

Topical Prayer Guide

Living Water for those who thirst...

for GOD

As the deer pants for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and stand before him? Psalms 42:1-2

Draw close to God and he will draw close to you. James 4:8

We are all made with an emptiness only God can fill. But if we seek him, he will reveal himself to us.

- **God is trustworthy** Deuteronomy 7:9
- **God is gracious and merciful** Nehemiah 9:31
- **God is good** Psalm 34:8
- **God is our hope** Psalm 71:5
- **God is near everyone** Psalm 75:1
- **God is our Father** Matthew 6:9
- **God is spirit** John 4:24
- **God is knowable** Ephesians 1:17
- **God is living** 1 Timothy 4:10
- **God is personal** James 2:23
- **God is approachable** James 4:8
- **God is love** John 4:16

for JESUS CHRIST

So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. John 1:14

(Jesus said) "If you are thirsty, come to me! If you believe in me, come and drink!" John 7:37

Jesus calls us to come to him for forgiveness, friendship, and fulfillment.

- **Jesus is the Son of God** Luke 1:35
- **Jesus is God** John 1:1-5
- **Jesus gives life** John 10:10
- **Jesus is the Good Shepherd** John 10:11
- **Jesus is the only way to God** John 14:6
- **Jesus is the author of life** Acts 3:15
- **Jesus is the wisdom of God** 1 Corinthians 1:21-24
- **Jesus is faithful** 2 Timothy 2:13
- **Jesus is holy** Hebrews 7:26
- **Jesus is the Lamb of God** Revelation 21:22

for THE HOLY SPIRIT

But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative and by the counselor I mean the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything I myself have told you. John 14:26

But we know these things because God has revealed them to us by his Spirit, and his Spirit searches out everything and shows us even God's deep secrets. 1 Corinthians 2:10

The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's love, convicts us of sin, protects our minds, and teaches us spiritual truth.

- **The Holy Spirit was involved in Creation** Genesis 1:2
- **The Holy Spirit empowers leaders** Judges 3:10
- **The Holy Spirit guides us** John 16:13
- **The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses** Acts 1:8
- **The Holy Spirit lives within us** Romans 8:11
- **The Holy Spirit sanctifies us** Romans 15:16
- **The Holy Spirit is involved in our salvation** Titus 3:5

to overcome ANGER

Don't sin by letting anger control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27

My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry. James 1:19

Don't let anger get a foothold in your life – let go of it for your own good.

for God's CARE

Even when you are chased by those who seek to take your life, you are safe in the care of the Lord your God, secure in his treasure pouch. 1 Samuel 25:29

For the strength of the wicked will be shattered, but the Lord takes care of the godly. Day by day the Lord takes care of the innocent, and they will receive a reward that lasts forever. Psalm 37:17-18

You are safe in God's care no matter how insecure you feel.

for the ability to cope with CHANGE

God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. Hebrews 6:17

For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 1 Peter 1:4

In the midst of unsettling change in your life, remember that God never changes.

for CHARACTER

And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. Romans 5:4

For when your faith is tested your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. James 1:3-4

Welcome the challenges that God sends your way – they will strengthen your character.

for COMFORT

"Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in all his glorious power. He will rule with awesome strength. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. Isaiah 40:1; 10-11

All praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the source of every mercy and the God who comforts us. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. You can be sure that the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

God's comfort is sure, gentle, and meets our deepest needs. And it is available to all who come to him.

- **God promises to comfort those who mourn** Matthew 5:4
- **God's Holy Spirit is our Comforter** John 14:6
- **Jesus has overcome the world's troubles** John 16:33
- **God comforts those who are hurting** 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
- **Christians should comfort each other** 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- **At Christ's return, all pain will end** Revelation 21:3-4

for COMMUNITY

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live together in harmony! Psalm 133:1

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. Philippians 2:1-2

God doesn't want his people to live in isolation. The church is a spiritual community that can support us and help us grow in knowledge and faith.

