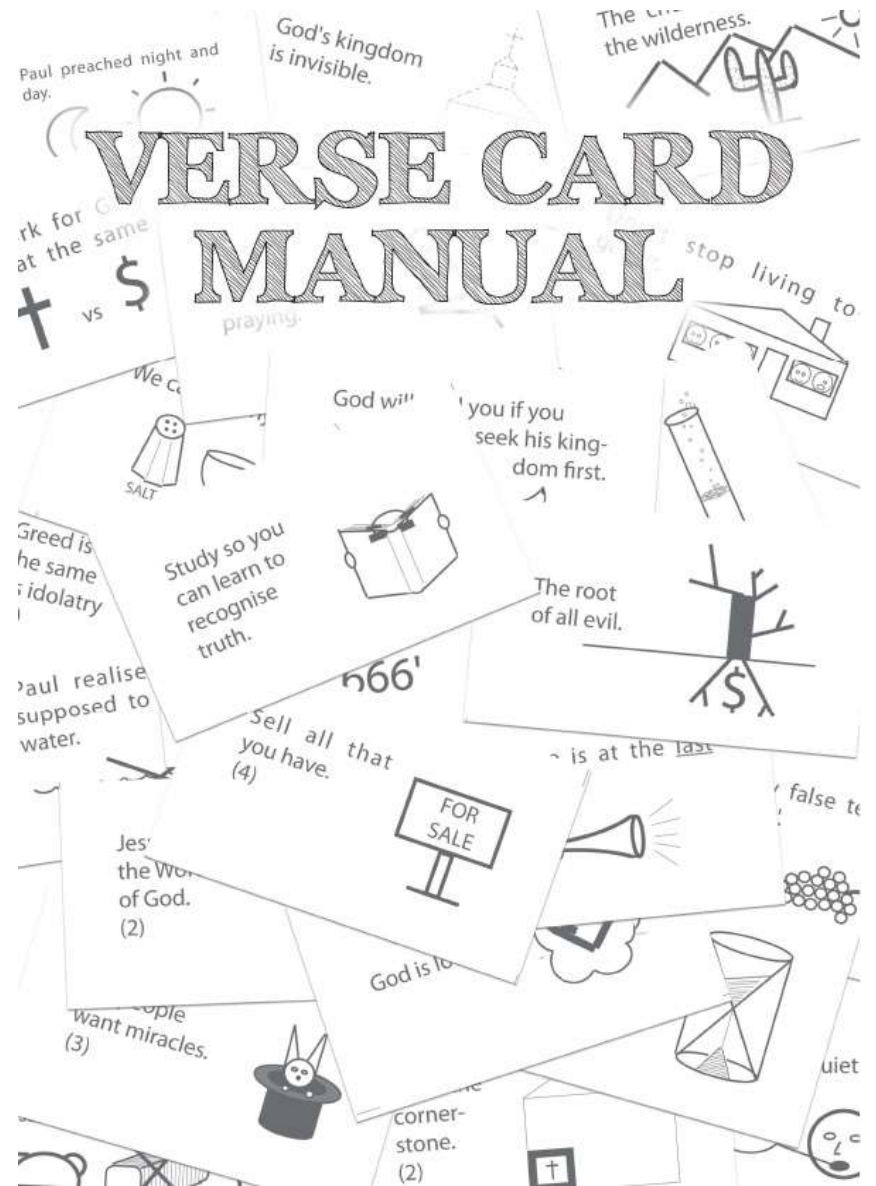


“Study to show



thyself approved.”



INTRODUCTION

This verse card manual includes 21 categories. There are 200 cards in the complete set. The spirit of the passage on each verse card is listed first, followed by the scriptural reference(s). Finally there is a brief commentary to bring more insight to the verses. These commentaries should also help you to better understand why the verses have been included in the set.

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10e. **Don't talk behind people's backs.** (1 Cor 10:10) — It can be tempting to "murmur" about others in the community (especially leaders). But if you have a criticism, you should go to the person concerned and try to work it out. (Mt 18:15-17). Do not let others murmur to you about fellow Christians either.

11d. **God hates lukewarmness.** (Rev 3:15-18) — God wants us to be red hot and enthusiastic about all that we do for him. He hates lukewarm faith, and we should be constantly examining our faith to be sure that we are not just coasting on yesterday's leftovers.

(21) **MATURITY** (11 cards)

The following verses include some areas where we can constantly work on improving our discipline. You will see that they cover all of our life and everything that we do:

1e. **Lead others in being a good example.** (2) (1 Pet 5:2-4; 1 Tim 4:12) — Real leadership is neither by force, nor for profit. It should be something you do because you love God and others, and this love should be infectious.

2d. **Be faithful with little things.** (Lk 16:10) — Faithfulness should extend to everything that we do, so that even the most insignificant task will be done as a service to God, who sees all that we do, and rewards us accordingly.

3d. **Be a servant of others.** (Lk 22:25-26) — Service is at the heart of Jesus' message. Without this, we're not fit for his kingdom.

4e. **Take the lower seat.** (Lk 14:10) — Practice under-rating yourself and over-rating others. There are many situations in which you can give greater recognition to others than you expect them to give to you.

5e. **Do every word and action for God's glory.** (2) (1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17) — Life is so short that we cannot afford to waste it on trivial pursuits. Even our recreation can be done to the glory of God if we ask God for his direction in all that we do.

6e. **Never stop praying.** (1 Thes 5:16-18) — Prayer is not a ritual; it is a relationship, and the most important part of it is listening. We should be open to God speaking to us at any time (even in our sleep).

7e. **Don't waste time.** (2) (Eph 5:16; Col 4:5) — Time is life; if we waste it, we are wasting our lives. That is slow 'suicide'. God wants us to use each moment wisely.

