

Devotions for Rediscovering
Popular Bible Verses

*Let the
Word of Christ
Dwell
in You Richly*



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Jane L. Fryar



The vision of CTA is
to see Christians highly effective
in their ministry so that Christ's Kingdom
is strengthened and expanded.

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Living Wisely

What makes a Bible verse a
“favorite” among Christians?
Which verses are your favorites?
How did they become favorites?

Many times, our favorite verses
provide comfort. Often they
inspire courage. Sometimes
they strengthen our hope or
spur us on to deeper faith and
kingdom-building outreach.

This week, we will explore a few
favorite Scriptures that describe
the lives of the wise and faithful.
This is not the kind of “wisdom”
you might at first think, though.

Stay tuned!

MONDAY

Meet You at the Starting Line



*God so loved the world, that he gave
his only Son, that whoever believes
in him should not perish
but have eternal life.*

John 3:16



Nearly 300 years ago, Benjamin Franklin promised the readers of his *Poor Richard's Almanac* that following the habit of "early to bed, early to rise" would make them "healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Still today, most people want to be healthy. Christians, too. Some of us also aspire to be wealthy. But wise? Really?

Yes, really!

Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly.

Proverbs 4:7-8

This Scripture and dozens more highlight the enormous value our Creator-King—God himself—places on wisdom. We can almost imagine him shouting at the top of his lungs, urging us to ignore every other priority in life until we have pursued this one: Get wisdom!

The Bible's urgent focus on wisdom may puzzle us, until we read this concise explanation:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 9:10

Reverence for the Lord, knowing him deeply and personally—this is wisdom's starting line! This kind of reverence and relationship comes only through faith in his Son, Jesus Christ. True wisdom starts here:

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have
eternal life.*

John 3:16

These words are beloved by Christians of every time, every place, every language. God loved. God gave. Real life, true life, eternal life is ours! It belongs to all who trust in God's amazing gift and who live by faith in the Savior.

Those who are truly wise also understand the flip side of this. There is a dangerous alternative to the one real, true, eternal life. John 3:16 warns that those without faith in Jesus "perish." This is the very opposite of wisdom!

To turn your back on eternal life and the love of our King and Creator, to choose rebellion, to chase after this world's trinkets and toys, its phony wealth and counterfeit wisdom . . . this is the path of foolishness.

"Don't take that road," our heavenly Father pleads. Instead, soak up God's steadfast love for you in Christ. Bask in the wisdom you glean as you walk by faith with Jesus your Savior. Nothing else compares!

Prayer starter: Father, you are amazing! Thanks for the gift of your Son, my Savior. Make me truly wise through faith in him so that . . .



TUESDAY

A Light in the Darkness



*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

Psalms 119:105



Do you lie to your doctor? Recent research suggests most of us do. It's a scary thought. How can we stay healthy if our treatment is based on a lie?

Here's an even scarier thought: Does your doctor lie to you? I hope not—your doctor holds your physical health and life in his hands!

Now, here's a thought to put you at ease: your spiritual health now and your eternal life forever is in the hands of the Lord, your Creator and King. This relationship isn't complicated by lies or half-truths. The Bible tells of the Lord's truthfulness, his reliability, his trustworthiness:

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Numbers 23:19

Your decrees are very trustworthy.

Psalms 93:5

The Glory of Israel will not lie.

1 Samuel 15:29

The written, inspired Word of God—the Bible—is totally reliable. In it, the Lord tells us the truth, the whole truth,

and nothing but the truth—even when that truth is uncomfortable or unwelcome.

The Bible accurately diagnoses our sin. It clearly reveals our missteps and mistakes. The truth is that our feet have followed our darkened hearts. We have strayed off the path of life. No sugarcoating or half-truth can hide it!

The living, loving Word of God—our Savior, Jesus Christ—does not leave us in that darkness, though. He is the Light of the World, the Light of Life, the Wisdom of God for all who believe:

You are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30

Jesus entered our reality, becoming a true human being. Jesus knew God's Law and obeyed it in every detail throughout his life here on earth. He walked the path of life, perfectly obedient to the Father, step by step.

