

## Bible Verses for You

Recently I received a letter from Jerry, an inmate who writes to me occasionally. Brother Jerry obviously loves the Lord, and it's a pleasure to hear from him. In this latest letter he wrote, "The Holy Spirit gave me the following Scripture verses for you." Then he wrote out eleven verses, or in some cases partial verses, from the King James Bible.



I thought, "For me?" I read through the verses, and I thought, yes, these are for me, but God surely did not intend for me just to receive them, think about them, and be blessed. I believe they were also given to me to be shared with you who read this "Good News Guide." So I'll share them here, along with a little commentary from me. They all contain promises from God, and they all reinforce the message that I hope you get from every issue of this newsletter: **GOD LOVES YOU!**

I have made two small changes to what Jerry sent me. First, I took those same verses from the "21st Century King James Version of the Holy Bible (KJ21®)." It is not a new translation, but a "careful updating" of the 1611 King James Version (KJV) that eliminates obsolete words and corrects KJV spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. I like it a lot, so far. Also, for a couple of the verses I included a bit of the text before or after what Jerry sent, to make the context of the thought clearer.

So here they are, with my commentary ...

***(Ecclesiastes 2:26a) For God giveth to a man what is good in His sight: wisdom and knowledge and joy.***

This verse says that God can give us wisdom, and knowledge, and joy — God thinks that these are good gifts, and He wants us to have them. Our part is to be ready and able to receive them. How do we do that?

***(Isaiah 2:3b) Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.***

We can't go and climb that special mountain, as this verse says. We can't visit the Temple in Jerusalem. So what can we do? Well, we can praise Him. We can worship Him. That's what people did on the holy mountain, and in the temple. We can pray, both with and without the help of the Holy Spirit. And we can learn from the Bible. And as we learn, we can "walk" more and more in "paths" that are pleasing to God.

***(Hebrews 4:12) For the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

***(Psalm 119:105) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.***

These verses bring to mind 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for all good works.*

God's word, the Bible, has power to help us live the way God wants us to live, and do the works He wants us to do. Can we make use of this power? Yes, we can. When we open ourselves to God by praising Him, praying, and reading and absorbing His word, we're able to receive His gifts, including Holy Spirit power.

Of course we always need to have a proper attitude in our approach to God. Two of the verses Jerry sent remind us of that.

***(Psalm 40:4) Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.***

***(1 Peter 5:7) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you.***

Two things are highlighted here: humility and trust. We may not give God orders. We can't manipulate Him in order to get what we want. We also can't tell him anything He doesn't already know, and we can't keep anything secret from Him.

God will never disrespect us — after all, He thinks we are worth saving, even at such a cruel, costly price as the death of His Son — but in His eyes, and in actual fact, we do not have anything to be proud of before Him. He is God, and we most definitely are not! But we can also have complete confidence in the fact that He loves each one of us, and He wants nothing but good for each of us.



If we always approach God as His humble servant, willing and eager to obey Him, we will be doing as we should.

And we need to trust Him completely, like this:

***(Psalm 27:1) The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?***

And if we find ourselves in circumstances that are difficult or even disastrous (like being sick or in debt or in prison), we can be confident that the Lord knows all about it. He may not approve of what we have done to get ourselves into the predicament, but He has not forgotten us or written us off. He is able to use "all things," even desperate circumstances, to produce outcomes that are for our good:

***(Romans 8:28) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

"All things" covers a lot of territory, doesn't it?

But we're only human beings, and very imperfect human beings at that. We do things that we should not do. One of those things is, we worry.

Worrying is natural, normal, and often seems downright unavoidable. There is a lot to worry about. The above verse from 1 Peter 5 tells us to turn our concerns over to God, because He cares for us. How do we do that?

***(Philippians 4:6-7) Fret not about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus***

Notice that this does not promise that God will instantly fix everything that's wrong in our lives. What it says is, that if we take our troubles to God in prayer, and leave them with Him, for Him to handle in His own way and time, and then we just trust Him and stop fretting, He will settle our minds and our stomachs, and give us peace, even beyond what seems to us to be reasonable.

Now comes a verse that is talking about those who are saved, who are living in the "New Earth" that God will create when He brings this world to its end. It indicates the relationship between God and His saints, how He will be so attentive to their needs and their holy desires that He will provide before they even ask.

