

25 USES FOR SCRIPTURE

*Because All Scripture is
God-Breathed and Useful*

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Scripture is useful. Not just inspiring — useful. Paul told Timothy that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

This booklet explores 25 practical ways Scripture equips us for life. Think of it like a Swiss Army knife — one tool, many uses. This booklet shows you how to use it.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

GO SLOW

This isn't a book to rush through. Read one use per day. Meditate on the Scripture. Read the text carefully. Look up the "Other Scriptures" at the bottom of each page. These three elements — main verse, text, and related passages — work together to help you develop, learn, understand, gain awareness, and grow. That happens through quietness and meditation. "Think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

Not every use will resonate with you the same way. That's okay. Take whatever you can get from this booklet and apply it. If you walk away with only one small nugget, you'll be 1% better than you were yesterday. And that's worth it.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

When reading these uses, apply them to yourself — not to someone else who "should be doing this." That kind of thinking won't help you. Ask God to reveal His words, ways, and wisdom to you each day. "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously and without reproach. And it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

KNOWING GOD

*"Now this is eternal life:
that they know you,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ,
whom you have sent."*

— **John 17:3** —

GETTING TO KNOW GOD

Knowing about God is a start. Knowing God personally takes time in His Word. Scripture is where God reveals Himself—His heart, His ways, His wisdom. Want to know God? Spend time in His Word. He's introducing Himself to you.

*The people who know their God will be strong
and take action. (do exploits)*

Daniel 11:32b (NASB)

I love this verse because it describes what knowing God does for a person — it produces strength, as Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

It also produces action. The KJV says "do exploits." That's where I want to be. It reminds me of the one guy out of twelve who got out of the boat and walked on water. It reminds me of the two spies out of twelve who said, "Let's go take the land."
That's Hua stuff.

It starts with knowing God — **then** comes the strength and the exploits. Or you might say strength and exploits **come from** knowing God.

Knowing God starts with time in His Word. Open Scripture with one simple question/request: "God, show me who You are."
He will answer.

Scripture is useful for getting to know God.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 9:23-24 • Psalm 46:10 • John 17:3 • Hosea 6:3

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S CHARACTER

Many people have many opinions about what God is like. The result? Confusion. So go to the source. In Exodus 34, God describes Himself directly to Moses. That's not someone's opinion about God. That's God introducing Himself.

And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.

Exodus 34: 6-7 (NIV)

And God is consistent. Character of Jesus? "Full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Compassion and love (Matt. 9:36, John 15:13). Character of His children? Slow to anger and forgiving (James 1:19, Acts 7:60).

Same character. Same God. What Moses heard on the mountain, we see walking in Galilee. You want to know what God is really like? Read Exodus 34. Then read the Gospels. He hasn't changed.

Open His Word with fresh eyes and let God tell you who He is.

Scripture is useful for understanding God's character.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Psalm 103:8 • John 1:14 • Numbers 23:19 • James 1:17

SEEING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

God's faithfulness means He does what He says. Not sometimes. Not when circumstances look favorable. Always. You can bank on it.

*The faithful love of the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.
Great is his faithfulness;
His mercies begin afresh each morning.*

Lamentation 3: 22-23 (NLT)

Jeremiah didn't write this from a comfortable chair. He wrote it from the rubble — Jerusalem destroyed, the temple gone, everything in ashes. But there it is: "Great is your faithfulness." That's called faith in God's faithfulness: declaring the truth when circumstances scream otherwise.

We get wobbly in the rubble. We look at our circumstances and start to wonder. But God's faithfulness is tied to His character. And His character doesn't change. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful." (2 Timothy 2:13)

Every morning is evidence. Every sunrise is a reminder. His Word is a promise you can stand on — in the good times and in the rubble.

Open Scripture and find a God who has never broken a promise.

Scripture is useful for seeing God's faithfulness.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Psalm 89:8 • 2 Timothy 2:13 • Hebrews 10:23

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

*"My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they follow Me."*

John 10:27 (ESV)

My sheep hear my voice. It's important for sheep to hear their shepherd — their health and safety depend on it. Hearing means following, obeying, and staying close enough to hear. This verse tells us that hearing God's voice is both important and possible.

