

A Case for Trump



Exploring why Evangelicals supported Donald Trump, and why they had no choice.

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Introduction

As a man of faith, I keep hearing statements like: as a Christian: "how could you vote for Trump?", "how can you support someone who's done the things he's done in his past?", and "how can you support someone who talks and acts the way he does?" Well, I recently felt a strong urge to discuss why, from an evangelical point of view (or at least my view of an evangelical view). And if you end up not agreeing with me, that's perfectly fine. I'm not necessarily trying to change someone's mind, but to provide reasons why that I hope are worth thinking about. So welcome to "A Case for Trump"!

Not All Bad

There's no doubt that President Trump gets his share of bad press. In fact, I heard on a podcast recently that there was a period of time in 2019 where 96% of the press Trump was getting was negative. However, in one article I read, the writer stated "...in all my years covering him (Trump) I've never heard anything negative about the man until he announced he was running for president." Sure, some of the bad press was certainly justified in part because of his brashness and off the cuff remarks. But certainly not all of it. Some of it was from being in the bull's-eye of an influential, liberal-leaning press who dislike him, and have unprofessionally (at times) taken that dislike to a personal level. But that's a story for another time.

But to be fair to our controversial businessman President, he's done many things that are noteworthy, as noted in an article written by award-winning author and entertainment Journalist Liz Crokin. Here are just a few she listed:

- In 1986, Trump prevented the foreclosure of Annabell Hill's family farm after her husband committed suicide so his life insurance could help save their farm. Trump decided to take action after he saw Hill's pleas for help in news reports and personally phoned down to the auction to stop the sale of her home. He started a fundraiser for her with the promise that he would cover the difference if the fundraiser didn't collect enough to pay off her mortgage.
- In 1988, a commercial airline refused to fly Andrew Ten, a sick Orthodox Jewish child with a rare illness, across the country to get medical care because he had to travel with an elaborate life-support system. His grief stricken parents contacted Trump for help and he didn't hesitate to send his own plane to take the child from Los Angeles to New York so he could get his treatment.
- In 1991, 200 Marines who served in Operation Desert Storm spent time at Camp Lejune in North Carolina before they were scheduled to return home to their families. However, the Marines were told that a mistake had been made and an aircraft would not be able to take them home on their scheduled departure date. When Trump got wind of this, he sent his plane to make two trips from North Carolina to Miami to safely return the Gulf War Marines to their loved ones.
- In 1995, a motorist stopped to help Trump after the limo he was traveling in got a flat tire. Trump asked the Good Samaritan how he could repay him for his help. All the man asked for was a bouquet of flowers for his wife. A few weeks later Trump sent the flowers with a note that read: We've paid off your mortgage.
- In 2008, after Jennifer Hudson's family members were tragically murdered in Chicago, Trump put the Oscar-winning actress and her family up at his Windy City hotel for free. In addition to that, Trump's security took extra measures to ensure Hudson and her family members were safe during such a difficult time.

- Lynne Patton, a black female executive for the Trump Organization, released a statement in 2016 defending her boss against accusations that he's a racist and a bigot. She tearfully revealed how she's struggled with substance abuse and addiction for years. Instead of kicking her to the curb, she said the Trump Organization and his entire family loyally stood by her through immensely difficult times.

Unfortunately, all of the bad, sometimes unfair, press President Trump receives outweighs any of the good he does or has done. But I guess we should be more concerned if Hollywood, the liberals and the media ever stop harassing him. Then we'd know something was definitely wrong.

The Big Leap

Many people, including much of the liberal press, seem to take a huge leap and for some reason assume that since 81% of evangelicals voted for Donald Trump, that they look to him as their religious standard bearer. They don't understand how a Christian could vote for a candidate who, in his earlier days, led a life that may have not been the most ethical. Unfortunately, comments like that indicate that these people probably don't know much about Christianity, and evidently haven't thought it necessary to take the time to learn. Or they don't have the desire to. And that's unfortunate, and really not fair. But if they did, they would learn that all Christians understand that 1) Jesus is a Christian's standard bearer and not a mere human, let alone someone in the public eye, 2) God changes people, and 3) Forgiveness is essential. And that's what we're going to explore here as we attempt to make a case for the overwhelming support Trump received by evangelicals in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump and God

