

ALL THAT I COMMANDED YOU



713 NEW TESTAMENT
COMMANDMENTS

The Way of Discipleship

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INTRODUCTION

What was your response when you first heard there were 613 commandments in the Law of Moses? *Surprise* that there were so many? *Wonder* at the burden that must have been? *Relief* that we don't have to keep all those rules anymore? And perhaps *happiness* that now we only have to love God and love each other?

Those thoughts and feelings are quite common. But what if I told you that there were at least *one hundred more* commandments in the New Testament than in the Old? And that they were *even more difficult*? Would you throw the book across the room, or keep reading? I ask, because that's exactly what this book does: it lists every commandment in the New Testament and shows you all the verses where they're given.

Would you be surprised if I told you that this has literally never been done before in all of church history? It makes you wonder why. Could this explain why many believers today are indistinguishable from the world, why most of us have never baptized a single disciple, and why many Christian countries are rapidly becoming the exact opposite?

These short introductory chapters will present the original plan of discipleship as revealed in the commands of Jesus, explore how we should think and feel about God's commandments, and then give some technical notes. The final chapter will give you some tips on how to make the most of this book. And after that you will encounter the 713 commandments of the New Testament for yourself.

For Leaders

Before we go any further: this book is for every disciple, but if you're a leader in the body of Christ I especially hope that you'll own this message—because a surprising number of these commandments are about you.

I say this as a third-generation pastor myself: Of course you'd agree that we can't succeed in our ministries if we're not clear on our mission. But have you considered that everything that Jesus commanded *is* the sum total of your mission? If someone asked you to list the commandments of the New Testament, how many could you come up with before you came up short?

Likewise, we're told multiple times to preach these commandments—but how are we to fully do that when we don't have a comprehensive picture of what they are? Could this be the source of many of our frustrations and failures as leaders, that we've never had a clear and simple plan to teach our people to *do* all that Jesus commanded us?

Is it also possible that we ourselves haven't been as meticulous with these commandments as we could be in our own spiritual lives? Could this be one of the reasons for the moral failings of pastors that rock the body of Christ at all-too-frequent intervals? And if so, could wholeheartedly embracing God's detailed instructions help keep *you* from becoming the next scandal?

If everything rises and falls on our leadership—and I believe it does—then surely this message falls squarely on our shoulders.

COMMON NOTIONS

Commandment Theology

Let's return to the response many Christians have when they first hear there are a whopping 613 commandments in the Law of Moses, and see if we can find our way to a more Biblical understanding.

This is a critical question because we have one job—to do all that Jesus commanded—and whatever is keeping us from that is literally the cause of all the evil in the world.

Getting this right is also paramount because everything that's keeping us from keeping God's commandments is also hurting the people around us: Jesus didn't just talk about people who neglected his commandments, but who *taught others to do the same* (Matthew 5:19). And for those who caused others to stumble, he had the strongest words! (Matthew 13:41, 18:6)

So, how should we think and feel about God's commandments? Let's begin by dispelling some mistaken notions.

“Only two commandments”

Christians only need to keep two commandments: love God, and love others!

Actually, the Bible never says that loving God and others are the *only* two commandments, but rather that these are the *greatest*, and that all the other commandments depend on them (Matthew 22:36-40).

That's why Jesus also said that those who disregard the least of the commandments will be least in his Kingdom (Matthew 5:19). Which *are* the least of the commandments, anyways? Have you ever heard a sermon about those ones?

To say that Christians just need to love is overly simplistic and is avoiding the fact that we've been given hundreds of very specific points of instruction defining what exactly that love is to look like.

“Such a burden”

So many commandments, what a burden!

In a way, this is true. If you have a bad attitude then obedience *is* a burden—think of the parable of the two sons who were both asked to work in the vineyard (Matthew 21:28-31).

By contrast, when you're really in love with God, then it's a different story: “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are *not* burdensome.” (1 John 5:3 BSB)

Think of Psalm 119, the gushing love song of insane joy and obsessive delight in God's law, and let this sink in: this is how Jesus has always felt about his Father's commandments.

God's Spirit living through you will move you to fulfill his law (Romans 8:4, Ezekiel 36:27). But on your own his commandments will indeed be an impossible burden and you won't be able to help but feel negatively towards them (Romans 8:5-8).

WHY COMMANDMENTS?

God's Love Language

Moving on from these popular misconceptions, I believe that the best and most biblical way to see the commandments is as the love language of God.

Most of us are familiar with the concept of love languages—that there are certain ways of relating that make us feel most loved, and through which we're also most likely to show love.

It makes sense that God's instructions are expressions of his love: he only wants the best for us, and every one of his commandments was given for our good.

But what if careful obedience to those commandments was also the most meaningful way of communicating love back to him? Could this explain why more than once he identified his lovers as those who kept his commands? (Exodus 20:6, John 14:15) And why Jesus said we're not his friends unless we do what he tells us? (John 15:14)

The Bible isn't just God's love *letter*—it also contains his love *language*, in the form of commandments.

Divine Intimacy

People in love are drawn to know each other deeply, intimately. What if we understood every one of the commandments in this way? As the unveiling of the very soul of God, as his invitation to come closer?

One way of remembering this is with three words that all start with the letter P: practice, principle, and person.

On a surface level, most commandments are *practices*—things to do or not do. But if you look deeper you'll see that these physical instructions also contain universal *principles*, almost like the rules of a game that not only communicate a code of conduct, but also reveal how the game works. And if you keep following that thread, you'll find the *person* who not only wrote the rules but designed the entire game—and you may even be able to interact with him! (For more on this, please see my 'Game of Life' course at mussar.org.)

Psalms 119 once again illustrates this beautiful truth, proclaiming in verse 172 that “all your commandments are righteousness!” and in verse 151 that “all your commandments are truth!” Why? Because, taken together, these commandments are a reflection of the One who is righteous and true.

In verse 6 the impassioned Psalmist also exclaims, “when I gaze upon all your commandments!” As we immerse ourselves in the many commandments throughout the Bible, could these many seemingly disconnected laws become one magnificent glimpse of the glory of God?

God's commandments embody his character. And as we live them out, so do we. And thus the great drama plays out yet again of his Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us, that we might behold his glory.

True Mirror

But God's commandments aren't just a reflection of who *he* is—they're also a reflection of the real *you*.

The book of James speaks of this same deep gazing upon the commandments, urging us not only to look intently into

WHEAT & TARES

Continuing the topic of plants from the previous chapter, could this book also be the ultimate week-killer?

Jesus told a story in Matthew 13:24-30 in which he contrasted true believers with false believers who try to fit in, or may even think they're the real thing. He compared these two kinds of people to wheat, and to weeds which grow up in the middle of the wheat. But not just any weeds—he compared the fakes to tares, commonly called *darnel* today.

What's so striking about Jesus' choice of tares? They look just like the real thing. So how are they different?

While in their early stages of growth wheat and tares are virtually indistinguishable, as time progresses the difference becomes more and more apparent. Wheat kernels have a golden colour and are substantial, becoming so heavy that they cause the wheat stalk to bend over as the time of the harvest approaches. And even more importantly, wheat is useful: it's nourishing and safe for consumption.

Tares, on the other hand, aren't just useless, they're toxic—a fungus within them called *neotyphodium* produces a neurotoxin called *lolitrem* which actually causes dizziness, nausea, and tremors when ingested. And as if that wasn't enough, darnel kernels have a grayish-black colour and are light-weight and chaffy. This causes the tares to stand tall as if with pride and makes them easier to identify and uproot as the end of the crop cycle draws near.

You couldn't make this stuff up!

Church History

And how does all this relate to the commandments of the New Testament? Jesus went on in Matthew 13:36-43 to explain his parable, characterizing the tares as those who break the law and cause others to sin. He then went on to predict that, while initially the true and false believers would be allowed to grow together, ultimately the great *wedding* would be preceded by the great *weeding* as the many people who talk about the Lord but don't do what he says are uprooted from the garden of God.