8e. **Practice being quiet.** (1 Thes 4:11-12) — Because there are a lot of us living in one place, it is important that we keep all conversation to a minimum. Unnecessary conversation will distract others (and ourselves) from the jobs we have to do.

9e. **Get back to your first love.** (Rev 2:1-5) — If we are getting away from the 'extreme' discipline that we had when we first started to follow Jesus, we should be doing all that we can to get back to it. By cutting out all extraneous activities and spending time with God, we can rediscover the 'first love' that he wants us all to have.

(1) **JESUS VS BIBLE** (12 cards)

Jesus said there would be many people coming in his name and claiming his authority, but that we should not go after them. In the church today are many teachings that de-emphasize Jesus, and elevate others. The following verses address this heresy:

1a. **Jesus is the "Word of God".** (2) (Jn 1:1,14; Rev 19:11-13) — In Old Testament time, much emphasis was placed on the writings of the prophets and Moses. But the New Testament is clear that Jesus alone is the true Word of God that existed since creation.

2a. **Jesus is the Cornerstone.** (2) (Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:6-7) — Every other stone must line up with the cornerstone. If the apostles or the prophets are quoted in opposition to Jesus, we must follow Jesus in preference to them.

3a. **The teachings of Jesus will judge us.** (Jn 12:48) — When we stand before God, he'll ask what we've done with the teachings of Jesus. They are the standard by which we'll be judged.

4a. **Jesus is the only way to God.** (Jn 14:6) — Not religious affiliation; not theology; not religious experience. It is through the sacrificial death of Jesus that he has earned the right to give eternal life to all who have sincere faith in God... regardless of their religion.

5c. **There is only one Mediator.** (1 Tim 2:5) — We do not need a priest or pastor to take the place of Jesus, especially if they are found to be arguing against the teachings of Jesus.

6c. **Damn Paul if he contradicts Christ.** (Gal 1:6-9) — Don't let people use Paul's life/teachings as an excuse to disobey Jesus.

7c. **Uninspired writings of Paul.** (2) (1 Cor 7:12, 25; 2 Cor 11:17) — It's impossible to say that everything Paul wrote was infallible, when he himself said that some of what he wrote was not from God.

8c. **Jesus questions the infallibility of Moses.** (2) (Mt 19:8; Mk 10:4-5) — Obviously, Jesus did not think every word of the Old Testament was eternally true or infallible.

9c. **All scripture is inspired.** (2 Tim 3:16-17) — Being "inspired" and being "infallible" are two very different things. This verse says that all holy writings (including some holy writings that were not included in the 66 books of the Bible) are "profitable", although not all of the Bible (e.g. 2 Timothy 4:13) could be called "scripture".

10c. **All Scriptures point to Jesus.** (Jn 5:39-40) — The prophets were sent to testify about Jesus. Unless our study of scripture leads us to follow him, we've missed the point.

11c. **Fall on Jesus and be broken.** (Lk 20:17-18) — The church leaders have thrown out Jesus' teachings because they are difficult. It's true that they'll 'break' us, but it's better than being ground to powder when Jesus returns!

12c. **If we obey Jesus, we will know the truth and be free.** (Jn 8:31-32) — Note the condition here: To know the truth and be free is dependent on following Jesus' teachings. You can't have one without the other.

(2) **OBEDIENCE** (11 cards)

These verses help to counteract the false teaching that good works (i.e. obedience to Jesus) have nothing to do with our salvation:

1a. **True Christians are those who obey God and Jesus.** (3) (Jn 14:15,21-23; 2 Jn 9; 1 Jn 5:3) — You cannot claim to know God, love Jesus, or even love other Christians, if you are not prepared to obey Jesus. All that Jesus said shows us how to love God and others.

2a. **Professing Christians who disobey Christ are liars.** (1 Jn 2:3-4) — It doesn't matter what we call ourselves. If we're not obedient to the teachings of Jesus, we're not Christians.

3a. **If you disobey Christ you are building on sand.** (Mt 7:24-27) — It is not enough to hear Jesus. We must also obey his teachings, as contained in the Sermon on the Mount. Anyone teaching that we do not need to obey Jesus is a foolish man building (his faith) on sand.

4b. **Disciples and Christians are the same thing.** (Acts 11:26) — Not all Christians are "apostles" (as the 12 were), but we're all disciples, and any requirements for disciples apply to all of us.

5a. **Faith without works is dead.** (Jas 2:26) — If we don't put our faith into practice, we don't have faith to begin with. You can't have one (faith) without the other (action).

6c. **Do works worthy of repentance.** (2) (Lk 3:8; Acts 26:19-20) — God is more interested in our actions than in our apologies. Embracing Christ's teachings is what true repentance looks like in practice.

7b. **Even the devil believes in God's existence.** (Jas 2:19) — Theological faith won't save you. God wants 'obedience faith'.

8b. **The gospel is something you obey.** (2) (1 Pet 4:17; Rom 10:16) — Jesus died to earn the right to forgive whom he chooses; but he only chooses those who have enough faith in him to at least TRY to obey him.

8e. **It's better to stay single than to marry.** (2) (Mt 19:10-12; 1 Cor 7:32-35) — Staying celibate for life is optional, but it is also clearly preferential. Serving God more than our flesh carries its own reward.

(19) **ENCOURAGEMENT** (3 cards)

The following verses are helpful to remember at all times, but especially when the going gets tough:

1c. **God won't give you more than you can take.** (1 Cor 10:13) — No matter how hard things get, remember that God has it all under control, and he'll give us the strength to endure, or the means to escape.

2d. **I can do anything through Christ.** (Phil 4:13) — A very good verse to repeat over and over to yourself whenever faced with a difficult challenge.

