

*discovering*  
**TRUTH**

**KEYS TO  
HAPPIER LIVING**

## **Acknowledgements**

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All verses used in this book are from the *Authorized Version* (King James Version) of the Bible.

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# PREFACE

We all want to be better people, and *Jesus* makes that possible. “If anyone is in Christ,” the Bible tells us, “he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”<sup>1</sup> Of course that doesn’t mean that you were instantly and forever freed from every bad habit and personal weakness the moment you received Jesus as your Savior. Like every other Christian alive today, you’re a work in progress. “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”<sup>2</sup>

God doesn’t expect you to attain sinless perfection. If He did, you’d be doomed to a life of failure and frustration. Personal perfection is not His goal at all! What He wants most is for you to grow in love—love for Him and love for others—that you might be more like Jesus.

To that end, He has given you a Bible-ful of insight and counsel on how to overcome every temptation that you could possibly face in life and develop good habits instead. The apostle Peter called these “exceedingly great and precious promises,” that through these you may partake of the divine nature.<sup>3</sup> God’s Word, combined with the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit and a sincere desire to make positive changes, can turn any weak point you may have into a strong one!

His Word is also like a light that shines on your path to help you stay on track and avoid the pitfalls.<sup>4</sup>

However, finding God’s counsel on a particular subject can sometimes be a problem itself, and concordances and conventional study helps only go so far. *Keys to Happier Living* presents over fifty vital topics from the perspective of God’s Word, in a simple outline form. Its easy-to-follow format also makes it a quick reference tool for busy parents, teachers, and mentors.

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<sup>1</sup> See 2 Corinthians 5:17.

<sup>2</sup> Philippians 2:13.

<sup>3</sup> See 2 Peter 1:4.

<sup>4</sup> See Matthew 7:14; Psalm 119:105.

## **Explanation of Technical Aspects**

All quotations are from the *Authorized Version* (King James Version) of the Bible. Due to limited space, only the Bible verses most pertinent to each topic have been included. Verses of secondary importance are noted by Biblical reference only ("See also such-and-such"). Occasional parenthetical notes have been added in brackets [ ] to explain archaic words and to clarify the meaning of verses not shown in their full context.

Happy studying!

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGGRESSIVENESS.....	7
ANGER AND TEMPER.....	12
APPRECIATION.....	17
BEAUTY.....	24
BITTERNESS.....	30
BULLYING.....	37
CHOICE AND DECISION MAKING.....	43
COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS.....	49
COMPETITIVENESS.....	57
CONDEMNATION AND REMORSE.....	62
CONSCIENCE, KEEPING A GOOD.....	68
COVETOUSNESS.....	77
CRITICISM.....	86
CURSING AND FOUL LANGUAGE.....	94
DOUBTS.....	98
EMPATHY.....	115
ENCOURAGEMENT.....	122
EVIL ASSOCIATIONS, BAD COMPANY.....	129
FAIR PLAY/CHEATING.....	137
FASCINATION FOR EVIL.....	144
FEAR OF FAILURE.....	152
FEELING LEFT OUT.....	159
FLATTERY.....	165
FRIENDSHIP.....	170
FRUSTRATION.....	175
GENTLENESS.....	179
GOSSIP AND TATTLING.....	182
GREED.....	189
HABITS, OVERCOMING BAD.....	194
HAPPINESS AND JOY.....	201
HASTE; RASHNESS.....	211
HELP, ASKING FOR.....	218
INSECURITY.....	223

<b>JEALOUSY AND ENVY</b> .....	<b>229</b>
<b>KINDNESS AND COURTESY</b> .....	<b>240</b>
<b>LAZINESS AND SLOTHFULNESS</b> .....	<b>248</b>
<b>LONLINESS</b> .....	<b>253</b>
<b>NERVOUSNESS AND FEARFULNESS</b> .....	<b>259</b>
<b>NIGHTMARES AND BAD DREAMS</b> .....	<b>265</b>
<b>PEER PRESSURE</b> .....	<b>272</b>
<b>POSITIVENESS/NEGATIVE THINKING</b> .....	<b>280</b>
<b>PROMISES, KEEPING</b> .....	<b>293</b>
<b>QUIETNESS</b> .....	<b>300</b>
<b>RELAXATION AND FREETIME</b> .....	<b>305</b>
<b>REPUTATION</b> .....	<b>311</b>
<b>REVENGE, SEEKING</b> .....	<b>318</b>
<b>SAMPLE; EXAMPLE</b> .....	<b>324</b>
<b>SECRETS: WHEN TO KEEP, AND WHEN NOT TO</b> .....	<b>329</b>
<b>SELFISHNESS AND SELF-CENTEREDNESS</b> .....	<b>342</b>
<b>SHYNESS AND TIMIDITY</b> .....	<b>356</b>
<b>SORROW</b> .....	<b>364</b>
<b>TOLERANCE OF OTHERS</b> .....	<b>375</b>
<b>WISDOM</b> .....	<b>384</b>
<b>WORRY</b> .....	<b>394</b>