President Trump hasn't been shy about bringing up God in some of his speeches. Yet, because of his past, many people doubt his sincerity, even though it is widely known that he has a group of Christian advisors specifically to give him spiritual advice...and correction. During the 2016 election, Frank Turek, a well known Christian apologist, was invited by President Trump, along with several other evangelists to meet for a two hour session where Trump was able to ask questions and get feedback on a variety of social topics. Turek stated in one of his recent podcasts that Trump still meets with a small group of evangelist advisors, not only to give him spiritual advice, but also to wave a red flag at him whenever he does something "un-Christian-like".

And boy, does the President have his share of "un-Christian-like" moments. Just read his Twitter posts. Short tempered, vindictive, reactive, prideful, bully-like. And, as a Christian, I sometimes shutter at some of the things he says or tweets. Not only is it inappropriate behavior for the office of the President of the United States, but it also makes him look bad personally, and at the same time is a slap in the face of Christianity, and ultimately God. Not only is that unadvisable, but people see it and ask, "how can a Christian act like that?" Well, the truth is, everyone acts like that. Christian or not. It's in our sinful, human genes. It's just Christians are held to a higher standard by many people. Sometimes unfairly. But God's expectations of those who choose to believe in Him do change. Check out what Colossians 3:8-10 says in the Bible:

"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

Ouch! Trump can surely still claim ownership to a few of those. As can we all. But once you become a Christ follower, we MUST "put them away". It's not a choice. This is what this verse is telling the Colossian church in Greece some 2,000 years ago, who evidently had members who hadn't been doing so. No different than today. And these negative attributes aren't going to disappear on their own either. This takes a focused and committed effort on our part. So is President Trump even trying to "put them away"?

A Glimmer of Hope

At the National Prayer Breakfast in February 2020, soon after the Senate acquitted him of impeachment charges, President Trump was quoted as saying: *"I'm sorry. I apologize. I'm trying to learn. It's not easy. When they impeach you for nothing and then you're supposed to like them, it's not easy folks. I do my best."* That was actually quite encouraging to hear, as he appears to at least be making an attempt. Or at least is aware of what must be done. But I'm sure his spiritual advisory committee has explained to him that it's not an option to "love our enemies" as well as forgive them...it's what Jesus commands. And I'm sure they've also reminded him of the following verses on more than one occasion:

- James 1:19-20: *"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires"*.
- Ephesians 4:29: *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear"*.
- James 1:22: *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"*.
- Luke 14:11: *"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted"*.

But Trump is right about one thing: it isn't easy! Just like putting away all of the vices listed in Colossians 3. In fact, it's probably not even possible for most of us without some divine help.

By the way, this is not something that pertains to President Trump alone. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, a self-proclaimed Catholic, should have been aware of all of this a long time ago. She can also claim ownership to some of those negative attributes, and is a routine violator of James 1 as well. I'm wondering if she's the target of another Trump quote from the Prayer breakfast: *"I don't like people who use their faith as justification for doing what they know is wrong."* And that's the last thing I'll say about Ms. Pelosi!

Addressing Rep. Tim Ryan

During President Trump's State of the Union address on February 4, 2020, Representative Tim Ryan of Ohio walked out of the speech after 50 minutes, stating that, among other things, he grew tired of President Trump's lies, in which he went on to name a few things that the President said that he claimed were untrue or exaggerated. Not sure of the authenticity of Ryan's claims, but he did say one other thing that I thought was worth addressing: *"He's (Trump) talking about the glorification of God. This is a guy who paid off porn stars because he was having sex with them while his wife was pregnant."*

Not to condone these allegations if true, but this quote is a great example of what I said earlier about some people not understanding what Christianity is all about. Anyone who spends a minimal amount of time reading about the basics of Protestantism will learn that anyone who lets God into their hearts can change. Even Donald Trump. The good news is that this offer is open to everyone at any time, even minutes before death.