3d. **Perfect peace.** (Is 26:3) — The more we fill our minds with God, the less flustered we become with the problems around us.

(20) **HUMILITY** (4 cards)

These verses reveal the importance of being in right relationship with God and the truth at all times:

1e. **More is expected of those who know more.** (Lk 12:47-48) — With greater knowledge comes greater responsibility. Pray for patience with younger, weaker disciples.

2e. **We need to judge ourselves.** (2) (Lk 6:42; 1 Cor 11:31) — Always start by judging your own spirit, to be sure you are being honest.

3e. **Take heed lest you fall.** (1 Cor 10:12) — The moment we think we know it all, is the moment we blow it all! Recognising how easy it is to backslide should help us to stay on the rails.

4c. **We'll eventually reap if we don't give up.** (Gal 6:9) — Don't expect instant results. It is a hard world. But faithfulness, day after day, will be rewarded by God.

12e. **Perfect love drives out all fear.** (1 Jn 4:17-18) — The fear of God is the start of wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10) But as we discover God's love, we grow into a closer relationship which overcomes that fear.

13e. **The only unpardonable sin.** (Lk 12:10) — Questioning Jesus is fine if we're being sincere. But when we resist the voice of his Spirit, we make it impossible for God to forgive us... in this life and in the next.

(18) **WISDOM** (8 cards)

The following verses contain some useful advice and reminders:

1e. **Don't lean on your own understanding.** (Prov 3:5-6) — Human reasoning often misses what God is trying to say. Practice thinking outside the box, by staying open to correction from God.

2e. **You will be judged for every idle word.** (Mt 12:36-37) — We are accountable for how we use every moment of our life. This is especially true with the things that we say. Be especially on guard against foolishness.

3e. **There is no male or female in Christ Jesus.** (Gal 3:28) — Paul wasn't biased against women, like so many religions teach. He understood that Christ overrules all cultural and gender differences.

4e. **What you say shows where your heart is.** (Lk 6:45) — Listen prayerfully to what you say, and what others say; you will soon be able to discern the spirit that is behind your words and the words of others.

5e. **Be angry, but don't sin.** (Eph 4:26) — Anger is not necessarily wrong but it can lead to something wrong (sin) if we don't deal with it. Try to resolve differences the day they happen. This is a good way to avoid repression.

6e. **Abounding and being abased.** (Phil 4:11-12) — It's okay to enjoy the luxuries God brings your way from time to time, but don't become attached to them, so you can also learn how to be content with very little.

7e. **Double-mindedness causes instability in everything.** (Jas 1:8) — We need to be single-minded about serving God; and there are many times when we need to be decisive. Pray for wisdom; then don't be afraid to use it.

9b. **Be doers and not just hearers.** (2) (Rom 2:13; Jas 1:22) — Don't kid yourself; you must walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

10d. **Don't abuse your freedom.** (2) (1 Pet 2:15-16; Gal 5:13) — We should be trying to serve God and others in love if we are controlled by God's Spirit.

11c. **It's better to obey God rather than man.** (Acts 5:29) — If the laws of the land go against God's higher law, the teachings of Jesus, you should follow God in preference to the law.

(3) **LIVING BY FAITH** (14 cards)

Living by faith is one of Jesus' most important teachings. It turns love and faith into action. Here are some key verses on the subject:

1a. **You can't be a Christian if you don't forsake all.** (Lk 14:33) — Arguably, the most hated verse in the entire Bible.

2a. **Sell everything you have.** (4) (Lk 11:41; Lk 12:33; Lk 14:33; Lk 18:22) — This formula for eternal life and for being a Christian (i.e. a disciple) is not taught in any church today, yet Jesus repeated it over and over.

3c. **Forsaking all for Jesus brings more now and later.** (Mk 10:29-30) — Jesus promises to repay us a hundred times over, if we will forsake all we own. He even says that this repayment will start now, before we die.

4b. **The pearl of great price.** (Mt 13:44-46) — Giving up everything we have is nothing in comparison to what we receive. If we can't see this, we've missed the pearl.

5c. **Ananias and Sapphira.** (Acts 5:1-10) — God set a sobering precedent: dishonestly holding back anything we have from him is worthy of the death penalty.

6a. **You can't work for God and money at the same time.** (2) (Mt 6:24; Lk 16:13) — If you work for or obey someone, you are their servant. (See Romans 6:16.) No one can serve two employers at the same time. If you try to work for God and money at the same time, you'll end up cheating on one or the other.

7a. **Don't work for food.** (Jn 6:27) — Jesus even challenged working for basic needs. God's 'seal' goes to those who stop working for food and start working for him. (Revelation 7:3)

8b. **Quit your job if you can.** (1 Cor 7:21-23) — A surprise verse to most people. Slaves are to be the exception, rather than the rule, according to Paul.

9b. **No soldier pays his own way.** (1 Cor 9:7-11) — Paul understood that it is God's job to take care of his 'troops' even though he tried to "support himself" at one time.

10a. **God will feed you if you seek his kingdom first.** (Mt 6:33) — What makes us different from all other religions is that we work for God, and not for money.

11b. **Be content with food and clothing.** (1 Tim 6:8) — Contentment comes from lowering our expectations, and concentrating on doing what God wants. Providing for our material needs is his responsibility.

12b. **The just shall live by faith.** (3) (Rom 1:16-17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38) — Theoretical faith is not the same as living by it. Justification comes by faith that works 24/7.

13b. **Paul preached night and day.** (1 Thes 2:9) — No room here for Paul to hold down a secular job, as taught by some.

14b. **Paul apologized about tent-making.** (2) (Acts 18:3; 2 Cor 12:13) — These scriptures reveal a truth radically different to the churchy spin: Paul over-related and it bore bad fruit in the Corinthians. It's time people stop promoting tent-making in religious circles.

