

# Top Ten Scriptures – Family and Friends Edition

## A Process of Knowing the Scripture and Sharing Your Scriptures

Most Christians have 3-4 favorite verses in their heads that they can remember. They use these Scriptures to guide and to guard themselves on their faith journey. Most Christians have never gathered in one location their favorites, or told their family or friends **what they are** or **WHY they are important**. When given an opportunity, most can come up with their favorite Top Ten Scriptures over time. When they **WRITE WHY** these verses are their favorites, it becomes a powerful **experience for them**, and provides future opportunities to share those verses with others.

**When people share their Top Ten Scriptures, they become the expert of the Scriptures that motivate them! It allows them to share their passion and their influence.**

### It's Simple

Write down 5-10 favorite Scriptures

Write 1-2 sentences **WHY** those Scriptures are your favorites

Discuss the options for sharing those Scriptures with others

**There are 31,173 verses in the Bible. Surely you can come up with 10!**

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

All Scripture has **equal worth**, but not every Scripture motivates or connects equally with each person. That is part of the fun and interest when discussing other peoples' favorite Scriptures, and hearing about what Scriptures have motivated and inspired others.

### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Two things happened within 60 days of each other.

1. My Mother, JoAnn Juhala, passed away in 2011. My Brother-in-law did the eulogy at her funeral, and it's his practice to look through the Bible of the deceased, find the Scriptures they have underlined and made notes about, and then share those Scriptures at the person's memorial. It's a great way to share favorite Scriptures of the person everyone has come to

honor! Of course, my Mom had to be different. She was a woman of faith, and she read and memorized Scripture. However, she was a person who believed you **should not write** in your Bible because it would be dishonoring to God's Word. She never underlined any of her favorite Scriptures in her Bible. As of this writing, I don't know what any of her favorite Scriptures are! I wish my Mother had written down her favorite Scriptures, she had them, but they were locked up in her head. Perhaps your family would like to know about the Scriptures that have been the most impactful to you, and **WHY!**

2. Less than 2 months after my mother's death, a friend gave a speech, and he quoted Zig Ziglar. I told him Ziglar was one of my favorite quotable people, and my friend said it was one of his "Top Ten Quotes". I love quotes and have saved many over the years. Later, I took the time to go through all of my quotes and came up with my "Top Ten Quotes" list. I was very excited when I sent it to my friend and I said, "Here's my Top Ten list, now send me yours." Several days later, my friend replied, "Oh, I don't actually have them written down, I just have them in my head". Which means, he probably can't actually list off all 10, but remembers them when he hears them.

There's nothing wrong with that, but what I discovered was that if they're stored in his head, then he cannot share them with other people as easily or as accurately.

Just like my mother's favorite Scriptures, if they are locked up in her head, they helped her through life, but they are not necessarily helping other people now that she is gone.

As I thought about how quotes have influenced my life, it occurred to me that Scripture is far more influential than quotes! If I'm going to invest my time and effort in a "Top Ten Quotes" list which has the ability to influence, then I should really be able to make the time to create a "Top Ten Scriptures" list which cannot only influence my life, but can also influence someone else's life for eternity. **And thus was born Jeff's Top Ten Scriptures list.**

You probably have some great quotes and Scriptures that have influenced your life. Maybe they too are locked up in your head. **WHY** not take the time and the effort to search for them, write them down, and give the reasons **WHY** they are your favorite Scriptures! If you truly believe that Scripture can change lives for eternity, then the people you love and care about and those who have been influenced by you just may have a genuine interest in the Scriptures that have impacted your life. If they stay locked up in your head, we'll never know.

Writing the **WHY** takes time, but it creates a **depth of growth in you**, and once written, **it creates a breadth of influence for others**. It's an investment of time that may last for eternity.

**Note:** This material was originally written as part of a class assignment with a fellow student named Abigail. Our sample lists are included as reference material.

## 1. LIST YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURES

There is a specific handout available in this packet, but if not used, just number a paper 1-10. Each person writes out **just 3-4** of his or her favorite Scriptures. Don't over-think it or try to be perfect, this is brainstorming time. Write the Scripture location (John 3:16), or the verse itself or just a few words or phrases that you can remember about the Scripture (something about being lukewarm). Just get some information on the paper and get the process started.

Discussing the process in a group of family or friends is very helpful. Each person can mention one or two of their favorite verses. As Scriptures are shared, others may add those Scriptures to their list. Telling another person about a favorite verse is the start of your WHY, and you should take a few quick notes of your own answers.

As a prompter, here are some questions to ask each other about their favorites:

- Does the Scripture inspire you?
- Does it guide you to something?
- Does it guard from something?
- Did it come at a critical time in life?
- Did it come from a significant person such as parent or Pastor?
- Did it come as a personal revelation during reading or prayer?
- Does it offer hope?