***(Isaiah 65:24) And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.***

Please read the entire passage of Isaiah 65:17-25 to get the context for this verse.

I hope and I pray that the verses Brother Jerry selected, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will bless you and give you confidence in God's goodness and His love and caring provision for you and me. I will close with the last of the verses from Jerry. This is my prayer for those who read this lesson, whenever that may be.

***(2 Thessalonians 3:16) Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.***

God bless you, my brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ, and give you His peace —

*Brother Roland*

## The Potter and the Clay

This puzzle combines messages for us from God's word, from Jeremiah 18:1-6. Romans 9:21, and 2 Timothy 2:20-21. The net of it is that God loves us so much that He doesn't give up on us, but keeps on trying to shape us to be like His Son. Hallelujah! Enjoy the puzzle.

### Puzzle:

P O T T E R W A S W O R K I N G P N F K F L L B Y Z H W P H E S  
W B I M U E X R I A Z Q O E W Y Q I M V A E B I R O O J O S Z L  
E S U S I H R O F E Y T M G R N R G S L K S P L K R U L K B Q Q  
I L L A R S G Q S W N I R I E O O R L W I S X G D E Y A Q O F P  
O E J Y I T Q G U W J M U V H V M E O N P E A O I A J L N R U P  
T S E B T H G U O H T E H S A T L D T X H V F X N M B E F D O Z  
G S B R G S L D U K O D H N Y U E O N J W T M D Z A E E S H M M  
O E G V O Y O G P C L S B Z I L V L Y A H N B Q W K F H Y U V E  
D V N E T G H E W I L L M A K E Y O U E E E I F S I J W N N S V  
I L I V S A T T D R I S A Z S A U P L O A R X D P N J E W Q P F  
S U V W P W H N U Z A M Q S L A Y O S U Y E O G Z G E H L X B L  
W F I B O L E E H X E I E C R O R P T A V F S M I A X T Q P H E  
O E G G I H R I F N S L F E N D R I T R G F I S E V S N H P H S  
R S R I L R E T M P S O T G C A F E E H E I S T H E P O T T E R  
K U O I E S H A U Q T H R X I U H V J M W D G T S S U K D M Q U  
I A F C D J E P X U E F H S L P O P Y R T A T R T S U C S A Y O  
N U D W Q A A S O C T H E P O T T E R S H O U S E E X A R K O Y  
G I N J L O R I L B S T M R I Q S O F S D Z B P K L E B L E T E  
I P A W F O M E T L H P P E E N M R M G M E F P S U P V Q U U V  
W D A G F V Y H T E N E D T D L P U D E S S E M T E G E W S E A  
D Y C F A C W P L X H A W G E J S I B M P D L W S N A A R O T E  
S U E I C Y O O R T M S D N A H S I H N I Y L U M X O Q P V S L  
N P D N E O R M W E S D I C A M E T O J E R E M I A H T O E M L  
U J N R H D D T H Y T K N R R L W D J P E H O T V N N Y L R Q S  
E L E E H W S I H T A O A Y A R B G G Q G K Q R S L N D E H I S

### Words:

WORD OF THE LORD  
CAME TO JEREMIAH  
THE PROPHET  
GO DOWN TO  
THE POTTER'S HOUSE  
THERE HEAR MY WORDS  
POTTER WAS WORKING  
AT HIS WHEEL  
MAKING A VESSEL  
OUT OF CLAY  
IT GOT SPOILED  
HE MADE IT OVER  
A DIFFERENT VESSEL  
AS HE THOUGHT BEST

GOD IS WORKING  
YOU AND ME  
INTO VESSELS  
FOR HIS USE  
WE GET MESSED UP  
HE IS PATIENT  
AND FORGIVING  
BACK ON THE WHEEL  
TRY AGAIN  
MAKE US OVER  
MORE AND MORE  
LIKE JESUS

LEAVE YOURSELF  
IN HIS HANDS  
HE IS THE POTTER  
YOU ARE THE CLAY  
IF YOU LET HIM  
HE WILL MAKE YOU  
A USEFUL VESSEL  
HOLY AND BEAUTIFUL  
PRAISE THE LORD  
ALWAYS  
ALLELUIA! AMEN.