But God is invisible and inaudible. How do you hear His voice?

The Word of God is your key resource. It's not like other books on a shelf — it's "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12). As you read Scripture, you get to know God's character, His tone, His priorities. You learn what He sounds like.

When a thought comes to your mind — "Trust me," "Wait," "Forgive them" — you can test it. Does this align with what I know about God from His Word? If it does, lean in. If it contradicts Scripture, reject it. That's not His voice.

Jesus said His sheep "will never follow a stranger...because they do not recognize his voice" (John 10:5). Scripture trains you to recognize the counterfeits. It helps you filter out the lies, the accusations, the false voices. You will know the Truth.

Want to hear God's voice? Saturate yourself in Scripture.

Scripture is useful for hearing God's voice.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Romans 10:17 • Hebrews 4:12 • John 10:5 • Acts 17:11

LEARNING GOD'S WAYS

God's ways aren't like our ways: not even close. The gap between His thinking and ours is huge — it's "as the heavens are higher than the earth." Compared to God, we're on the clueless end of the spectrum. Ironically, we often think God agrees with us.

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are **my ways higher than your ways**
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Isaiah 55: 8-9 (NIV)

The good news is that through the Scriptures, we can gain wisdom and understanding into the way He thinks and operates. Because His ways are way better.

So how do we learn His ways? We need revelation — God pulling back the curtain and showing us how He thinks, how He works, how He moves. We need a ‘Word from God.’ “In His own words”, you might say.

David prayed, "Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths" (Psalm 25:4). That's the posture — humble, teachable, and hungry to learn. God answers that prayer through His Word.

Open Scripture and let Him teach you because **Scripture is useful for learning God's ways.**

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Psalm 25:4 • Proverbs 3:5-6 • Romans 11:33 • Isaiah 30:21

PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come."*

— **2 Corinthians 5:17** —

RENEWING YOUR MIND

We need to think differently. About God. About ourselves. About what really matters. We have to ‘change our mind!’ Our default thinking is broken — “Their destiny is destruction...their mind is set on earthly things” (Phil. 3:19).

Earthly thinking produces earthly results. And earthly results fall short of the glory of God.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**
Then you will be able to test and approve what
God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Romans 12: 2 (NIV)

The life Christ offers — new life, eternal life, abundant life — is on the other side of a renewed mind. Old thinking keeps us trapped in old patterns – old wineskins. Same thoughts, same choices, same results.

Einstein said, “We cannot solve problems using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” New thinking is required. A renewed mind is required.

It takes a renewed mind to ‘get out of the boat and walk with Jesus.’ The rest stayed hunkered down in a flooded boat.

Open Scripture. Let it renew your mind.

Scripture is useful for renewing your mind.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Philippians 4:8 • 2 Corinthians 10:5 • Colossians 3:1-2 • Ephesians 4:22-24

TRANSFORMING YOUR CHARACTER

Character transformation doesn't come from trying harder. It comes from looking longer. The more we behold Him, the more we become like Him. It's not striving or self-effort — it's beholding.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3: 18 (ESV)

Paul says we're transformed "from one degree of glory to another." It's gradual. Progressive. Inevitable — if we keep our eyes on Him. The more we focus on His glory, His good-ness, the faster we're changed.

But here's the question: where do we see His glory? We can't physically look at God. So where do we behold Him?

Scripture. That's where His glory is on full display — His character, His power, His wisdom, His love, His holiness. Every page reveals something of who He is. And as we read, as we focus, as we contemplate what we're seeing, transformation happens. Some might call it magical. But really, it's spiritual.

Open Scripture. Behold His glory. Become like Him.

Scripture is useful for transforming your character.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:22-23 • Philippians 2:5 • 1 John 3:2-3

DEVELOPING WISDOM

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is James 1:5 because

- a) I definitely lack wisdom, and
- b) this is one of the clearest/cleanest promises in Scripture:

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him.

