
What Does God Say About That?

**POLITICS, RACE, HEAVEN, HELL,
THE ENVIRONMENT, MONEY,
*and hundreds more!***



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Introduction

To find out what God says about a topic, all we have to do is look to the Bible. For thousands of years people of faith have recognized that the Scriptures provide for both eternal life and the sustenance that is required to live everyday life in the here and now. In the words of nineteenth-century pastor Charles Haddon Spurgeon, “Keep upon the foundation of the Scriptures, and you stand safely and have an answer for those who question you, yea, and an answer which you may render at the bar of God; but once you allow your own whim, or fancy or taste or your notion of what is proper and right to rule you instead of the word of God, and you have entered upon a dangerous course, and unless the grace of God prevent, boundless mischief may ensue.”*

The Bible, its knowledge, and its wisdom have guided kings, pastors, presidents, missionaries, and common people through every circumstance known to humanity. President Theodore Roosevelt valued its sixty-six books so much that he said, “A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.”†

Those who have learned that what appears on the Bible’s pages are more than mere words are those who have found God’s revealed source of life and truth. The words and sentiments of the Scriptures have sustained soldiers,

* Eric Hayden, *The Unforgettable Spurgeon: Reflections on His Life and Writings* (Greenville, SC: Emerald House, 1997), 42.

† George Grant, *The Courage and Character of Theodore Roosevelt: A Hero Among Leaders* (Nashville: Cumberland House, 2005), 167.

slaves, the persecuted, mothers, fathers, those experiencing life's highest peaks, and those enduring the world's lowest valleys. It is no wonder then that Helen Keller's words resonate loudly today: "Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness."

In this book you'll find a short summary of what God has to say about hundreds of topics, followed by key Scripture verses covering each subject. You'll also find a list of additional verses that refer to the issue. The main purpose of this book is to present what God says, not interpret it. It's up to you to apply what God says to your own life.

The topics are arranged alphabetically. You'll find a list of them at the beginning of the book. If there's a particular subject that interests you, you can start there. You may want to browse the list and see what catches your eye, or even start with A and read all the way through to Z. Any way you approach it, you will reap the benefits of knowing what God has to say.

The truth of the Bible is timeless, but we face many different issues than did those who lived in the time of Peter and Paul, much less Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Modern technology and scientific expertise have given the world many reasons for hope and health, but there are downsides to technology as well. Abortion was more difficult and therefore less common in Bible times. So when we consider what the Bible says about abortion, we are really asking what the Bible says about those in the womb. Today, with sonograms and other modern marvels, we are able to see funny images on a screen that eventually take the shape of a baby, but in the Bible we learn that God sees life.

Key Verses

When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Exodus 21:22–25 ESV

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; you know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.

Psalm 139:13–16 THE MESSAGE

Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

Job 31:15 NIV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Abortion

Genesis 1:20–27; Psalm 22:9–10; 58:3; Isaiah 44:2; 24; Jeremiah 1:5

Addiction

Addiction has become commonplace in the twenty-first century. People become addicted to alcohol, antidepressants, caffeine, coffee, food, gambling, the internet, painkillers, risk, sex, sleeping pills, television, and tobacco. Even though addictions may feel good for a time, there is a better way to live.

Key Verses

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:12–13 NASB

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 ESV

Jesus said, “I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can’t come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through.”

John 8:34–36 THE MESSAGE

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Addiction

Psalms 121:1–2; Proverbs 6:27; 23:20; Isaiah 5:11; Matthew 5:28; 6:3; Romans 5:3–5; 13:14; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; 8:9; 15:33; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 5:5, 18–20; Colossians 3:5; Titus 2:12; James 1:2–3; 4:7; 1 Peter 2:11; 5:8; 1 John 2:16; 3:8

Adultery

The Bible is not just a list of things to do and things not to do, but God's definition of right and wrong for many areas of life. Marriage and a person's sex life are one of these areas. Sex and the intimacy that is associated with that act is to exist solely between a man and a woman in the context of a marriage. Marriage exists as a bond between two people, and whenever one of the people in a marriage commits adultery, it shatters that bond and clearly violates both God's plan and His will for that relationship. Adultery may not be taken seriously by the world at large, but it is something that the world's Creator takes incredibly seriously.