# AGGRESSIVENESS

Definition: Aggressiveness has two contrasting definitions. The primary, being negative, means being inclined to act in a hostile manner; the secondary, but more positive meaning, refers to being bold, assertive or enterprising in getting things done. The first definition is the one explored in this section.

## 1. Pushy aggressiveness toward others is a worldly, carnal trait.

- **Romans 10:1-3** [Paul explained that the Jews were pushy in their service for God, but lacked really knowing the Lord:] Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.
- **Philippians 3:6-7** [Paul knew the Jew's faults, because earlier, as Saul the Pharisee, his attitude was:] Concerning zeal, persecuting the Church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.
- **John 18:36a** Jesus answered, My Kingdom is not of this world: if My Kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight. [See Matthew 26:52-54.]
- **2 Timothy 2:24** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.
- **Matthew 5:38-41** Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: <sup>39</sup> But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup> And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. <sup>41</sup> And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.
- **Mark 10:42-44** [Worldly leaders are often pushy and domineering, but we are taught to lead with meekness and love.] But Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them;

and their great ones exercise authority upon them. <sup>43</sup> But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: <sup>44</sup> And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

- **Romans 13:13,14** Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. <sup>14</sup> But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.
- **1 Corinthians 3:3** For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?
- **2 Corinthians 10:3** [Even though we are carnal people, we are learning to see things in the Spirit.] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. [See also Colossians 1:29.]

## **2. Aggressiveness is often a symptom of a me-first sort of pride and selfishness.**

- **Proverbs 13:10a** Only by pride cometh contention.
- **Galatians 5:26** Let us not be desirous of vain glory [conceit], provoking one another, envying one another.
- **Philippians 2:3,4** Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory [selfish ambition or conceit]; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. <sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
- **James 4:1** From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?



### 3. Aggressiveness between Christians undermines unity and hinders our sample.

- **Proverbs 18:19** [Once disunity is created through offenses, it takes great effort to patch it up.] A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.
- **Matthew 12:25** And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.
- **Galatians 5:15-17** But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. <sup>16</sup>This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
- **Philippians 1:15-17** [Paul referred to the insincere, ungodly, selfish aggressiveness used by some Christians, contrasted with the loving support felt from others:] Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: <sup>16</sup>The one preach Christ of contention ... <sup>17</sup>But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the Gospel.
- **Philippians 2:14,15** Do all things without murmurings and disputings: <sup>15</sup>That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

### 4. Worldly aggressiveness is completely contradictory to the ways of the Spirit.

- **Galatians 5:22,23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup>Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- **James 3:14-18** But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. <sup>15</sup>This wisdom

descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

## **5. If aggressiveness is the problem, more love and a spirit of meekness are the cure.**

- **Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins. [See also Proverbs 3:30.]
- **Proverbs 25:15** [Meekness accomplishes much more than force.] By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.
- **Romans 14:19** Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
- **1 Corinthians 2:3-5** [Paul, who had been overly aggressive as a Jew, learned to be meek, realizing how weak he was, yet relying on the power of God.] And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: <sup>5</sup>That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. [See also 2 Corinthians 11:29,30; 13:9.]
- **1 Corinthians 13:4,5** Charity [Love] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, <sup>5</sup>Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.
- **1 Corinthians 10:24** [Be aggressive in helping others, not yourself.] Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.
- **2 Corinthians 1:24** [The Apostles were not domineering.] Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

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- **Ephesians 4:2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.
  - **1 Peter 3:4** But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
  - **1 Peter 5:5** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

# ANGER AND TEMPER

Definition: A strong feeling of displeasure and usually of opposition toward someone or something, often brought about by real or imagined injury; rage; fury; wrath. Anger is a broad term that applies to various levels of emotion that may or may not be shown. Temper, as used here refers to “the tendency to be easily angered.”

