> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.
> *— 1 John 1:6*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: honesty, lying, sin, truth

Interpretation:
Fellowship with God is one of the most important themes in the Bible. In *1 John 1:6, the apostle John* warns us that if we claim to have fellowship with God but walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. In other words, we cannot claim to have a close relationship with God if our actions do not reflect that relationship.

What does it mean to walk in darkness?

Walking in darkness means living in darkness, in spiritual ignorance, in sin and evil. If our lives are marked by lies, injustice, hatred, envy, selfishness, and other sins, then we are walking in darkness and cannot claim fellowship with God. We must remember that light and darkness cannot coexist *(1 John 1:5)*.

Sincerity and honesty are crucial

If we want to have a close relationship with God, we must be sincere and honest with Him and with ourselves. We cannot expect to have fellowship with God unless we are willing to confront our sins and mistakes, repent, and seek His forgiveness and healing. Sincerity and honesty are the foundation of a genuine relationship with God.

Practice the truth

Practice the truth involves putting the Bible's commands into practice and living according to God's will. It is not enough to know God's word and believe in Him; we must put His teachings into practice in our daily lives. We must love God above all else and love our neighbors as ourselves. If we make truth a constant practice in our lives, we will demonstrate that we have fellowship with God.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ

from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.
> *— 1 John 3:18*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: honesty, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
In *1 John 3:18, the apostle John* calls us to love with actions and truth, not just words or tongues. This verse shows us the need for our actions to speak louder than our words and that we must be sincere in everything we do and say, especially when it comes to loving others.

Why is it important to love with actions?

Loving with actions is important because it is a way for us to demonstrate our commitment to others. It may be easy to say, “I love you” or “I care about you,” but if our actions do not reflect these words, then our love is not real.

Real love is demonstrated through our actions and attitude toward others. Moreover, when we love with actions, our words become more powerful and meaningful.

Why is it important to love with authenticity?

Loving with authenticity is important because it reflects a sincere and genuine attitude toward others. It means being honest and open in everything we do and say.

When we love truly, we are not only being true to ourselves and others, but we are also showing respect and consideration for others. Loving truly allows us to form deeper and more meaningful relationships with others.

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> Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.
> *— 2 Chronicles 19:7*

Book: Old Testament / 2 Chronicles
Topics: honesty, awe, righteousness

Interpretation:
The book of *2 Chronicles* tells the story of the life and reign of King *Jehoshaphat*. This king was known for his faithfulness to God and his desire to gain the Lord's approval in his decisions. In *chapter 19* of the book, we read a verse in which Jehoshaphat appoints judges in the kingdom of Judah. ??He gives them clear instructions on how they are to carry out their roles and reminds them of the importance of fearing God.

The verse in question is a continuation of the instructions Jehoshaphat gives to the judges. He tells them that the fear of the Lord is to be with them. That is, they are to have deep *respect and reverence for God and His Word*. He then gives them a reason for this fear by telling them that God is just and does not show favoritism or be bribed. In other words, God will not be influenced by what man may offer.

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> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
> *— 2 Timothy 2:15*

Book: New Testament / 2 Timothy
Topics: honesty, truth, work

Interpretation:
The first step in this verse is, *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved."* What does this mean? First of all, it is important to remember that God does not want people to remain merely superficial, but rather expects each of His followers to make the greatest effort to be able to reach Him

as prepared as possible.

This idea of ??presenting yourself approved before God can be understood in different ways depending on how the text is interpreted. However, we can say that the goal is for each of us, as individuals and as part of the Christian community, to be able to show the best version of ourselves by performing daily tasks aimed at doing things in the best possible way.

The second step of this verse teaches us the importance of acting without shame. That is, when we present ourselves approved before God, we should do so with confidence and firmness because we are doing the right thing. It is important that when we act, we have nothing to be ashamed of and that our actions are in line with our Christian values ??and principles.

The last step of this verse tells us the importance of using the word of truth correctly. What does this mean? In general terms, it means that we must have a genuine knowledge *of God's Word* and not sacrifice its meaning or content to adapt it to our interests or needs.

We must carefully analyze and study the Bible's teachings in order to correctly understand what God wants from us.