(4) RICH VS POOR (7 cards)

Christianity today is often associated with the upper classes; yet these verses show that this is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus:

1a. **The root of all evil.** (1 Tim 6:10) — All Christians should support a war on the root of all evil. But where is anyone doing that?

2a. **Blessed are the poor, but woe to the rich!** (3) (Lk 6:20,24; Jas 2:5-7; Jas 5:1-5) — One rarely gets rich without loving money, and so Jesus' stand against greed makes him the enemy of the rich, and vice versa.

3c. **Greed is the same as idolatry.** (2) (Col 3:5; Eph 5:5) — Greed and idolatry both represent faith in materialism more than faith in God.

4c. **Store up wealth in heaven not on Earth.** (2) (Mt 6:19-20; Lk 12:33) — You do it by giving to the poor now. You can't save up money here and in heaven at the same time.

5c. **It's almost impossible for the rich to get into heaven.** (Lk 18:24-27) — Churches say the "eye of the needle" was a small gate in Jerusalem. Possibly. But the only way a camel could get through such a gate would be to take everything off it, and crawl through on its knees. How many rich people are prepared to let go of everything and humble themselves before God?

(17) CONDEMNATION (13 cards)

God convicts; the devil condemns. It is important to learn the difference, as these verses help to emphasize:

1e. **God is love.** (1 Jn 4:16) — Love is the ultimate proof that a person has God's Spirit, because love is the essence of his Spirit.

2e. **God's Spirit is not a spirit of fear.** (2 Tim 1:7) — When God begins to speak, the devil tries to frighten us. Learn to recognize fear, and counteract it with faith. There is no need to fear if we are following God.

3e. **The devil is our accuser.** (Rev 12:10) — God's conviction includes a way to overcome guilt. The devil's accusations do not.

4e. **The Spirit does not condemn us.** (Rom 8:1) — If we are doing our best to obey God, there is no need to feel condemned.

5a. **Jesus didn't come to condemn us.** (Jn 3:17) — Respond to what Jesus says and you'll be forgiven, not condemned.

6a. **God wants everyone to be saved.** (2) (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9) — God has not chosen anyone to be lost. We either accept what Jesus has said, or we reject it.

7d. **Honesty about our sinfulness brings forgiveness.** (1 Jn 1:9) — If we want God to forgive us, we need to start by being honest about just how bad we really are!

8d. **Confess your sins to one another.** (Jas 5:16) — It is good for us spiritually and emotionally to share deeply with others, including sharing our faults. However, pray for wisdom in knowing who to trust when being most honest and most open.

9d. **God can take away condemnation.** (1 Jn 3:20) — Society can put guilt on us that never came from God. Don't wear it.

10d. **Forgive others in order to be forgiven.** (Lk 6:37) — The way we treat others is the way God will treat us. This may be a good time to say a prayer for our enemies.

11d. **Everything works out well if we love God.** (Rom 8:28) — Everyone has problems, but we have the assurance that God is going to make some good come from it. This is one of the most powerful and reassuring verses in the Bible.

(16) **HEALTH & MIRACLES** (9 cards)

An emphasis on health is common amongst most religions, including promotions for supernatural healings in some. The following verses help to give the Christian position:

1d. **It is not a sin to be sick.** (Jn 9:2-3) — This verse reminds us that God often uses pain and suffering to teach us important lessons.

2d. **Evil people want to see miracles.** (Lk 11:29-32) — God occasionally does miracles for special purposes, but real faith will obey God, with or without miracles.

3d. **Heal the Sick. The Good Samaritan's healing ministry.** (Lk 10:9,30-37) — The Good Samaritan "laid hands" on his patient, and "anointed him with oil". These are practical, non-miraculous ways of assisting God's natural healing processes.

4e. **James' instructions on healing.** (Jas 5:14-15) — We are told to pray and imitate the Good Samaritan if someone in our community is sick. Nursing care is a way of showing practical love.

5d. **What goes into your mouth does not make you evil.** (Mk 7:18-19) — Health rules have nothing to do with spirituality. They can make us healthy, but what God is most interested in is our spirit.

6e. **We can eat anything.** (2) (1 Cor 6:12-13; 1 Cor 10:27) — It's not a sin to eat anything that God provides, even foods we may otherwise have believed to be 'unclean'.

7d. **Jesus was called a glutton and an alcoholic.** (Lk 7:34-35) — Obviously, Jesus did not just drink grape juice! He was more concerned with relating to the people than he was with his health.

8e. **Our physical bodies are not yet redeemed.** (Rom 8:23) — This verse refutes the Pentecostal teaching that Jesus died so that our physical bodies could be perfectly healthy. That will not happen until Jesus returns and we are given immortal bodies.

9e. **Poke out your eye if it offends you.** (Mt 18:8-9) — Although surgery did not exist then, Jesus shows that there is a place for cutting out an infected part of the body in order to protect the rest of the body.

6d. **Those who have two give to those who have none.** (Lk 3:10-11) — World poverty could end overnight if this was taken to heart. Living simply is good for us and, most importantly, good for those we share with.

7c. **Selfish prayers won't be granted.** (Jas 4:3) — Asking for healing or miracles is not the same as asking for God's will. We all want to be healthy, but often God can teach us more through suffering. Asking for something "in Jesus' name" means asking for it on his behalf. If he didn't tell you to ask for it, then you may be taking his name in vain by asking for it "in his name".

(5) **COMMUNITY** (13 cards)

These verses help to highlight what genuine Christian community looks like without all the paraphernalia:

1a. **They will know we are Christians by our love.** (Jn 13:35) — Jesus taught that love would be the ultimate proof that we have his Spirit. Let's concentrate on showing more love in all that we do.