**Just start with 3-4 of your** favorite Scriptures at first. Go through the whole process with 3-4, then over time, add more Scriptures as you remember.

## 2. WRITE WHY IT'S A FAVORITE

The **WHY** is critically important in this process and is personal to **each individual**. Dig deep, don't shortcut this process!

Most people will be willing to speak the WHY, but less likely to write the WHY. Encourage each other to write something, even if it's brief. Begin to simply walk through the process of listing the Scripture **and** the WHY. The WHY will be tremendously helpful in sharing and influencing others. It may actually take months to complete all 10, but people aren't likely to finish the task if they don't practice the full process right now amongst family and friends. So ask each other WHY it's a favorite and then encourage each other to write down what they told you, or at least a brief version of it.

You might be surprised at what you will learn about your family and friends when they start telling you some of their WHYS. There will be deeper knowledge shared, stories you haven't heard before, and more insight and revelations about both the person and about the Scripture mentioned.

Forcing yourself to write out in complete sentences the WHY part will make you process the information better, rehearse the information better and be more prepared to share that information both in writing and verbally with others in the future.

### **3. SHARING YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURES**

Think back in your lives, do you remember when a friend, parent or Pastor shared with you a significant Scripture that meant a lot to you? Perhaps it's a Scripture on your favorites list right now!

Aren't you thankful that they shared it with you?

What did you appreciate about your friend who shared it with you?

Once you have taken the time to write out your favorites, you might as well share it with others. Remember, if it's locked up in your head, it can't help others.

Once you have your list going, discuss as a group several ways you can share these favorite Scriptures with others.

Here are a few suggestions but don't limit yourselves. If skywriting works, try it!

You can share Scriptures in written form, verbally, social media, posters, groups, etc.

Writing in birthday cards, creating pictures, hang on the wall at work, etc.

People will be intrigued by anything labeled "Top Ten List" capitalize on the intrigue.

What's the most creative way the group can share their Top Ten Scriptures?

### **4. NOW WHAT?**

This brief process was simply a learning experience. Now that you know how it works with 3-4 Scriptures, keep this handout in your Bible or by your bedside, create a version of it for their phone or digital device. Over the next several months, you should earnestly begin to seek out more Scriptures to complete your top ten list. If you are thinking about it and noting down the Scriptures that come to mind, you will soon be able to fill the handout with the best Scriptures that mean the most to you.

It took the creator of this lesson 6 months to come up with his complete list, and don't be surprised if it changes over time.

No one is mandated to do all ten, and they are not limited to only ten, it's just a suggestion. There's no magic in making a list. Scripture is powerful all on its own; it does not need a list to be more powerful. A list simply helps our human minds. Something happens in us when we study Scripture, and this is just another way to study Scripture. When we are actively thinking about our Top Ten list, when we build that list, when we decide which ones go on it and which ones do not, when we write them down on paper, and when we write out WHY they are our favorites, then we learn those Scriptures better and deeper. The process helps build our faith and our knowledge of Scripture, and writing them down with the WHY helps give us opportunities to share our faith with others.

## **5. FOLLOW-UP**

Hold each other accountable. If you only came up with 3-4 when you first met, check in every month and keep asking your friends and family how far they have completed their list.

Get together again later when most have completed all 10 and talk about the process. What it did for you as individuals, and how you have been able to share your list with others. It will be a powerful opportunity to hear more of each other's favorite Scriptures and WHY. You may discover things about them you never knew. You may be encouraged, and you may hear Scriptures that you'll want to add to their list. You may hear stories of faith that you can share with others to build their faith.

**Most people can come up with 3-4 Scriptures quickly. Here are some prompter questions to find more. Remember, you probably have more than 10, you just need a prompter to remember them.**

# Top Ten Scriptures for \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write out 3-10 of your favorite Scriptures below. It doesn't have to be perfect; this is just a rough draft, you can improve on it later. Try writing the Scripture by location (e.g. John 3:16) or the Scripture itself or by writing a few words or phrases that you remember about the Scripture.

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SAMPLE

## Abigail's TOP Ten 8 Scriptures

### **Ephesians 5:1 -2 NKJV**

**1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.**

**2 And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us...**

WHY? This Scripture is a constant reminder that I must be selfless in my attitude and actions toward others - especially toward those who are in need. To give freely with no strings attached. A Christ-follower has no greater calling than to imitate Him.

### **Colossians 3: 17 NKJV**

**And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

WHY? It's a constant reminder that my words and actions should reflect what He wants/expects from me. My aim: to be more Christ-like in attitude/actions.