## 1. God’s Word warns us not to yield to anger and wrath.

- **James 1:19,20** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: <sup>20</sup>For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
- **Psalm 37:8** Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.
- **Ecclesiastes 7:9** Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

## 2. Anger creates a breach in our spiritual defenses.

- **Proverbs 16:32** He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. [See also Proverbs 14:29.]
- **Proverbs 25:28** He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

## 3. Anger often results from pride and selfishness.

- **Proverbs 21:24** Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.
- **James 4:1** From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

## 4. If we give place to ungodly anger, we will be the ones to suffer.

- **Proverbs 19:19a** A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment.

- **Proverbs 25:8** Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.
- **Matthew 5:22a** But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the Judgment.
- **Romans 12:19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

## **5. A wise man controls his temper because he knows it leads to mistakes and even greater problems.**

- **Numbers 20:7,8,10-12; Psalm 106:32,33** [Moses' outburst of anger caused him to lose the blessing and privilege of leading his people into the Promised Land:] The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup>Take the rod ... and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes [the rebellious congregation]; and it shall give forth his water... <sup>10</sup>Moses ... said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? <sup>11</sup>And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. <sup>12</sup>And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. <sup>Psalm 106:32,33</sup> They angered him [Moses] also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: <sup>33</sup>Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.
- **Proverbs 29:11** A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.
- **Proverbs 14:17a** He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly.
- **Proverbs 14:29** He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.
- **Proverbs 19:11** The discretion [good judgement] of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

- **Proverbs 29:22** An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.
- **Ecclesiastes 5:2,6a** Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in Heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. <sup>6a</sup> Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin.

## **6. An even wiser man or woman helps others to control their tempers.**

- **Proverbs 15:1a** A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous [harsh] words stir up anger. [See also Proverbs 29:8b.]
- **Proverbs 15:18b** He that is slow to anger appeaseth [pacifies] strife.
- **Genesis 13:7-9** [Abraham wisely appeased strife which arose between his and his nephew Lot's herdsman.] And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: <sup>8</sup> And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. <sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.
- **1 Samuel 25:1-35** [Abigail wisely pacified the anger of Israel's king-to-be, David, as he sought to kill her husband:] <sup>32</sup> David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: <sup>33</sup> And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.

## **7. We are to forsake anger and pray for the Lord to replace anger with love, patience, meekness and forgiveness.**

- **1 Corinthians 13:5** [Love] doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

- **Ephesians 4:31,32** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: <sup>32</sup> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
- **Colossians 3:8,12-15** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. <sup>12</sup> Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. <sup>14</sup> And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.
- **Ephesians 4:26b** Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.  
[See also James 3:17,18.]

**8. Though the “wrath of man” is to be shunned, there is a time for “righteous indignation” or godly anger, a time to speak out against evil, wrongdoing and injustice. But we must be sure it is God's anger, not our own.**

- **Proverbs 25:23** The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.
- **Ephesians 4:26a** Be ye angry, and sin not.
- **Judges 14:19; 15:14,15; 16:28-30** [The Lord anointed Samson several times to be angry and used this anger to defeat the enemies of His people.] And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil. ... <sup>15:14,15</sup> The Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. <sup>15</sup> And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand

men therewith. <sup>16:28-30</sup> And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. <sup>29</sup> And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood. ... <sup>30</sup> And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

- **Mark 3:5** [Jesus Himself was frequently stirred up with godly anger, such as the time His hypocritical religious enemies were watching to see if He would break the Laws of Moses by healing the man with the shrivelled hand on their holy day, the Sabbath:] And when He had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, He saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. [See verses 1-4.]
- **John 2:14-16** [The crowning example of Jesus' anger was when He found certain religionists robbing and exploiting the poor in the name of God:] And [Jesus] found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: <sup>15</sup> And when He had made a scourge [whip] of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; <sup>16</sup> And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise.



# APPRECIATION

Definition: Recognition of the quality, worth, or significance of people and things.