- **God's people should celebrate together** Exodus 12:47
- **Christians should not live in isolation** John 17:11
- **We should bear one another's joys and burdens** Romans 12:9-16
- **Believers must seek unity in all essentials** 1 Corinthians 1:10
- **There can be great unity even in great diversity** Ephesians 4:3-12
- **Christ's love should bring unity among believers** Philippians 1:3-11

for COMPASSION

But the LORD still waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for him to help them. Isaiah 30:18

Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their sorrow. Isaiah 49:13

God's compassion for you is greater than you can imagine!

for COURAGE

(Jesus said) "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

God promises to give you all the courage and strength you need to live for him.

- **One person's courage affects others** Deuteronomy 20:8
- **Gideon received courage for his battle** Judges 7:1-25
- **God gives us ultimate victory** Psalm 112:8
- **Courage helps us to boldly represent Christ** Acts 4:31
- **Pray for courage** Ephesians 6:19-20
- **Christians can pray with confidence** Hebrews 4:16

for help in dealing with CRITICISM

If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept criticism, you will be honored. Proverbs 13:18

If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding. Proverbs 15:31-32

Accept the constrictive criticism that can help you grow; then forget about the rest.

for helping in making DECISIONS

The trouble with you is that you make your decisions on the basis of appearance. You must recognize that we belong to Christ just as much as those who proudly declare that they belong to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:7

If you need wisdom--if you want to know what God wants you to do--ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do. James 1:5-8

God promises to give you wisdom if you ask in faith.

for Depression

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy. Psalm 30:11

As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands. Psalm 119:143

Meditating on God's Word can help heal your emotions and give you new joy.

for DIRECTION

How can we understand the road we travel? It is the LORD who directs our steps. Proverbs 20:24

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy. Proverbs 29:18

God's Word is the best source for direction and guidance in life.

for help in coping with DISAPPOINTMENT

You heard their cries for help and saved them. They put their trust in you and were never disappointed. Psalm 22:5

As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed. Romans 10:11

In times of disappointment, be thankful that God will never let you down.

for help in overcoming DISCOURAGEMENT

Why am I discouraged? Why so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again--my Savior and my God!
Psalm 42:11

So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time. Galatians 6:9

Put your hope in God – he will help you press on.

to overcome DOUBT

O Israel, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles? How can you say God refuses to hear your case? Have you never heard or understood? Don't you know that the LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. Isaiah 40:27-28

If you need wisdom--if you want to know what God wants you to do--ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. James 1:5-7

God remains the same even when you are filled with doubt. Ask him to fill your heart with faith.

for EMOTIONAL HEALING

The LORD is close to the broken hearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

And no doubt you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38

God created your emotions. Turn to him for healing.

for ENCOURAGEMENT

O Israel, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles? How can you say God refuses to hear your case? Have you never heard or understood? Don't you know that the LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:27-31

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises. Romans 15:4

Encouragement can come from many sources: God's presence, the Bible, and other believers.

- **Good leaders should encourage us to obey God** Numbers 13:30
- **God's presence encourages us** Joshua 1:1-9
- **Encouragement comes from reading God's Word** Psalm 119:28
- **Prayer brings encouragement** Psalm 138:3
- **The Holy Spirit encourages us** Acts 9:31
- **Our position in Christ encourages us** Philippians 2:1
- **Believers should encourage each other** 1 Thessalonians 4:18

for ENDURANCE

May the LORD bring you into an ever deeper understanding of the love of God and the endurance that comes from Christ.
2 Thessalonians 3:5

Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. Hebrews 10:36

The secret to endurance is trusting and obeying God.

for help in dealing with FAILURE

If your boss is angry with you, don't quit! A quiet spirit can overcome even great mistakes. Ecclesiastes 10:4

Will not even one of you apply these lessons from the past and see the ruin that awaits you? Isaiah 42:23

The best way to deal with your failures is to humbly learn from them and move on.

for FAITH

So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. Romans 3:28

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. Hebrews 11:1

If you believe that God is who he says he is and that he will keep his promises, you have all the faith you need.

