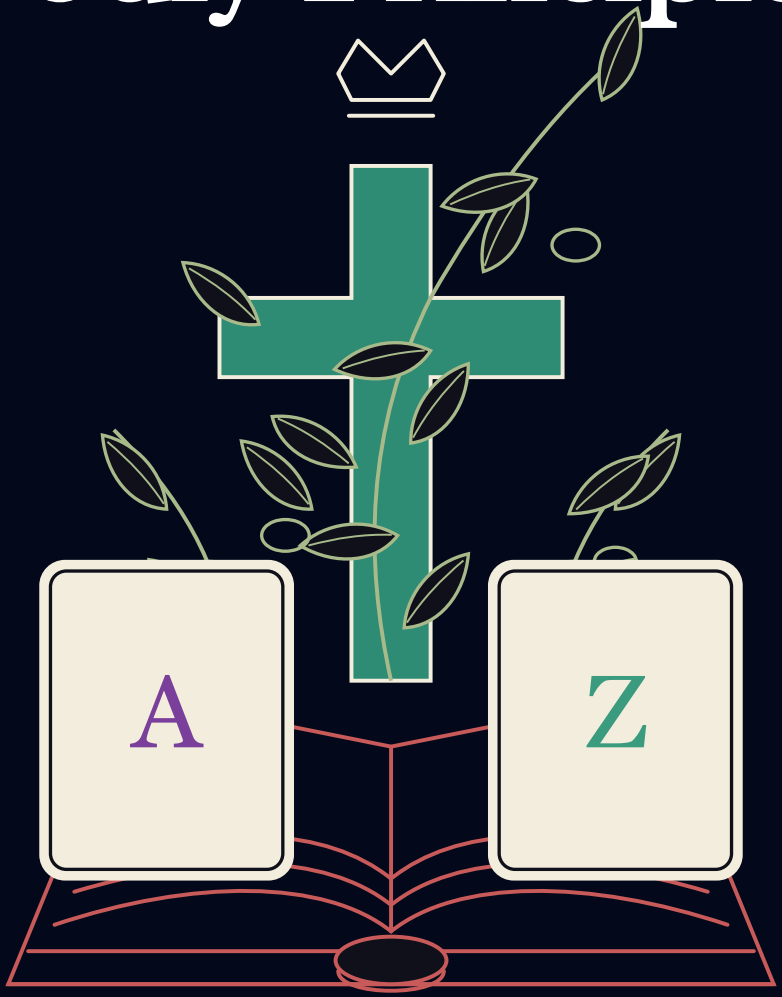
According to Godly Principles



an alphabetical consideration

PROLOGUE

The Christian journey is one of continual growth, faith, and spiritual reflection. Biblical teachings provide principles that guide personal decisions, shape character, and strengthen relationships with God.

This A–Z compilation explores the values, attitudes, and behaviours to which Christians may aspire. It is hoped that the author's reflections will arouse further spiritual awareness, self-examination, and a reinforced commitment to living according to God's Word.

A

Accountability — the willingness to accept responsibility for personal conduct and remain answerable to Godly principles.

Apathy — a condition of spiritual indifference that weakens the desire to serve God and participate in His purposes.

Authority — the legitimate power, or responsibility to guide, govern, and establish order according to righteous principles.

A Christian would be expected to remain faithful to God's principles, and accept accountability for their actions. This is preferable to allowing apathy or spiritual indifference to weaken the desire to serve Him.

B

Bitterness — persistent resentment, or hostility that develops as a result of unresolved anger.

Burnout — a state of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion resulting from prolonged demands, without sufficient rest and restoration.

When a Christian allows anger, resentment, and lack of forgiveness to persist, bitterness can take root in their heart and affect their relationship with God and others. Over time, the emotional and spiritual weight of these struggles can lead to burnout and create a barrier to serving God wholeheartedly.

C

Compassion — the ability to recognise another person's suffering and respond with genuine concern and practical kindness.

Contentment — a state of gratitude and satisfaction rooted in trust in God's provision.

Covetousness — an excessive desire for possessions, opportunities, or circumstances associated with another person.

Covenant — a sacred commitment, or binding relationship established through faithfulness, responsibility, and mutual obligation.

Christians are called to show compassion by recognising the struggles of others and responding with love and kindness. We should remain content with what God has provided, trusting in His timing and provision, rather than comparing ourselves to others, or allowing covetousness to take root in our hearts.

D

Deception — the deliberate distortion, or concealment of truth to mislead another person.

Discernment — the ability to distinguish truth from error and recognise what is spiritually and morally appropriate.

Discontentment — a condition of dissatisfaction arising from an excessive focus on what is personally lacking.

Christians should avoid deception by being honest and truthful in words and actions, allowing God's Word to prevail. Rather than allowing discontentment to take root through focusing on what is lacking, gratitude and trust in God's plan, provision, and timing are better.

E

Envy — resentment towards blessings, possessions, achievements, or advantages of others.

Exclusivity — the recognition that God alone deserves supreme devotion, worship, and ultimate authority.

Christians should guard their hearts against envy by learning to celebrate others' blessings, and trusting that God has a unique purpose and plan for each person. God's exclusivity must also be recognised, understanding that He alone deserves the highest devotion, worship, loyalty, and authority.

F

Faithfulness — consistent loyalty and obedience to God and the associated commitments.

Forgiveness — the deliberate release of personal vengeance and resentment, while entrusting justice to God.

Fellowship — meaningful spiritual association characterised by shared faith, encouragement, worship, and mutual support.

