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1 COR 9:24-27

TO BE THE WINNER

In the Olympic Games, participants come from all over the world and meet in one place with the same goal: to be the winner and win the prize. They train hard with great discipline and self-control. They focus on their goal.

We are like these Olympians. Our life daily is like a training and a race. We are trained to live in righteousness according to the Bible. This training needs discipline and self-control. In order to win this race, we have to focus on our goal in life: to keep our faith in Jesus until the end of time and receive the eternal prize from Jesus. Do not let other things distract us. The Bible is our reliable guidance on how to live.

Those who keep their faith in Jesus until the end will surely experience His joy in this life and will get the reward in Heaven as God says, "Well done, My child."

Key verse:

*2 Timothy 3:16
All Scripture is
God-breathed
and is useful
for teaching,
rebuking,
correcting
and training in
righteousness.*

Prayer

*Dear God, no
matter how hard
the training I have
to go through,
I will always be
faithful to You till
the end, and until
I get the eternal
prize from You.
Amen.*





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1 COR 10:23-24

WE ARE JESUS' REPRESENTATIVES

We are Jesus' representatives on earth. A representative is a person appointed to act or speak for another or others. We have the privilege and responsibility of representing Jesus through the way we live. We must be careful with the way we live and ensure it shines Jesus' light.

We have the freedom to do anything we want. However, by the wisdom of God, we come to understand that NOT ALL things that we want will bring good to us or to others.

We have the freedom to say anything in our mind or to post anything on social media. However, by the wisdom of God, we come to understand that it is better not to say anything than to say hurtful words. It is better not to post anything on social media than to make someone else angry or offended.

Our lives represent Jesus. We can always show Jesus' love through our action and words so that others can come to know Jesus too.

Key verse:

*Colossians 3:17a
Everything you say and everything you do should all be done for Jesus your Lord.*

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me from falling into the pleasure of the world that makes me forget about being Your representative. Help me to be on my guard all the time. Amen.





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1 COR 12:12-31

THE BODY OF CHRIST

How loudly can you clap with only one hand?
How well can you write without using a thumb?
How do you tie your shoelaces if all your fingers are hurt?
All body parts need another to be a fully functioning body.

The church is like a body. Everyone in the church needs one another. Not everybody in the church has the same gift or talent, but they are all important. Everybody will have to cooperate to make everything work beautifully in the church.

If one person refuses to do their part, it will affect the whole body. We all have a part to play that contributes to the work that God wants us all to accomplish together. The best way to discover and develop our talent is by serving in the church. We are all made by God for doing something great.

Just like a beautiful piece of music that is made by different musical instruments in an orchestra, we, with each of our gifts, will also create a beautiful symphony as we work together in harmony.

Key verse:

*1 Corinthians
12:27*

*Now you are the
body of Christ,
and each one of
you is a part of
it.*

Prayer

*Dear God, help
me to discover
my gift that I can
contribute to the
church. I want
Your name to be
glorified through
my talent. Amen.*





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1 COR 13

LOVE NEVER FAILS

It feels so good to know that we are loved by our parents, relatives and friends. We should not only receive love from others but we have to give our love to others as well. The Bible says that when we have the love of God in our hearts, we can be patient, kind, humble, selfless, faithful, gentle and forgiving.

We can love God and love others because God has loved us first. Living with love makes our lives more meaningful. On the other hand, living without learning how to love is an empty and wasted way of living, no matter how impressive one's achievements may be.

God's love for us is not based on our condition but it is based on our position as His child.

In our lives, we may fail at times, but God's love for us will never fail.

People we trust might fail us, but God will never fail us.

Be grateful and thankful to God who loves us no matter how far we've gone astray. Always turn back to Him. God's love for us will never change.

Key verse:

*1 Corinthians
13:13*

*And now these
three remain:
faith, hope and
love. But the
greatest of these
is love.*

Prayer

*Dear God, may
Your love fill my
heart so that
everything I do
and everything
I say will reflect
Your love. Amen.*





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1 COR 15:33-34

YOU ARE WHO YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH

There is a famous quote, "You are known by the company you keep." It carries the meaning that you are judged based on the people you associate with.

Our friends are the people we spend most of our time with, beside our family. The more time we spend with them, the more we will be influenced by them and become more like them. If we place ourselves in an encouraging and positive friendship, we and our friends can guide, influence and build one another to become better people.

On the other hand, if we always surround ourselves with people who like to gossip, people who disrespect others, people who always say negative words about anything, sooner or later we are going to be like that too. You must stand firm based on the word of God and not let your good characters be corrupted. There are times when it would be better to withdraw ourselves from people who will influence us to do things that are against the Bible.

Be wise in selecting who you want to surround yourselves with. As much as you always have to share God's love and be the light, you must also stand firm and avoid bad influences that will corrupt your life.

Key verse:

*1 Corinthians
15:33*

*Do not be
misled: "Bad
company
corrupts good
character."*

Prayer

*Dear God, help
me to be wise
and guide me in
my friendship.
Amen.*





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2 COR 2:5-11

FORGIVE THE PERSON WHO HAS WRONGED US

There is a famous saying, "I can forgive but I can't forget". However, Paul taught about the real forgiveness: we forgive and comfort the person who has wronged us.

Paul said that when we forgive, we let go of our resentment and hatred. We should not bring it up again in the future. It is a promise to drop the matter, leave it in the past, and never bring it up again.

It is true that we cannot literally forget about it, but we can take control of it by not allowing it to seize hold of our heart and make us angry all over again. The minute it comes back to mind, we put it aside as something that belongs to the past. We are not going to dwell in it.

Paul's teaching has reminded us to show love to the one who has done wrong to us.

Key verse:

*2 Corinthians 2:10
If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven — if there was anything to forgive — I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake.*

Prayer

Dear God, You have given me strength and Your unconditional love so that I can completely forgive the one who has wronged me. Amen.





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2 COR 4:7-12

THE CLAY JARS

A jar of clay is shaped and moulded by a potter before being baked and refined in fire until the clay becomes hard. Paul described us as a clay jar for a few reasons. We are like jars of clay as we have a temporary life here on earth, are easily broken and are all shaped uniquely by God's own hands.

We are the clay and God is the potter. It means in whatever hardship or struggle we face that might break our heart, God is actually working in our lives to shape us and make us beautiful in His sight.

Problems might make us feel down, but we won't be completely crushed.

Betrayal might shatter our heart to pieces, but God will heal our heart and fill it with joy.

We may feel alone, but God will never abandon us. Sickness might knock us down, but God's power will restore us.

Remember that God keeps on working in our lives to shape our characters to be more and more like Jesus.

Key verse:

2 Corinthians 4-7

We have this treasure from God, but we are only like clay jars that hold the treasure. This is to show that the amazing power we have is from God, not from us.

Prayer

Dear God, mould me, use me, guide me, hold me and lead me so that I can be a beautiful jar of clay that glorifies Your name. Amen.