James 1: 5 (CSB)

We should all firmly hold onto this verse. Why? Because we lack wisdom. Left to ourselves, we often go the wrong way. Proverbs 14:12 says “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” So: “Don't be wise in your own eyes.” Our wisdom isn't enough. We need His.

Good News Alert: God offers wisdom freely. No grudges. No shame. No “you should have known better.” Just ask, and He gives generously. But here's the trick: where do we find the wisdom He's offering? And how do we receive it? His Word: Wisdom comes from His mouth—Scripture is His mouth.

Think of it like manna in the wilderness. God provided it daily, but Israel had to go out and gather it. Same with wisdom. God gives it freely through His Word, but we have to pick it up for ourselves. It's there. Waiting. Available every morning.

Want wisdom? Ask God. Then open Scripture and gather it.

Scripture is useful for developing wisdom.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 1:20 • Proverbs 2:6 • Proverbs 3:5-7 • **Psalm 119:98-100**

BUILDING SELF-DISCIPLINE

God has already given you self-discipline. Read that again. You don't have to manufacture it or muster it up. It's already yours! Can you believe that? More importantly, do you believe that?

*For God has not given us the spirit of fear,
but of power, and of love, and of self-control.*

2 Timothy 1: 7 (RGT)

Self-control is a gift. It's a fruit of His Spirit (Galatians 5:23). But — like manna in the wilderness, God provides it, and you have to get up and get it. You have to receive it for yourself. How did you receive salvation? By believing. How do you receive self-control? By believing. So let's start there.

Self-control is your birthright as a believer. Don't be like Esau, who forfeited his birthright for a bowl of soup. Don't trade your self-control for comfort, convenience, or instant gratification.

So how do we do this? I like to use this verse. Memorize this verse. Meditate on it. When you face procrastination, fear, laziness, or temptation — speak it aloud: "It is written: God has not given me the spirit of fear, but the spirit of self-control. I can do all things. Hua!" Then go do the (hard) thing. Use what you've been given.

The first act of self-control? Dedicate time to His Word. That's where you're reminded who you are and what you have.

Scripture is useful for building self-discipline.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:22-23 • 1 Corinthians 9:27 • Proverbs 25:28 • Romans 12:1

CULTIVATING HOPE

Hope isn't wishful thinking. It's confidence built on evidence. And the best evidence? Scripture. God's track record speaks for itself — He shows up, He rescues, He redeems, He restores.

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and **through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.***

Romans 15: 4 (ESV)

Scripture is filled with stories of rebirth, redemption, and renewal. It's a central theme of the Bible because it's an integral part of God's nature.

When we need hope, we can read about David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, or Jonah's second chance. We can read the Gospels and be encouraged by Jesus' birth, His teachings, His healings, and His resurrection. Yes. There is much reason for hope and encouragement written in these sacred, and wonderful, texts.

I say 'If any man lacks hope, let him read 2 Chronicles 20.' That's an excellent story of danger, calling on God, and miraculous deliverance. Highly recommended. Hua!

Are you wrestling with despair and discouragement? Let Scripture encourage you and restore your hope.

Scripture is useful for cultivating hope.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23 • Romans 8:31 • Hebrews 11:1 • Jeremiah 29:11

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God.
Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you."*

— **James 4:7** —

DEFEATING TEMPTATION

How did Jesus use Scripture? He used it to defeat temptation. Three times the devil tempted Him (as recorded in Matthew). Three times Jesus responded the same way: "It is written..." Three Scriptures. Three victories. That's the method.

*Jesus answered, "It is written:
'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Matthew 4: 4 (NIV)

Jesus didn't argue with the devil. He quoted God's Word because the Word of God is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12), and the tempter had to back off. The Scripture was useful for Jesus.

Here's the practical application: know your weak spots. We all have them — places where temptation regularly shows up. The wise child of God prepares in advance. Don't wait until you're in the middle of temptation to search for a verse. Have it ready. Memorized. Loaded.

I like to say, "There's a verse for that." Whatever your temptation — lust, pride, envy, complaint, anger— Scripture has an answer. Find it. Learn it. Use it. And the next time that tempter comes around, speak it aloud: "It is written..."