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> Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”
> — *Acts 5:3-4*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: honesty, devil, lying, money

Interpretation:
The verses in question come from *Acts 5*, which tells the story of *Ananias and Sapphira*, a couple who wanted to deceive the apostles and the Christian community in Jerusalem. They sold a property but decided to keep some of the money for themselves and only do part of what they had agreed to do.

Ananias and Sapphira, a story of deception

Peter, one of the leaders of the church, asks Ananias and Sapphira why they lied about the income from the sale of a plot of land. Ananias had promised to sell his land and bring all the money to the apostles, but he lied to the *Holy Spirit*. In other words, he sinned.

At the time the *Acts of the Apostles* was written, the Christian community was characterized by love and generosity, a desire to share with others what they had and to help the poor. So Ananias and Sapphira acted deceitfully and selfishly, trying to make it appear that they were giving away all the money they got from selling their property, when in fact they were keeping some of it for themselves.

Fighting the temptation to sin

These verses show us that we are all susceptible to the temptation to sin. Ananias is an example of how we can fall into lying and dishonesty if we are not careful. Satan, the enemy of our souls, seeks to deceive us into sin.

Lying to God

These verses teach us that lying to others is lying to God. In this sense, Ananias and Sapphira's deception was directed not only against the Christian community, but also against God. This fact takes on special significance in the context of the time when *Acts* was written, when the Christian community was being persecuted and oppressed by religious leaders and the Roman authorities.

Beyond the seriousness of Ananias and Sapphira's deception, these verses are a reminder that every action we take has consequences and that we are responsible for them. Even when we think no one is watching us or we can hide our actions, God is always watching us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to act with honesty and integrity in all areas of our lives, even in the most mundane situations.

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> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.
>
> *— James 3:17*

Book: New Testament / James

Topics: honesty, peace, wisdom

Interpretation:
In chapter 3, the author discusses the importance of controlling the tongue and how it can become a hindrance in the Christian life. In verse 17, the author presents a description of true wisdom, which is from God and is different from the wisdom of the world.

Purity of wisdom

The first attribute of wisdom from above is its purity. The wisdom that comes from God is pure in nature and motive. It is a wisdom that seeks holiness, free from all defilement and sinful desires.

Peaceful wisdom

The next attribute of wisdom that comes from God is peace. True wisdom is peaceable; it does not seek conflict, but seeks reconciliation. Instead of seeking revenge or self-righteousness, the wisdom of God seeks peace and harmony among people.

Kind and beneficial wisdom

The next attribute of wisdom that comes from God is its kindness and gentleness. It is a wisdom that does not seek to hurt or harm anyone. Instead, it seeks the welfare and benefit of others. It seeks to build up and comfort, not to destroy and hurt.

Wisdom full of mercy and good fruit

Another attribute of the wisdom that comes from God is mercy and good fruit. True wisdom is demonstrated in concrete actions that demonstrate concern for others and a willingness to help them. The wisdom that comes from God is not merely theoretical; it is demonstrated in concrete actions that benefit others.

Wisdom without uncertainty and hypocrisy

Finally, the author of James emphasizes that the wisdom that comes from God has neither uncertainty nor hypocrisy. It does not waver, doubt, or deceive. It is a wisdom that is based on and consistent with the truth.

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> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.
> — *James 5:12*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: honesty, judgment, punishment, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
James 5:12 encourages us to be honest and consistent in our words and actions at all times. In this passage, *James* admonishes us not to swear, that is, to make promises or commitments that we cannot keep. Instead, he encourages us to speak the truth and be clear in our answers to avoid condemnation.

The importance of being honest and consistent in your words

There are many reasons why we should be honest and consistent in our words. First, as Christians, we are called to be imitators *of Jesus*, who always spoke the truth and kept His promises. Furthermore, if we want to be trustworthy and reliable in the eyes of others, it is important that our words match our actions.

Moreover, being honest and consistent in our words helps us to be more authentic and transparent. When we say what we mean and act in accordance with our values, we are being true to ourselves and what we believe. This allows us to have deeper and more meaningful relationships with others and gives us a greater sense of peace and security in our daily lives.

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> There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.
> — *Luke 12:2*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: honesty, truth

Interpretation:
Luke 12:2 teaches us the importance of transparency, reminding us that nothing will remain hidden and that eventually, everything that was kept secret will come to light. In today's society, we are often taught to keep secrets and protect personal information, but the *Bible* shows us the importance of honesty and transparency in our personal and professional relationships.