This is illustrated in the Bible by the criminal hanging on a cross next to Jesus. After rebuking a fellow prisoner hanging next to him (*"Don't you fear God since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong,"* the criminal then asked Jesus *"remember me when you come into your kingdom"*, in which Jesus replied *"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

The man was saved although only knowing Jesus for a few minutes. What he did in his life prior to that moment didn't matter. But note what he did. He acknowledged Jesus as God, admitted his guilt, and displayed his faith. And that's what got him eternal life in heaven. Not what he did or didn't do. A lesson for us all!

Let's explore a few other examples of people changing for the good, both in Biblical times and in our contemporary world.

Biblical Baddies

When you examine the backgrounds of the people God chose to use to convey his message and inspire what to write, you might be surprised what you find. They all had pretty serious issues and some did some very bad things. David, for example, committed murder, adultery and polygamy all after being appointed King. His son Solomon had over 700 wives at the time of his death. Abraham committed adultery and threw his wife under the bus by denying he was married to her to avoid a beating, leaving her susceptible to unwanted sexual advancements. Noah was a drunkard.

In the New Testament, Paul was a hater of Christians and led movements where many were captured or killed before his conversion. Matthew was a tax collector, and if he was like the majority of the other tax collectors of his time, an unethical one. But God selected and used all of these far from perfect people, and many others, to spread His message. A verse in the New Testament even states the intentionality of this:

"Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong; God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the thing that are not to nullify things that are, so that no one may boast before him." (1 Corinthians 1:26-30)

God also chose these kinds of people for another reason: to get them to change the way they lived. And once God entered the lives of people like this, they all changed for the good. That's one of the main promises God makes to everyone. Follow me, and you will change. Even people like Donald Trump.

Contemporary Baddies

Some of the most hideous crimes committed over the past 30 years involve convicted felons who have reportedly turned over their lives to God while incarcerated. After reading what they had done, it's hard to believe that this could even be possible. But friends, relatives and contacts insist it is. But of course, only they and God know for sure. I'm sure hoping so though! Let's take a look at a couple¹:

- **David Berkowitz**

David Berkowitz became known as the "Son of Sam" in 1976 and 1977, when he led police on a manhunt as he committed random shootings throughout New York City, wounding seven and killing six. In taunting letters, he claimed his neighbor's dog instructed him to kill pretty young girls; later, he said the shootings were rituals related to a Satanic cult.

Berkowitz, who is serving six 25-to-life sentences for murder, claims on his website (run by an independent webmaster, since he has no internet access) that another inmate suggested he look into Christianity. After reading Psalm 34 one night in 1987, Berkowitz writes, *"When I got up it felt as if a very heavy but invisible chain that had been around me for so many years was broken."* (You can read Psalm 34 in the appendix).

Berkowitz releases videos about his Christian testimony from behind bars, in addition to giving advice to young people through letters and counseling other inmates.

- **Karla Faye Tucker**

On June 13, 1983, Karla Faye Tucker and a then-boyfriend, Danny Garrett, broke into the apartment of their friend Jerry Dean to rob him. Over the course of the burglary, Tucker murdered Dean and Deborah Ray Thornton—a woman staying at Dean’s apartment—with a pickaxe.

On April 25, 1984, Tucker was sentenced to death, and before she was executed on February 3, 1998, she apologized to her victims’ families. Tucker said she became a born-again Christian in prison in October 1983 after bringing a Bible to her cell and being visited by the Holy Spirit.

While incarcerated, Tucker counseled and worked with other inmates on their Christian faith.

I personally can share a story of someone I know now (let’s call him “Glen”) who was a serial armed bank robber in the early/mid 1990’s before I knew him. After successfully robbing numerous banks while frequently holding bank employees and customers at gunpoint, one of “Glen’s” accomplices was arrested and eventually spilled the beans on him. Before long, “Glen” was serving a 16 year prison sentence. Entering prison, God was not on “Glen’s” radar in the least. But while in prison, a Christian prison ministry group paid a visit and after talking with them, something clicked. While in prison, “Glen” became a Christian, and now, some 20+ years after robbing his last bank, this “baddie” is one of the gentlest, kindest, caring people I know and is very active in the church we attend. There are several other people in our church with equally amazing testimonies that I could share had I the time! But stories like this are everywhere on the internet, so search for them if you want to read more.

