

Popular Sayings...from the Bible?



**Exploring 30 everyday expressions
borrowed from the Bible**

Jeff Wagner

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Introduction

"Cast the first stone", "a drop in the bucket", "the apple of my eye" and "sign of the times"all well-known sayings that we've heard all of our lives. But where did they come from?

Would you believe the Bible? It's true!

This paper examines 30 popular sayings you've either heard or have said your selves a number of times, all of which came from the Good Book, going back as far as 2,000 years. The verses listed are taken from either the New International Version (NIV), English Standard Version (ESV) or King James (KJ) translation.

Oh, and be sure to visit my website, [Pen 2 Paper](#), if you'd like to read more articles like this that I've written!

Popular Sayings

<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>A house divided against itself cannot stand</i></p>	<p>This comes from the book of Mark in the New Testament, chapter 3, verse 25:</p> <p><i>“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of 1 Thessalonians in the Old Testament, chapter 1, verse 3:</p> <p><i>“...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p><i>A Labor of Love</i></p>
<p><i>3</i></p> <p><i>A man after his own heart</i></p>	<p>This comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Old Testament, chapter 13, verse 14:</p> <p><i>“But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”</i></p> <p>Acts 13:22 in the New Testament has a similar statement:</p> <p><i>“After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament, chapter 7, verse 15:</p> <p><i>“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p><i>A wolf in sheep's clothing</i></p>

<p>5</p> <p><i>At wits' end</i></p>	<p>This comes from the book of Psalm in the Old Testament, chapter 107, verse 27:</p> <p><i>“They reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of Job in the Old Testament, chapter 19, verse 20:</p> <p><i>“I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.”</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>By the skin of your teeth</i></p>
<p>7</p> <p><i>A Fly in the Ointment</i></p>	<p>This comes from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament, chapter 10, verses 1-2:</p> <p><i>“Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench; so, a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament, chapter 13, verse 23:</p> <p><i>“Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.”</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Can a leopard change its spots?</i></p>
<p>9</p> <p><i>In the twinkling of an eye</i></p>	<p>This comes from the book of 1 Corinthians in the New Testament, chapter 15, verse 52:</p> <p><i>“In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”</i></p>

<p>This comes from the book of Psalms in the Old Testament, chapter 23, verse 5:</p> <p><i>“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>10</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>My cup runneth over</i></p>
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<p><i>11</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Peace offering</i></p>	<p>“Peace offering” appears over 70 times in the Old Testament. This verse comes from the book of 1 Kings, chapter 8, verse 63:</p> <p><i>“Solomon offered as peace offerings to the Lord 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep.”</i></p>
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<p>This comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Old Testament, chapter 20, verse 1:</p> <p><i>“This is what the Lord says, ‘Put your house in order...’”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>12</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Put your house in order</i></p>
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<p><i>13</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reap what you sow</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Galatians in the New Testament, chapter 6, verse 7:</p> <p><i>“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”</i></p>
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<p>This comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament, chapter 16, verse 3:</p> <p><i>“You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>14</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sign of the times</i></p>
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<p>15</p> <p><i>Sharp as a two-edged sword</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, chapter 4, verse 12:</p> <p><i>“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament, chapter 52, verse 8:</p> <p><i>“For they shall see eye to eye When the Lord brings back Zion.”</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>See eye-to-eye</i></p>
<p>17</p> <p><i>To the ends of the earth</i></p>	<p>The phrase “ends of the earth” appears over 40 times in the Bible. This verse comes from the book of Psalms in the Old Testament, chapter 46, verse 9:</p> <p><i>“He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of Romans in the New Testament, chapter 13, verse 1:</p> <p><i>“For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>The powers that be</i></p>
<p>19</p> <p><i>White as snow</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament, chapter 28, verse 3:</p> <p><i>“His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament, chapter 10, verse 19:</p> <p><i>“Woe is me because of my hurt!”</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Woe is me</i></p>

<p>21</p> <p><i>Eye for an eye (tooth for a tooth)</i></p>	<p>This verse originally appears in the Old Testament book of Exodus (chapter 21, verse 24), but is repeated in the book of Matthew in the New Testament, chapter 5, verse 38:</p> <p><i>“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of John in the New Testament, chapter 8, verse 7:</p> <p><i>“And while they continued asking him, he lifted himself up, and said unto them, let him that is among you without sin, cast the first stone at her.”</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Cast the first stone</i></p>
<p>23</p> <p><i>A drop in the bucket</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament, chapter 40, verse 15:</p> <p><i>“No, for all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand.”</i></p>
<p>This comes from the book of John in the New Testament, chapter 8, verse 7:</p> <p><i>“Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.”</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>The apple of your/my eye</i></p>
<p>25</p> <p><i>The eleventh hour</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament, chapter 20, verse 6:</p> <p><i>“And about the eleventh hour, he went out and found others standing.”</i></p>

<p>This comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament, chapter 15, verse 14:</p> <p><i>“And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blind leading the blind</i></p>
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<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Eat, drink and be merry</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Luke in the New Testament, chapter 12, verse 19:</p> <p><i>“And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”</i></p>
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<p>This comes from the book of Ezekiel in the Old Testament, chapter 20, verse 15:</p> <p><i>“I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land that I had given them, a land flowing with milk and honey.”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Land of milk and honey</i></p>
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<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fall by the wayside</i></p>	<p>This verse comes from the book of Luke in the New Testament, chapter 8, verse 5:</p> <p><i>“And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down.”</i></p>
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<p>This comes from the book of Ecclesiastes 1:9 in the Old Testament, chapter 1, verse 9:</p> <p><i>““That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nothing new under the sun</i></p>
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