### **Colossians 3: 23 NKJV**

**And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.**

WHY? This is my "No regrets" Scripture

I choose to do my work and live my life in the way I believe is right and honoring to Him. My conscience is my guide: it gives direction to my actions and intentions. Because of this I rarely struggle with events that occur in my life – professional or personal.

### **Proverbs 27:19 NKJV**

**As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man**

WHY? Constancy, honesty, straightforwardness

To be true to myself and Honor Him, my actions must be consistent with my words. No hidden agenda is involved.

**Philippians 2: 3-4 NRSV**

**3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.**

**4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.**

WHY? This is a wonderful reminder that I am no better than anyone else. Because this is so, I earnestly strive to live my life in humbleness, selflessness, and with care and concerns for others.

**Philippians 4:11 NKJV**

**.. for I have learned that in whatever state I am, to be content**

WHY? This reminds me to be both introspective and at peace with myself in whatever situation/circumstance I find myself. It helps me to maintain a positive attitude in adverse situations. I need not compare myself with others and desire what they have (materially, speaking).

**Romans 13:8 NKJV**

**Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**

WHY? Reinforces the concept that all financial obligations must be fulfilled

We are to treat Christians and non-Christians alike - with the same care and concern that we have for ourselves.

**James 4:17 NKJV**

**Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.**

WHY? Doing what is GOOD and RIGHT is God-ordained. Keeps me on the RIGHT track, my conscience is in play. My aim is to help others rather than hurt them – no matter how negative their intentions may be.



# Jeff's Top Ten Scriptures

## 1 Job 1:21

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

**WHY?** This verse from Job is a great place to start my favorite Scriptures because it's a great Scripture to remind us of where we have come from and where we go. I like to call this the "U-Haul Verse"; it has been said that you never see a U-Haul on the back of a hearse, because you can't take anything with you. This verse reminds us we don't take anything with us into Heaven except ourselves and the people we have touched. It's also a verse that reminds us to be content, because the Lord gives and the Lord takes away, and even when He does, we need to be content.

## 2 John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in Me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

**WHY?** This is a verse I need to have in my life because too often I act as an independent branch and I act as if I am disconnected from the vine. I need to be reminded of this verse so that I don't get off on my own. It clearly states "apart from Me you can do nothing." Whatever I do I must remain connected to the vine. I want to bear much fruit, but when I try on my own, the fruit will not be eternal fruit; it will only be temporary fruit. I want to bear much "eternal" fruit and I need this verse in my life to remind me of that.

## 3 Revelation 4:8

"Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.'"

**WHY?** This is a great verse about the magnificent sovereignty and greatness of God. There are very few things that you can use the word "Holy" to describe. When I say the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord" I picture a great court of gold and God Almighty sitting on a golden throne draped in splendor with thousands singing Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord. Praise must be part of my life, and there's no better praise than saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord."

## 4 Hebrews 11:1 (Faith and Works)

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

**James 2:14-17**

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. “

**WHY?** These two verses remind me of the great tension between faith and works. Faith without works is dead, works without faith is temporary. We must have confidence and assurance about what we don't see, trusting that the seeds we are planting will, in fact, bear eternal fruit even though we may not see it ourselves. But we must also do the work to help people, because if we do not put action to work, then our faith is lifeless.

## 5 1 Samuel 16:7

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

**WHY?** This is a great verse about perspective and vision. If we could only see the world and our lives the way God sees it, so many things would be completely different than the way they are today. Imagine what your occupation, your school, your family life would be like if we could truly see the heart of people, rather than the outside appearance. Our world would be so completely different; it would look nothing like it looks today. I pray that we can begin or continue to see people the way the Lord sees people, with spiritual eyes.

## 6 Luke 2:52 (NIV)

<sup>52</sup> “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

**WHY?** How did Jesus grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man? Looking back at verse 46 we find it says...<sup>46</sup> “After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers.”

He was: listening, asking questions, showing understanding and giving answers.

He was there to study and learn, and in doing so He was also teaching.

This verse tells me that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and favor, which means He did not have all of those things when He was born, even though He was born fully God and fully man. If He can grow in these areas, then I can grow in these areas. It also tells me how He was able to grow in those areas. It says He was in the temple, among the teachers, listening, asking questions, using His understanding and giving answers. Those are the things we should all be doing if we also want to grow in wisdom, stature and favor. And it's interesting to note that He grew in wisdom, stature and favor with both God and man. It wasn't only God who noticed, but also His fellow citizens around Him.