We see the first half of this prophecy played out in church history when Constantine made Christianity the new state religion. Suddenly the Roman empire was filled with new 'Christians' who never quite left their paganism behind and instead just said it was for Jesus. This paved the way for whole countries to become 'Christian' while at the same time murdering everyone who disagreed with them and treating Jesus' Jewish family members in the most horrific ways imaginable.

Then came the Reformation, followed by religious freedoms in America and the ensuing European Enlightenment. These newfound liberties opened the way for the true believers to practice their faith openly and make disciples of all nations, but unmitigated freedom also made it easier than ever to be a lukewarm Christian. And thus whole denominations in the last century and a half fell, first to liberalism and now to sexual perversion, as lowered standards have made it easier than ever for the weeds to choke out the wheat.

Of course, this isn't the case everywhere. There's nothing like persecution to separate the wheat from the tares, and this is exactly what happened in countries like China and in Russia where Christianity went from being the religion of the state to the enemy of the state almost overnight. In these situations, the only believers left were those whose commitment to the commandments of Jesus caused them to fear not their lives unto death.

HEBREW INSIGHTS

The *Mitzvah*

All the commandments listed in this book are part of the bigger plan of discipleship, and discipleship is all about a love-relationship with Jesus. In the Bible this is pictured by the connection between the body and the head.

Returning to the theme of spiritual genetics from two chapters ago, it's true that as the body of Jesus we share the same spiritual DNA with our head, all of which is packaged into these commandments. But instead of that being a static relationship, it's dynamic—spending time interacting with Jesus, sitting at his feet actively learning, and following him into the daily adventure of life in the Kingdom of God.

It's only then, when we stay connected to Jesus as our head, that we're able to grow as a body with that dynamic power that could only come from God (Colossians 2:19).

Remarkably, the Hebrew words for commandment and staying connected to the head are, well, connected! 'Commandment' is *mitzvah* (pronounced mits-VAH) and the plural of 'commandments' is *mitzvot* (mits-VOTE). This noun, Strong's #4687, comes from Strong's #6680, the verb *tzavah*: to issue an order, send a messenger, or (particularly relevant to this discussion) to constitute or enjoin.

This connection between commandment and constitution is striking and explains why Jesus taught that the greatest leaders in his Kingdom would be those who practiced and taught the commandments: because the commandments in this book that you are holding in your hands right now *are* the constitution of the Kingdom.

But notice also that to command means to enjoin, to attach something to someone. This sense is especially favoured in Jewish translations of the Bible, for instance in the resonant phrase "these commandments which I enjoin upon you this day." We'll come back to this when we get to the historical Jewish understanding of God's commandments but for now, let's focus on the fact that in Hebrew to *command* means to *join* or *connect*.

A commandment therefore actually creates a unique relationship between the person giving the order and the person carrying it out: the mission or message with which you have been charged binds you together, almost as if you've become an extension of that person and their mind and will.

The perspective this offers on the role of God's commandments in our relationship with him should be clear and require no further elucidation. But before we move on to the Hebrew word for neck, which further cements this perspective, it's worth noting that the unique relationship that a commandment creates is also present in the Hebrew word for apostle.

Apostolic Relationship

While our English word 'apostle' comes from the Greek *apostolos*, in the original language of Jesus and his disciples the Twelve would have been called the *Shlichim* (pronounced shlee-CHEEM) in Hebrew, or in Aramaic the *Shlichei* (shlee-CHEY). While the pronunciation differs slightly, in both cases the Hebrew *Shaliach* (SHLEE-ach) and Aramaic *Shlicha* (SHLEE-chah) come from the verb *shalach*, which means to send, or even stretch forth when used in reference to extending the hand.

This connection between the apostles being *sent* and the hand being *extended* is significant because that is essentially

JEWISH INSPIRATION

Bias for Action

Hebrew is a dynamic and action-oriented language, primarily because all Hebrew words spring from verbs. For more on the distinctives of this language, especially as it relates to the Bible that Jesus read, please see my 'Hebrew Quest' course at holylanguage.com. The salient point here is that this underlying linguistic structure creates a bias for action within Hebrew speech and contributes to Judaism's emphasis on practice.

This is in contrast with the European languages which, being rooted in Latin and Greek, are more noun-oriented and therefore relatively static compared to their hyperactive verb-oriented Semitic counterparts. This undergirding structure likewise carries over into Christianity's emphasis on things, with Catholics fixating on concrete objects and Protestants on abstract doctrine.

Of course these are sweeping generalizations, but the difference between the Jewish and Christian approaches is nonetheless very real, perhaps best expressed by Psalm 111:10: "A good understanding have all those who do his commandments." While a Graeco-Roman mentality would seek an intellectual understanding before tentatively committing to action, the Hebraic mindset simply obeys because God is God. This is the good understanding spoken of in the verse above, an understanding of one of the most powerful and profound statements to be found in the Bible, often used to punctuate long lists of commandments: "I am the LORD."

That isn't to say that we should blindly obey our Father without seeking to understand his mind and identify the many ways that his commandments are meant for our good—there's a reason he invites us to love him with all our mind. But the commitment to absolute, unswerving obedience must come first.

Those of us who are parents will intuitively recognize the difference between these two attitudes from the many times we've told our children to do something, only to be met with, "Why?" If your child has a sincere desire to understand, you'll probably slow down and explain it. But if your adorable little one is wielding this question as a passive-aggressive stalling tactic, the only reason they'll get is, "Because I said so!"

Which, ironically, is ultimately why we obey God.

Patristic Literature

When it comes to God's commandments, this Jewish bias for action may in fact give them an edge over Christians, with a surprisingly pleasant result: just as Gentile faith in the Jewish Messiah was meant to provoke the Jews to jealousy, so the Jewish people's love for the Torah has the potential to rouse their Christian friends to a renewed zeal for the laws of God.

This difference in emphasis is nothing new and showed up quite early in Jewish-Christian relations as the Church Fathers and Rabbis began defining themselves against each other and hammering out their differences in writing.

The writings of those early Church Fathers are called Patristic literature and are most accessible in the ten-volume set known as the Ante-Nicene Fathers. Patristics is from the Latin word for fathers, and Ante-Nicene means before the Council of Nicaea which took place in the early 300s.

OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS

This book is dedicated to championing the commandments of the New Testament—but many of these are simply verbatim quotes from the Old Testament, which raises questions.

What's the difference between God's instructions in the older and newer Testaments, anyways? What are Christians supposed to do with the commandments of the Mosaic law? And when it comes to Ceremonial law, is there a difference between what Jewish and Gentile believers should keep, or is it all just done away with?

These are potentially controversial questions, depending on your interpretation of Scripture. I'll share my understanding and rationale, but please understand that the purpose of this book is to confront you with all that Jesus commanded throughout the New Testament, not to convince you of a particular perspective on the Law.

Let's begin with those truths which all believers agree upon most strongly.

The Old in the New

God is one, expressed by the Hebrew word *echad* (pronounced eh-CHAHHD). Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy 6:4, taught in Mark 12 that the greatest commandment is prefaced by “Hear, oh Israel! The Lord our God is *echad*.” This passage was chanted daily in the synagogues and in the Temple and was also recited every morning and evening by the Jewish people, much as is still done today. This daily recitation was the backdrop, not only to Jesus citing this passage as the greatest commandment, but also to his declaration that he and his Father were *echad*.

This oneness explains why we hear the God of Israel thundering from Mount Sinai about those who love him and keep his commandments (Exodus 20:6), and hear Jesus whispering the same thing to his disciples: that if they love him, they will keep his commands (John 14:15).

Just as God is one, so his Word is one: not only his Word who became flesh and lived among us, but his written Word, from Genesis to Revelation. This was more real to the first-century believers because, while they did regard the writings of the Apostles as Scripture, these books and letters hadn't yet been organized into the second half of the Bible and called the “New Testament”. Instead, everything from Genesis to Revelation was simply Scripture, the Word of God.