2a. **We ought to give our lives for each other.** (1 Jn 3:16) — Jesus asks us to take up our cross (Luke 14:27). If we were willing to die for each other it would be easier to overlook other little problems we face.

3a. **Christ is there if two or three gather in his name.** (Mt 18:20) — "Church" is wherever people unite in God's spirit and practise Christ's teachings. If we're too proud to work with others, he may not be there.

4a. **The first Christians lived together.** (2) (Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35) — The churches have stopped "assembling together" the way the first Christians did (Hebrews 10:25) because they want to use their lives working for money.

5e. **Don't stop living together.** (Heb 10:25) — It is important as we move closer to the Great Tribulation for us to return to living together to develop greater unity.

6b. **Assembling together means living together.** (Acts 11:26) — From this verse it is clear that "assembling" lasted for much more than a few hours once a week. It was a permanent relationship.

7b. **God does not live in man-made buildings.** (2) (Acts 7:48; Acts 17:24) — Stephen was killed after saying this. (Acts 7:57-58) And Jesus was killed for saying the Jewish Temple would be destroyed. (Matthew 26:61)

8e. **You are God's house.** (3) (1 Cor 3:16; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16) — The kingdom of heaven is a place where people are more important than buildings. Religion is the opposite.

9d. **If you don't work, you can't eat.** (2 Thes 3:10) — The first Christians lived and ate together. This rule stopped people from joining the church to get free food and a bed. In a Christian community we don't work for money, but we all have jobs to do.

10d. **We should all be ministers or learning to be one.** (Eph 4:11-13) — There are no pew-warmers in a truly Christian community. And the "ministry" is not something just for "experts".

11e. **Living together demonstrates God's kingdom.** (Lk 8:1) — Our living together becomes a sample of the kingdom of heaven, where all live by faith and work for love. It is easier for people to understand what we are saying when they see us practicing it ourselves.

12a. **How to solve grievances.** (2) (Lk 17:3-4; Mt 18:15-17) — Jesus' simple, 3-step plan for resolving conflicts is essential for any healthy, functioning community.

13d. **God wants us to have true unity one with another.** (Jn 17:11,23) — How can we be truly united with one another if we're not willing to share everything we have?

(6) OUTREACH (9 cards)

These verses of inspiration and exhortation emphasize the important and urgent job ALL Christians have to leave our comfortable homes to share our faith with others:

1a. **Go into all the world to preach the Gospel.** (2) (Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15) — We can't reach everyone, but we should try. Broaden your vision beyond those close at hand and that which is convenient.

2a. **Preach the word.** (2 Tim 4:2-4) — Don't wait until you 'feel like it', or until it is convenient.

3c. **If you don't warn the people, their blood is on you.** (Ez 3:17-19) — Our job is to warn them. What they do with the truth is between them and God.

4a. **Find the lost sheep.** (Lk 15:4-7) — Don't wait for God to bring them to you. Leave the comforts of the 'fold' and get out there on the streets to find them.

5d. **Put a touch of salt in all your love.** (Col 4:6) — Love and sweetness should be our main emphasis. But try to teach people as well, with the salt of Jesus' teachings.

6d. **Pray for workers.** (Lk 10:2) — Too many people want to just be 'supporters', when what we need are workers. There are no job shortages in the kingdom of heaven.

(15) WATER BAPTISM (9 cards)

The Christian message is one of doing away with religious ceremonies (e.g. circumcision) as a means of identifying the good guys. So why would Jesus institute another such ceremony? Ceremonial baptism has caused more divisions in the church than any other single issue. These doctrinal verses help to bring a clearer understanding to the rather emotive and widely misunderstood subject of baptism:

1b. **Christ's baptism is with the Holy Spirit.** (2) (Lk 3:16; Acts 1:5) — The gospels repeatedly state that Jesus' baptism is not with water, and yet churches persist in focusing on water... most likely because they cannot see the Holy Spirit.

2d. **Jesus did not baptise anyone with water.** (Jn 4:2) — If water baptism represented acceptance of Jesus, then why didn't Jesus do it? It appears to have been a hangover from the Old Testament that Jesus tolerated in his disciples, but refrained from doing himself.

3c. **John's ministry was pre-gospel.** (2) (Lk 7:28; Lk 16:16) — Jesus did not see John's ministry as part of the gospel. Obviously, some of his disciples did, which Jesus tolerated, but did not promote.

4c. **Paul wasn't sent to baptise with water.** (1 Cor 1:17) — Paul observed that water baptism only led to divisions. He suddenly realised that Jesus had never sent him to baptise with water, but just to preach the gospel.

5d. **There is only one Christian Baptism.** (Eph 4:4-5) — It's not one baptism with water, and another one with the Holy Spirit. Ceremonies just naturally foster divisions, whereas if we would concentrate on getting the Holy Spirit there would be unity.

6c. **Being born of water = physical birth.** (Jn 3:5-6) — We're all 'baptised' in water at birth when our mothers' waters break. Being born of the spirit does not require a second water baptism.

7d. **Baptise people with God's Spirit by preaching.** (Mt 28:19-20) — "Baptise" = "cover". We cover people with God's Spirit by preaching (as Paul concluded in 1 Corinthians 1:17). Acts 10:42-48 says Peter preached and God filled them with his Spirit as they believed what Peter said.

8e. **Noah's ark symbolizes true baptism (in the Spirit).** (1 Pet 3:20-21) — The water killed people. Only the ark (where the Spirit was) saved them.

9d. **We are baptised by the Spirit into Christ's Body.** (1 Cor 12:13) — Membership in Christ's body is not based on an outward ritual but on having the same spirit as Christ.