- **Believing God takes faith** Genesis 15:6
- **Only a small amount of faith is needed** Luke 17:6
- **Faith puts us in a right relationship with God** Romans 5:1
- **Faith comes from hearing the Word of God** Romans 10:17
- **Accept the person who has weak faith** Romans 14:1
- **Faith accompanies obedience to God** Hebrews 11:7-12

for FEAR

The LORD is my light and my salvation--so why should I be afraid? The LORD protects me from danger--so why should I tremble? Psalm 27:1

Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. 1 John 4:18

Allow God's perfect love to drive away your fears.

for FORGIVENESS

Though our hearts are filled with sins, you forgive them all. Psalm 65:3

"I--yes, I alone--am the one who blots out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again." Isaiah 43:25

Nothing weighs on a person more than guilt. But you can be forgiven – that is God's promise.

- **God forgives us because he love us** Psalm 86:5
- **God washes us clean as fresh snow** Isaiah 1:18
- **God removes our impurities** Ezekiel 36:25
- **God loves to forgive** Micah 7:18
- **God's children are reborn spiritually** John 1:12-13
- **Christians should be free from sin's power** Romans 5:21
- **God will forgive our sins if we confess them** 1 John 1:8-9

for the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. Galatians 5:22-23

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11

If you love and obey God, he will produce the fruits of his spirit in your life.

for GRACE

And now I entrust you to God and the word of his grace--his message that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself. Acts 20:32

But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me--and not without results. For I have worked harder than all the other apostles, yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. 1 Corinthians 15:10

God's grace gives power, endurance, freedom, and hope. And it is God's gift to those who love him.

- **God is full of grace** Exodus 34:6
- **Grace is a good gift from the Lord** Psalm 84:11
- **God's provision is an expression of his grace** Joel 2:23
- **God's grace gives us power to obey him** Acts 6:8
- **God's grace helps us remain faithful** Acts 13:43
- **God's grace frees us from sin** Romans 6:14
- **We should depend on God's grace, not our own wisdom** 2 Corinthians 1:12
- **God's grace makes salvation possible** Ephesians 1:7-8
- **God accepts us by his grace** Ephesians 2:8-9
- **God's grace gives us hope** 1 Peter 1:13

for GRIEF

Even when I walk through the dark valley **of death**, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. Psalm 23:4

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

God's comfort is closest during your darkest times.

for GUIDANCE

I will bless the LORD who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. Psalm 16:7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

God guides those who follow him.

- **God gave Joshua instructions for taking Jericho** Joshua 6:1-27
- **We should ask God for guidance** Psalm 25:4-7
- **God offers us guidance** Psalm 32:8
- **God will give us direction** Psalm 48:14
- **The Bible gives us guidance** Psalm 119:133
- **God works everything into his plan** Proverbs 16:4
- **God directs the events of our lives** Acts 16:6-7
- **God gives wisdom for making decisions** James 1:2-5

for freedom from GUILT

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Psalm 32:5

For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. Romans 3:23-24

When you confess your sins, believe that God forgives you and release your sense of guilt. You are clean in God's eyes!

for HEAVEN

There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. John 14:2-3

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. Colossians 3:1-5

You can look forward to going home to heaven.

for HOPE

When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer. Psalm 94:19

So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

When faced with doubt or discouragement, put your hope in God. He will meet your every need.

- **God gives hope to the needy** Psalm 9:18
- **Hope gives us confidence** Psalm 25:3
- **God blesses those who hope in him** Psalm 25:5
- **Hope is available to those who wait for God** Psalm 62:5
- **Put your hope in God's Word** Psalm 119:43
- **Christians should always have hope** Romans 8:28
- **Jesus' resurrection gives us hope** 1 Corinthians 6:14
- **We have hope in Jesus Christ** 1 Corinthians 15:19

to avoid IMMORALITY

Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.
Ephesians 5:3

The Holy Spirit, living in you, empowers you to remain pure.

for INTEGRITY

To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity you show integrity. 2 Samuel 22:26

These were his instructions to them: "You must always act in the fear of the LORD, with integrity and with undivided hearts. 2 Chronicles 19:9

Living with integrity requires personal sacrifices, but the eternal rewards outweigh whatever we give up in this life.