Key Verses

You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14 NKJV

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27–28 NIV

Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4 NASB

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Adultery

Genesis 20:1–18; Numbers 5:11–31; Deuteronomy 5:18; 22:13–30; 2 Samuel 11–12; Job 24:15–18; Proverbs 2:16–19; 5:1–23; 6:20–35; 7:1–27; 9:13–18; 22:14; 23:27–28; 30:18–20; Jeremiah 5:7–8; 23:10; 29:20–23; Ezekiel 18:4–9; Hosea 4:1–2; Matthew 5:30–32; 15:19; 19:9–12; Mark 7:20–21; 10:11–12; Luke 16:18; John 8:1–11; Romans 7:1–13; 13:8–14; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 6:8–11; Galatians 5:16–23; Ephesians 5:1–12; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–7; 1 Peter 4:1–5

Adversity

Many people expect that belief in the Bible and following its wisdom would eliminate adversity. The opposite, however, is true. A life of faith in Jesus Christ is one that is full of adversity. For the most part, knowing what the Bible says about adversity will not allow you to avoid it, but God will help you navigate the adversity that is certain to come your way.

Key Verses

But evil does not spring from the soil, and trouble does not sprout from the earth. People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire.

Job 5:6–7 NLT

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 NKJV

In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider—God has made the one as well as the other so that man will not discover anything that will be after him.

Ecclesiastes 7:14 NASB

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]

John 16:33 AMP

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Adversity

Genesis 3:16–19; 15:12–15; 50:20; Exodus 1:1–13; Numbers 11:1; Deuteronomy 8:1–9; 1 Kings 9:9; 2 Chronicles 7:22; Job 2:10–11; 4:8; 14:1; Psalms 30:5; 49:5; 89:30–32; 94:13; 119:75; 126:5–6; Proverbs 3:12; 13:17, 21; Micah 7:7–9; Lamentations 3:33; Matthew 5:1–12; 24:8–13; John 16:16–22; Romans 8:18–25, 27–29; 2 Corinthians 4:15–18; 1 Thessalonians 3:1–4; 2 Timothy 3:10–17; Hebrews 12:1–17; James 5:13–17; 1 Peter 1:3–8; 4:12–19; 5:6–10

Just asking the question “What does the Bible say about alcohol?” can be almost as controversial as the answers to some other questions. Few topics generate the level of emotion and passion of this one.

Those whose lives and families have been forever damaged by alcohol abuse may find it very difficult to separate what the Scriptures actually say from their own experience. Those who have never endured the pain of substance abuse can find it difficult to see why there is such angst over something as simple as a little drink. An issue this contentious and emotional necessitates careful study of the Scriptures.

Key Verses

Use the money to buy anything you want: cattle, sheep, wine, or beer—anything that looks good to you. You and your family can then feast in the Presence of God, your God, and have a good time.

Deuteronomy 14:26 THE MESSAGE

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 NASB

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

Romans 14:20–21 ESV

Woe to those who are mighty heroes at drinking wine and men of strength in mixing alcoholic drinks!

Isaiah 5:22 AMP

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Alcohol

Genesis 14:18; Deuteronomy 7:13; 11:14; 14:23–26; Esther 5:6; 7:1–2; Job 1:13; Psalm 4:7; 104:14–15; Proverbs 3:9–10; 20:1; 21:17; 23:29–35; 31:4–7; Isaiah 25:6; Jeremiah 31:12; 48:33; Daniel 10:3; Hosea 2:8–9; Joel 2:19–24; 3:18; Luke 7:33–34; John 2:1–11; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; 11:17–22; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 5:15–21; 1 Timothy 5:23

Ambition

Ambition can be a good or a bad thing. When it is ambition to reach the world for the Gospel, to glorify God, to worship God, or to influence people for right, it is a very good thing. When it is ambition for more money, more prestige, a better position in life, or the desire to win at all costs, then it is a very bad thing. The difference biblically is a matter of motivation. Biblical examples of ambition show us that ambition can change the world, but it can also destroy a life.

Key Verses

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

Luke 9:25 NIV

But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

1 Thessalonians 4:10–12 NASB

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

James 3:13–17 ESV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Ambition

Genesis 11:1–9; Psalm 49:11–20; 131:1–2; Proverbs 17:19; Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 31:10–11; Matthew 4:8–10; 16:26; 18:1–5; 20:20–28; 23:11–12; Mark 10:35–45; 12:38–40; Luke 22:24–30; John 5:44; 1 Timothy 2:1–2; James 4:1–2; 1 John 2:16; 3 John 1:9–10

Periodically angels have become popular in modern culture. When this happens, these beings almost never resemble what we actually know about angels from God's Word.