That's how Jesus did it. That's how we do it.

Scripture is useful for defeating temptation.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 10:13 • James 4:7 • Hebrews 4:15-16 • Psalm 119:11

BREAKING STRONGHOLDS

"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" In 1987, Reagan demanded the destruction of the Berlin Wall that kept people trapped and separated from freedom. That's what strongholds are — mental walls built by lies that keep us from God.

*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but
have divine power to destroy strongholds.
We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised
against the knowledge of God,
and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

2 Corinthians 10: 4-5 (ESV)

Strongholds aren't demons. They're thought patterns — arguments and opinions we've believed so long they feel like facts. "I've messed up too much — God can't forgive this." That's a lie. "It's too late for me." That's a lie. These mental fortresses keep us from knowing and obeying God.

But we have a weapon: Scripture. It tears down lies and replaces them with truth. When the thought says "God can't forgive this," Scripture says "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us" (1 John 1:9). Truth destroys the lie.

Rick Warren says: Don't resist, replace. Don't just fight the lie — replace it with God's Word. Meditate on truth. Speak it aloud. Take every thought captive. That's how strongholds fall. Use Scripture to tear down those walls.

Scripture is useful for breaking strongholds.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Philippians 4:8 • Romans 12:2 • 1 John 1:9

WIELDING THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

"I've got a gun, and I'm not afraid to use it!" is very different from "I've got a gun, and I don't know how to use it!" That won't scare anyone. The intruder would probably laugh at you.

Same with Scripture. Owning a Bible doesn't make you dangerous to the enemy. Knowing how to wield it does.

*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.*

Ephesians 6: 17 (NIV)

Scripture is the sword of the Spirit. But a sword on the wall is just decoration. A sword in the hand of a trained warrior? A weapon. The difference isn't the sword — it's the training.

Paul told Timothy: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who...rightly handles the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Rightly handles. That takes practice. James talks about "effective" prayer (James 5:16). Same with Scripture. You can quote a verse and miss the mark, or you can wield it like a weapon and watch strongholds fall.

The goal? To be "thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17). That takes practice.

Read Scripture. Study it. Memorize it. Use it. Become skilled with the sword.

Scripture is useful for wielding the sword of the Spirit.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:12 • 2 Timothy 3:17 • James 5:16

OVERCOMING FEAR

We already looked at 2 Timothy 1:7 for self-discipline. But this verse has another punch, a double-edge — one that goes straight at fear. God did give us the spirit of power, and of love, and of self-control. He did not give us the spirit of fear. That did not come from above.

*For God has not given us the spirit of fear,
but of power, and of love, and of self-control.*

2 Timothy 1: 7 (RGT)

Fear wreaks havoc in the life of a believer. It paralyzes. It silences. It turns the bold into the timid and the faithful into doubters. FDR said the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Turns out, God already knew that.

Here's the logic: If God protects us and is for us (Romans 8:31), why fear? Throughout Scripture, when God encounters His people, His first words are often "Fear not." In fact, God's love casts out fear. Angels say it. Jesus says it. God Himself says it. Over and over. Why? Because fear blocks faith. Fear stops us from acting. Fear keeps us from doing God's will.

God didn't give you fear. So you don't have to keep it. Scripture reminds you of the truth — you have power, love, and self-control. Not fear. When fear shows up, reject it. Speak the truth aloud: "God has not given me the spirit of fear." Then act in faith.

Scripture is useful for overcoming fear.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Romans 8:31 • Psalm 27:1 • Isaiah 41:10 • 1 John 4:18

WALKING IN VICTORY

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Remember that song? Simple. Childlike. True. We believe many things because the Bible tells us so. Here's one of the greatest truths: God gives us the victory through Jesus Christ.

*But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15: 57 (NIV)

We have a choice. Believe it – that the victory is ours (has been given to us). Or we can doubt it and forfeit it. Victory happens through faith. Without faith, we're on our own.