That page between the Old and New Testaments in your Bible, was not there in the first century.

This is important to understand because, just as the dichotomy between the Old and New Testaments didn't exist in the first century, neither did the early Christians differentiate between Old and New Testament commandments. Instead, they were all simply the commandments of God. This is why Jesus taught that those who practiced and taught even the least of the commandments *of the Law* would be the greatest in his Kingdom (Matthew 5:17-20), and why Paul taught that the commandments *of the Law* were holy, righteous, and good (Romans 7:12).

Some people say that only the Old Testament commandments which are repeated in the New are relevant to believers today, but this notion would have been completely foreign to the early Christians. Take, for example, Jesus' words to his disciples in Matthew 24:20: “Pray that your flight will not be in the winter, *or on a Sabbath*.” Sabbath is commanded repeatedly in the Old Testament, including Exodus 31:12-17 which explicitly says that Israel is to keep the Sabbath *throughout their generations* as a covenant *forever*. This commandment wasn't repeated in the New Testament, but Jesus clearly expected his disciples to continue honouring the Sabbath to such an extent that the thought of fleeing on the

WHY 713?

This book numbers the commandments of the New Testament at 713. How is this a meaningful number?

For one thing, because it parallels the 613 commandments of the Torah, with the extra hundred reminding us of two things: firstly, that there are considerably more commandments in the New Testament than in the Old; and secondly, that these commandments are even more difficult—applying not only to physical actions, but to the deepest heart.

Should these similar numbers be seen less as a harmonious parallel and more as a competitive contrast? No. We have already seen, not only that the New Testament commandments are rooted in the Old, but that this dichotomy between Old and New Testament commandments didn't even exist in the minds of the first-century believers. Same goes for the friction that is sometimes felt today between Judaism and Christianity: while there were tensions between Jesus and his followers on the one side, and some of the religious leaders on the other, these were all disputes *within* the family. The fact that the Nazarenes remained a Jewish denomination for centuries thereafter confirms this.

All that to say, the difference between 613 and 713 should never be taken in a negative way. Rather, just as Jesus fulfilling the Torah didn't do away with it but instead took its observance to an even higher level, the 713 don't negate the 613, but instead confirm and complete them.

The Bride

713 is also meaningful from the perspective of gematria in that, in the Hebrew numerical system, it represents the bride of Messiah. How do we come by this? As you may recall, the Hebrew letters also function as numbers so that *aleph* equals 1, *bet* 2, and so on. I have in my possession a rare book called “The Spice of Torah—Gematria”, which gives the numerical equivalents of all the words and phrases in the Torah. When we turn to the number 713, we find *v'ishbo*, “his wife”, from Genesis 2:25: “And the man *and his wife* were both naked and were not ashamed.”

Just as Eve was the bride of the first Adam, so we are the bride of the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-47). And just as she is described as being unclothed, so we are described as clothing ourselves in preparation for our marriage to the Lamb: “The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready! It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” (Revelation 19:7-8 NASB) What are these righteous acts, if not the commandments of the New Testament? Could a wholehearted return to all that Jesus commanded be an integral aspect of the prophetic preparation of the Bride for her Messiah?

Does 713 equal any other Biblical words or phrases in gematria? Indeed it does, and these could also be prophetic.

Drawing Near

In Exodus 29:3 the phrase *v'hikravta*, which has the sense of bringing near or coming close, also equals 713. We have already discussed how the commandments are connecting points through which to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and hold fast to him as our head. So, what does this gematria teach us? That just as the Messiah brings us near to the commandments, so his commandments will also bring us nearer to him, in love.

On the reverse side, in Deuteronomy 20:15 *harechokot*, meaning those who are far off or distant, also equals 713. This goes straight to Ephesians 2:11-13 where Paul tells the Gentiles, who at one time were far away, that the Messiah has

METHODOLOGY

Moving on to more practical considerations, the following are the principles used in compiling this list of 713 New Testament commandments. These principles fall under four general categories: which commandments to include, which not to include, how to number them, and how to summarize them. If technical questions don't interest you, feel free to skip to the next chapter where I tell the story behind this book.

Inclusion

Which commandments to include? In short, any commandment that applies to all believers, or to all believers within a subset (husbands, wives, etc.), and that can actually be practiced, was included. Our policy was to always err on the side of including commandments.

Which commandments weren't included? Firstly, situation-specific instructions that didn't apply outside that situation. A humorous example would be what's technically the first commandment in the New Testament: to not be afraid to take Mary as your wife (Matthew 1:20). At the same time, if a situation-specific directive applies to all believers, then it is included. An example would be Paul's instructions to Archippus to fulfill his ministry (Colossians 4:17).

Commandments not applicable to all believers also include career-specific directives—for instance, Luke 3:13 where tax-collectors are told not to collect more than required. Again though, if a career-specific directive could be extrapolated out to all believers, then it was included. An example of this would be the very next verse where soldiers are told to refrain from extortion and to be content with their wages.

Another class of commandments not included are commandments that can't currently be practiced—this class is comprised entirely of Temple-related commandments. The Prophets of Israel predicted the rebuilding of the Temple and the reinstitution of the sacrificial system in conjunction with the Messianic Era. (See chapter eleven of the Israel Platform at theisraelplatform.com for more on this.) However, while the Temple isn't standing these commandments cannot be carried out, and even its rebuilding it's unlikely that non-Jews will be able to perform them—especially before the Messianic Era. One example of this class of commandments would be the Torah's instructions, repeated in Luke 2:24, to offer a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons at the birth of a firstborn son.

Numbering

When we speak of numbering the commandments, we speak of which directives are combined under a single heading and regarded as a single commandment. One example would be the instructions regarding fasting in Matthew 6:16-18: don't have a gloomy face; instead, wash your face and anoint your hair in order to keep it secret that you're fasting, so that people won't notice. Is this to be regarded as multiple commandments, or as a singular directive? In these situations we applied the principle of bundling the details into the general commandment, we in this case we synthesized all these instructions into one commandment to fast secretly.

We took a similar approach with verses that weren't worded exactly the same, but contained similar instructions. So, for instance, the specific directive, "Do not resist an evil person," is bundled into the more general commandment, "Be

MY STORY

If you're curious to learn a little more about me as the Editor and to hear the story of how this book came about, read on. If not, feel free to skip ahead two chapters for some practical instructions and encouragement before plunging into all that Jesus commanded us.

Pastor's Kid

I'm a third-generation preacher. My Grandpa was a Baptist pastor and evangelist, and of his four sons three went into the ministry, including his youngest—my father. I was literally conceived at a Southern Baptist seminary and grew up listening to my Dad reading the NASB to me and my brother every night, including bedtime stories from Judges and Kings that most children never get to hear! All this gave me a deep love for the Bible.

My own experiences as a teen also gave me a love for the Gospel. That included experiencing the conviction of the Holy Spirit and subsequent freedom from sin, deliverance from demonic oppression, and a very real experience of the presence of God. Jesus called me in a clear and personal way, and I spent the better half of my teen years immersed in Scripture and prayer as he prepared me for the unique ministry he had prepared for me.

Rabbi Jesus

In my late teens Jesus showed me just how Jewish he was and called me to reclaim my own family's Jewish heritage. I spent the better part of my twenties becoming fluent in Biblical Hebrew, attending various synagogues, learning about Judaism, and travelling throughout Israel—as the Holy Spirit led, of course, and with the sole desire to grow in my relationship with my Rabbi Jesus, or *Yeshua* (yeh-SHOO-uh), as we call him in Hebrew.

My thirties found me leading a Messianic congregation, founding an online school of Biblical Hebrew and Messianic Jewish studies called Holy Language Institute, and starting a network of storytelling discipleship communities called Yeshua Groups. To visit these websites and hear more of my story, come see me at izzyavraham.com. In the meantime, these sparse details will help to explain my Jewish insights into the commandments, understanding of Hebrew gematria, and familiarity with Jewish writings and practices, and also set the stage for what happened next.