The angelic beings who serve a holy and just God, and even those who betrayed the Almighty in favor of rebellion, are powerful and mighty beings. The angels who are faithful to God are equal parts messenger, warrior, servant, worshiper, and protector.

Far from caricatures carrying harps or pitchforks, angels are very real and a most serious friend or foe.

Key Verses

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.

Psalm 34:7 NASB

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

Psalm 148:1-2 ESV

And did he ever say anything like this to an angel? Sit alongside me here on my throne until I make your enemies a stool for your feet. Isn't it obvious that all angels are sent to help out with those lined up to receive salvation?

Hebrews 1:13-14 THE MESSAGE

Do not let anyone disqualify you by making you humiliate yourself and worship angels. Such people enter into visions, which fill them with foolish pride because of their human way of thinking.

Colossians 2:18 NCV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Angels

Numbers 22:22-35; 2 Samuel 14:20; 24:1-17; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 38:1-7; Psalm 68:17; 91:11-12; 103:20-21; 104:4; Isaiah 6:1-7; Daniel 8:15-27; 9:21-23; 12:6-7; Matthew 1:20-25; 13:36-43; 24:29-31; 25:31; 26:51-54; 28:1-9; Mark 8:38; Luke 1:1-38; 2:8-21; 15:10; 22:39-43; John 1:50-51; Acts 1:1-11; 7:53; 8:26; 10:1-7; 12:7-11; 27:23; Ephesians 1:18-23; 3:9-10; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:16; 5:21; Hebrews 1:1-14; 2:1-4; 12:22; 1 Peter 1:12; 3:21-22; 2 Peter 2:11; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7; 19:10; 22:9

Anger

Too often we categorize concepts as positive or negative without ever considering that the issue may be more multifaceted than we have realized. Anger is one of these concepts that, although we know better, we tend to simply file away in categories labeled “sin,” “wrong,” or “bad.” The picture that the Bible paints of anger, however, is a much more subtle and complex one.

The example of Jesus, as well as periodic urgings of biblical writers for the reader to respond in anger, lets us know that there are times and places in which we should indeed be angry. Humanity’s biggest problem with anger is that all too often we are mad at the wrong times and places, we show our anger in the wrong ways, and we direct our anger at the wrong people.

Key Verses

Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

Proverbs 14:29 NIV

A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 15:1 AMP

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 1:19–20 ESV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Anger

Genesis 4:5–8; Exodus 32; Job 5:2; Psalm 37:8; 78:38; 90:11; 103:8; Proverbs 6:34; 12:16; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11, 19; 22:24–25; 25:28; 27:3–4; 29:8–11, 22; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Jonah 4:1–4; Nahum 1:2; Matthew 5:22; 21:12–16; Romans 12:19; 1 Corinthians 13:4–5; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 4:26–32; Colossians 3:8; 1 Timothy 2:8; Titus 1:7

Animals

In the biblical world animals were not usually pets as they often are today. Animals were transportation, sustenance, and fellow workers. They exist in biblical accounts overwhelmingly for practical purposes. Twice in the Bible animals even speak. The first is the serpent in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3), and the second is Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22). Other than these two exceptions, animals are biblical history's silent characters. It can be easy to conclude that since they have little to say, God is uninterested in them and their lives. Nothing could be further from what God says in His Word.

Key Verses

And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:25 ESV

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises to our God on the lyre, who covers the heavens with clouds, who provides rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow on the mountains. He gives to the beast its food, and to the young ravens which cry.

Psalms 147:7-9 NASB

Good people are good to their animals; the "good-hearted" bad people kick and abuse them.

Proverbs 12:10 THE MESSAGE

Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?

Matthew 6:26 NLT

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Animals

Genesis 1:20-25, 30; 2:18-20; 8:1-19; 9:1-5; Exodus 21:28-36; 22:1-4; 23:5; Numbers 22:22-35; Deuteronomy 25:4; Job 12:10; 35:11; 38:41; 39:1-30; Psalm 36:6; 50:7-11; 104:20-25; 147:7-11, Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:25-28; Ecclesiastes 3:18-21; Isaiah 35:8-10; 65:25; Joel 1:18-20; Matthew 10:26-33; Luke 12:4-7, 24; 14:5; 1 Corinthians 9:9; 1 Timothy 5:18; James 3:7

Anxiety

Worry is the deep dark secret of many Christians. The idea that we should not worry is one that everyone agrees with and almost no one practices. A massive amount of sermons, books, and counseling sessions all tell us that anxiety is not only negative but can also be deadly to a person's physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Even though we know that anxiety is harmful, we continue to worry. Even though we know that the Scriptures tell us that God is in control, it is still a struggle to have victory over thoughts that constantly seek to discourage and confuse God's people. Some people have even gotten so used to worrying that to them it is almost comforting. Worry does not need to stay a dirty little secret. More than just warning us against it, the Bible teaches how to overcome worry.