8e. **Christ is the seed of Abraham.** (Gal 3:16) — All of the promises were fulfilled in Christ. Followers of Christ are the true heirs (or children) of Abraham.

(14) **HOLY SPIRIT** (8 cards)

The Pentecostal movement has brought a renewed emphasis on the Holy Spirit. But there has been a lot of confusion that has resulted from this movement as well. These verses should bring more perspective on the role of the Holy Spirit:

1b. **Christ's teachings are his Spirit.** (Jn 6:63) — If people say that they have the Holy Spirit, and then fight Jesus' teachings, you know they are lying about having his Spirit.

2b. **Just ask to receive the Holy Spirit.** (Lk 11:9-13) — It's so simple to receive the Holy Spirit that many people miss it. Those who hunger after God's Spirit will receive it. (Matthew 5:6) What many people want, however, are thrills and miracles, and not God's Spirit.

3a. **The Holy Spirit talks about Jesus, not about himself.** (2) (Jn 14:26; Jn 16:13-14) — If what we say (and do) fails to point people to Jesus' own words and actions, we don't have Jesus' Spirit. Simple, really!

4d. **The Holy Spirit gives strength for us to witness.** (Acts 1:8) — There is little need for God to give his Spirit to those who are not willing to go into all the world witnessing for him.

5d. **The proof you have God's Spirit is love, etc.** (Gal 5:22-23) — Speaking in tongues does not prove you have God's Spirit. Love (and related virtues) is the "fruit" or evidence to look for.

6d. **Tongues without love is just a lot of noise.** (1 Cor 13:1) — A strong verse to show that tongues alone (or even just nice-sounding words) proves nothing.

7d. **The disciples received God's Spirit before Pentecost.** (Jn 20:22) — Our experience of the Holy Spirit may be like a mighty rushing wind at times (Acts 2:2), but at other times, it is just a soft word or two from Jesus, as in this verse.

8d. **All Christians have the Holy Spirit.** (Rom 8:9) — You don't ask "Jesus" into your heart one week, and ask for his "Spirit" the next. There are not two classes of Christians (i.e. those with his Spirit and those without.)

7d. **Don't say I will obey God in four months.** (Jn 4:35) — If you won't act now, you probably never will.

8a. **Don't waste time on people who just want to argue.** (Tit 3:10-11) — If argumentative people bring up new issues each time you give them the truth on a previous argument, do not be too proud to simply walk away from them.

9d. **Teach others to teach others.** (2 Tim 2:2) — The best teachers make it so simple that their students can go out and teach others what they have just learned. Keep it simple, and they'll remember the message and not how impressive you were.

(7) **OPPOSITION** (10 cards)

Genuine Christianity and serious persecution go hand in hand. These verses reflect this reality and include advice about dealing with the fallout.

1a. **Jesus causes division in families.** (2) (Lk 12:51-53; Mt 10:34-36) — Few people fight more viciously against true Christians than do their own relatives. This seems to be one of God's hardest tests, to see if we will put him first.

2a. **Forsake your family for God.** (2) (Lk 14:26; Mt 10:37) — They call it 'hate' when we don't put them before God, so that is why Jesus used the word 'hate'. Do not become defensive when they accuse you of hating them.

3a. **Our true family are those who obey God.** (Lk 8:20-21) — Love is far deeper than genes and emotional bonds. "Spirit runs thicker than blood!"

4b. **All who follow Christ will be persecuted.** (2) (Jn 15:20; 2 Tim 3:12) — If we don't face opposition (at least at some point in our life), we're probably either not preaching the gospel or watering it down to appease others.

5b. **We will be hated by everyone.** (2) (Mt 10:22; Jn 15:18-19) — There is a worldwide conspiracy against the teachings of Jesus because they turn the world upside down. Anyone unwilling to submit to these teachings will end up rejecting us, even if they don't openly show it.

6a. **People will say nasty things against us.** (2) (Mt 10:25; Lk 6:22) — Jesus pretty much saw persecution as a badge of honour for his followers. Being called a devil is par for the course if you want to be a true follower of Jesus.

7a. **The early Christians were called a sect.** (2) (Acts 24:5; Acts 28:22) — True Christianity is not respectable. We must accept that people will call us names if we put Jesus first.

8b. **Don't cast your pearls before swine.** (Mt 7:6) — It's wise to hold your tongue rather than waste time arguing with someone who cannot see value in what Jesus taught.

9c. **Take up your cross.** (Lk 9:23-24) — Jesus did NOT do it all for us. We are to love others the way he loved us, which includes facing rejection by the world like he did.

10c. **Agree with your adversary.** (Lk 12:58-59) — Wherever possible, it's wise to disentangle from opponents by backing down graciously, unless God clearly says otherwise.

(8) FALSE TEACHERS (9 cards)

It is important to know how to recognise false teachers and their tactics. These verses should help you:

1a. **Jesus rejects us if we're ashamed of his teachings.** (Lk 9:26) — When we bend his teachings to conform to our selfish desires, we are ashamed of him, and he'll be ashamed of us.

2b. **You will know false teachers by their fruit.** (Mt 7:15-20) — The 'fruit' that we need to look for is obedience to the teachings of Jesus (as shown in the verses that follow this one). If this is not evident in people claiming to follow Christ, be on guard!

3b. **False teachers are motivated by greed.** (Tit 1:10-11) — These heresies are taught because the rich won't pay to hear anything else. Even small time preachers must water down the gospel to keep the money rolling in.

4a. **Avoid people who teach wealth proves spirituality.** (1 Tim 6:3-5) — Prosperity teachers are the most popular in the church world today. They say poverty is a curse from the devil, and say that godly people have a RIGHT to be rich.

