 In Christ

> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.
> — *1 Corinthians 13:3*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: poverty, body, giving, love, pride, suffering

Interpretation:
The verse in *1 Corinthians 13:3* reminds us that no matter how many good deeds we do, if we do not do them out of love, everything we do will be in vain.

How can this verse help us?

This Bible verse helps us remember how important love is. In a society that tends to value works, status, and appearances more, *1 Corinthians 13:3* reminds us that love is the most important thing. We can engage in many noble deeds and make great sacrifices, but if we do not have love, everything we do will be in vain.

Moreover, this Bible verse helps us think about our motives. Why do we do what we do? What is our motivation? Are we doing it out of love or for some less noble reason? Remembering the value of love can motivate us to do things for the right reasons.

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> The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.
> — *1 Samuel 2:7*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: poverty, Almighty, dependence, humility, money

Interpretation:

In *1 Samuel 2:7* we are taught that God has absolute control over wealth and poverty. He is the one who enriches some and impoverishes others, who brings some low and exalts others. The biblical idea behind this verse is that God is sovereign and His providence extends to every aspect of our lives, including our financial situation.

God uses wealth and poverty as disciplines in the life of a believer to bring him to greater humility. On the other hand, God can also use wealth to bless and support the work of the gospel. However, we must always remember that it is not money that will bring us happiness and complete satisfaction, but the *presence of God in our lives*.

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> Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 6:10*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: poverty, joy, materialism, money, reward, sadness

Interpretation:
2 Corinthians 6:10 is an interesting passage that talks about a seeming contradiction we can experience in our lives. On one hand, we can feel sad and poor, but at the same time, we can have joy and wealth.

Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing

The first part of this verse tells us to be joyful despite being sad. It is important to note that this does not mean that we do not feel sadness or pain, but rather that we can experience both emotions at the same time. As Christians, we know that God is with us in our trials and tribulations, and this helps us to feel more confident and to seek joy despite adversity. He is our source of lasting happiness, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Poor, but making many rich

In the second part of this verse, St. *Paul* encourages us to consider how we can be poor, but at the same time enrich ourselves and others. Sometimes we think that wealth is measured only by material

means, but the true meaning of wealth is the ability to share what you have with others.

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> The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.
>
> — *Isaiah 61:1*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: poverty, freedom, Holy Spirit, hope, Redeemer, Spirit

Interpretation:
Isaiah 61:1 is a verse of great significance in the Bible because it directly relates to *Jesus's* mission on earth. The prophet *Isaiah* foretold that *the Spirit of the Lord* would come upon the one who would be *the Messiah*, and that he would preach good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and open the eyes of those in bondage.

How can this verse help the reader?

Isaiah 61:1 can help the reader better understand Jesus's mission on earth as the Messiah and Savior of the world. It can also be a great source of hope and comfort for those going through difficult times. Knowing that God is always near and cares for His children can bring calm and peace in difficult times.

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> Because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow’s heart sing.

> — *Job 29:12-13*

Book: Old Testament / Job
Topics: poverty, orphans, singing, widows

Interpretation:
In the Bible, *Job 29:12-13* speaks *of Job's* passion for helping those in need. These verses describe how Job extended a helping hand to those on the verge of losing everything, offering them help and joy in their most difficult moments.

Through his kindness and care for others, Job earned God's mercy and blessing. This passage shows us the importance of showing solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the faith and how our actions can have a positive impact on their lives.

How can these verses help us in our own lives?

These Bible verses teach us much about following Job's example and helping those in need. Often, people need much more than just financial or material help. They also need emotional and spiritual support.

Someone who will reach out to them, listen to them, and encourage them to continue on their journey. In this sense, we can follow Job's example and become an emotional support for those in need. This is how we can share God's blessings with others.

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> John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”
> — *Luke 3:11*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: poverty, clothing, food, giving, materialism, neighbor

Interpretation:

The Gospel of Luke introduces us to the story of *John the Baptist*, who called the multitudes to repent of their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. In this context, *verse 3:11* is an expression of the Christian ethic, which focuses on helping and being generous to those who are most in need.

The importance of sharing

John the Baptist's call for help and fellowship should not be underestimated or ignored. In this verse, we are reminded that it is our responsibility to share with those in need. Sharing is more than just giving alms or doing charity, it is essentially an attitude we should adopt towards those who are less fortunate. It is an expression of love and compassion for our fellow man.

