

# Values and Committed Action

Reference	Text
1 Corinthians 10:13	No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it. (MSG)
1 Corinthians 10:31	So eat your meals heartily, not worrying about what others say about you--you're eating to God's glory, after all, not to please them. As a matter of fact, do everything that way, heartily and freely to God's glory. (MSG)
1 Corinthians 15:58	With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort. (MSG)
2 Corinthians 1:6,7	When we suffer for Jesus, it works out for your healing and salvation. If we are treated well, given a helping hand and encouraging word, that also works to your benefit, spurring you on, face forward, unflinching. Your hard times are also our hard times. When we see that you're just as willing to endure the hard times as to enjoy the good times, we know you're going to make it, no doubt about it. (MSG)
2 Corinthians 4:17	Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (NIV)
2 Corinthians 7:9-11	Now I'm glad--not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him. The result was all gain, no loss. Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets; end up on a deathbed of regrets. And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart. (MSG)

Reference	Text
2 Corinthians 10:5	We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. (MSG)
2 Corinthians 12: 7-10	Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size - abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become. (MSG)
1 Kings 5:28	May he keep us centred and devoted to him, following the life path he has cleared, watching the signposts, walking at the pace and rhythms he laid down for our ancestors. (MSG)
1 Samuel 15:22	Then Samuel said, Do you think all GOD wants are sacrifices - empty rituals just for show? He wants you to listen to him! Plain listening is the thing, not staging a lavish religious production. (MSG)
1 Samuel 17:48	David took off from the front line, running toward the Philistine. (MSG)
1 Peter 2:13-16	Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. (MSG)

Reference	Text
1 Peter 2:18, 19	You who are servants, be good servants to your masters - not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. (MSG)
1 Peter 2:20	There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behaviour and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God. (MSG)
2 Peter 1:5-7	For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. (NIV)
Colossians 1:10	We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. (MSG)
Colossians 1:11	We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul - not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy. (MSG)
Colossians 2:6 & 7	My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving. (MSG)
Colossians 2:8	Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. (MSG)
Colossians 3:2	Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that's where the action is. See things from his perspective. (MSG)

## Appendix 9: Values and Committed Action

Reference	Text
Colossians 4:1	And masters, treat your servants considerately. Be fair with them. Don't forget for a minute that you, too, serve a Master - God in heaven. (MSG)
Deuteronomy 16:19	Don't twist the law. Don't play favourites. Don't take a bribe - a bribe blinds even a wise person; it undermines the intentions of the best of people. (MSG)
Ecclesiastes 5:19	Yes, we should make the most of what God gives, both the bounty and the capacity to enjoy it, accepting what's given and delighting in the work. It's God's gift! (MSG)
Ecclesiastes 5:20	God deals out joy in the present, the now. It's useless to brood over how long we might live. (MSG)
Ecclesiastes 7:17-18	But don't press your luck by being bad, either. And don't be reckless. Why die needlessly? It's best to stay in touch with both sides of an issue. A person who fears God deals responsibly with all of reality, not just a piece of it. (MSG)
Ecclesiastes 11:4	Don't sit there watching the wind. Do your own work. Don't stare at the clouds. Get on with your life. (MSG), If you wait for perfect conditions you will never get anything done. (NIV)
Ephesians 4:32	Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)
Galatians 3:11	The person who lives in right relationship with God does it by embracing what God arranges for him. Doing things for God is the opposite of entering into what God does for you. (MSG)
Galatians 6:6 -8	Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others - ignoring God! - harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. (MSG)

Reference	Text
Hebrews 12:1-2	Do you see what this means - all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. (MSG)
Hebrews 12:3	Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honour, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he ploughed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls! (MSG)
Hebrews 12:7	God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training (MSG)
James 1:2-4	Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. (MSG)
James 1:5-8	If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who 'worry their prayers' are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open. (MSG)
James 1:12	Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyalty in love with God, the reward is life and more life. (MSG)
James 1:25	But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God - the free life! - even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action. (MSG)

Reference	Text
James 3:13-18	<p>Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts. Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn't wisdom. It's the furthest thing from wisdom - it's animal cunning, devilish conniving.</p> <p>Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.</p> <p>Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour. (MSG)</p>
John 7:24	<p>Don't be nit-pickers; use your head - and heart! - to discern what is right, to test what is authentically right. (MSG)</p>
John 16:33	<p>I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world. (MSG)</p>
1 Kings 8:58	<p>May he keep us centred and devoted to him, following the life path he has cleared, watching the signposts, walking at the pace and rhythms he laid down for our ancestors.</p>
Matthew 6:34	<p>But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (MSG)</p>
Matthew 12:7	<p>If you had any idea what this Scripture meant - <i>'I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual'</i> - you wouldn't be nit-picking like this. (MSG)</p>

Reference	Text
Matthew 15: 6-11	<p>‘... you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “<i>These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.</i>” Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “<i>Listen and understand. What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.</i>” (NIV)</p>
Matthew 15:18	<p>But what comes out of the mouth gets its start in the heart. (MSG)</p>
Matthew 20:27	<p>It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. (MSG)</p>
Matthew 22:37	<p>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (NIV)</p>
Matt 22:39	<p>Love your neighbour as yourself. (NIV)</p>
Micah 6:8	<p>He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (NIV)</p>
Philippians 4:6	<p>Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. (MSG)</p>
Proverbs 31:8-9	<p>Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute! (MSG)</p>
Proverbs 4:21 - 23	<p>Keep my message in plain view at all times. Concentrate! Learn it by heart! Those who discover these words live, really live; body and soul, they’re bursting with health. Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that’s where life starts. (MSG)</p>

Reference	Text
Proverbs 21:3	Clean living before God and justice with our neighbours mean far more to GOD than religious performance. (MSG)
Psalms 42:11	Why are you down in the dumps, dear soul? Why are you crying the blues? Fix my eyes on God-- soon I'll be praising again. He puts a smile on my face. He's my God. (MSG)
Psalms 46:10	He says: <i>'Be still, and know that I am God;'</i> (NIV)
Psalms 119:11	I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (NIV) I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt. (MSG)
Psalm 143:5	I remembered the old days, went over all you've done, pondered the ways you've worked. (MSG)
Romans 5:3-4	There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. (MSG)
Romans 6:16	What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (MSG)
Romans 7:6	But now that we're no longer shackled to that domineering mate of sin, and out from under all those oppressive regulations and fine print, we're free to live a new life in the freedom of God. (MSG)

Reference	Text
Romans 12:1-2	<p>So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. (MSG)</p>
Romans 12:17-19	<p>Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. <i>"I'll do the judging,"</i> says God. <i>"I'll take care of it."</i> (MSG)</p>
Romans 12:6 - 12	<p>Let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.            Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. (MSG)</p>

## QUOTATIONS

*“After asking, ‘What does this mean in its own time and context, and what does it mean in the light of the whole of Scripture?’ we must ask, ‘What does this mean for today – here and now ...in my own life?’” (P62) (Milne 1998)*