5e. **False teachers make merchandise out of believers.** (2 Pet 2:1-3) — Religious conmen fabricate and distort the truth to obtain money and power from those with weak faith and poor discernment. Damnation awaits anyone foolish enough to believe them or follow their example.

6e. **False leaders will do lying signs and wonders.** (Mt 24:24) — The religious world is full of con artists taking advantage of people's desire to experience sensational cures and miracles. Jesus said that an evil generation seeks after signs and wonders. Don't be like them.

7a. **"Lord, Lord" people.** (3) (Mt 7:21-23; Lk 6:46; Lk 13:24-27) — The churches gush about how much they love Jesus, but they almost always reject his teachings.

6d. **The Sabbath was made for man.** (Mk 2:27) — God mercifully gave us a day off (or sabbath) every seven days; but religious fanatics turned it into an argument over what to name it and what we're allowed to do on it.

7c. **Let nobody judge you regarding the Sabbath.** (Col 2:16) — We will only be judged on whether we have tried to obey the teachings of Jesus; so don't let anyone try to impose Old Testament laws on you.

8d. **The Sabbath is not worth arguing over.** (Rom 14:5-6) — People have been arguing over holy days since the start of Christianity. Let's stop fighting over such trivial concerns!

9d. **Gentiles don't have to keep Jewish rules.** (Acts 15:24,29) — Throughout the Book of Acts, the apostles were still hammering out their beliefs. So it is not wise to follow their example if it is inconsistent with Christ's.

(13) NON-ISRAEL KINGDOM (8 cards)

People often confuse the physical nation of Israel with the kingdom of heaven, but in many ways they are quite opposite, as these verses reveal:

1b. **God's kingdom is invisible.** (Lk 17:20-21) — No organisation can guarantee that you will have the kind of qualities that God is looking for: love, faith, honesty, humility, etc.

2b. **It doesn't matter where you worship God.** (Jn 4:21-24) — Man's attempts to put God in a box never work. He wants us to connect with him at any time and in any place.

3b. **Jews lose the kingdom to those who obey Jesus.** (Mt 21:42-43) — Membership in God's kingdom is dependent on faith and obedience, not on genealogy or a misguided sense of entitlement.

4b. **God chose a new people as his children.** (2) (Eph 3:6; Rom 9:25-26) — If we disobey God we're bastards. (Hebrews 12:8) God only chooses those who choose him, by obeying his Son.

5b. **There is neither Jew nor Gentile in Christ.** (Gal 3:28) — We gain our true identity in Christ. God doesn't care which religion we're from, but he does care whether we obey his Son.

6b. **True Jews are those who have true faith.** (2) (Gal 3:7; Rom 2:28-29) — The people of God are people of faith and sincerity... everywhere. Christianity marked the end of religion.

7d. **God can raise up Jews from stones.** (Lk 3:8-9) — With or without us, God is going to get his job done. He has miraculously turned Gentiles into the children of Abraham.

5c. **The greatest love is to give your life for others.** (Jn 15:13) — One day we may be asked to literally die for someone. In the meantime, there are many ways that we can give our time (which is our life) to others.

6c. **Turn the other cheek and love your enemies.** (Mt 5:39-44) — We should pray for the grace to one day love those who will torture us for our faith. We can start by taking a stand against war and revenge even now.

7c. **If your enemy is hungry feed him.** (Rom 12:20-21) — Divine love is not a 50-50 thing. We should love even when we only get hatred back. By doing this, we can transform the world around us... though some will end up hating us even more because of it.

8c. **True religion is to help orphans and widows.** (Jas 1:27) — False religion is all about theory and theology. True religion reaches out to help in practical ways.

9c. **Divorce and remarriage are forbidden.** (3) (Mt 5:32; Mk 10:2-12; 1 Cor 7:10-11) — Real love requires faithfulness to really work. Churches everywhere are justifying divorce and remarriage because so many people are unfaithful these days. Be slow to jump into marriage and even slower to jump out. You only get one chance, so make the best of it.

(12) JESUS VS LAW (9 cards)

These verses help to clarify the distinction between Old Testament law (and understanding) and the new revelation of truth that Jesus offers:

1a. **Moses brought the law; Jesus brought the truth.** (Jn 1:17) — God used Moses, but ultimate Truth came through his Son. Our eternal destiny rests on our ability to tell the difference between Moses and Jesus.

2a. **The law and the prophets were until John.** (Lk 16:16) — This shows that what John did (e.g. baptism) was Old Testament; but it also shows that what Jesus taught was NOT "law", as many churches teach.

3c. **Jesus fulfilled the law.** (Mt 5:17-18) — When a promise is fulfilled, you stop talking about it and move on.

4c. **Jesus gives us sabbath.** (Mt 11:28) — The Law gave workers for money a weekly rest (or sabbath). But if we labor for Jesus (and for love), every day is a sabbath. 'Work' is fun when done for love instead of money.

5c. **Every day is the Sabbath.** (Jn 5:17-18) — Jesus didn't argue that he had kept the Sabbath; he defended his right to break it. God isn't limited to doing good on just one day.

8b. **Woe to you religious leaders, hypocrites!** (2) (Mt 23:13-28; Lk 11:42-52) Jesus was not afraid to call a fake, a fake!

9b. **Do not use titles like Father, Teacher, or Doctor.** (Mt 23:8-10) — False teachers love to puff themselves up with titles. True servants of God do not promote themselves, but Christ.

(9) ENDTIMES (12 cards)

The following are some important verses to prepare us for the return of Christ:

1a. **Jesus returns after the Tribulation.** (Mt 24:29-31) — Many people teach that the rapture is before the Tribulation (often because they don't want to face unpleasant truths).