- **God rejoices in the integrity of his people** 1 Chronicles 29:17
- **Integrity is essential for leaders** Psalm 78:72
- **Integrity takes effort and discipline** Psalm 101:3-8
- **God watches over people with integrity** Proverbs 10:9
- **Leaders prove their integrity at home** 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- **Leaders in the church must have integrity** Titus 1:7
- **We must maintain integrity in teaching others** Titus 2:7

for INTIMACY

Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites.
James 4:8

See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children, and we really are! But the people who belong to this world don't know God, so they don't understand that we are his children. 1 John 3:1

Our God is a personal, knowable God who calls us his children. We can develop intimacy with him by drawing close and listening to his voice.

- **Spending time with God leads to intimacy with him** Psalm 1:2
- **God draws near to those who seek him** Psalm 75:1
- **Virtue is essential for lasting intimacy** Proverbs 31:10-12
- **God wants an intimate relationship with us** Hosea 2:16-20
- **God will always be present with his people** Matthew 28:20

to overcome JEALOUSY

Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but who can survive the destructiveness of jealousy? Proverbs 27:4

For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and motivated by the Devil. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil.
James 3:15-16

Don't allow jealousy to take root in your heart – it will destroy you.

for KNOWLEDGE

Cry out for insight and understanding. Search for them as you would for lost money or hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:3-6

To those who are open to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But to those who are not listening, even what they have will be taken away from them. Matthew 13:12

If you apply the knowledge God has given you, he will reveal more truth to you.

for LOSS

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. You can be sure that the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. We are confident that as you share in suffering, you will also share God's comfort. 1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 7

May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and in his special favor gave us everlasting comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do and say. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

God promises to comfort you in times of loss and sorrow.

for a good MARRIAGE

For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not have a godly influence, but now they are set apart for him. 1 Corinthians 7:14

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. Hebrews 13:4

Build your marriage on God's Word, and it will remain strong.

for MEANING IN LIFE

God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him. But if a sinner becomes wealthy, God takes the wealth away and gives it to those who please him. Even this, however, is meaningless, like chasing the wind. Ecclesiastes 2:26

Here is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is the duty of every person. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The meaning of life is found in obeying God.

for MERCY

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:4-5

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it. Hebrews 4:16

God's mercy is not something we can earn; we must humbly receive it as a gracious gift from our loving Father.

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- **God's mercy is plentiful** Psalm 69:16
- **God's mercy is unparalleled** Isaiah 63:9
- **God delights in showing mercy** Micah 7:18
- **Even those late in coming will receive mercy** Matthew 20:1-6
- **Jesus has mercy on sinners, even in death** Luke 23:32-43
- **We cannot earn God's mercy** Romans 9:15
- **Jesus is merciful to us** 1 Timothy 1:2
- **God offers us his mercy** 2 Timothy 1:2
- **God saves us because of his mercy** Titus 3:5

for PATIENCE

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. Galatians 5:22-23

We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need. Colossians 1:11

Patience comes as a by-product of God's work in our lives. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit, and let him produce patience in you.

- **Patience is valuable** Proverbs 25:15
- **Patience is better than pride** Ecclesiastes 7:8
- **Patience demonstrates love** 1 Corinthians 13:4
- **Christians are to be patient with each other** Ephesians 4:2
- **God wants to clothe us with patience** Colossians 3:12
- **We can be examples of God's great patience** 1 Timothy 1:16

for PEACE

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you! Isaiah 26:3

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

God gives peace to those who depend on him to meet all of their needs.