And finally, there are the similar stories involving three of today’s leading Christian apologists: Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel and J. Warner Wallace. Although not bad people nor guilty of anything illegal, these three gentlemen were originally atheists, and two of them, McDowell and Strobel, actually set out to disprove Christianity. But after considering all of the facts they had accumulated, and I’m sure a little divine nudging, they both did a 360 and became Christians. Wallace was a “cold case” detective in Los Angeles for many years, and at some point decided to apply the tactics he used on cases towards proving or disproving God by analyzing the “testimony” of the Biblical writers, and the gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) in particular. His conclusion was that their claims about Jesus were very solid and he was sold.

All three are bestselling authors who have written numerous books explaining and defending Christianity, so be sure to check them out on Amazon or your favorite bookstore.

¹ Source: A&E TV - <https://www.aetv.com/real-crime/chris-watts-christian-david-berkowitz-religion>

In Summary

So to summarize all of this, God can, and does, use anyone to get his message across, and frequently uses people you would least expect to do so: flawed people who are far from perfect. “God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called”². What someone did in the past is a non-issue to God, as long as the person is willing to change, repent, and put their faith in Him.

Unfortunately, knowing it’s possible for people like Berkowitz and Tucker to be in Heaven despite what they’ve done is hard for some to digest. I’ve heard people say that they wouldn’t want to go to a heaven that lets people like that in. But, like it or not, the Bible says that like it is possible, as the story about the prisoner hanging next to Jesus showed earlier. That’s what Christianity is all about. But only God knows the hearts of Berkowitz and Tucker when they converted. And if there wasn’t 100% genuine acceptance from either one of them, then they won’t be spending eternity with Him.

The \$100,000 question then is has President Trump committed 100% to God? Well, only the two of them know for sure. Not even his close religious advisors would really know the answer to that. They can't read his heart. But since we believe God can change people, and have seen examples of it, evangelical Christians are willing to give Trump the benefit of the doubt and let God be the one to decide. And that may be the biggest difference between those who vote for him and those who don't.

There are some positive indications though: He's surrounding himself with some very good and influential people, and he has said and done some encouraging things, not the least backing Bible-supported issues important to evangelicals. On the other hand, he does continue at times to display the brash, ego-driven, vindictive personality that he's been known for over the past 45 years. Fortunately, Trump can't fool God. And if it turns out that he's been anything but sincere all of this time, he will be outed at some point. *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows"* (Galatians 6:7).

² Thank you Pastor Eric Smith!

So Why all of the Evangelical Support?

As mentioned earlier, some people have a real issue with the fact that 81% of evangelicals voted for Trump in the 2016 presidential election, and honestly can't understand why. As I stated earlier, I don't know how many times I've heard a Christian be asked *"How can you be a Christian and vote for Donald Trump?"* I know I have. So let's explore the answer to that question.

First off, it's important to note something that many people may have forgotten. During the 2016 Republican primaries, Trump was not the candidate of choice for the majority of Christians. And probably not even in the top three. Ted Cruz and Ben Carson certainly had more evangelical support than Trump. Possibly even Mike Huckabee and John Kasich. So Trump wasn't the candidate of choice from day 1 for most Christians. So why did that all change once Trump became the Republican candidate? There are many reasons, but here are the three I'd like to discuss:

- Moral views
- Policy is more important than personality
- No good alternative

Moral Views

From a Christian point of view, God created us, is good and thus as the standard of good, we should line up what we want with what He wants. With His will, not our will. Thus a Christ follower cannot support someone or something that contradicts God. The big ones today are obviously sexual immorality³ and abortion⁴. You may or may not agree with that, but that's where Christ followers are coming from.

