put to death. (Deut 24:16)
- ❖ As I once watched over them to uproot and pull down, to destroy, to ruin, and to harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say, «The fathers ate unripe grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge,» but through his own fault only shall anyone die: the teeth of him who eats the unripe grapes shall be set on edge (Jer 31:28-30)
- ❖ Only the father, since he violated rights, and robbed, and did what was not good among his people, shall in truth die for his sins. You ask: «Why is not the son charged with the guilt of his father?» Because the son has done what is right and just, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. (Ezek 18:18-19)

MOTHER LANGUAGE. (116)

The language of love is man's mother language.

References:

- ❖ Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. (1 John 4:15-16)
- ❖ If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. (1 Cor 13:1-8)
- ❖ Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to human beings but to God, for no one listens; he utters mysteries in spirit. On the other hand, one who prophesies does speak to human beings, for their building up, encouragement, and solace. (1 Cor 14:1-3)
- ❖ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. «For this reason a man shall leave (his) father and (his) mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.» This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband. (Eph 5:25-33)

FREEDOM UNDER LOCK AND KEY. (117)

There's a lot of locked up people out there,
But you can be free when you're locked up.

References:

❖ Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, «If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.» They answered him, «We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?» Jesus answered them, «Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free. (John 8:31-36)

❖ The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, «Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.» Then he said, «Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.» He replied to him, «Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.» (Luke 23:40-43)

❖ 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 foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' (Matt 25:34-36)

❖ Those who heard this said, «Then who can be saved?» And he said, «What is impossible for human beings is possible for God.» (Luke 18:26-27)

❖ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. (John 14:20)

❖ «Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. (Rev 3:20)

❖ This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. (Is 58:6-8)

WHO IS WITH GOD? (118)

Who is with God?

He who gives thanks the Lord is with God.

References:

- ❖ He said to him, «You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. (Matt 22:37-38)
- ❖ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. (John 3:16-21)
- ❖ See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:15-18)
- ❖ And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)
- ❖ Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; (Col 4:2)
- ❖ Indeed, religion with contentment is a great gain. (1 Tim 6:6)
- ❖ Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. (Ps 136:1)
- ❖ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! (Ps 150:6)
- ❖ Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. (1 Pet 3:15-16)

ANCESTRAL SIN. (119)

Children and parents are bound together by love.

Children can stop ancestral sins.

Parents living righteously leave a good inheritance.

References:

- ❖ For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Of course not! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted. Freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. (Rom 6:14-18)
- ❖ You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Ex 20:4-6)
- ❖ «Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for their fathers; only for his own guilt shall a man be put to death. (Deut 24:16)
- ❖ As I once watched over them to uproot and pull down, to destroy, to ruin, and to harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say, «The fathers ate unripe grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge,» but through his own fault only shall anyone die: the teeth of him who eats the unripe grapes shall be set on edge. (Jer 31:28-30)
- ❖ Only the father, since he violated rights, and robbed, and did what was not good among his people, shall in truth die for his sins. You ask: «Why is not the son charged with the guilt of his father?» Because the son has done what is right and just, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. (Ezek 18:18-19)

DIVISION. (120)

He who believes in God, he does not divide people,
But distinguishes between good and evil,
Showing it to men.

References:

- ❖ You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Mic 6:8)
- ❖ Have we not all the one Father? Has not the one God created us? Why then do we break faith with each other, violating the covenant of our fathers? (Mal 2:10)
- ❖ one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:4-6)
- ❖ I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, «I belong to Paul,» or «I belong to Apollos,» or «I belong to Kephas,» or «I belong to Christ.» Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor 1:10-13)
- ❖ Everyone who lives on milk lacks experience of the word of righteousness, for he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties are trained by practice to discern good and evil. (Heb 5:13-14)
- ❖ Do not be yoked with those who are different, with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What accord has Christ with Beliar? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said: «I will live with them and move among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. (2 Cor 6:14-16)
- ❖ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. (3 John 1:11)
- ❖ A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45)

VICTORY. (121)

By blessing and thanking God,
You overcome evil.
For there is no victory without God.