## **1. In the Bible, the Lord often expressed His appreciation by giving people credit, praising them for their good qualities, or for making the right decisions.**

- **Job 1:8** And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
- **Acts 13:22b** And [the Lord] said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after Mine own heart, which shall fulfil all My will.
- **John 1:47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile [deceit]!
- **Luke 7:9** [Referring to the faith of the centurion whose servant Jesus healed:] When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned Him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
- **Luke 16:8a** [Jesus even praised the unjust steward for his wisdom:] And the Lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely.
- **Matthew 15:22-28** [Jesus praised the Canaanite woman who did not get offended at His hard saying:] And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. <sup>23</sup> But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. <sup>24</sup> But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>25</sup> Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me. <sup>26</sup> But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. <sup>27</sup> And she said, truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs

which fall from their masters' table. <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

## **2. The Lord also commends us when we invest our talents wisely to help others and further His Kingdom.**

- **Matthew 25:21** [In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus narrated:] His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- **Luke 12:37** [Jesus said:] Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.
- **Hebrews 6:10** For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

## **3. The Lord also wants us to show appreciation to others.**

- **Proverbs 31:30b** A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.
- **Song of Solomon 6:9** My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.
- **1 Samuel 15:6** [King Saul remembered to show appreciation to foreign tribes for having shown kindness to his forefathers.] And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

- **1 Samuel 25:32-33** And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: <sup>33</sup> And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.
- **2 Samuel 10:2a** Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun ... as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father.
- **1 King 2:7** But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.
- **Romans 13:7** Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- **Philippians 4:8** [Everyone has some good qualities, so let's recognize them:] Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

#### **4. The Apostle Paul's letters to the brethren were good samples of showing appreciation to others.**

- **Romans 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.
- **Romans 16:1-2** I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: <sup>2</sup>That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

- **1 Corinthians 16:15-18** [Paul made mention of the family of Stephanus and his companions, who were faithful in their missionary work.]
- **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** [Paul honored the church at Macedonia for their extreme generosity and devotion to Paul's leadership.] [See also Philippians 4:14-16.]
- **2 Corinthians 8:16-23** [Paul commended the faithfulness of Titus and his travelling companion, who administered to the material needs of the Church.]
- **Colossians 1:3-4** We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, <sup>4</sup>Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints.
- **1 Thessalonians 1 [all]** [Paul wrote to the brethren in Thessalonica:] <sup>3</sup>Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father. ... <sup>7</sup>Ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.
- **2 Thessalonians 1:3,4** We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; <sup>4</sup>So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

## **5. Other examples in the Bible of showing appreciation:**

- **Genesis 41:39-41** [Pharaoh showed his appreciation to Joseph for interpreting his dream and for Joseph's wise counsel:] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: <sup>40</sup>Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. <sup>41</sup>And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. [See also Genesis 41:1-43.]

- **Exodus 2:11-21** [Reuel, the priest of Midian, scolded his daughters for not showing appreciation to Moses, who had helped them draw water:] <sup>20</sup> And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? Why is it that ye have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.
- **Ruth 3:10** [Boaz expressed his appreciation to Ruth for her unselfish devotion:] <sup>10</sup> And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. [See all of chapter 3.]
- **Nehemiah 7:2** I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.
- **Esther 6:11b** [King Ahasuerus showed his appreciation to Mordecai for unveiling the plot against the king's life by having Mordecai dressed in royal apparel and paraded through the city:] Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. [See also Esther 6:1-11.]
- **1 King 13:1-7** [King Jeroboam of Judah was appreciative of the young prophet who had asked the Lord to restore the repentant king's hand:] <sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. ... <sup>6</sup> And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before. <sup>7</sup> And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.
- **2 Kings 5:15** [After Naaman was cleansed of leprosy, he showed his appreciation to the prophet Elisha by offering him a reward:] And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in

Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.  
[See also 2 Kings 5:1-19.]

[See also Revelation chapters 2 and 3 for a wonderful example of how the Lord faithfully shows appreciation for good qualities, even when convicting us about our errors.]

## **6. We should never fail to show our appreciation to the Lord by praising Him for all He has done for us.**

- **Deuteronomy 8:10,11** [Moses exhorted:] When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee. <sup>11</sup> Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgements, and His statutes, which I command thee this day.
- **Psalms 103:2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. [See also Psalm 105:5.]
- **Psalms 107:8** Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!
- **Psalms 116:12-14** What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? <sup>13</sup> I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. <sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.
- **Luke 1:46-48** And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, <sup>47</sup> And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. <sup>48</sup> For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. [See also verses 49-55.]
- **Luke 17:15-19** [After Jesus healed the ten lepers, only one expressed appreciation:] And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan, <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. <sup>19</sup> And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

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- **Hebrews 13:15** By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.