In today's society, we often tend to focus on our own affairs and concerns. However, John the Baptist's call reminds us that community and the well-being of others are equally important, and we should value them equally. It is therefore vital to consider everything we can offer to society, from skills and resources to simple acts of caring and attention.

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> The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.
> *— Luke 4:18*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: poverty, Evangelism, freedom, healing, slavery, Spirit

Interpretation:
In *Luke 4:18*, *Jesus* speaks *of the Spirit of the Lord*, which is the presence of God in His life and in the lives of those who believe in Him. *The Holy Spirit* guides and directs our lives, giving us the strength to face the challenges of the world. Jesus is an example for all of us because He did God's will despite all the trials and tribulations He faced.

The fact that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Jesus is an acknowledgment that *He is the Messiah*, the chosen one of God. The anointing is a sign of authority and that He is chosen by God to carry out His plan of salvation.

The mission of Jesus

Jesus says that He was sent to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. He came into the world to help people come out of darkness and into the light. His message is one of hope and love, and His mission is to bring salvation to all who receive Him.

Jesus fulfilled His mission through His earthly ministry. He traveled everywhere, proclaiming God's message and modeling love and compassion. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and set captives free. His ministry was a manifestation of God's love for humanity and a lesson in how we should live.

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> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
>
> *— Philippians 4:12*

Book: New Testament / Philippians
Topics: poverty, contentment, food, life, money

Interpretation:
The Apostle *Paul* wrote to the church in Philippi about their ability to live in any situation. He said that he had learned to live modestly, and he also learned to live abundantly. But most importantly, Paul attributed his ability to survive in any situation to one person: *Jesus Christ*.

Learning to live with humility

In this verse, Paul says that he has learned to live humbly. This is a difficult lesson, since humility often contradicts our human nature. Humility means recognizing that we are completely dependent on God and that we are not above others.

This recognition of our dependence on God leads us not only to a more modest life, but also to a sense of true freedom. Not worrying about what others think of us or accumulating earthly things allows us to trust in the One who cares for us.

Learning to have abundance

The Apostle Paul also talks about the ability to have abundance. This is also difficult for many Christians, since we often think of poverty as a sign of holiness. However, the Bible is full of stories of prosperous people like *Job and Abraham*. God promised blessings and prosperity to those who obey and trust Him.

Prosperity can also give us the opportunity to bless others. God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others. We can share our financial and material goods, but we can also share our knowledge, wisdom, and time.

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> A person’s riches may ransom their life, but the poor cannot respond to threatening rebukes.
> — *Proverbs 13:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: poverty, fear, materialism, money

Interpretation:
This verse from *Proverbs 13:8* makes a clear connection between wealth and a person’s life. This verse suggests that wealth can be a lifeline in dangerous times. On the other hand, it also shows us that the poor are less likely to pay attention to threats.

The importance of wealth

Wealth is important to our lives because it provides us with security and stability. If we have a good supply of food, a safe place to live, and access to health care, we will be less vulnerable to dangers that may affect our lives.

Moreover, we can also protect ourselves from external threats by investing in safety measures. Wealth gives us insurance that is invaluable in times of crisis.

The poor and threats

The rest of this verse says that the poor do not listen to threats. This suggests that the poor are more likely to ignore threats made to them by others. Poverty can make us more vulnerable and unable to prevent the dangers we face.

Lack of resources can make it difficult to buy food and access health care, so the poor may have a harder time protecting their lives than the rich.

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> All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
> — *Proverbs 14:23*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: poverty, encouragement, reliability, speaking

Interpretation:
Proverbs 14:23 is a Bible verse that encourages us to work hard and persevere in order to achieve our goals. This passage reminds us that any hard work will ultimately bring satisfaction, while empty words will only lead us to poverty. This verse speaks of practical wisdom that can guide us through life.

The value of work

The underlying principle of this verse is the value of work. The Bible says that God created man to work and take care of the earth *(Genesis 2:15)*. Work is a blessing, not a curse, although sometimes we may feel overwhelmed by the tasks, stress, or pressures of everyday life.

Moreover, work is not only a source of income that allows us to pay the bills, but also an opportunity to develop skills and talents that shape our personality and position in society.

Work and fruit

The Bible passage also says that “all labor brings forth fruit.” This means that any work put in with diligence and dedication will eventually bear fruit. However, this does not happen overnight: commercial or professional success is the result of many years of hard work and dedication.

Many of humanity's greatest achievements have been achieved through years of research and dedication. On the other hand, if we give up halfway through, we cannot expect to be rewarded.