- **Peace is a blessing from God** Psalm 29:11
- **God blesses his people with peace** Proverbs 16:7
- **Jesus is called the Prince of Peace** Isaiah 9:6-7
- **We can have peace with God** Isaiah 53:5
- **The peace Jesus offers is different than the world's peace** John 14:27
- **Jesus gives us peace** Romans 5:1
- **Peace comes from believing in God** Romans 15:13
- **Peace is evidence of the Holy Spirit's work** Galatians 5:22

to resist PEER PRESSURE

Do not join a crowd that intends to do evil. When you are on the witness stand, do not be swayed in your testimony by the opinion of the majority. Exodus 23:2

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command with the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from any Christian* who lives in idleness and doesn't follow the tradition of hard work we gave you. For you know that you ought to follow our example. We were never lazy when we were with you. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7

Resist peer pressure by avoiding the people and things that tempt you to sin.

for God's PERSPECTIVE

He replied, "What is impossible from a human perspective is possible with God. Luke 18:27

But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him. 1 John 2:5

You can discover God's perspective in his Word.

for help in dealing with PROBLEMS

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to endure. Romans 5:3

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad--because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterward you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory when it is displayed to all the world. 1 Peter 4:12-13

God can use the problems in your life for good – just ask him!

for PROTECTION

My God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the strength of my salvation, and my stronghold, my high tower, my savior, the one who saves me from violence. 2 Samuel 22:3

He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Psalm 91:4

Although God does not always save us out of our troubles, he will protect us during them. Turn to God, the protector of your soul.

- **God protects those who look to him** 2 Samuel 22:31
- **God is a refuge in times of trouble** Psalm 9:9
- **God is our protector** Psalm 18:2
- **Our protection comes from the Lord** Psalm 89:18
- **God himself watches over us** Psalm 121:8
- **God protects those who fear him** Proverbs 19:23
- **Obeying God leads to his protection** Jeremiah 42:1-22
- **God protects those who honor him** Daniel 3:1-30
- **God guards us from the evil one** 2 Thessalonians 3:3

for PURITY

How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word and following its rules. Psalm 119:9

And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8

The world is filled with impurity and strong temptations. The sure way to remain pure is to seek God's help and to saturate your mind with his Word.

- **Purity of heart brings strength** Job 17:9
- **Only God can truly purify our hearts** Psalm 86:11
- **We cannot claim purity apart from God** Proverbs 20:9
- **The pure in heart will see God** Matthew 5:8
- **Purity begins in the heart** Matthew 5:27-30
- **Outward purity cannot substitute for inner purity** Matthew 23:25-28
- **Inner purity is essential to outward purity** Mark 7:1-23
- **Purity comes from God** John 17:17
- **Purity ought to mark our lives** Ephesians 5:1-4
- **God calls us to keep our hearts pure so that we will be able to serve him** 2 Timothy 2:21-22

for RECONCILIATION

Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation. Proverb 14:9

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. Matthew 18:15-17

Seek reconciliation with others through the power of Christ.

for RESPONSIBILITY

The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' Matthew 25:23

Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. Luke 16:10

If you are faithful in the small things, God will trust you with greater responsibilities.

for **REST**

He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. Psalm 23:2

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28-29

In this life, God's rest means peace of heart and mind in the midst of life's difficulties. After this life on earth, believers will enjoy eternal rest with God.

- **God modeled weekly rest** Genesis 2:1-3
- **Rest is important for worship and refreshment** Exodus 20:8-11
- **God offers rest and shelter to his people** Psalm 91:1
- **God gives us the Sabbath as a day of rest** Isaiah 56:6
- **Rest is a gift from God** Hebrews 4:9-11
- **Heaven will be a place of rest** Revelation 14:13

for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

I no longer count on my own goodness or my ability to obey God's law, but I trust Christ to save me. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. Philippians 3:9

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Timothy 3:16

We can never attain righteousness on our own. But God makes us blameless before him when we put our faith in Christ and his work on the cross.