Sometimes circumstances—the wind and waves—scream that it's impossible. But that's a lie. It's not...with God. In fact, Jesus said exactly that, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Victory isn't determined by what we see — it's determined by what God says. And God says the victory is already ours. When we trust God and keep our eyes on Jesus, we have the victory that overcomes the circumstances. Peace in the storm. Faith is the victory.

Walk like you've won. Because you have.

Scripture is useful for walking in victory.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

1 John 5:4 • Romans 8:37 • Matthew 19:26 • Revelation 12:11

EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

*"Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."*

— **Matthew 11:28** —

FINDING PEACE

This is one of my all-time favorite Scriptures, and I especially like the way it reads in the NLT: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything." It reads so nicely and is quite memorable. I refer to this passage as "The Philippian Formula" because of the way it forms an equation, an If-Then statement.

*Don't worry about anything; instead,
pray about everything. Tell God what you need,
and thank him for all he has done.*

*Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds
anything we can understand. His peace will guard your
hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4: 6-7 (NLT)

Here's the formula: If we do our part, God does His. Our part? Three things: (a) Don't worry, (b) Pray instead — tell God what we need, and (c) Give thanks. God's part? He gives us peace. Not just any peace — supernatural peace that we can't understand. It doesn't make sense.

The circumstances may not change. The problem may still be there. But we will have peace anyway. That's how God works.

Pro Tip: If you are thinking "How do I quit worrying?" I have found that **Giving Thanks** is a secret sauce that 'mysteriously reduces my worries. See 1 Thessalonians 5:18 for more details.

Scripture is useful for finding peace.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 26:3 • John 14:27 • Colossians 3:15 • **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

PROCESSING GRIEF

Grief comes. We all experience it in different seasons of our lives. Some grief comes, heals, and moves on. And some grief comes and stays and seems to crush our very soul. David experienced and dealt with grief. The good news? He found help. And so can we.

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Psalm 34: 18 (NASB)

The name Yahweh means "The God who saves, the God who rescues." Sometimes grief is imposed on us through circumstances we neither wanted, deserved, nor expected. Sometimes grief comes through our own actions — self-inflicted. Either way, regardless of the origin or severity, the rescue is clear. God is our rescuer, our Savior who pulls us from the pit of despair.

His Word is a source of strength in grief. It reminds us to look up — "from whence cometh my help" (Psalm 121:1, KJV). It points us to Jesus, who promised, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). That's not wishful thinking. That's a Jesus promise.

I know it's hard now. But in due time, by clinging to God's love and His Word, you will overcome.

Joy comes in the morning.

Scripture is useful for processing grief.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Psalm 121:1 • Matthew 5:4 • Psalm 30:5

MANAGING ANGER

It's not the fall that kills you — it's the sudden stop at the other end. Likewise, it's not anger that's the sin. It's the follow-up where we get in trouble. Sometimes tragically so.

*In your anger do not sin:
Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.*

Ephesians 4: 26 (NIV)

Cain became angry with Abel. God cautioned him: "If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door. It desires to have you, but you must rule over it" (Genesis 4:7). We know what happened next. Murder. That's what uncontrolled anger leads to — sin crouching at the door, waiting.

Anger itself isn't the sin. Even Jesus got angry. But what we do with anger — that's where it counts. It can be dangerous, like playing with fire. James says, "Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19). Notice the order: listen first, speak slowly, let anger cool.

"Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry." Process it. Release it. Don't let anger smolder overnight — those embers can reignite with the slightest breeze. Before bed, put it out! Drench the campfire. Name the anger, give it to God, and let it go.

Scripture is useful for managing anger.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

James 1:19 • Proverbs 15:1 • Genesis 4:5-8 • James 3:5-6

RELEASING BITTERNESS

Are you bitter? What do you taste like? I've met bitter people. It's a shame really, because they would be quite pleasant people otherwise.

Watch carefully, so no one falls away from the grace of God. Let no root of bitterness spring up and trouble you, lest many be defiled by it.

Hebrews 12: 15 (RGT)

Bitterness starts small. Unforgiveness is the seed we plant when we refuse to let something go. Then it grows. Takes root and spreads. Before you know it, bitterness has taken over.