Old Testament Scholar

For as far back as I can remember, before I was even called to delve into the Jewish roots of our faith, Matthew 13:52 always beckoned to me. There Jesus says that every scribe who becomes a disciple is like someone who brings forth both old and new treasures.

Looking back at the paths of study down which the Messiah has led me, I now understand why he gave me that verse—he had destined me to become an Old Testament scholar so that I could both impart a richer revelation of our Jewish Messiah from the old, *and* show how its mysteries shed light on the new.

Jewish Literature

Towards this end, in addition to the Hebrew Scriptures, the Holy Spirit also took me deep into the ancient Jewish writings that we discussed above. I started with Judaism's oldest commentary on the Torah, the *Mishnah* (which

THIS BOOK'S STORY

Mountain Drive

It all started when my Dad came down from Canada to my home in Albuquerque, New Mexico for a visit. He and I took a day trip up to Los Alamos to see the historical sites where the first atomic bomb had been developed.

As we wound our way through the scrub-pine forests high in the desert mountains, conversation turned to the spiritual. My Dad shared how his relationship with God had started out more like David's—emotional and experience-based—but that it had matured over the years into a relationship better characterized by Abraham, who went long periods without hearing from God but whose faith nevertheless remained steadfast because it was based on covenant.

Our Purpose

I could relate to going through long spells where it was more about faith than feelings, and shared in response how I've come to believe that the reason God put us on this earth wasn't to have non-stop glorious spiritual experiences, even though these will be our ultimate destiny in the world to come. Instead, in this life our purpose is to practice *Mussar*: to do the deep inner work of repentance, to grow in Christlikeness, and to glorify God by persevering through unexplainable trials, sufferings, and the dry seasons when God seems so distant. Because *that* is something that can only happen here.

I mentioned a verse that had become meaningful to me in the midst of my own winter seasons: Proverbs 4:13, where King David urges his son Solomon to take hold of *mussar* and guard it carefully, "because it is your life." I then quoted an old Jewish commentator (the Vilna Gaon) who concluded from this verse that if *Mussar* is indeed our life, then if we disregard this admonition and stop working on ourselves, we have missed the very reason we were put here.

The Moment

My Dad responded with understanding, and the conversation continued. And then came the revelation that didn't just inspire, but *provoked* this book. My Dad was expressing the bewilderment he had felt in the past when he wasn't sensing the presence of God, and it suddenly struck me: his bewilderment was because the church has been emphasizing the wrong things. Instead of focusing on daily repentance, deep inner work, growth in godly character, and perseverance through trials—which is literally our purpose in this life—we've made it about having emotional experiences.

I thought back over the thousands of sermons I'd heard, Christian books I had read, and services I'd attended, and it hit me like a flash: we say we live by faith, but we act like we're living for the feelings. We spend so much time singing about our love for Jesus, but almost no time thinking and talking about how to keep his commandments!

In that moment I felt so much compassion for my Dad, and for the millions of believers like him who felt confused and discouraged because they weren't having the emotional experiences that the Christian life is supposedly all about. I burst out at what an incredible disservice had been done to him as a younger believer! How? With this insinuation that everything should be measured by how much they felt God.

I continued. What if the Lord only gave us those feelings to draw us to him, show us his love, and tell us that he's there? But what if we're actually better off growing past that emotional state into a relationship where we really are walking by

GOOD NEWS

Before we move on to the last chapter with practical instructions, let's talk about the mentality I hope you'll have as you continue reading.

This is important because you're about to encounter literally hundreds of authoritative commandments from God, some of which you may not be keeping so well.

It would be easy in that moment to feel all kinds of bad: discouraged that you're so far from the ideal; ashamed and condemned for committing so much sin; hopeless that you could ever be different.

All those skewed old images of God may pop up in your mind, too: angry, demanding, perfectionistic.

In short, just reading these commandments may trigger all your spiritual and emotional issues. And that could be a good thing! Depending on what you tell yourself from there. Because if you can make it through the lies to the truth, you'll be free in a way you never have before.

Let's talk about some of the feelings that may kick in, and then bring the Good News to bear on them. This is an opportunity for the Gospel to become more real and meaningful to you than it ever has before. Why? Because the Law comes before the Gospel, and you're about to encounter a lot of Law!

Ashamed

You may look at the ideal presented in all these commandments, and then look at yourself, and simply feel ashamed for your whole life—that you've fallen so short, that you're such a failure. How could God even love you?

Here's the difference between guilt and shame: guilt is feeling bad for something you've *done*, whereas shame is feeling bad for who you *are*. Guilt can be a good thing, depending on what you do with it. Guilt can be your conscience telling you that you're done something wrong, and to make it right. In that case, repent, confess your sin, and if you've hurt another person, do what you can to make up for it. Receive God's forgiveness and move on.

Shame, on the other hand, is always bad. It's heavy and paralyzing, telling you how awful you are and leaving you wallowing in self-pity. And that's the problem with shame: it's all about you. The solution to shame is two-fold:

First, change your inner narrative, what you're telling yourself. Tell yourself the truth, even if you don't feel it at first. God *does* love you. He *does* want you. He proved that by sending his Son whom he loves so much to suffer and die, just for you! He's a good father, the bestest dad. When he looks at you a smile breaks out on his face and he beams with pride. The fact that he gave you this book, and brought you to this conversation right now, is proof of that!

Second, get your mind off yourself. Make it about God and how great and glorious he is. Worship and praise him! And get out there and love and serve people. You can only feel shame when you're thinking about yourself. So get over yourself, as worthless and unworthy as you may feel, and put your focus on God and others. Your feelings will follow.

Condemned

Condemnation is heavy. You've sinned so much; how could you ever be forgiven! Look at all the bad things you've done and all the people you've hurt. Maybe you've even committed the unpardonable sin! All that awaits you is judgement.

INSTRUCTIONS

This book isn't made to be read—it's made to be *used*. And if used right, it will not only change your life, but enable you to change the world on a level far more powerful than you ever dreamed possible.

These instructions will give you practical tips on how to make the most of this book and see that happen: from creating a daily ritual, to taking this journey with a friend or a group, to using questions to crack the nut and get the meat out of every commandment. We'll also talk about the one thing this book is really missing, and finish with some strong encouragement.

Daily Commandment

These commandments are very potent, so I recommend you only take one or two per day.

If you do one commandment a day it will take you two years. If you take two commandments daily, it will take you one year. In this case I'd suggest doing one in the morning and one in the evening, similar to how the Bible says to talk about these things when you get up and when you go to bed.

Technically, if you do the one-year program you'll have an extra week left, while if you do the two-year cycle you'll have a blank space of two weeks at the end. In both cases I recommend using that time to review the summaries of all the commandments you learned—either going over 100 a day for a week, or 50 for two weeks. When it comes to the commandments it's easy to miss the forest for the trees, so stepping back like this will give you a bigger vision of Jesus—not only as the giver of these instructions, but as their embodiment. This review will also lock these commands into your long-term memory so you'll be able to better recall them on demand.

You may want to start your journey through the commandments on the New Year—either the beginning of January or September on the secular calendar, or the first of Tishrei or Nisan on the Jewish calendar. This could be especially attractive if you plan to do this with a group, as it'll give you time to get the announcement out and prepare, and will also give you something to look forward to.

Strong Warnings

James says that God's laws are like a mirror: they reveal who you really are. But, he then warns, if you don't put them into practice, it's like you promptly forgot what you saw in the mirror (James 1:22-25). Peter uses even stronger language, exclaiming that it would be better for you to not read the holy commandments in this book, than to read them and then go back to your old ways (2 Peter 2:22).

How can you keep this from happening? One way is to work through these commandments with another disciple, or with a group of disciples. There's something very powerful about these kinds of relationships; it was Jesus who said that when even two or three gather in his name, he'll show up in a special way (Matthew 18:20).

But what should you do when you get together?