On a side note, the whole homosexual vs. heterosexual escalation is really unfortunate, as it was low key issue and rarely newsworthy until the state of California put proposition 8 on the ballot in 2008. Although both parties had their disagreements with each other, they, for the most part, stayed out of each others hair until then. But this proposition suddenly put Christians on the spot regarding what constitutes a legal marriage. A true Christian, however, had to support a bill that clearly represented what the Bible said about traditional marriage. And so the evangelicals voted the way they had too, and with the assistance of more than a few non-evangelicals, the proposition passed roughly 52 - 48%, which officially made traditional marriage as the only legal type of marriage in the state. But what a whirl wind it would cause, leading up to a controversial Supreme Court ruling that overturned it, and the tensions we're seeing today between evangelicals and the gay community.

And ever since, evangelicals have had to defend their stance, and unfairly pay the price for it on more than one occasion. The thing is, it's not an anti-gay stance, but a pro-God one. Christians stand by what the Bible says about homosexual practice being a sin (one of many, incidentally, that falls into the bracket of what the Bible refers to as "sexual immorality"), but having nothing against homosexual people themselves. Unfortunately, many of the pro-same sex marriage supporters can't, or won't, see it that way. Prior to 2008, I don't think most Christians cared if a gay couples relationship was confirmed in a civil manner, or in any way other than legally equal to a traditional marriage. But once same sex marriage challenged traditional marriage for equality, Christians were forced to take a stand.

³ See my article "Relationships": <http://writingdrummer.online/gallery/relationships.pdf>

⁴ See my article "Hobby Lobby and the Supreme Court": <http://writingdrummer.online/gallery/hobbylobby.pdf>

Policy Over Personality

It is widely acknowledged that for the most part, the conservative Republican party are anti-abortion and traditional marriage supporters, while the majority of the Democratic party are just the opposite. There are obviously other moral differences, but those are the big two. So because of that, it's logical to assume that there are probably going to be more evangelicals in the Republican party. And since a real Christian simply can't support someone who supports these two issues, evangelicals will be heavily supporting the right wing agenda. However, that doesn't mean a Christ follower can't vote for a Democrat who is anti-abortion and pro traditional marriage. I would hope a Christian would at least take a close look at a left wing candidate like that. Likewise, evangelicals can't be supporting a right wing candidate who is pro-abortion, etc.

But, speaking as a Christian, what do you do when one candidate supports all of the causes you believe in that parallels what the Bible says, but has had a sordid past and a strong, brash, unpleasant personality that could get them in trouble at any moment, and another candidate that is against all of the policies you support, policies that go against God's teachings, but has a much more stable, pleasant, controlled, likable personality?

Here is an analogy I recently read that addresses this dilemma:

"When you choose a surgeon, why do you primarily choose a surgeon? Because of the surgery they do. If you have a surgeon who has a great demeanor (personality), but isn't really a great surgeon, are you going to choose him over a surgeon who is a great surgeon but has a bad demeanor? No, you're going to go with the better surgeon. I'd like to have both. But given the choice, you go with the better skilled surgeon." Same with voting for president. If you're going to vote for a guy because of his personality over his policies, you're neglecting the more important matters of the law."

So there you go. As difficult as it was, 81% of evangelicals went with the better surgeon, or the person who best represented what they believe, and accepted that the brash personality and demeanor went along with it.

No Good Alternative

I'm convinced that if one of the other political parties would have provided an equal or better alternative to Donald Trump, evangelicals would have voted for him/her. But Trump was the only candidate who supported the Bible-backed policies that Christians must support. Hillary Clinton didn't come close as an alternative because her beliefs are the complete opposite. There are other reasons as well, but I won't get into those here.

I never understood it when people would say something like, "If you're a Christian, you can't vote for Trump." My first reaction is "why", because I would be interested in hearing specific reasons from them, and not just because of things he did 10, 20 or more years ago. But I would immediately follow that with, "so who should Christians have voted for?" Certainly not Ms. Clinton, as she backs even more anti-Biblical stances than Trump.

So should the millions of evangelicals in the United States have abstained from voting in the 2016 Presidential election and the upcoming 2020 election? Of course not! As mentioned in the previous section, Christ followers had two choices, and they chose not the one with the better demeanor, but that supported the policies that were important to them. If the Democratic party had ran someone a little less liberal than Ms. Clinton, it could have been a different story. Remember what I mentioned earlier that Trump was not the choice of evangelicals until the Presidential election.