Key Verses

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.

Proverbs 12:25 NASB

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

Be humble under God's powerful hand so he will lift you up when the right time comes. Give all your worries to him, because he cares about you.

1 Peter 5:6-7 NCV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Anxiety

Psalm 32:8-10; 94:19; 139:23; Isaiah 35:4; Jeremiah 17:8; Matthew 6:24-34; Luke 10:41-42; John 14:1-4; Hebrews 13:5-6

When God's Spirit was present, the characters of the Bible did amazing things. They slew giants, raised people from the dead, won wars, saw the blind given sight, and witnessed a multitude of other things that would easily qualify as incredible. The moving of the Spirit of God, however, is not limited to awe-inspiring miracles. Awe-inspiring works by painters, carpenters, stone masons, seamstresses, and artists of all stripes were just as motivated and empowered by the Spirit of God, yet we seldom recognize them for exactly what they are. Creativity and skill are signs of God at work!

Key Verses

Moses told the Israelites, "See, God has selected Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. He's filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability, and know-how for making all sorts of things, to design and work in gold, silver, and bronze; to carve stones and set them; to carve wood, working in every kind of skilled craft. And he's also made him a teacher, he and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. He's gifted them with the know-how needed for carving, designing, weaving, and embroidering in blue, purple, and scarlet fabrics, and in fine linen. They can make anything and design anything."

Exodus 35:30–35 THE MESSAGE

David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their fellow Levites as musicians to make a joyful sound with musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.

1 Chronicles 15:16 NIV

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64:8 ESV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Art

Genesis 4:18–22; 9:20; Exodus 28:1–43; 30:1–38; 31:1–11; 35:20–35; 1 Kings 7; 1 Chronicles 22:13–16; 2 Chronicles 2:11–15; 24:1–13; Proverbs 31:10–31; Jeremiah 18:1–11

Astrology

Humanity has been looking for meaning and a purpose for life's events for its entire history. Those who chose to follow God found meaning in Him, and in His Word, but there were others who foolishly chose to find meaning in other places. They searched for reason and tried to make sense of the world that they lived in, even when things seemed to be spinning out of control.

Some of these people who rejected God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things found something else to give them a reasonable explanation for why things happened as they did. They found a cosmic force at work in the sky. The worship and searching of the sky for answers is one of the oldest false religions in existence. The words of Scripture warn against it just as much today as they did then.

Key Verses

And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

Deuteronomy 4:19 *ESV*

This is what the Lord says: "Do not act like the other nations, who try to read their future in the stars. Do not be afraid of their predictions, even though other nations are terrified by them."

Jeremiah 10:2 *NLT*

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Astrology

Genesis 1:14; Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 4:19–20; 17:1–6; 18:9–12; 2 Kings 21:1–9; Job 9:1–13; 26:1–13; 38:31–41; Psalm 8:1–9; 19:1–6; 147:1–5; Isaiah 47:10–15; Jeremiah 8:1–3; 27:1–11; Daniel 1:17–20; 2:24–30; 4:4–7; Amos 5:8; Micah 5:8–15; Galatians 5:19–21

What one person finds beautiful another sees as only average. The one constant with regard to beauty is that it lasts for only a short time. Whether it is the beauty of a person or of a rose, it will only be here for a moment.

Repeatedly throughout the Bible the reader is cautioned against viewing beauty as more than it really is. Beauty is great, but there are things far more permanent and satisfying.

Key Verses

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7 NLT

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Proverbs 31:30 NKJV

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV

Training your body helps you in some ways, but serving God helps you in every way by bringing you blessings in this life and in the future life, too.

1 Timothy 4:8 NCV

What matters is not your outer appearance—the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes—but your inner disposition. . . . The holy women of old were beautiful before God that way, and were good, loyal wives to their husbands.