Seven Questions

Regardless of whether you're working through this book by yourself or with others, we suggest that you use questions to

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

#1. Turn from sin. ¹

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. “Turn away from your sins,” he said, “because the Kingdom of heaven is near!” (Matthew 3:1-2 GNB)

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, “You snakes—who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins.” (Matthew 3:7-8 GNB)

From that time Jesus began to preach this message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near!” (Matthew 4:17 NET)

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4 EHV, Luke 3:3)

After John had been arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and proclaimed the gospel about the kingdom of God. He said, “The time is now! The kingdom of God is near! Repent, and keep believing the gospel!” (Mark 1:14-15 ISV)

The apostles went and told people that they should turn to God and change the way they think and act. (Mark 6:12 GW)

Jesus answered, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Luke 5:31-32 BSB)

There were some present on that occasion who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. He answered them, “Do you think these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered these things? No, I tell you! But unless you repent, you will all perish as well! Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them, do you think they were worse offenders than all the others who live in Jerusalem? No, I tell you! But unless you repent you will all perish as well!” (Luke 13:1-5 NET)

Jesus said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’” (Luke 24:46-47 NLT)

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38 NLT)

1. #2 Flee from the coming wrath / #14 Deal ruthlessly with causes of sin / #32 Confess your sins to God / #36 Glorify God / #73 Fear the Lord / #98 Obey the commandments / #106 Don't be a hypocrite / #111 Cleanse your heart / #135 Forgive everyone for everything / #181 Stop sinning / #213 Return to God / #214 Be saved / #227 Seek God / #243 Be transformed / #246 Judge yourself / #281 No dark deeds / #290 Never make each other stumble / #312 Get rid of bad influences / #323 Don't be deceived about who will inherit God's kingdom / #337 Don't want what's bad for you / #388 Scrutinize yourself / #411 Strip off the old you / #430 Never participate with darkness / #513 Avoid even the appearance of evil / #598 Take hold of real life / #605 Abstain from everything wrong / #635 Deny ungodliness / #660 Keep the Torah / #662 Keep in mind that you will be judged / #665 Humble yourself before God / #670 Confess your sins to each other / #695 Understand the Lord's patience / #697 Guard against lawlessness / #701 Don't be deceived about who is righteous / #705 Never copy bad people / #711 Come out of Rome

Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send the Messiah appointed for you—that is, Jesus. (Acts 3:19-20 NET)

God raised him to his right side as Leader and Savior, to give the people of Israel the opportunity to repent and have their sins forgiven. (Acts 5:31 GNB)

Repent of this wickedness of yours, and ask the Lord if perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you! (Acts 8:22 LEB)

When they heard this, they stopped their criticism and praised God, saying, “Then God has given to the Gentiles also the opportunity to repent and live!” (Acts 11:18 GNB)

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul found out about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, “Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. (Acts 14:14-15 BSB)

God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. (Acts 17:30 NLT)

You know that I did not hold back anything that would be of help to you as I preached and taught in public and in your homes. To Jews and Gentiles alike I gave solemn warning that they should turn from their sins to God and believe in our Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:20-21 GNB)

So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. (Acts 26:19-20 NIV)

Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin... They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too. (Romans 1:29-32 NLT)

I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (2 Corinthians 7:9-10 NIV)

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some people understand slowness, but is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to perish, but wants everyone to repent. (2 Peter 3:9 ISV)

Think how far you have fallen! Turn from your sins and do what you did at first. If you don’t turn from your sins, I will come to you and take your lampstand from its place. (Revelation 2:5 GNB)

Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (Revelation 2:16 NLT)

I have given her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her sexual immorality. Look! I am throwing her onto a bed of violent illness, and those who commit adultery with her into terrible suffering, unless they repent of her deeds. (Revelation 2:21-22 NET)

Remember, then, what you were taught and what you heard; obey it and turn from your sins. If you do not wake up, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not even know the time when I will come. (Revelation 3:3 GNB)

I correct and discipline everyone I love. Take this seriously, and change the way you think and act. (Revelation 3:19 GW)

The rest of the people who survived these plagues did not repent from their evil actions or stop worshiping demons and

idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk. They did not repent from their murders, their witchcraft, their sexual immorality, or their thefts. (Revelation 9:20-21 ISV)

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. (Revelation 16:8-11 NIV)

For the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8 WEB)

#2. Flee from the coming wrath. ²

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee God’s coming wrath?” (Matthew 3:7 NLT, Luke 3:7)

Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:5 NIV)

For those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (Romans 2:8 ESV)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! (Romans 5:9 NIV)

Of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:5-6 BSB)

Put to death whatever is worldly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. (Colossians 3:5-6 EHV)

They also report how you patiently wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, the one who is going to rescue us from the coming wrath. (1 Thessalonians 1:10 EHV)

God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:9 NASB)

They kept saying to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come. Who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:16-17 EHV)

Then another angel, a second one, followed him, saying, “Fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen! She has made all nations drink the wine, the wrath earned for her sexual sins.” (Revelation 14:8 ISV)

2. #1 Turn from sin / #32 Confess your sins to God / #73 Fear the Lord / #111 Cleanse your heart / #118 Get ready for Jesus to come again / #124 Believe the Good News / #156 Guard against greed / #160 Understand the time / #181 Stop sinning / #183 Believe in the Messiah / #213 Return to God / #214 Be saved / #222 Never worship demons / #225 Abstain from sexual sin / #227 Seek God / #234 Abstain from lust / #236 Never covet / #240 Consider God’s severity / #246 Judge yourself / #370 Wake up / #381 Separate from unbelievers / #382 Touch nothing unclean / #383 Physically purify yourself / #400 Believe in God’s justice / #417 Never use unwholesome language / #429 Don’t be deceived about the wrath of God / #640 Never refuse God’s voice / #656 Never love money / #662 Keep in mind that you will be judged / #665 Humble yourself before God / #671 Hope in God’s mercy / #711 Come out of Rome

I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven final plagues, with which the wrath of God is completed... Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever... Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God’s wrath.”... And God remembered Babylon the great and gave her the cup of the wine of His furious wrath. (Revelation 15:1,7; 16:1,19 BSB)

From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. (Revelation 19:15 NLT)

#3. Never test the Lord. ³

Jesus replied, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matthew 4:7 BSB, Luke 4:12)

The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, testing Him by demanding from Him a sign from heaven. Jesus sighed deeply in His spirit and said, “Why does this generation demand a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.” (Mark 8:11-12 BSB)

“Tell me,” said Peter, “is this the price you and your husband got for the land?” “Yes,” she answered, “that is the price.” “How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?” Peter replied. “Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” At that instant she fell down at his feet and died. (Acts 5:8-10 BSB)

Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (1 Corinthians 10:9 NASB)

#4. Worship God. ⁴

“Away from Me, Satan!” Jesus declared. “For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” (Matthew 4:10 BSB)

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem... But a time is coming and now is here when the real worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for those are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:21,23-24 EHV)

3. #1 Turn from sin / #33 Pray against temptation / #52 Do what God wants / #73 Fear the Lord / #106 Don't be a hypocrite / #119 Watch out for temptation / #123 Obey the Master / #128 Only believe / #181 Stop sinning / #184 Never complain / #196 Trust your Creator / #208 Stop doubting / #222 Never worship demons / #238 Fear unbelief / #240 Consider God's severity / #246 Judge yourself / #334 Never abuse your freedom / #338 Listen to the Exodus story / #349 Examine yourself before the Passover meal / #397 Never provoke each other / #409 Tell the truth / #413 Never tell a lie / #418 Never grieve the Holy Spirit / #510 Never oppose the Holy Spirit / #640 Never refuse God's voice / #642 Receive the Sabbath rest / #649 Take discipline seriously / #650 Submit to the Father / #659 Never blame God / #662 Keep in mind that you will be judged / #672 Never be dishonest / #687 Treat God as holy / #695 Understand the Lord's patience / #697 Guard against lawlessness / #709 Listen to the Holy Spirit