Jesus died and rose again, victorious over every enemy—sin, death, and Satan. That victory is our victory! It belongs to everyone who trusts in him, our faithful, trustworthy Savior.



Prayer starter: Lord, you are faithful and true! Forgive me for neglecting your Word and straying from your path. Stir up in me .

WEDNESDAY

All Things



We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

True wisdom begins with knowing Jesus as both Savior and Lord. True wisdom flourishes as we study the Word of God, walking ever closer to Jesus as we grow in faith. Our praise swells with joy as we reflect on his faithful love:

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 16:11

Those who walk with Jesus on this “path of life” can testify that “the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day” (Proverbs 4:18).

Not every day is bright and sunny, though, is it? Not even for Christians. Sadly, life in our sin-stained world brings many gloomy moments, many dark days.

Dealing with days like this calls for the kind of wisdom only our Lord can provide. Only he can give us the perspective we need to live lives of joy and victory when the darkness closes in. Even on our darkest days, we can walk with confidence because “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).



If we are to live with confidence in this promise, though, it's important to look carefully at what this verse *does* not say:

- ♥ It does not say everything that happens to us is good. Tragic, heartbreaking events mar every life in our sinful world, even the lives of God's children.
- ♥ It does not say that God causes all things. Calamity and death invaded our universe through the door Adam and Eve opened when they rebelled against their Creator. Our own selfish attitudes and actions sometimes add to the chaos that swirls around us. None of this is God's will for us.

Despite it all, God tells us he is at work in every event, every difficulty, every trouble—to bring about good for those who trust in Jesus. In Jesus, God forgives all our sins, even our sinful fears.

We may shake our heads at times. We may feel helpless to understand how any good could come from this disaster, from that catastrophe. But our Lord, who is all-wise, all-loving, and all-powerful, will keep his promise. You can count on it!

Prayer starter: Father, work faith and courage in my heart, teaching me to trust you even when . . .



THURSDAY

Life—Abundant and Overflowing



The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10



Have you ever been burglarized? The feelings of violation and anxiety are something you never forget.

Burglars typically sneak into vacant homes or offices. Commonly, a burglar's goal is to steal as much as possible and escape without ever being seen.

Robbers, on the other hand, don't care if their victims see them. They threaten violence, using fear and intimidation to steal as much as possible.

When Jesus describes the "thief" in John 10:10, he isn't talking about a typical burglar or a robber. Instead, he is describing something even worse—Satan himself.

In our world, many people brush off the presence of unseen created beings, both the holy angels and the fallen, demonic host. But the Bible is not at all shy about acknowledging the existence of both good and evil angels. It describes the motives of each.

Jesus tells us that Satan has but one motive, to steal and kill and destroy. The devil has no compassionate intentions. No human robber intends to make the bed and leave a mint on your pillow after swiping your most-prized possessions. Similarly, Satan's purposes are purely evil.

The Evil One wants to steal your faith. He wants to kill off your relationship with your heavenly Father and with your brothers and sisters in God's family. He wants to destroy the love, joy, peace, patience, and all the other spiritual fruit that the Holy Spirit is cultivating in your heart.

What's more, methods don't matter to our enemy. Sickness or health. Poverty or wealth. Glamour and fame or loneliness and isolation. Satan will use whatever tools are available! He'll plan whatever schemes, wiles, and lies he thinks will convince you to bend to his purposes.

Here's the good news, though. Jesus is on our side! He is the Mighty Warrior, strong to save. He has come that we "may have life and have it abundantly."

Jesus uses no deceit. He has no hidden motives, no selfish intentions. Instead, his only purpose is our peace. His only motive is our eternal good. He works through his Word to give us faith and to sustain us in that faith, despite the assaults of the devil and his angels.

Life: Abundant. Full. Free. Forever. It's yours in Jesus. He says so!

Prayer starter: Lord, please work in me the wisdom to rely on you in every temptation. Help me discern the difference between good and evil and to . . .