This verse means that all of our actions, both good and bad, will eventually be exposed and judged. That is, no matter how hard we try to hide certain actions, they will eventually come to light and we will have to face the consequences.

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> No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.
> *— Luke 8:16*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: honesty, Holiness, Light

Interpretation:
In the Bible, light is a major symbol of God's presence in our lives. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, mentions the creation of the sun and moon to illuminate the earth and separate light from darkness. In the New Testament, *Jesus* calls Himself the light of the world, again identifying light as a symbol of God's presence. In *Luke 8:16*, *Jesus* continues to talk about light and its importance in our daily lives.

Meaning of the verse

This verse uses the image of a lit lamp. The light is not placed under a bed or under a basket, but is placed in a prominent place, on a lampstand, for all to see. The main idea of this verse is that light should be visible, not hidden.

For Christians, this means going out and sharing the gospel with others, but it also means being a positive example to those around us. As we continually seek God's presence in our daily lives, His light will shine through us, and others will notice a difference in our attitude and behavior.

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> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
> — *Matthew 5:8*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: honesty, blessing, heart

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of verses that show us how to live a full and satisfying life by following God's commands. One of the most powerful verses in this regard is *Matthew 5:8*.

Meaning of the verse

This verse is a call for inner purity, a pure heart free from sin. The term *"blessed"* means *"happy"* and refers to those who keep their hearts pure and undefiled by their daily actions and thoughts.

"Seeing God" means having a close and deep relationship with Him, being aware of His presence in our lives and His love for us. To achieve this, we must keep our hearts pure and free from all impurities.

Benefits of a pure heart

Those who keep a pure and undefiled heart benefit in many ways. On the one hand, they enjoy the inner peace that comes from knowing that they are following God's commandments and doing His will.

In addition, they can experience God's presence in their lives more closely and deeply, which gives them comfort, wisdom, and strength to face the challenges that come their way.

How to achieve a pure heart

To achieve a pure heart, it is necessary to engage in daily actions that bring us closer to God and keep us from sinning. Some of these actions include:

- *Prayer and Meditation*: Daily prayer is an effective way to stay connected to God and ask Him to fill our hearts with His love and grace. Meditation also helps us focus our minds on God and distance ourselves from negative and sinful thoughts.

- *Bible Reading*: Daily Bible reading is essential to understanding God's will and how we should conduct ourselves at all times.
- *Confession and Repentance*: No one is perfect, and we all make mistakes and sin. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge our mistakes and ask God for forgiveness in order to keep our hearts pure and free from guilt.

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> Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.
>
> *— Proverbs 10:2*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, money, righteousness

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is considered one of the wisest books in the Bible, and is full of instructions on how to live righteously and wisely. In chapter 10, verse 2, we are taught an important lesson about the value of justice and the dangers of amassing wealth through dishonest means.

A warning about treasures of evil

Here we are reminded that no matter how much money, power, or wealth we accumulate in our lives, if we have acquired it through unlawful or evil means, it will do us no good. We may think that these treasures will bring us security and happiness, but in the end, they will only bring destruction and pain.

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> The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

> — *Proverbs 11:3*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, reliability

Interpretation:
Integrity is a recurring theme in the Bible. Throughout the Old Testament, many characters, such as *Abraham, Jacob, Job, and Daniel*, were known for their integrity during times of trial. Integrity is defined as being honest, having strong moral and ethical principles, and being consistent in word and deed.

Proverbs 11:3 reminds us that integrity is the guide of the upright. That is, integrity helps people stay on the right path and make wise decisions. On the other hand, those who act wickedly and depart from integrity are destroyed by their own actions.

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> The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.
> — *Proverbs 12:22*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, lying, reliability, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is a collection of wisdom that can help us improve our lives and relationships. *Proverbs 12:22* talks about the importance of truth and that lying is an abomination to the Lord.

Lying lips

Verse 12:22 tells us that lying lips are an abomination to the Lord. This shows us that God values ?? truth and honesty in our lives. When we lie, we not only deceive others, but we also disobey God. Lying not only ruins our relationships with others, but it also distances us from God’s presence.

The Lord is pleased with those who act honestly

Unlike lying lips, those who act truthfully are pleasing to the Lord. When we are honest in our actions and words, we follow the example of God, who is truth itself. Honesty in our relationships is essential to building a respectful and loving society.