The "root of bitterness" doesn't just affect you — it defiles many. People around you taste it. Here's the irony: the person you won't forgive has probably moved on. But you're still carrying the weight. Bitterness is a poison you drink hoping the other person dies.

We have to pull it up by the roots. How? Forgiveness. Not because they deserve it, but because we've been forgiven. "Get rid of all bitterness...and forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). We forgive because we've been forgiven.

Scripture reminds us how much we've been forgiven. Remembering that makes forgiving others possible.

Scripture is useful for releasing bitterness.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:31-32 • Matthew 6:14-15 • Colossians 3:13 • Mark 11:25

BATTLING DEPRESSION

Depression is a thief. It steals energy, joy, hope — even the will to fight back. If you're there right now, I see you. And I want you to know there's hope.

*Why am I so depressed?
Why this turmoil within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will still praise Him,
my Savior and my God.*

Psalm 42: 11 (HCSB)

Depression steals the very energy you need to recover. That's the cruel paradox. But here's where we start: Psalm 42:11 gives us a simple but powerful tool — a way to put on the brakes and start turning the ship around. God can change the tide quickly or slowly. Either way, He's faithful. We have a Savior.

So here's the practice: Praise God. Begin telling God His good traits and characteristics. "You are wise — the wisest. You are strong — the most powerful. You are loving and good." When we praise God, He gets bigger in our perspective and our problems get smaller. That happens. Praise changes things.

Scripture tells the truth of who God is. The spirit of depression is a liar and tells you God's not there and doesn't care. Read Psalm 42. Speak it aloud. Let the truth push back the lies.

You may not feel it today. That's okay. Keep praising anyway.

Scripture is useful for battling depression.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Psalm 42 (entire chapter) • Psalm 34:18 • Isaiah 61:3 • Romans 15:13

PRACTICAL LIVING

*"Do not merely listen to the word,
and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says."*

— **James 1:22** —

MAKING WISE DECISIONS

I'd rather be a wise man than a fool. You too? Most people would. But fools persist in this world. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:22)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7: 24 (NIV)

There are those who trust human wisdom rather than God's wisdom. They prove to be fools, building their lives on sinking sand. Both the wise man and the fool faced the same storm. The house on the sand collapsed. The house on the rock stood.

What do we do instead? We build our lives on God's Word. It only makes sense. God is far wiser than any and all men. Accept no substitutes.

And Scripture is a great source for discovering God's wisdom. As we spend time reading and meditating and marinating in God's Word, we gain wisdom. "He who walks with the wise becomes wise." (Proverbs 13:20)

The wise follow the Wise One. We read His Word. We do what it says. We build on the rock. Hua!

Scripture is useful for making wise decisions.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 3:5-6 • Proverbs 14:12 • Psalm 119:9 • James 1:22

SERVING OTHERS

Worldly wisdom says get yours first. Climb the ladder. Look out for number one. But in God's kingdom — the one that lasts forever — the rule flips: the first shall be last, and the last shall be first. Short-sighted vs. eternal. Which foundation are you building on? The world's way is sand. God's way is the rock.

Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10: 44-45 (NIV)

Jesus is the Master. We're the disciples. Disciples follow and imitate. So how do we imitate Jesus? By serving. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." He's our model.

I won't die on a cross for you. But I can lay down my comforts, my preferences, my time. That's what serving looks like — laying down what I want for what you need.

Paul said it this way: "Consider others more important than yourself" (Philippians 2:3). That's the mindset. Not doormat. Not martyr. Just others-first. And this is how love shows up — not in theory, but in action. Serving others is love in motion.

Scripture reminds us of the upside-down kingdom where greatness comes through service. Go serve someone today.

Scripture is useful for serving others.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:3-8 • Galatians 5:13 • 1 Peter 4:10 • John 13:14-15

MANAGING MONEY

Money reveals character. How we handle it shows what we really believe about God. Do we trust Him to provide? Do we follow His wisdom? Or do we follow the world — worry about it, spend now, borrow to keep up? God tests us with wealth.