Empty words that impoverish

The second aspect of the proverb is the warning that "empty words lead to poverty." This means that empty and useless words lead us to poverty, although not necessarily material. The Bible teaches that our words can have serious consequences.

Words of encouragement build hope, while negative and hurtful words can destroy an entire life. Talking without action is like sowing without expecting a harvest.

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> What a person desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.
> — *Proverbs 19:22*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: poverty, goodness, money, reliability

Interpretation:
Proverbs 19:22 reminds us of the importance of showing mercy in a person’s life and how it can be a source of satisfaction for him.

Charity is one of the fundamental Christian virtues that teaches us to love and serve others without asking for anything in return. This virtue is important in the life of a believer, and in order to live out its teachings, we must constantly practice it in our lives.

What does it mean to show mercy?

Charity is the ability to feel compassion and empathy for the difficulties and suffering of others. Showing mercy means paying attention to the needs of others, providing support and offering help when needed.

It is more than just material assistance. Showing mercy is an act of love and compassion that transcends cultural, racial and economic differences.

The Pleasure of Mercy

Proverbs 19:22 tells us about the satisfaction that comes from showing mercy. This satisfaction comes from the fact that helping others helps us feel good about ourselves and find meaning in our lives.

In a society that often pushes us to pursue success, power, and money, charity reminds us how important it is to be generous and to seek the well-being of others. This simple yet powerful act can fill our lives with meaning and happiness, while at the same time improving the lives of our fellow humans.

Better to be poor than a liar

Another part of *Proverbs 19:22* tells us about the importance of respecting truth in our lives. Truth is the most important virtue in the Christian life, and it goes far beyond what we say and do. Truth is also our way of seeing the world and God, and acting in harmony with what we believe.

In this sense, the verse asks us to choose truth over lies, even if the outcome is unfavorable to us. Instead of choosing a life full of deceit and lies, it is better to be poor, that is, to be considered a person who has no financial resources, but whose behavior honors God and others.

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> The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.
> — *Proverbs 22:7*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: poverty, debt, money, slavery

Interpretation:
This verse speaks of the power of money and how it can affect human relationships. The rich can exercise power over the poor, becoming their masters and establishing relationships of inequality and dependency. On the other hand, the borrower becomes the servant of the lender, meaning that the person who borrows loses their freedom and independence because they are indebted to someone else.

It is important to reflect on this verse because it helps us understand the power dynamics that can arise in our interpersonal relationships, especially when it comes to money. Not only can money affect our ability to meet our basic needs, it can also affect our emotions and self-esteem.

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> Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.
> *— Proverbs 30:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: poverty, food, lying, materialism, money, reliability

Interpretation:
In the book of Proverbs, *Agur* makes a sincere and humble request to God in chapter 30, verse 8. In this verse, Agur asks the Lord to keep him from vanity and lies and to give him only the necessities of life, which is daily sustenance.

Vanity and lies

Vanity and lies are two terms that are mentioned together many times in the Bible. Some people think that vanity and lies in everyday life are the shortest path to reaching the top. However, Agur shows in this verse that this attitude is not typical for those who are seeking to live a righteous life in the eyes of God.

It is important to remember that God is a God of truth, and everything He gives us is based on truth, not lies. Vanity causes us to desire things that are not necessary and to seek to impress others, which can ultimately lead us away from the path of God.

Poverty and wealth

This verse also talks about the importance of balance in our lives, which is especially important when it comes to wealth. Agur asks God to grant him neither poverty nor wealth, but to give him only what he needs to live.

It is important to note that poverty and wealth can affect our relationship with God. Poverty can make us feel powerless and dependent on others, while wealth can make us rely on ourselves and forget God. By asking God to give us only the food we need, Agur shows his trust in God and his willingness to always seek Him.

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> Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
> — *Proverbs 31:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: poverty, giving, righteousness, speaking, widows

Interpretation:
Proverbs 31:9 calls us to act justly and to champion the cause of the poor and needy. This verse is a call to action for the Christian community, reminding us that God expects us to help not only the more fortunate but also the less fortunate.

The word "poor" in the original Hebrew means "one in need," and "needy" refers to someone in extreme poverty, lacking resources, and in dire need of assistance.

Judge with justice

Judgment with justice involves making decisions based on facts, not personal bias. It is important not to judge others by their appearance, ethnicity, gender, or any other factor that might obscure a person's true situation. A just judge is one who considers all the evidence before making a decision and seeks the truth before jumping to hasty conclusions.