4. #5 Minister to God / #25 Pray in private / #27 Call God your Abba Father / #35 Never stop praising the Lord / #36 Glorify God / #73 Fear the Lord / #104 Love God with everything you are and have / #115 Keep the Sabbath / #153 Pray the Lord's Prayer / #102 Give God everything / #207 Receive the Holy Spirit / #222 Never worship demons / #235 Present yourself to God / #261 Serve the Lord / #313 Celebrate the Feasts / #342 Do everything to the glory of God / #385 Be reverent / #435 Be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit / #436 Sing the Psalms when you meet / #437 Sing hymns to each other / #438 Sing spiritual songs together / #439 Sing from your heart / #440 Thank God for everything / #455 Pray in the Holy Spirit / #456 Always pray about everything / #460 Worship Jesus / #496 Please the Lord / #521 Men: Pray with your hands up / #606 Pray together / #620 Leaders must be devoted to prayer / #644 Get closer to God / #646 Meet together regularly / #650 Submit to the Father / #652 Be in awe of God / #685 Exalt the Son of God / #687 Treat God as holy

Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire. (Hebrews 12:28-29 NLT)

When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, to him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever, and throw their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed, and were created!” (Revelation 4:9-11 WEB)

I saw another messenger flying in midair, having continuous good news to proclaim to those dwelling on the earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people, saying in a great voice, “Fear God, and give to Him glory, because the hour of His judgment came, and worship Him who made the sky, and the land, and sea, and fountains of waters.” (Revelation 14:6-7 LSV)

“Who will not fear you, Lord, and who will not praise your name? You alone are holy! All the nations will come and will bow down before you, because your righteous verdicts have been revealed.” (Revelation 15:4 EHV)

I fell at his feet to worship him. But he told me, “Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who rely on the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10 BSB)

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be within the city, and His servants will worship Him. (Revelation 22:3 BSB)

I, John, have heard and seen all these things. And when I finished hearing and seeing them, I fell down at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things, and I was about to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do it! I am a servant together with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all those who obey the words in this book. Worship God!” (Revelation 22:8-9 GNB)

#5. Minister to God. ⁵

Jesus said to him, “Withdraw, Satan! For it is written, ‘The Lord your God you shall worship, and to him alone render divine service.’” (Matthew 4:10 REB, Luke 4:8)

The oath which he swore to Abraham our father, to grant us, without fear, from the hand of enemies rescued, to be rendering divine service unto him. (Luke 1:73-74 REB)

There was also a prophetess named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was well along in years. She had been married for seven years, and then was a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. (Luke 2:36-37 BSB)

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42 ESV)

5. #4 Worship God / #18 Freely give / #20 Help people in need / #24 Give secret charity / #25 Pray in private / #35 Never stop praising the Lord / #36 Glorify God / #37 Fast secretly / #102 Give God everything / #104 Love God with everything you are and have / #142 Share generously / #146 Do good to everyone / #162 Include poor and disabled people / #190 Minister to Jesus / #235 Present yourself to God / #261 Serve the Lord / #264 Practice hospitality / #385 Be reverent / #437 Sing hymns to each other / #438 Sing spiritual songs together / #439 Sing from your heart / #440 Thank God for everything / #447 Fathers: Nurture your children / #455 Pray in the Holy Spirit / #491 Do everything for the Lord / #496 Please the Lord / #575 Care for widows who have no one else / #583 Only support widows who ministered to the saints / #606 Pray together / #625 Older Women: Show younger mothers how to love their children / #644 Get closer to God / #646 Meet together regularly / #650 Submit to the Father / #652 Be in awe of God / #661 Take care of orphans / #687 Treat God as holy / #711 Come out of Rome

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

#211. Know that Jesus is Lord. ¹

This Jesus God raised up, of which we all are witnesses. Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out this that you see and hear. For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’” Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt, that God has made him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified!” (Acts 2:32-36 LEB)

#212. Be immersed in the name of Jesus. ²

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”... So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added. (Acts 2:38,41 NET)

Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “and yet you have come to me!” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed. (Matthew 3:13-15 GNB, Mark 1:9, Luke 3:21)

He who has believed and has been immersed will be saved; and he who has not believed will be condemned. (Mark 16:16 LSV)

The Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:16 BSB)

Peter answered, “Can anyone forbid these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just like us.” He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay some days. (Acts 10:46-48 WEB)

1. #6 Follow Jesus / #41 Put the Kingdom first / #55 Announce the Kingdom / #56 Heal the sick / #57 Raise the dead / #59 Cast out demons / #75 Confess Jesus / #88 Listen to the Son of God / #98 Obey the commandments / #118 Get ready for Jesus to come again / #123 Obey the Master / #124 Believe the Good News / #141 Tell the Good News / #163 Love Jesus first / #183 Believe in the Messiah / #186 Stay in the words of Jesus / #198 Abide in Jesus / #203 Leaders: Preach Jesus / #210 Understand that Jesus is the Messiah / #460 Worship Jesus / #481 Focus on Jesus / #660 Keep the Torah / #685 Exalt the Son of God / #686 Make Jesus your Lord / #698 Live like Jesus

2. #1 Turn from sin / #75 Confess Jesus / #120 Go make disciples / #121 Immerse new disciples / #122 Teach the commandments / #123 Obey the Master / #124 Believe the Good News / #127 Share your testimony / #179 Be born again / #183 Believe in the Messiah / #186 Stay in the words of Jesus / #197 Believe Jesus is one with the Father / #198 Abide in Jesus / #199 Stay in the love of Jesus / #207 Receive the Holy Spirit / #213 Return to God / #214 Be saved / #243 Be transformed / #311 Follow the Apostles / #344 Hold to the Apostles' teachings / #390 Study the writings of the Apostles / #411 Strip off the old you / #412 Don the new you / #486 Do everything in the name of Jesus / #685 Exalt the Son of God / #686 Make Jesus your Lord

Paul said, “Into what then were you baptized?” “Into John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:3-5 NET)

What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16 NLT)

Are you ignorant that we, as many as were immersed into Christ Jesus, were immersed into His death? We were buried together, then, with Him through the immersion into death, that even as Christ was raised up out of the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4 LSV)

That each one of you says, “I, indeed, am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.” Has the Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you immersed into the name of Paul? (1 Corinthians 1:12-13 LSV)

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the fact that all of our ancestors who left Egypt were under the cloud. They all went through the sea, and they all were immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. (1 Corinthians 10:1-2 ISV)

When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death. (Colossians 2:12 GNB)

God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (1 Peter 3:20-22 NIV)

#213. Return to God.³

Repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you. (Acts 3:19-20 NASB)

He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. (Luke 1:15-16 EHV)

The heart of this people has become dull; with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them. (Matthew 13:15 NASB, John 12:40, Acts 28:27)

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul found out about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, “Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.” (Acts 14:14-15 BSB)

“I will rescue you from the people of Israel and from the Gentiles to whom I will send you. You are to open their eyes and turn them from the darkness to the light and from the power of Satan to God, so that through their faith in me they

3. #1 Turn from sin / #2 Flee from the coming wrath / #4 Worship God / #5 Minister to God / #27 Call God your Abba Father / #32 Confess your sins to God / #52 Do what God wants / #98 Obey the commandments / #102 Give God everything / #104 Love God with everything you are and have / #111 Cleanse your heart / #136 Listen to the Shema / #165 Study the Torah / #166 Study the Prophets / #181 Stop sinning / #204 Never fall away / #227 Seek God / #233 Live for God / #235 Present yourself to God / #388 Scrutinize yourself / #454 Receive God’s word / #476 Get to know God better / #640 Never refuse God’s voice / #644 Get closer to God / #650 Submit to the Father / #665 Humble yourself before God / #700 Realize God’s great love

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

#601. Leaders: Father more leaders. ¹

The things that you have heard me say among many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be qualified to teach others as well. (2 Timothy 2:2 BSB)

Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel... For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:15-17 NIV)

But you know what kind of person Timothy proved to be. Like a father and son we worked hard together to spread the Good News. (Philippians 2:22 GW)

Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. (1 Timothy 1:18 NLT)

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. (1 Peter 5:13 NASB)

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. (1 John 2:13 ESV)

#602. Always be mindful that Jesus is alive. ²

Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach. (2 Timothy 2:8 NLT)

1. #6 Follow Jesus / #27 Call God your Abba Father / #50 Walk the hard and narrow way / #54 Ask God to send workers / #80 Learn from our Rabbi / #107 Leaders: Don't use titles / #120 Go make disciples / #122 Teach the commandments / #177 Leaders: Encourage your people / #188 Do the work of the Lord / #203 Leaders: Preach Jesus / #215 Appoint leaders and administrators / #229 Leaders: Guard your people / #230 Leaders: Care for your people / #242 Never conform to this world / #249 Leaders: Work hard at teaching / #309 Leaders: Build up the body / #321 Hold each other accountable / #408 Leaders: Train your people / #514 Leaders: Pray for your people / #526 Leaders: Lead from inspiration / #539 Leaders must be teachable / #558 Leaders: Teach these commandments / #560 Be the example / #569 Leaders: Strive for sound doctrine / #572 Treat younger men like brothers / #592 Leaders: Only ordain people you know well / #645 Spur each other on / #663 Don't teach unless you're called / #675 Love the brotherhood / #691 Leaders: Lead by example / #698 Live like Jesus

2. #6 Follow Jesus / #57 Raise the dead / #72 Share what Jesus shows and tells you / #75 Confess Jesus / #77 Welcome everyone Jesus sends / #78 Come to Jesus / #79 Be yoked to Jesus / #80 Learn from our Rabbi / #81 Gaze upon your King / #88 Listen to the Son of God / #117 Watch for the coming of the Lord / #118 Get ready for Jesus to come again / #123 Obey the Master / #124 Believe the Good News / #125 Spend time with Jesus / #159 Wait for the return of your Master / #166 Study the Prophets / #183 Believe in the Messiah / #186 Stay in the words of Jesus / #197 Believe Jesus is one with the Father / #198 Abide in Jesus / #199 Stay in the love of Jesus / #209 Believe that Jesus is alive / #210 Understand that Jesus is the Messiah / #212 Be immersed in the name of Jesus / #262 Rejoice always / #390 Study the writings of the Apostles / #460 Worship Jesus / #481 Focus on Jesus / #486 Do everything in the name of Jesus / #503 Understand the resurrection / #685 Exalt the Son of God / #698 Live like Jesus / #713 Say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!” (Matthew 28:5-7 EHV, Mark 16:6-7, Luke 24:4-8)

But also some women from among us astonished us, who were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying they had seen even a vision of angels, who said that he was alive! (Luke 24:22-23 LEB)

Instead, it was something about their religion and a dead man named Jesus, who Paul insists is alive. (Acts 25:19 NLT)

#603. Never fight about words. ³

Remind people of these things, as you solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to fight about words, which does no good and only ruins those who listen. (2 Timothy 2:14 EHV)

Whoever teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the true words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching of our religion is swollen with pride and knows nothing. He has an unhealthy desire to argue and quarrel about words, and this brings on jealousy, disputes, insults, evil suspicions, and constant arguments from people whose minds do not function and who no longer have the truth. (1 Timothy 6:3-5 GNB)

#604. Seek God's approval. ⁴

Do your best to win full approval in God's sight, as a worker who is not ashamed of his work, one who correctly teaches the message of God's truth. (2 Timothy 2:15 GNB)

The Pharisees sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone's approval because you are not swayed by appearances.” (Matthew 22:15-16 EHV, Mark 12:14, Luke 20:21)

How can you believe, if you accept praise from one another and don't seek the praise that comes from the only God? (John 5:44 NET)

Do not continue to work for the food that spoils, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will

3. #45 Don't correct the unteachable / #51 Reject false prophets, teachers, and apostles / #112 Guard against deception / #186 Stay in the words of Jesus / #284 Don't get into arguments / #306 Be united in speech / #344 Hold to the Apostles' teachings / #365 Receive the Lord's word through his Apostles / #409 Tell the truth / #413 Never tell a lie / #428 Speak carefully / #454 Receive God's word / #462 Hold fast to the Word / #467 Always speak graciously / #468 Fixate on the truth / #479 Only listen to Jesus-centered teaching / #516 Ignore myths / #517 Avoid genealogies / #558 Leaders: Teach these commandments / #561 Set the standard for speech / #569 Leaders: Strive for sound doctrine / #600 Avoid pointless talk / #604 Seek God's approval / #607 Leaders: Avoid controversy / #609 Leaders: Gently refute opponents / #621 Ignore the commandments and traditions of men / #637 Be polite to everyone / #639 Never fight about the Torah / #666 Never speak against each other / #676 Never return insults / #689 Leaders: Minister the word of God / #703 Live by the truth / #706 Defend the faith

4. #4 Worship God / #5 Minister to God / #35 Never stop praising the Lord / #36 Glorify God / #52 Do what God wants / #68 Persevere to the end / #71 Never fear humans / #73 Fear the Lord / #75 Confess Jesus / #131 Never be ashamed of our Lord / #175 Pray to stand before the Son of Man / #183 Believe in the Messiah / #190 Minister to Jesus / #203 Leaders: Preach Jesus / #260 Work hard / #263 Endure hardship / #277 Do what's right / #342 Do everything to the glory of God / #403 Live worthy of the Lord / #409 Tell the truth / #426 Imitate your Father / #431 Learn what pleases the Lord / #460 Worship Jesus / #474 Obsess over excellent character / #475 Fill your mind with worthy content / #479 Only listen to Jesus-centered teaching / #491 Do everything for the Lord / #496 Please the Lord / #569 Leaders: Strive for sound doctrine / #595 Pursue faith / #662 Keep in mind that you will be judged / #685 Exalt the Son of God / #689 Leaders: Minister the word of God / #698 Live like Jesus

THE LETTER FROM JAMES

#659. Never blame God. ¹

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when by his own evil desires he is lured away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow. (James 1:13-17 BSB)

Whoever is not offended by me is blessed. (Matthew 11:6 LEB, Luke 7:23)

What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? May it never be! (Romans 9:14 WEB)

Who are you, a mere human being, to talk back to God? Shall the thing that is formed say to the one who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” No. (Romans 9:20 EHV)

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5 BSB)

#660. Keep the Torah. ²

Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what

1. #3 Never test the Lord / #28 Pray God's name be honored / #31 Ask for your needs and desires / #35 Never stop praising the Lord / #36 Glorify God / #46 Persist in prayer / #73 Fear the Lord / #104 Love God with everything you are and have / #128 Only believe / #136 Listen to the Shema / #145 Practice contentment / #169 Never lose heart / #184 Never complain / #196 Trust your Creator / #204 Never fall away / #208 Stop doubting / #211 Know that Jesus is Lord / #239 Consider God's kindness / #246 Judge yourself / #262 Rejoice always / #263 Endure hardship / #374 Men: Act like men / #399 Take responsibility / #400 Believe in God's justice / #416 Give no place to the accuser / #419 Uproot bitterness / #425 Keep your heart tender / #428 Speak carefully / #440 Thank God for everything / #648 Stay confident / #649 Take discipline seriously / #650 Submit to the Father / #662 Keep in mind that you will be judged / #664 Resist the devil / #665 Humble yourself before God / #667 Say 'God willing' about your plans / #687 Treat God as holy / #695 Understand the Lord's patience / #700 Realize God's great love