*Whoever can be trusted with very little **can also be trusted with much**, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.*

So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

Luke 16: 10-11 (NIV)

God's Word is full of financial wisdom. Give first — generosity and tithing come before spending. Save consistently. Avoid debt — "The borrower is slave to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). Spend wisely. We often take these as mere suggestions. But they're tested principles of wisdom that work.

The way of the sinking sand? Spend what you don't have. Borrow to keep up. Live for now. That way leads to bondage. God's way leads to freedom.

"In God we trust" — that's what we say. But does He say the same about us? Can you be trusted with money? Faithfulness with earthly wealth qualifies you for greater spiritual riches. How you handle your paycheck matters to Him.

Scripture is useful for managing money.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 22:7 • Malachi 3:10 • 1 Timothy 6:10 • Matthew 6:24

WORKING WITH EXCELLENCE

Joseph started out as a slave. Then he was "promoted" to prisoner. And finally he was tapped to run the show in Egypt. Everywhere he went and at every level, Joseph excelled and stood out. Why? He wasn't merely working for Potiphar or Pharaoh. He was working for God.

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily,
as for the Lord rather than for men.*

Colossians 3: 23 (NASB)

That's the standard. Not for our boss. Not for a paycheck — for God. When we work as unto the Lord, even the smallest task becomes worship. Like our prayers in secret, the Father who sees in secret will reward us openly (Matt. 6:6).

We can work like the world is watching, or work like God is watching. The world rewards just enough effort to get by. God calls us to excellence — wholehearted, holding nothing back.

Paul wrote this to slaves — people with no control, no recognition, no hope of promotion. Yet even they were called to work with excellence. How much more should we?

Scripture reminds us who we're really working for. When work feels meaningless, when no one notices, when you're tempted to coast — remember Joseph. Remember Colossians 3:23. You're working for an audience of One. Do your work heartily.

Scripture is useful for working with excellence.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Genesis 39:2-3 • 2 Timothy 2:15 • 1 Corinthians 10:31

PERSEVERING THROUGH TRIALS

James calls them "various" trials — but the Greek word means multi-colored, like Joseph's coat. They come in every shape, size, and shade. Financial trouble. Health crisis. Job loss. Betrayal. Jesus said: "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33). You can't avoid them. But you can use them.

Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1: 2-4 (NASB)

Jim Rohn said, "Don't wish it was easier. Wish you were better." That's what trials do — they make us better. Trials aren't accidents. They're tools. Fire purifies gold. The forge hardens steel. Storms make trees grow deeper roots.

Here's the growth sequence:

- Testing of your faith produces endurance
- Endurance produces maturity, completeness

Like building muscle — added weight, stress, and strain make you stronger. Trials fortify us. And the end product? The disciple's destiny? "Lacking in nothing." You're being made complete. Hua!

Scripture is useful for persevering through trials.

OTHER SCRIPTURES

Romans 5:3-5 • 1 Peter 1:6-7 • 2 Corinthians 4:17 • John 16:33

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

When you need...

CLARITY & DIRECTION

Wisdom for decisions → Use #21

Guidance from God → Use #5

STRENGTH & COURAGE

To overcome fear → Use #14

To persevere through trials → Use #25

Victory in spiritual battles → Use #15

PEACE & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Peace in anxiety → Use #16

Help with grief → Use #17

Hope in depression → Use #20

To release bitterness → Use #19

SELF-CONTROL & GROWTH

To manage anger → Use #18

Self-discipline → Use #9

Character transformation → Use #7

Renewing your mind → Use #6

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

To defeat temptation → Use #11

Breaking strongholds → Use #12

Using the sword of the Spirit → Use #13

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Getting to know God → Use #1

Understanding His character → Use #2

Seeing His faithfulness → Use #3

Hearing His voice → Use #4

Cultivating hope → Use #10

PRACTICAL LIVING

Managing money → Use #23

Working with excellence → Use #24

Serving others → Use #22

Developing wisdom → Use #8

Disciple's Roadmap

A step-by-step guide service for disciples of Jesus Christ.

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,*

"This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21



DISCIPLE'S ROADMAP

disciplesroadmap.com

Press On. No Matter What. | **Hua!**