- **God is completely righteous** Isaiah 45:21-24
- **We cannot attain righteousness on our own** Isaiah 64:6
- **Human nature is the opposite of righteousness** Romans 3:10-18

for **SALVATION**

But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22-23

Salvation that comes from trusting Christ--which is the message we preach--is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, "The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." Romans 10:8

Salvation is a free gift to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. Once a person trusts in Christ as his or her personal Savior, that person belongs to God, is free from the power of sin, and has assurance of eternal life.

- **Receiving salvation makes us God's children** John 1:12-13
- **Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit** John 3:1-16
- **Trusting in Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved** John 14:6
- **Salvation includes gaining a relationship with God** John 17:1-5
- **Receiving salvation means turning from our sins** Acts 2:37-38
- **Salvation is by God's grace alone** Ephesians 2:1-9
- **Salvation rescues us from Satan's dominion** Colossians 1:13-14
- **Our salvation has been obtained by Jesus' blood** 1 Peter 1:18-19

for **SECURITY**

Such is the fate of all who forget God. The hope of the godless comes to nothing. Everything they count on will collapse. They are leaning on a spiderweb. They cling to their home for security, but it won't last. They try to hold it fast, but it will not endure. Job 8:13-15

Fear of the LORD gives life, security, and protection from harm. Proverbs 19:23

The security the world offers is temporary, but true security is found in God. He never changes, and his security is eternal.

- **Security is found in God's holy house** Ezra 9:8
- **God's people live in security** Psalm 102:28
- **God's presence is more enduring than mountains** Isaiah 54:10
- **Obeying God's Word brings security** Matthew 7:24-27
- **Nothing can separate us from God's love** Romans 8:31-39
- **Security comes through prayer** Philippians 4:6-7

for SELF CONTROL

So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the special blessings that will come to you at the return of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness. 2 Peter 1:6

Self control brings honor to God, so ask him to help you.

to overcome SELF DESIRES

And you won't spend the rest of your life chasing after evil desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. 1 Peter 4:2

And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4

God's power working within you can help you resist your selfish desires.

for SPIRITUAL ARMOR

Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. Ephesians 6:13-14

But let us who live in the light think clearly, protected by the body armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

God gave you spiritual armor to help you resist temptation and live for him.

for SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness--righteous, holy, and true. Ephesians 4:22-24

Spiritual renewal comes from God alone – depend on him to change your heart and life.

STABILITY

Wickedness never brings stability; only the godly have deep roots. Proverbs 12:3

When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But with wise and knowledgeable leaders, there is stability. Proverbs 28:2

Seek God and he will give you stability that this world can never provide.

to become good STEWARDS

Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone. But their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. 1 Timothy 6:17-18

Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's money, why should you be trusted with money of your own? Luke 16:10-12

Use your money to honor God, and he will honor you.

for STRENGTH

He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Psalm 23:3

My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. Psalm 73:26

Depend on God for strength. He will never fail you.

for help in dealing with SUFFERING

This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:21

Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted. Hebrews 2:17-18

Because Christ suffered, he can help you in your time of suffering.

for SYMPATHY

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:15

Finally, all of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds. 1 Peter 3:8

Go to the right source when you need sympathy. Turn to Jesus, who understands your pain, and to other believers for comfort.

- **God is compassionate towards us** Psalm 103:13
- **Jesus felt great sympathy for the needy** Matthew 9:36
- **Jesus healed the sick with compassion** Matthew 14:14
- **Jesus showed sympathy for the blind** Matthew 20:34
- **Jesus truly sympathized with the family of Lazarus** John 11:35

to overcome TEMPTATION

But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. 2 Timothy 2:22

God promises to show you a way to resist temptation – look for it!

for a THANKFUL HEART

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Colossians 4:2

No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Choose to be thankful in all circumstances and God will give you peace.

for fulfilling WORK

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. Work hard, but not just to please your masters when they are watching. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Ephesians 6:5-7

Do your best at work, because God is ultimately your true boss.