2. #6 Follow Jesus / #51 Reject false prophets, teachers, and apostles / #52 Do what God wants / #80 Learn from our Rabbi / #98 Obey the commandments / #105 Obey the Pharisees / #115 Keep the Sabbath / #122 Teach the commandments / #123 Obey the Master / #136 Listen to the Shema / #165 Study the Torah / #176 Eat the Passover matzah in memory of Jesus / #187 Act like Abraham / #310 Never go beyond Scripture / #311 Follow the Apostles / #313 Celebrate the Feasts / #330 Jews: Live a Jewish life / #331 Don't require Gentiles to be circumcised / #338 Listen to the Exodus story / #348 Drink the Passover cup in memory of Jesus / #394 Jews: Keep the whole Torah / #395 Follow the Spirit / #402 Gentiles: Remember your unity with Israel / #410 Stop living like Gentiles / #454 Receive God's word / #462 Hold fast to the Word / #480 Never let anyone condemn you / #497 Progress in Scripture / #558 Leaders: Teach these commandments / #567 Read Scripture when you meet / #621 Ignore the commandments and traditions of men / #639 Never fight about the Torah / #650 Submit to the Father / #673 Crave the Word / #697 Guard against lawlessness / #698 Live like Jesus / #703 Live by the truth

you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. (James 1:22-25 NLT)

Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, not the least point nor the smallest detail of the Law will be done away with—not until the end of all things. So then, whoever disobeys even the least important of the commandments and teaches others to do the same, will be least in the Kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys the Law and teaches others to do the same, will be great in the Kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:18-19 GNB)

As Jesus said these things, a woman in the crowd spoke out to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts at which you nursed!” But he replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!” (Luke 11:27-28 NET)

But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the prophets; they must respond to them.” Then the rich man said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.” He replied to him, “If they do not respond to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” (Luke 16:29-31 NET)

People who merely listen to the laws in Moses’ Teachings don’t have God’s approval. Rather, people who do what those laws demand will have God’s approval. (Romans 2:13 GW)

Do you bring shame on God by breaking his law?... If you obey the Law, your circumcision is of value; but if you disobey the Law, you might as well never have been circumcised. If the Gentile, who is not circumcised, obeys the commands of the Law, will not God regard him as though he were circumcised? And so you Jews will be condemned by the Gentiles because you break the Law, even though you have it written down and are circumcised; but they obey the Law, even though they are not physically circumcised. (Romans 2:23-27 GNB)

Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (Romans 3:31 ESV)

The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good... For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin... But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. (Romans 7:12,14,16 NASB)

I love God’s law with all my heart... The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. (Romans 7:22-25 NLT)

So that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit...because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so. (Romans 8:4-7 NASB)

When working with Gentiles, I live like a Gentile, outside the Jewish Law, in order to win Gentiles. This does not mean that I don’t obey God’s law; I am really under Christ’s law. (1 Corinthians 9:21 GNB)

We know that the laws in Moses’ Teachings are good if they are used as they were intended to be used. (1 Timothy 1:8 GW)

Whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him. (1 John 2:5 NET)

Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God’s law, because sin is a breaking of the law. (1 John 3:4 GNB)

THE REVELATION TO JOHN

#708. Never fear suffering. ¹

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will suffer tribulation for ten days. Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10 BSB)

There is no fear in love, but complete love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who continues to be afraid has not been brought to the goal in love. (1 John 4:18 EHV)

#709. Listen to the Holy Spirit. ²

If you have ears, then listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! (Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22 GNB)

Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says. The reason you do not listen is that you do not belong to God. (John 8:47 EHV)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch... The Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to that chariot and stay by it.” So Philip ran up and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. (Acts 8:26-30 BSB)

As Peter continued to reflect on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. So get up! Go downstairs and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them.”...“Cornelius the centurion has sent us,” they said. “He is a righteous and God-fearing man with a good reputation among the whole Jewish nation. A holy angel

1. #7 Celebrate your sufferings / #34 Pray for safety / #40 Never worry / #50 Walk the hard and narrow way / #68 Persevere to the end / #71 Never fear humans / #74 Don't be fearful / #76 Sacrifice your life / #87 Carry your cross / #110 Stay faithful / #113 Never be alarmed by war / #130 Suffer for the Good News / #151 Never turn back / #169 Never lose heart / #174 Pray to escape future events / #195 Never let yourself be troubled / #196 Trust your Creator / #199 Stay in the love of Jesus / #202 Never be shocked at persecution / #206 Cheer up / #239 Consider God's kindness / #262 Rejoice always / #263 Endure hardship / #371 Remain steadfast / #373 Stand firm / #391 Stay in shalom / #400 Believe in God's justice / #440 Thank God for everything / #457 Never be intimidated / #503 Understand the resurrection / #595 Pursue faith / #648 Stay confident / #695 Understand the Lord's patience / #700 Realize God's great love / #707 Keep yourself in God's love / #710 Know that your persecution was predestined

2. #51 Reject false prophets, teachers, and apostles / #72 Share what Jesus shows and tells you / #88 Listen to the Son of God / #112 Guard against deception / #123 Obey the Master / #124 Believe the Good News / #126 Be careful what you listen to / #136 Listen to the Shema / #140 When on trial, say what God tells you / #150 Listen carefully / #154 Keep asking for the Holy Spirit / #165 Study the Torah / #166 Study the Prophets / #207 Receive the Holy Spirit / #217 Leaders and administrators must be Spirit-filled / #222 Never worship demons / #304 Exercise discernment / #354 Strive for the greater gifts, especially prophecy / #361 Weigh prophecies / #365 Receive the Lord's word through his Apostles / #390 Study the writings of the Apostles / #395 Follow the Spirit / #418 Never grieve the Holy Spirit / #425 Keep your heart tender / #435 Be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit / #441 Yield to each other / #454 Receive God's word / #455 Pray in the Holy Spirit / #479 Only listen to Jesus-centered teaching / #510 Never oppose the Holy Spirit / #511 Respect the gift of prophecy / #512 Test everything / #519 Listen to your conscience / #567 Read Scripture when you meet / #640 Never refuse God's voice / #660 Keep the Torah / #694 Realize the Prophets spoke from God / #697 Guard against lawlessness

We ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire. (2 Thessalonians 1:4-7 NASB)

I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, beside which stood those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name. They were holding harps from God, and they sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and wonderful are Your works, O Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed." (Revelation 15:2-4 BSB)

I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are just – the one who is and who was, the Holy One – because you have passed these judgments, because they poured out the blood of your saints and prophets, so you have given them blood to drink. They got what they deserved!" Then I heard the altar reply, "Yes, Lord God, the All-Powerful, your judgments are true and just!" (Revelation 16:5-7 NET)

I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a vast throng in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, because his judgments are true and just. For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and has avenged the blood of his servants poured out by her own hands!" Then a second time the crowd shouted, "Hallelujah! The smoke rises from her forever and ever." The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures threw themselves to the ground and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne, saying: "Amen! Hallelujah!" (Revelation 19:1-4 NET)

#713. Say, "Come Lord Jesus!" ⁶

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let everyone who hears this say, "Come!" Let everyone who is thirsty come! Let anyone who wants the water of life take it as a gift!... The one who is testifying to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:17,22 ISV)

Whoever does not love the Lord—a curse on him! Maranatha—Our Lord, come! (1 Corinthians 16:22 GNB)

6. #1 Turn from sin / #2 Flee from the coming wrath / #29 Pray God's kingdom come / #41 Put the Kingdom first / #54 Ask God to send workers / #55 Announce the Kingdom / #75 Confess Jesus / #117 Watch for the coming of the Lord / #118 Get ready for Jesus to come again / #120 Go make disciples / #124 Believe the Good News / #131 Never be ashamed of our Lord / #141 Tell the Good News / #159 Wait for the return of your Master / #160 Understand the time / #163 Love Jesus first / #168 Remember Lot's wife / #173 Stay alert / #175 Pray to stand before the Son of Man / #183 Believe in the Messiah / #199 Stay in the love of Jesus / #209 Believe that Jesus is alive / #403 Live worthy of the Lord / #477 Hold on to hope / #481 Focus on Jesus / #503 Understand the resurrection / #504 Stay sober / #602 Always be mindful that Jesus is alive / #643 Hold to your confession / #648 Stay confident / #685 Exalt the Son of God / #686 Make Jesus your Lord / #695 Understand the Lord's patience / #696 Hasten the Day of the Lord / #711 Come out of Rome