Christ Followers, Christians, Evangelicals....What Exactly Does that Mean?

To completely understand everything I discussed above, it's important to understand what a Christian (or Christ follower) is, but also what they are not.

First off, a "Christian" or "Christ follower" is not a person who has said a prayer or walked down an aisle or been raised in a Christian family. While each of these things can be a part of the Christian experience, they are not what make a Christian. And that's surprising to some.

But biblically speaking, Christians are those who are forgiven of their sins and who have entered a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 10:9–10). In order to become a Christian, a person must fully accept as part of his or her own personal worldview the following core beliefs:

- Jesus is the Son of God and is equal with God (John 1:1, 49; Luke 22:70; Mark 3:11; Philippians 2:5–11)
- Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life (Hebrews 4:15)
- We all are sinners (Romans 3:23–24)
- The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23) as it separates us from God (Luke 19:10)
- Jesus was crucified to pay the penalty for our sins (Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 15:2–4), and to "give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:32).
- Jesus rose from the dead (Luke 24:46; Mark 16:6)
- We are saved by the grace of God; that is, we cannot add to or take away from Christ's finished work on the cross as full payment for our sin, so that we can't take credit for our salvation (Ephesians 2:8–9). In other words, if we were saved strictly by what we did, salvation would be determined by us and not a gift of God. Which means Jesus would have died on the cross for nothing.

It's interesting to note that Jesus did not come into the world to start another religion. There were already plenty of religions (see Acts 17:22–23), including Judaism, which had begun as a relationship between God and Abraham back some 2,000 years before Jesus arrived (Leviticus 20:12) but had deteriorated into another religious system involving idol worship (Matthew 15:8). Idol worship, in case you don't know, is the act of putting anything above God. Be it food, drink, video games, TV, sex, a different God, or whatever.

Not a Christian? The door is always open for anyone: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me"* (Revelation 3:20).

Note: Check out the appendix to read all of the scriptures listed above.

⁵ Source: Got Questions - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christianity-beliefs.html>

In Conclusion: A Quote from Christopher Hilken

I just wanted to conclude with a great statement I read from Christopher Hilken, a pastor at North Coast Church, a ministry with multiple campuses throughout southern California:

"No one is a blank slate. Everyone who walks in here, Christian, non-Christian, theist, atheist, or agnostic, you walked in here with baggage. Something has already dictated in you what evidence you want to find out. If you are a Christian, you really hope that I go, "here's proof of Christianity". If you are an Atheist, you can't wait until you find something where you can say "ah ha, I got it! And then you tell your friends this information is incorrect, that information is incorrect, etc."

If someone can prove to me that this God thing is untrue, then I can finally lead the life I really want to! I don't take this job for the paycheck! I have a stirring in me that believes that there is something bigger going on. Before I was renewed and saved, I tried a lot of things in this world whether it be success, sex, money or power...and nothing worked! And something about this old, outdated, antiquated, non-progressive book called the Bible stirred something inside of me after I found the evidence of God's existence, and I just decided 'I quit. I'm done with all of this stuff'."

And hopefully President Donald J. Trump has sincerely decided that too. Because many are voting that he has.

Appendix: Referenced Scripture

The following are scriptures references in this document. The translation used is the New International Version (NIV).

Psalm 34:

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
5 Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.
7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
9 Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
11 Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
12 What man is there who desires life
and loves many days, that he may see good?
13 Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
14 Turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous
and his ears toward their cry.
16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.
20 He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken.
21 Affliction will slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be
condemned.
22 The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be
condemned.

John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:49 – “Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

Luke 22:70 – “They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied, “You say that I am.”

Mark 3:11 – “Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”

- Philippians 2:5–11** –
⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
⁶ Who, being in very nature[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness.
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!
⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Hebrews 4:15** – “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”
- Romans 3:23-24** – ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
- Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in^[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 10:9-10** – “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”
- Luke 19:10** – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
- Matthew 26:28** – “This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:2–4** – “By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
- Mark 10:32-34** – ³² “They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”
- Luke 24:46-47** – “He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Mark 16:6 –

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”

Ephesians 2:8–9 –

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”

John 3:16 –

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”