

IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU DEPEND ON

The Keys to a Blessed Life: 8 Beatitudes
Rick Warren

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

"God blesses those who realize their need for him..." Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

"Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless."
Matthew 5:3 (GW)

"God blesses those people who depend only on him." Matthew 5:3 (CEV)

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor." Matthew 5:3 (GNT)

"The LORD God of Jacob blesses everyone who trusts him and depends on him."
Psalm 146:5 (CEV)

TO BE "POOR IN SPIRIT" MEANS

HOW DO I DO THIS?

1.

"There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."
Proverbs 14:12 (NHEB)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil."
Proverbs 3:5-7 (NLT)

"But if any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all." James 1:5 (GNT)

2.

"You bless all who depend on you for their strength." Psalm 84:5 (CEV)

"Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak." Isaiah 40:31 (GNT)

"I walk in the strength of the Lord." Psalm 71:16 (TLB)

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

3.

"I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands."
Psalm 31:14-15 (NIV)

"[God] has set the right time for everything." Ecclesiastes 3:11 (GNT)

"I am the Lord, and when it is time, I will make these things happen quickly."
Isaiah 60:22 (NCV)

"I trust the lord God to save me, and I will wait for him to answer my prayer."
Micah 7:7 (CEV)

4.

"[The LORD] blesses and protects everyone who runs to him."
Psalm 2:12 (CEV)

"I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my strong protector; he is my shelter." Psalm 62:5-7 (GNT)

5.

"And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs." Philippians 4:19 (GNT)

MY FIRST STEP IN EXPRESSING MY DEPENDENCE

"That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father." Romans 6:3-5 (MSG)

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HOW GOD BLESSES BROKEN HEARTS

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

GOD DOESN'T EXPECT ME TO BE _____

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. . . . a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."
Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 (NIV)

"When I kept things to myself, I felt weak deep inside me. I moaned all day long."
Psalm 32:3 (NCV)

"I was mute and silent; I held my peace to no avail, and my distress grew worse."
Psalm 39:2 (ESV)

HOW DOES GOD BLESS BROKEN HEARTS?

1. _____
"The lord is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed." Psalm 34:18 (NCV)

"I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." Hebrews 13:5 (GNT)

"Our hearts ache, but at the same time we have the joy of the Lord."
2 Corinthians 6:10 (TLB)

2. _____
"When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her were crying, he was terribly upset. . . . Jesus started crying, and the people said, 'See how much he loved Lazarus.'" John 11:33, 35-36 (CEV)

(Jesus) "He has sent me to comfort all who mourn, to give to those who mourn in Zion joy and gladness instead of grief, and a song of praise instead of sorrow."
Isaiah 61:2-3 (GNT)

3. _____
"In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5 (NIV)

"Be devoted to each other like a loving family." Romans 12:10 (GW)

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."
Romans 12:15 (NIV)

You weren't meant to go through grief on your own!

"Comfort each other and give each other strength." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ICB)

4. _____
"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."
Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing. Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. This is why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (CEV)

5. _____
"We don't want you to be ignorant about those who have died. We don't want you to grieve like other people who have no hope." 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (GW)

"[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
Revelations 21:4 (NIV)

6. _____
"[God] comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV)

Every day I either need comfort or need to comfort others.

CHECK OUT TODAY'S CARE FAIR

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THE STRENGTH OF GENTLENESS

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"Blessed are those who are gentle. They will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5 (GW)

"God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!"
Matthew 5:5 (CEV)

GENTLENESS IS _____

BENEFITS OF BEING GENTLE

1. GENTLENESS _____

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)

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

2. GENTLENESS _____

"We appeal gently when evil things are said about us."
1 Corinthians 4:13 (NLT)

"Your conversation should be so sensible and logical that anyone who wants to argue will be ashamed of himself because there won't be anything to criticize in anything you say!" Titus 2:8 (TLB)

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth."
2 Timothy 2:24-25 (NIV)

3. GENTLENESS _____

"Gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses." Proverbs 25:15 (MSG)

"A gentle word can get through to the hard-headed." Proverbs 25:15 (NCV)

"A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Proverbs 16:21 (GNT)

4. GENTLENESS _____
"But you, man of God . . . Pursue what God approves of: a godly life, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness." 1 Timothy 6:11 (GW)

"You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God."
1 Peter 3:4 (NLT)

5. GENTLENESS _____
"Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them." Colossians 3:19 (NCV)

"Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (AMPC)

6. GENTLENESS _____
"A woman of gentle grace gets respect." Proverbs 11:16 (MSG)

"Now the man Moses was very meek (gentle, kind, and humble) or above all the men on the face of the earth." Numbers 12:3 (AMPC)

7. GENTLENESS _____
"Believers shouldn't curse anyone or be quarrelsome, but they should be gentle and show courtesy to everyone." Titus 3:2 (GW)

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

8. GENTLENESS _____
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

"The fruit of the Spirit is . . . gentleness." Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

WHO CAN I PRACTICE GENTLENESS WITH THIS WEEK?