Christians are called to demonstrate faithfulness through consistent obedience to God and by honouring the commitments made to Him and others. Forgiveness must be practised by letting go of resentment and bitterness, choosing to show the same grace that God has demonstrated.

G

Generosity — the willing sharing of resources, time, and abilities to benefit and support others.

Gratitude — the recognition and appreciation of God's goodness, provision, and blessings.

Greed — an excessive desire to acquire, or retain possessions and resources for personal advantage.

Gossip — the unnecessary, or harmful discussion of the private affairs, or reputations of others.

Christians are called to demonstrate generosity by willingly sharing time, resources, and abilities to help and support others. An attitude of gratitude should be maintained, recognising God's goodness and appreciating the blessings He has provided.

H

Hatred — deep hostility, or animosity towards others that conflicts with the Biblical call to love thy neighbour.

Honour — the demonstration of respect, dignity, and appropriate recognition towards God and others.

Honesty — the practice of communicating and acting truthfully, without deception or manipulation.

Humility — the recognition of dependence on God and the willingness to act without arrogance, or self-exaltation.

Christians are called to reject hatred and hostility towards others, choosing instead to demonstrate the love and forgiveness that Christ teaches.

I

Idolatry — the elevation of anything created above God in devotion, dependence, worship, or ultimate importance.

Integrity — the consistency of character demonstrated when beliefs, words, and actions remain aligned with truth.

Isolation — a condition of separation from meaningful relationships, fellowship, or supportive community.

Christians must be careful not to allow anything in life, such as money, relationships, possessions, or success, to take the place of God in their hearts.

J

Jealousy — an emotional response involving insecurity or resentment over the relationships, possessions, or advantages of others.

Justice — the fair and righteous treatment of others according to truth, accountability, and moral responsibility.

Christians should guard their hearts against jealousy by learning to trust God's plan for their lives, rather than allowing insecurity, comparison, or resentment towards others to take control. Instead, the blessings of others should be celebrated alongside contentment with what God has provided.

K

Kingdom — God's sovereign reign, authority, and purposes expressed through the life and mission of His people.

Kindness — the deliberate expression of goodness, consideration, and compassion towards others.

Christians are called to live according to God's Kingdom, recognising His sovereignty, authority, and purpose in human lives. By practising kindness, God's character is reflected through personal actions of compassion, patience, generosity, and consideration towards those around us. In doing so, people become examples of Christ's love and help fulfil His Kingdom's purposes here on earth.

L

Love — the selfless commitment to seek the good of God and others through devotion, compassion, truth, and action.

Lust — an uncontrolled desire that reduces another person to an object of personal gratification.

Christians are called to demonstrate genuine love by putting God first and seeking the good of others through compassion, selflessness, honesty, and kindness. Hearts and minds must be guarded against lust, ensuring that desires do not lead into temptation, or cause the viewing of others as objects for personal gratification. Purity, self-control, and respect should, instead, be practised by allowing God's love and teachings to guide relationships, thoughts, and actions.

M

Malice — the intention, or desire to cause harm, suffering, or injury to another person.

Mission — the representation of Christ through service, discipleship, and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Christians should set their hearts against malice by rejecting hatred, bitterness, and the desire to cause harm to others. Even towards those who may have wronged us, Christ-like love, forgiveness, and compassion should be demonstrated.

O

Obedience — the willing submission of one's conduct and decisions to God's commands and Biblical instruction.

Christians are called to demonstrate obedience by willingly submitting decisions, actions, and lifestyles to God's commands, and allowing His Word to guide them. Through obedience and dependence on Him, we can find peace, strength, and reassurance even during challenging seasons.

P

Peace — a condition of spiritual and relational wellbeing, grounded in trust in God and the pursuit of righteousness.

Purity — the condition of moral and spiritual integrity, expressed through faithful thoughts, intentions, and conduct.

Christians are called to pursue peace by trusting in God, following His guidance, and maintaining healthy relationships with others.

R

Reconciliation — the restoration of broken relationships through truth, forgiveness, accountability, and a genuine pursuit of peace.

Reverence — reverence towards God may be demonstrated by recognising His holiness, honouring His authority, and placing Him above all else in life.

Christians are called to pursue reconciliation by seeking to restore broken relationships through forgiveness, honesty, accountability, and a genuine desire for peace. Reverence towards God may be demonstrated by recognising His holiness, honouring His authority, and placing Him above all else in life.

S

Sabbath — sacred rest established as a time of cessation from ordinary labour and worship. It is also a time to recognise God's provision.

Christians are called to honour the Sabbath by setting aside time for rest, worship, and reflection on God's provision, recognising that lives should not be consumed by constant work.

T

Temptation — an enticement to pursue a desire, or action that may conflict with God's commands and moral principles.

Christians should recognise temptation and resist the desire to pursue anything contrary to God's commands, relying on His strength and wisdom to help make righteous choices.

V

Vengeance — the personal pursuit of retaliation, or punishment against a being perceived to have caused harm.

Christians should resist vengeance, or retaliation, by showing forgiveness, patience, and grace.

W

Wisdom — the ability to apply knowledge and understanding in ways that reflect God's truth and righteous judgement.

Witness — the act of demonstrating or communicating the truth of the Gospel through words, conduct, and service.

Worship — the expression of devotion, honour, and reverence towards God.

Through worship, Christians honour God with devotion, reverence, and obedience, recognising Him as the centre of our lives. By displaying wisdom, living as faithful witnesses, and worshipping God wholeheartedly, a life rooted in faith is demonstrated.