

I'd like to take you on a journey through scripture. Some scripture you will be very familiar with, and some not so. I'll be quoting from NRSV, which provides footnotes (fn.). So, sit back and enjoy the journey.

To me, a description of Mission

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with
the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor
into your house;
when you see the naked, to
cover them,
and not to hide yourself from
your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth
like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring
up quickly;
your vindicator shall go
before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be
your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord
will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he
will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from
among you,
the pointing of the finger, the
speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the
hungry
and satisfy the needs of the
afflicted,
then your light shall rise in
the darkness
and your gloom be like the
noonday.
The Lord will guide you
continually,
and satisfy your needs in
parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered
garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:6-11
fn. - One's relationship to
others reveals one's
relationship to God.

7 Elements of Unity

One body

One Spirit

One hope

One Lord

One faith

One baptism

One God and Father

Ephesians 4:4-6 (abbreviated)

For God's foolishness is wiser
than human wisdom, and God's
weakness is stronger than human
strength. – 1 Corinthians 1:25

Admonitions (cautionary advice or
warning)

#1 – Do not forget my teaching, but
let your heart keep my
commandments.

#2 – Do not let loyalty and
faithfulness forsake you.

#3 – Do not rely on your own insight.

#4 – Do not be wise in your own eyes.

#5 – Honor the Lord with your
substance and with the first fruits of
all your produce.

#6 – Do not despise the Lord's
discipline or be weary of his reproof.

- Proverbs 3:1-11 (abbreviated)

Exhortations

(passage intended to
persuade, inspire, or encourage)

Let **love** be genuine; hate what is
evil, **hold fast** to what is good;
love one another with **mutual
affection**; outdo one another in
showing honor. Do not lag in **zeal**,
be **ardent** in spirit, **serve** the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, be **patient** in
suffering, **persevere** in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the
saints; extend **hospitality** to
strangers. Romans 12:9-13

God is the Author of all family
relationships. Ephesians 3:14-15 fn.

God's Armor

* Belt of Truth

* Breastplate of Righteousness

* Shield of Faith

* Helmet of Salvation

* Shoes to Proclaim the Gospel of
Peace

* Sword of the Spirit

(fn.) – The *sword* (the one offensive
weapon mentioned here) is the word
that God speaks through his servants.

Ephesians 6:13-17 (abbreviated)

Anxiety weighs down the human
heart, but a good word cheers it up.

- Proverbs 12:25

Suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured
into our hearts through the Holy Spirit
that has been given to us.

- Romans 5:3-5

He will wipe every tear from
their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain
will be no more,
for the first things have
passed away.

Revelation 21:4

May God bless each and everyone of
you.

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