

Bible Be's

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Eph. 4:32-5:21

The Bible reveals a number of “Be’s” that should be a part of every Christian’s life.

Be kind

Here is an admonition needed by all Christians.

Eph. 4:32, “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*”

This to counter a number of problems of the human spirit. Eph. 4:31, “*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.*”

Churches have split, friendships have been broken, homes have failed because of unkindness.

Kindness is linked to forgiveness, as indicated in Eph. 4:32 above.

Kindness is also linked to love. 1 Cor. 13:4, “*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*”

Kindness is one of the Christian graces. 2 Pet. 1:7, “*And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*”

Be sober

This does not mean the way sober is defined today (not clouded by alcohol).

It means to be serious-minded; although alcohol can negatively affect a serious mind.

- **To be able to fight Satan.** 1 Pet. 5:8, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*”
- **To get ready for the task at hand.** 1 Pet. 1:13, “*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*”

- **Helps us pray.** 1 Pet. 4:7, “*But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*”
- **Helps us to be watchful, be prepared.** 1 Thess. 5:6. “*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*”

This is a very important “be” of the Bible.

Be content

Paul learned contentment regardless of any worldly condition. Phil. 4:11, “*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*”

Man is not content by nature. The more he gets, the more he wants.

Paul does not suggest laziness.

- 1 Thess. 4:11, “*And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,*”
- 2 Thess. 3:10, “*For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*”

Rather, be content after doing what we should do.

Contentment helps us to be thankful.

- 1 Tim. 6:8, “*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*”
- Heb. 13:5, “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*”

The greatest success for man: godliness with contentment. 1 Tim. 6:6, “*But godliness with contentment is great gain.*”

Be strong

Before giving the Christian armor, Paul says: Eph.6:10, “*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*”

God is strong. He also wishes His children to be strong to be able to defeat Satan.

A Christian gets his strength from God. Paul admonished Timothy to be strong. 2 Tim. 2:1, *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”*

We must be strong to keep from falling. 1 Cor. 16:13, *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”*

Be a spiritual Samson for the Lord.

Be ready

“Ready” in the New Testament means “preparedness”.

Paul was prepared. 2 Tim. 4:6, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”*

This time is the only time we have been given to get ready for the Judgment.

Only those ready will enter heaven. Matt. 25:1-13, *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”*

We must be ready to defend God’s word

1 Pet. 3:15, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*

Be ready for battle with Satan.

Peter thought he was ready to battle Satan, but he was not. Luke 22:31-34, *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go*

with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.”

1 Pet. 5:8, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”*

Be sober; be vigilant; be ready; be ready for the work. Titus 3:1, *“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”*

Be ready at any hour for we do not know when He is coming. Matt. 25:13, *“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”*

Be faithful

Those found faithful will receive life. Rev. 2:10, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

Many begin the race, yet falter. Only the faithful will win a crown of life. Paul went all the way for the Lord. 2 Tim. 4:6, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”*

The faithful will be rewarded. Matt. 25:21, *“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*

Conclusion

Are these “Bible Be’s” a part of your life? They represent admonitions worthy of accepting. Are you on the Lord’s side? If not, why not accept Him and His conditions to “Be” eternally in His presence:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to

church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, "It doesn't work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him."

- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* Acts 11:18, *"... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, "There's a burglar in my house!" So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, "I'm sorry; I'm sorry!" What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are "**UNTO**" righteousness, life, or salvation. "Unto" means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, *"But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he*

saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? “*for the remission of sins*”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