2b. **The rapture and Jesus' return are the same event.** (1 Thes 4:13-17) — There is no secret rapture. Jesus returns at the sound of a trumpet: loud and clear. And the dead in Christ are raised first.

3b. **The first resurrection and the rapture are at the last trumpet.** (1 Cor 15:51-52) — The 'rapture' is when we float up into the air to meet Jesus on his return. Before that happens is a time of great trouble, represented by seven trumpets (Revelation 8, Revelation 9, Revelation 11:15).

4e. **Trib Christians are part of the "first resurrection".** (Rev 20:4-6) — The dead in Christ are first to be raptured at the return of Christ and these include Trib Christians. So the rapture has to take place AFTER the Tribulation.

5b. **Christ won't come to us as a thief.** (1 Thes 5:4-6) — Churchies often say that no one knows when Jesus will return, which is true now. And he will catch most people by surprise. But this says that we can know more precisely as the day approaches.

6a. **The Antichrist fights against Christians.** (4) (Rev 13:7; Dan 7:21-25; 8:24; 12:7) — It is not Jews that the Antichrist fights against, but true believers in Jesus Christ. We must be prepared to lay down our lives for Christ.

7a. **The Mark of the Beast.** (2) (Rev 13:16-18; 14:9-11) — See also 1 Kings 10:14 & 2 Chronicles 9:13. The mark is a new form of money. We must not accept it. (Revelation 14:9-10, Revelation 16:1-2) Living by faith now is our best preparation.

8c. **The Beast hates the Whore and destroys her.** (Rev 17:16-17) — We believe the Whore is the U.S. and the Beast is Russia (probably in alliance with China). We believe the ten nations are the ten rotating members of the U.N. Security Council.

9c. **Flee Babylon, or be punished with her.** (Rev 18:4) — Capitalism is the love of money. In reality, all governments have put their faith in money. We must learn to live by faith, outside the values of the Whore.

10c. **When God says go, don't turn back.** (Lk 17:31-36) — The best preparation for the Tribulation is to learn how to obey God instantly, including forsaking all.

11c. **The Church is cared for in the wilderness.** (Rev 12:6) — The 'woman' is the Bride of Christ, those who have learned to follow Jesus instantly. See Luke 17:37.

12c. **The last seven years.** (3) (Dan 8:13-14; Dan 9:25-27; Dan 12:11) — These figures relate to the last seven years before Jesus returns. The event that triggers the countdown is the agreement to resume animal sacrifices in Jerusalem. That can only happen when a temple is built there. Watch for it!

(10) **SINCERITY** (12 cards)

We define sincerity as a strong desire to know the truth... so strong that you are willing to change your life to conform to it. This is the essence of saving faith in God. The following are some classic sincerity verses in the New Testament:

1e. **Hunger and thirst for righteousness.** (Mt 5:6) — We'll never find the truth while we keep defending our own inflated opinions. The key to forgiveness and growth is an intense desire to stop sinning.

2d. **Find the sincere truth in any teaching.** (1 Pet 2:2) — We should pray for a clear understanding of what the Bible says, and not just learn facts and proof texts.

3d. **We follow the spirit of the law, not the letter.** (2 Cor 3:6) — The spirit of a rule may be unrecognisable to those who see only words. Forget Sinai and follow the Sermon on the Mount!

4e. **To the pure all things are pure.** (Tit 1:15) — A sincere person will see the truth in every situation, and concentrate on that, while religious people waste time reacting to evil.

5b. **All who walk in the light have fellowship.** (1 Jn 1:7) — The more we seek to be sincere, the more fellowship we will find with others who are sincere. All of our theological imperfections will disappear under the blood of Jesus. Amazing grace, eh?

6b. **God accepts all who fear him and do good works.** (Acts 10:34-35) — God doesn't care what we call ourselves but whether we sincerely follow him by showing love.

7b. **Sincere non-Christians are living Bibles.** (Rom 2:14-15) — People (like Abraham) who do not know of Jesus, but who have true faith in the highest revelation of God that they have, are saved by God's grace.

8b. **Inasmuch as you help others, you are helping Christ.** (Mt 25:31-46) — Jesus said that when he returns, some people will be surprised to learn that they were serving him. This shows that they will not be judged by their religion.

9b. **If they receive us, they receive Christ.** (2) (Mt 10:40-42; 1 Jn 4:6) — If people accept the truth in what we are saying, they are accepting Jesus. They do not need to say ritual prayers to do it.

10b. **When you pray, fast, or give, do it secretly.** (Mt 6:1-18) — A true measure of our sincerity is what we do when no one is looking. God only rewards us for these actions.

11e. **Judge fairly.** (Jn 7:24) — Jesus commands us to judge others; he just says to make sure we do so fairly.

12d. **Don't make promises.** (2) (Mt 5:34-37; Jas 5:12) — A sincere person follows through with what they say they'll do. There's no need to make promises to convince people that we are telling the truth.

(11) **LOVE** (9 cards)

'Love' is a word bandied around a lot these days but commonly misunderstood. These verses help to show what true love is - or in other words, what true love does:

1b. **The Bible is summed up in loving God and others.** (2) (Mt 22:37-40; Gal 5:14) — This is called the 'Royal Law' in James 2:8. Love is the evidence that we have faith in something higher than ourselves.

2b. **Anyone who loves is born of God.** (1 Jn 4:7) — Hindus, Muslims, even atheists can show love. On the other hand, strict religionists often do not show love.

3c. **Love is patient, kind and faithful.** (1 Cor 13:4-8) — Love that "never gives up" is the same as faithfulness. All our talk about love means little if we give up whenever things get hard.

4c. **Don't just love in words.** (1 Jn 3:18) — When we stop working for money, we have the time to love others. All that Jesus taught shows us how to love God and others.