# Walking the Walk

A puzzle about living as a follower of Jesus.

## Puzzle:

T H R O U G H A N D T H R O U G H M T N V I P W C K A J T N S V  
L W V H Y H C R P E D T Q E X T H M H D U P L U P T P I L N W P  
A E G G I G E X L L Q R W D N A D P I E C G A F P W H U I B I W  
W N D B L W V W Q G F U O E M N I S E V I L E H B S L S F H E B  
R W E B O R W W I D P B R L Y B I B S Y O S A B I L L Y S P Q D  
T W A W Y S X L F L A Y H L E H E R E Z D C F N S L D N Q A H K  
F U W C C T Y J P U L V F I A H I R H N E H I A A A O H G S T N  
Z P X V U R H C X T Q D P F U F T J E W O F C S I I H C W F I D  
F G O E Z I E E F U O H O T S X D R I C L T S L T T P D S Q A E  
E C I F I R C A S G N I V I L A I T A L O E W A U E H M O L F M  
A D Q Y Y F Y I T P V B C R T N H T I E F N L O D V R F K G Y R  
R G E X Y M N T T I I Y O I E G H W Y N F E C N R I L R U I B O  
A D J R N E E R N L O R X P O W E K O S R U R I I L L S S L E F  
N S V C E T N H E K X N I S Q H E C U A V O U B L R D Q F O V S  
D E R N L D M I P O O X J T K T Y Y R Y T Y C K Z E Y L F M I N  
T N O I T A N M E D N O C O N W O N M Y R S I G P G D P Y L E A  
R O Y W R U W E R W L W X W R P B X I E U L F P T N S T E J C R  
E K V V M L C E R A U T D M Q Q Z H N S S L I K O O G T O R E T  
M S S E N E V I G R O F K S A V D Z D T T A E U B L G Y E G R E  
B G B U J Q J P D U U Z J L Y T Y J R O A C D T K O B J K V O B  
L B N Z Q L N D N O Z S T G N R J Q E H N D W A O N O M L S K D  
I J K W O R K O U T S A L V A T I O N I D O I F H I Z X A U Z I  
N F J S T E Q Q O F N P K L V P M E E M O G T J C Y B N W Q N N  
G U O Y N I K R O W D O O G A L U H W U B H H E A P C S E C I R  
O S N X B E L I E V E I N J E S U S E R E D C W V T K F H D F Q  
V T D I T I O Z B N D A M R I S F C D P Y H H X I G Z R T L C T  
G K O H F F B E V G Y Y F J Y E P Q A X H J R F B Q I W K K R D  
Y E S Y O U A R E S A V E D Z E F S H C I B I P C S U P L Q D D  
E O R V D S L V E O S K S X C Q T C Q Q M E S E T Z K H A K T Z  
Y O U H A V E S A I D Y E S D J H P Z Q D R T L G R H G W E S Z

## Words:

### \* *First, accept Salvation*

FEAR THE LORD  
SAY YES TO HIM  
LET GO OF THE PAST  
CONFESS ALL SINS  
REPENT  
ASK FORGIVENESS  
BELIEVE IN JESUS  
RECEIVE BY FAITH  
YES, YOU ARE SAVED  
REJOICE

### \* *Walking the Walk*

RELATIONSHIP  
BE RECONCILED TO GOD

TRUST AND OBEY HIM  
WALK THE WALK  
IN CHRIST  
A NEW CREATION  
NOW NO CONDEMNATION  
SPIRIT FILLED  
LED BY THE SPIRIT  
ALL SURRENDERED  
AT PEACE WITH GOD  
YOU HAVE SAID YES  
GOD HAS BEGUN  
GOOD WORK IN YOU  
HE WILL FINISH IT  
CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

I NO LONGER LIVE  
HE LIVES IN ME  
SANCTIFIED  
THROUGH AND THROUGH  
GOD CALLS YOU  
HE IS FAITHFUL  
HE WILL DO IT  
WORK OUT SALVATION  
FEAR AND TREMBLING  
A LIVING SACRIFICE  
BE NOT WORLDLY  
BE TRANSFORMED  
YOUR MIND RENEWED