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WHY YOU NEED TO STAY HUNGRY

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"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS . . .

- **A RELATIONSHIP:** _____
"The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself."
Romans 1:17 (NCV)
- **A LIFESTYLE:** _____
"All who practice righteousness are God's true children." 1 John 2:29 (MSG)
"Righteousness is the road to life." Proverbs 12:28 (GNT)
"In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality."
Proverbs 12:28 (NIV)

THE GOOD NEWS: GOD'S PLAN TO MAKE ME RIGHT WITH HIMSELF

1. _____
"There is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins." Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NIV)
"No one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what the law commands. For the more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them." Romans 3:20 (TLB)
2. _____
"Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal; yet now God declares us 'not guilty' of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins. For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's blood and our faith as the means of saving us from his wrath." Romans 3:23-25 (TLB)
"God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

3. _____
"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are." Romans 3:22 (NLT)

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation." Romans 10:9-10 (HCSB)

HOW DO I STAY SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY?

1. _____
"And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."
Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)
2. _____
"The Lord says, 'All you who are thirsty, come and drink. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend your money on something that is not real food? Why work for something that doesn't really satisfy you? Listen closely to me, and you will eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the rich food that satisfies.'"
Isaiah 55:1-2 (NCV)
3. _____
"Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well." Matthew 6:33 (NCV)
4. _____
"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment." 1 Peter 2:2 (NLT)
5. _____
"So—join the company of good men and women, keep your feet on the tried-and-true paths." Proverbs 2:20 (MSG)
"So follow the steps of the good, and stay on the paths of the righteous."
Proverbs 2:20 (NLT)

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YOUR MINISTRY OF MERCY

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*"God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy."
Matthew 5:7 (NLT)*

WHY BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS?

1.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)
*"Shouldn't you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?"
Matthew 18:33 (TLB)*
2.

"What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 (NIV)
"I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Hosea 6:6 (NIV)
3.

"You must show mercy to others, or God will not show mercy to you when he judges you. But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment." James 2:13 (NCV)
4.

*"If you want to be happy, be kind to the poor; it is a sin to despise anyone."
Proverbs 14:21 (GNT)*
*"A merciful person helps himself, but a cruel person hurts himself."
Proverbs 11:17 (GW)*

HOW DO I BE MERCIFUL?

1.

"Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2 (TLB)

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy." James 3:17 (NIV)

2.

*"Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it."
Proverbs 3:27 (GNT)*
"If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." Romans 12:8 (BSB)
3.

"Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ." Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEV)
4.

"Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)
5.

"Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. . . . I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." 1 Timothy 1:13, 16 (NIV)
"Show mercy to those who have doubts. Save others by snatching them from the fire." Jude 1:22-23 (GW)
"Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives." Jude 1:23 (NLT)
6.

"Later, as Jesus and his disciples were eating dinner at Matthew's house, there were many notorious swindlers there as guests! The Pharisees were indignant. 'Why does your teacher associate with men like that?' 'Because people who are well don't need a doctor! It's the sick people who do!' was Jesus' reply. Then he added, 'Now go away and learn the meaning of this verse of Scripture, "It isn't your sacrifices and your gifts I want—I want you to be merciful.'" For I have come to urge sinners, not the self-righteous, back to God.'" Matthew 9:10-13 (TLB)
7.

"About that time, Jesus was walking one day through some grainfields with his disciples. It was on the Sabbath, the Jewish day of worship, and his disciples were

hungry; so they began breaking off heads of wheat and eating the grain. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, 'Your disciples are breaking the law. They are harvesting on the Sabbath.' But Jesus said to them, 'Haven't you ever read what King David did when he and his friends were hungry? He went into the Temple and they ate the special bread permitted to the priests alone. But if you had known the meaning of this Scripture verse, "I want you to be merciful more than I want your offerings," you would not have condemned those who aren't guilty! For I, the Messiah, am master even of the Sabbath.'"