References:

- ❖ See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:15-18)
- ❖ Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. (Eph 6:11-12)
- ❖ Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good. (Rom 12:21)
- ❖ For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh. The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. Now if (I) do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. So, then, I discover the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand. For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, I myself, with my mind, serve the law of God but, with my flesh, the law of sin. (Rom 7:18-25)
- ❖ As he was entering a village, ten lepers met (him). They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, «Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!» And when he saw them, he said, «Go show yourselves to the priests.» As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, «Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?» Then he said to him, «Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.» (Luke 17:12-19)
- ❖ You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

CHURCH AND NAMES. (122)

The Church is one and Christ is its head,
Its bells are the souls of men,
Sounding in the Spirit through kind deeds.
The mind of the tongue through the mouth only sounds,
And the names of the soul.

References:

- ❖ And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love. (Eph 4:11-16)
- ❖ what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way. (Eph 1:18-23)
- ❖ He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross (through him), whether those on earth or those in heaven. (Col 1:18-20)
- ❖ the tongue is a small member and yet has great pretensions. Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself set on fire by Gehenna. (James 3:5-6)

CHRIST IN OUR MIDST. (123)

Where there are two and Christ,
Grief is divided by two,
Joy is multiplied by two.

References:

- ❖ Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.» (Matt 18:18-20)
- ❖ Do not intercede on behalf of this people, nor utter a plea for them. I will not listen when they call to me at the time of their misfortune. (Jer 11:14)
- ❖ Again I found this vanity under the sun: a solitary man with no companion; with neither son nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his toil, and riches do not satisfy his greed. «For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good things?» This also is vanity and a worthless task. Two are better than one: they get a good wage for their labor. If the one falls, the other will lift up his companion. Woe to the solitary man! For if he should fall, he has no one to lift him up. So also, if two sleep together, they keep each other warm. How can one alone keep warm? Where a lone man may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken. (Eccl 4:7-12)
- ❖ The LORD God said: «It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.» (Gen 2, 18)
- ❖ That night the LORD said to Gideon, «Go, descend on the camp, for I have delivered it up to you. If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your aide Purah. When you hear what they are saying, you will have the courage to descend on the camp.» (Judg 7:9-11)
- ❖ Jesus answered and said to him, «Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. (John 14:23)
- ❖ I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly. (Ps 111:1)
- ❖ Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.» (John 20:23)

TRUTH AND RIGHT. (124)

Right is different for everyone,
Truth is the same for everyone.

References:

- ❖ The LORD is true God, he is the living God, the eternal King, Before whose anger the earth quakes, whose wrath the nations cannot endure (Jer 10:10)
- ❖ Jesus said to him, «I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)
- ❖ This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth. (1 John 5:6)
- ❖ O Lord, who may [a]bide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. (Ps 14:2-3)
- ❖ So Pilate said to him, «Then you are a king?» Jesus answered, «You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.» Pilate said to him, «What is truth?» When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, «I find no guilt in him. (John 18:37-38)
- ❖ For I will sing the LORD'S renown. Oh, proclaim the greatness of our God! The Rock - how faultless are his deeds, how right all his ways! A faithful God, without deceit, how just and upright he is! Yet basely has he been treated by his degenerate children, a perverse and crooked race! (Deut 32:3-5)
- ❖ Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17)
- ❖ You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness and exceeding faithfulness. (Ps 119:138)
- ❖ Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. (Ps 119:142)
- ❖ You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are truth. (Ps 119:151)
- ❖ Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. Indeed, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce. Righteousness will go before Him and will make His footsteps into a way. (Ps 85:10-13)
- ❖ If we say, «We have fellowship with him,» while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. (1 John 1:6)

CHOICE. (125)

Better to pray and choose,
than to be a sectarian of the appointed.

References:

- ❖ Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, «I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.» Jesus said to him in reply, «It is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.’» (Luke 4:5-8)
- ❖ He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, «My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will»(Matt26:39)
- ❖ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:4-11)
- ❖ «Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matt 7:7-8)
- ❖ «I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, (John 17:20-22)
- ❖ Jesus said to them in reply, «See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many. (Matt 24:4-5)



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