1 Peter 3:3, 5 THE MESSAGE

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Beauty

Genesis 12:10–20; Esther 2:1–18; Psalm 27; 50:1–2; 139:14; Song of Solomon 1; 4; Isaiah 52:7; Zechariah 9:16–17

Bible

There is no greater source of information about someone than his or her autobiography. Historical figures who have penned their own stories have left later generations a lasting testament to who they were, what they did, and why they did what they did.

In many ways the Bible exists as God's autobiography. God's Spirit moved men to write the sixty-six books contained in our Bibles to communicate himself to humanity. Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people, or why did He send His Son to die in our place? Instead of taking someone else's word for it, why not just ask the author himself?

Key Verses

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely [all] the people are like grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:7–8 AMP

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 NKJV

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him.

Hebrews 4:12–13 NASB

Additional Notable Verses Concerning the Bible

Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Joshua 1:8–9; Psalm 1; 12:6; 19; 119; Proverbs 30:5–6; Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 1:9; Matthew 4:4; 5:18; Luke 8:1–15; John 5:39; 10:34–39; 21:25; Romans 15:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 1 Peter 1:23–25; 2 Peter 3:14–16

Birth Control

In the world of the Bible, pharmacies were not on every street corner the way that they are now in many modern cities. In that time, if one wanted to practice family planning, there was but one good method of achieving it: abstinence. Aside from this fact, there were also a number of benefits to large families, such as additional sources of income and people who could protect and serve the family's interests. Additionally, with high infant mortality rates, losing multiple children before they reached adulthood was commonplace.

Today, modern conveniences and medical advances have given parents both the opportunity to better plan families, as well as to see many more of their children reach adulthood. There are, however, two biblical concerns that must be ever present when considering birth control. First, to God all life is valuable and only He has the right to give or end life. Second, the human life that God is so zealous about begins when that life is conceived.

Key Verses

God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28 AMP

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Psalms 127:3-5 ESV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Birth Control

Genesis 9:1-10; 38:1-10; Psalm 139:13-16

The Body

From the earliest days, people have struggled to understand the body. When people think about sin they are almost always picturing something done with the body. If you tell a lie, build an idol, or get in a fistfight, you do so with your body. It is easy to see, then, why some people could decide that the body is evil and wicked, and the soul is actually the good part of you that God saves.

But that conclusion is wrong according to God's Word. The body can be used by our sin nature as an instrument for sin and wickedness, but it can just as easily be used by the Holy Spirit as an implement of love, mercy, and grace.

Key Verses

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

Psalm 139:13–14 NLT

Some of you say, "We can do anything we want to." But I tell you that not everything is good for us. So I refuse to let anything have power over me. You also say, "Food is meant for our bodies, and our bodies are meant for food." But I tell you that God will destroy them both. We are not supposed to do indecent things with our bodies. We are to use them for the Lord who is in charge of our bodies. . . . You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own. God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honor God.

1 Corinthians 6:12–13, 19–20 CEV

Additional Notable Verses Concerning the Body

Genesis 1:26–27; Leviticus 19:28; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 6:25–26; Romans 1:24–25; 12:1–8; 1 Corinthians 3:10–17; 9:24–27; 15; 2 Corinthians 5:1–10; Philippians 1:20–22; 3:18–21; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5; 1 Timothy 4:8–9; James 2:26; 1 Peter 3:3–4

Borrowing

If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some; for he that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing.”* This quote is one of the many dealing with money by American founding father Benjamin Franklin. It is sound and practical advice, but all too often it is wisdom that is foreign to our everyday lives.

The Bible, much like Franklin, does not take a positive outlook on the process and possibility of borrowing. Instead of banning borrowing or lending under all circumstances, the Bible presents borrowing as an unwise action with possible severely negative complications. It turns out that Franklin’s idea that it is better to go without than to “go sorrowing” was one he actually borrowed from the Bible.

Key Verses

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:7 NKJV

Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.

Proverbs 22:26–27 NIV

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law.

Romans 13:8 NLT

Additional Notable Verses Concerning Borrowing

Exodus 22:14; Deuteronomy 15:6; 28:44–45; Psalm 37:21; Proverbs 3:27–28; Nehemiah 5:1–13; Matthew 5:38–42

*Richard (Philomath) Saunders, *Poor Richard Improved: Being an Almanack and Ephemeris . . . for the Year of our Lord 1758* (Philadelphia: Printed and Sold by B. Franklin and D. Hall) (Yale University Library).