Matthew 12:1-4, 7-8 (TLB)

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GOD BLESSES A HEART OF INTEGRITY

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"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7 (NASB)

"God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God."
Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

INTEGRITY: _____

BLESSINGS BROUGHT BY INTEGRITY

1. _____
"A good man has firm footing, but a crook will slip and fall." Proverbs 10:9 (TLB)
"The integrity of the honest keeps them on track." Proverbs 11:3 (MSG)
2. _____
"A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. Blessed are his children after he is gone." Proverbs 20:7 (GW)
"If you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, and if you are pure and live with integrity, he will surely rise up and restore your happy home. And though you started with little, you will end with much." Job 8:5-7 (NLT)
3. _____
"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"
Matthew 25:21 (NIV)
"LORD, who shall dwell in your sanctuary? Who shall live on your holy mountain?"
Psalm 15:1 (NHEB)
"He who walks with integrity and practices righteousness, who speaks the truth from his heart." Psalm 15:2 (BSB)
"Anyone who refuses to slander others, does not listen to gossip."
Psalm 15:3 (TLB)

"Who . . . casts no slur on others . . . but honors those who fear the LORD."
Psalm 15:3-4 (NIV)

"Those who . . . keep their promises even when it hurts." Psalm 15:4 (NLT)

"The one who does not collect interest on a loan or take a bribe against an innocent person. Whoever does these things will never be shaken." Psalm 15:5 (GW)

SOME WAYS TO DEVELOP INTEGRITY

1. _____
"People who promise things that they never give are like clouds and wind that bring no rain." Proverbs 25:14 (GNT)
2. _____
"The wicked borrow and never pay back." Psalm 37:21 (GNT)
"The authorities are working for God. . . . Pay, then, what you owe them; pay them your personal and property taxes." Romans 13:6-7 (GNT)
3. _____
"A . . . gossip can't be trusted with a secret, but someone of integrity won't violate a confidence." Proverbs 11:13 (MSG)
4. _____
"Is it right for a person to cheat God? Of course not, yet you are cheating me. 'How?' you ask. In the matter of tithes and offerings. . . . Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple. . . . Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things."
Malachi 3:8, 10 (GNT)
5. _____
"Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters." Colossians 3:23 (TLB)
"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." Colossians 3:23 (NLT)
6. _____
"We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open." 2 Corinthians 4:2 (MSG)
"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."
Psalm 119:9 (NHEB)

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HOW TO RECONCILE A RELATIONSHIP

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"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PEACEMAKING

- _____
- _____

DAMAGE CAUSED BY UNRESOLVED CONFLICT

- _____
- _____
- _____

"Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness." James 3:18 (TLB)

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER

1. _____
"So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God." Matthew 5:23-24 (GNT)
2. _____
"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you." James 1:5 (TLB)
3. _____
"Where do those fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your selfish desires that are at war in your bodies, don't they?" James 4:1 (ISV)
"Pride only leads to arguments." Proverbs 13:10 (NCV)
*"Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? . . . First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend's eye."
Matthew 7:3, 5 (NCV)*

4. _____
"Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry." James 1:19 (NLT)
"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had." Philippians 2:4-5 (GNT)
*"We must bear the 'burden' of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others."
Romans 15:2 (TLB)*
5. _____
"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)
"Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed." Ephesians 4:29 (GNT)
6. _____
"You must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips." Colossians 3:8 (NIV)
7. _____
Reconciliation = reestablish the relationship
Resolution = resolve every issue
"God . . . has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. In other words, God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives. . . . We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God." 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (GW)

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HANDLING OPPOSITION TO YOUR FAITH

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“Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right WILL have trouble from others.” 2 Timothy 3:12 (CEV)

WHAT TO REMEMBER

1. “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” John 15:18-20 (NIV)

“If you’re abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It’s the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others.” 1 Peter 4:14 (MSG)

2. “[The trials] purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:7 (GNT)

3. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing what God approves of. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, lie, and say all kinds of evil things about you because of me. Rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward in heaven! The prophets who lived before you were persecuted in these ways.” Matthew 5:10-12 (GW)

WHAT TO DO

1. “Dear friends, don’t be surprised or shocked that you are going through testing that is like walking through fire.” 1 Peter 4:12 (CEV)

“My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful test you are suffering, as though something unusual were happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12 (GNT)

2. “If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” 1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)

3. “It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!” 1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

“Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.” 1 Peter 5:9 (NLT)

“It is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.” 1 Peter 3:17 (HCSB)

4. “For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world.” Ephesians 6:12 (GNT)

“Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble, and God’s servants must not be troublemakers. They must be kind to everyone . . . and very patient. Be humble when you correct people who oppose you. . . . They have been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape.” 2 Timothy 2:23-26 (CEV)

5. “Never pay back evil with more evil.” Romans 12:17 (NLT)

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:18 (NIV)

“Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it.” Romans 12:19 (TLB)

“Those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.” 1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)

6. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21 (ESV)

"Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also." Luke 6:27-29 (NLT)

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