Championing the cause of the poor

The idea of ??championing the needy permeates the Bible. Christians are called to be the voice of the voiceless and to defend their right to justice and equal treatment before the law. We must be those who recognize the needs of the poor and are willing to do something for them.

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> Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.

> — *Psalm 10:12*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: poverty, neighbor, Prayer

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is a collection of poetic songs and prayers expressing the feelings of the people of Israel toward God in various situations. Psalm 10 describes the oppression and injustice faced by the poor and needy in ancient times, calling on God to intercede for them. Verse 12 of this psalm is a persistent plea for God's help in a social emergency.

The importance of solidarity with the poor

The Bible teaches that God shows special care for the poor and disadvantaged and expects His people to treat them fairly and compassionately. In the Old Testament, the Law of Moses established a number of rules for the protection of the poor, orphans, widows, and foreigners, and the prophets condemned the exploitation of the weak by the rich and powerful.

In the New Testament, *Jesus* showed particular compassion for the poor and sick and encouraged His followers to share their possessions with those in need rather than hoard earthly treasures. The Book of James speaks harshly of the injustice and oppression faced by the poor and calls on the rich to weep and mourn for their sins.

Therefore, *Psalm 10:12* reminds us of the importance of raising our voices and lifting our hands in support of the poor and needy of our time. In a world where economic and social inequality remains a painful reality, we must recognize our responsibility as Christians and as individuals to be agents of change and fight for justice.

The power of prayer

Psalm 10:12 also reveals the psalmist's confidence in the power of prayer to change circumstances. This call is a call to divine action in a moment of despair and helplessness, but it is also an act of faith, recognizing that God can intervene in human history and restore justice.

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on God and devotion to Him, allowing us to turn to Him with humility and trust in His love and power. Prayer is not a magic formula that guarantees the fulfillment of our requests, but a path to encounter with the living God, who hears us and guides us in our daily lives.

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> This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.
> — *Psalm 34:6*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: poverty, listening, Prayer, Salvation

Interpretation:
Psalm 34 is one of the most beautiful in the entire Bible. *David*, its author, wrote this verse while fleeing from *Saul*, who wanted to kill him. This verse speaks of how God hears and saves the poor who cry out to Him for help. At that time, David experienced torment and pain, but trusting in God, He delivered him from all adversity.

What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

In the Bible, poverty is not limited to a lack of material resources but also refers to the state of those who humbly submit to God. To be poor in spirit means recognizing that without God we have nothing and need His help and guidance in our lives. It is a state of humility and dependence on God.

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> Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
> — *Psalm 82:3*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: poverty, neighbor, orphans, righteousness, weakness

Interpretation:
Psalm 82:3 is a call to social justice, urging us to protect the weak and orphans, and to show justice to the oppressed and needy. In this verse, God shows us the importance of caring for the vulnerable in

our society and providing them with the help and justice they need.

Compassion and empathy

At the time this psalm was written, protecting orphans and the poor was the responsibility of governments and religious leaders. However, today, we can all take part in this work. Each of us can contribute to creating a more just and equal society for all.

It is important to follow *Jesus'* example and show compassion and empathy to those who are suffering and in need. We must teach our children that compassion is an important virtue and that everyone deserves fair and loving treatment. Instead of ignoring those in need, we must find ways to help and support them in their struggles. Therefore, we must do everything possible to support the charities that work tirelessly to improve the lives of those who need it most. We can make donations, offer our time and skills, or simply spread the word about the causes that matter most to us.

Fighting injustice

It's also important to do our part to fight injustice. While it may seem overwhelming to be angry about the problems we face nationally and internationally, we must remember that every small action matters. If we all take action, we can make a significant difference in the world around us.

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> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
> — *Romans 8:35*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: poverty, love, persecution, suffering

Interpretation:
Christ's love for his followers is the foundation of the Christian life. *Romans 8:35* asks us if there is anything that can separate us from that love. *The Apostle Paul* lists a number of difficult situations that we may face in life, but none of them can separate us from the love of Christ.

Challenging life situations

Paul begins his list of difficult situations with the words *“trouble”* or *“hardship,”* which can refer to any type of physical or emotional pain we experience in life. Persecution refers to the hostility that Christians often face because of their faith. Famine and nakedness can refer to poverty and lack of resources, while danger and the sword refer to violence and the risk of death.

The love of Christ is stronger

While these situations may be difficult to face, Paul assures us that none of them can separate us from the love of Christ. In other words, Christ's love is greater than any hardship we may face. No matter how much we suffer, Christ loves us and will support us.

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