## 7 Mark 12:30-31

<sup>30</sup> “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

**WHY?** Pastor Karl Vaters said, “love God and love others; the rest of the Bible is pretty much commentary on how to fulfill these two verses.” The latter half of this verse says there is no commandment greater. So of all the other worthy commandments in the Bible, including the 10 Commandments, Jesus says these two are the greatest. We can boil down a great deal of the Bible, of God’s will, of how to live our lives, by simply doing these two things. That does not mean we don’t try to do the rest of the things the Bible says, but much of what the Bible says can fit into these two Commandments.

## **8 Leviticus 8:5**

“Moses said to the assembly, ‘This is what the LORD has commanded to be done.’”

**WHY?** This verse probably means nothing to anyone but me. You will not find anyone posting this verse on their Facebook page, you won’t find any wall plaques with this verse hanging in your friend’s house. This is simply one of thousands of connection verses in the Bible, connecting one thought to another thought. There are hundreds of connection verses that have the appearance of little meaning. But all of God’s Word has meaning. For me, this is a verse I heard God speak to my heart while in the shower in a hotel in Bakersfield, California. I had been specifically asking God for specific direction as to whether or not I should pursue getting my minister’s license. I heard God speak this verse into my heart in response to my request to Him. When I got out of the shower, I got out the Gideon Bible and read Leviticus 8:5 with great expectations. As I read it, I discovered it wasn’t very specific at all. But as I read further, I discovered that this verse is the start of Moses telling the people of Israel that God had called Aaron and all of the Levites to be the priests for the people of Israel. So as I was asking for God’s direction to get my minister’s license, He gave me a verse that appears to be pointless, but it’s the beginning of the Levites receiving their license to minister to the people. This verse confirmed my prayer about pursuing a minister’s license. So just because a verse appears to have little or no meaning, God can still use it for specific direction in each of our lives when He chooses to do so.

## **9 Galatians 5:22-23**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

**WHY?** I love these verses about the fruit of the Spirit because I want to continue to ask God to give me the evidence of these things in my life. It says the “fruit of the Spirit”, for me that means if I have the Holy Spirit in me, then I should be bearing fruit, and if I have the Spirit in me, the fruit should be some of these things: love, joy, peace, faithfulness, etc. So if I’m not bearing this type of fruit, then maybe I’m not living in such a way that the Spirit is active within me. It’s a great check and balance list for life.

## **10 Matthew 25:21**

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

**WHY?** I specifically made this verse my number 10 because this is how I want to end my life. My goal is to live my life in such a way that I eventually hear the words, “well-done, good and faithful servant”. The Bible mentions streets of gold, mansions and crowns, but those are not my goal; my goal is to hear my Lord and Savior say, “well-done, good and faithful servant”.

## **Facts and Trivia about the Bible** Based on King James Version produced in A.D. 1611.

The 39 books of the Old Testament were composed between 1400 and 400 B.C., the 27 books of the New Testament between A.D. 50 and A.D. 100. When the Bible was first written, there were no chapters or verses. Stephen Langton divided the Bible into chapters about A.D. 1228. The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in A.D. 1448, and Robert Stephanus divided the New Testament into verses in A.D. 1551. The first complete Bible with chapter and verse was the Geneva Bible of A.D. 1560.

### **Books of the Bible:**

Old Testament: 39 books

New Testament: 27 books

Complete Bible: 66 books

Middle book of the Old Testament: Proverbs

Middle book of the New Testament: 2 Thessalonians

### **Verses:**

Old Testament: 23,214 verses

New Testament: 7,959 verses

Complete Bible: **31,173 verses**

Middle verse of the Bible: Psalms 103:1,2

Middle verse of the Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 20:17

Middle verse of the New Testament: Acts 17:17

Shortest verse of the Old Testament: 1 Chronicles 1:25

Shortest verse of the New Test: "Jesus wept." John 11:35; "Rejoice evermore" 1 Thess. 5:16

Longest verse in the Bible: Esther 8:9

Verse containing all letters of the alphabet except "J": Ezra 7:21

Verse containing all letters of the alphabet except "Q": Daniel 4:37

Verses most alike: Psalm 107:8,15,21, 31

### **Chapters:**

Old Testament: 929

New Testament: 260

Entire Bible: 1,189

Middle chapter of Old Testament: Job 29

Middle chapter of New Testament: Romans 13

Middle and shortest chapter of Bible: Psalms 117

Longest chapter in the Bible: Psalm 119

Chapters that are most alike: 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 37

### **Words:**

In the Old Testament: 592,439 words

In the New Testament: 181,253 words

Complete Bible: 773, 692 words

Longest word in the Bible (18 letters): Maher-shalal-hash-baz (Isaiah 8:1)

Words occurring only once in the Bible: eternity (Isaiah 57:15); grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5);

gnat (Matthew 23:24)

- <http://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/facts-and-trivia>