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> A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.
> — *Proverbs 16:28*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, friendship, gossip, lying

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is one of the most important books in the Bible because it is a collection of wisdom on how to live righteously and godly. In this book, we find many verses that tell us about the importance of honesty and healthy relationships with others. One such verse is *Proverbs 16:28*, which talks about gossip and strife.

An evil man sows discord

Proverbs 16:28 begins with the words, “A perverse person stirs up conflict.” Here we are clearly shown that a perverse person sows discord in his surroundings. The word “perverse” in this context refers to someone who acts wickedly and deceitfully, without regard for the pain and suffering it may cause to others.

It is important to think about how our actions may negatively affect others, especially our loved ones. A person who sows discord not only causes pain and suffering to others, but also harms himself.

Gossip Separates the Best of Friends

The second part of *Proverbs 16:28* says, “gossip separates close friends.” This verse speaks of the dangers of gossip, which can negatively affect our interpersonal relationships and cause serious emotional damage. Gossip is a way of talking badly about others behind their back. When we speak badly of someone, we violate their privacy and trust, which can cause emotional and psychological harm.

Gossip can separate even the best of friends, especially when it involves unfounded rumors or false information. It can damage people's reputations, which can have serious and long-lasting consequences.

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> Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.
> — *Proverbs 16:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, contentment, money, righteousness

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is a wisdom book that teaches us practical ways to live a life that pleases God and benefits ourselves and others. In chapter 16, verse 8, we find a valuable lesson about the importance of fairness in all our actions.

The importance of fairness in our actions

This verse tells us about the importance of doing what is right, even if in the short term it may seem like we are missing out on some opportunities for gain. Fairness is not only necessary to avoid illegal or immoral actions, but also to build an honest life that truly impacts the world for good.

Achievements that are gained unfairly will not bring us true satisfaction or lead to a fulfilling life. Fairness, on the other hand, gives us a sense of accomplishment and makes us feel valuable in the eyes of God and others.

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> Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.
> — *Proverbs 2:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, goodness, righteousness

Interpretation:
Proverbs 2:9 is one of the most important verses in the Bible because it teaches us the importance of seeking divine wisdom through the knowledge of justice, judgment, and fairness. Every believer should strive to live wisely and prudently, and this verse serves as a guide in this regard.

The term “justice” in this verse describes the ability to discern between good and evil. In other words, justice is the ability to do what is right and fair in any situation. Justice involves pursuing truth and fairness and is demonstrated in our daily actions. The Bible teaches us that God expects all of His children to do justice at all times.

“Judgment” in this context means the ability to make fair and wise decisions. It is important to understand that judgment is not only making fair decisions, but also making them wisely and prudently. The Bible encourages us to seek divine wisdom in making decisions and discerning God’s will for our lives.

Justice tells us about justice in action, which means doing what is fair and right at all times. Justice is the quality that allows us to look at things impartially, to treat everyone fairly, without prejudice or favoritism. The Bible teaches us that God is impartial and considers it important for us to be impartial as well.

The right path is the direction that we as believers are to follow in our lives that is in line with divine commands and God's will for our lives. The right path is the path of justice, impartiality, and common sense, and we can only find it through the knowledge of divine wisdom.

This verse teaches us to seek divine wisdom through the understanding of justice, judgment, and impartiality, as well as the right path in our lives. By doing so, we will be in tune with God's will and will follow the right path in our lives. It is important to remember that seeking divine wisdom and applying it to our lives is an ongoing process in our lives as believers.

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> To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
> — *Proverbs 21:3*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, righteousness, sacrifice

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wise advice on how to live a full and meaningful life in society. In chapter 21, the author confronts us with the idea that doing justice is more important than offering sacrifices to God. This may seem contradictory, since sacrifices were an integral part of the worship of the people of Israel. What does it mean then that God prefers justice to sacrifices?

The true meaning of sacrifice

To understand the importance of justice and righteousness in sacrifice, it is necessary to analyze the concept of sacrifice in the Bible. Sacrifices were a way to offer something of value to God as gratitude or to ask for His forgiveness. However, they often became meaningless and became a way to please God without a true commitment to His will.

In this sense, sacrifice without corresponding justice and righteousness is in vain. Justice and righteousness refer to appropriate moral actions, acting fairly and wisely in everyday situations. Without justice and righteousness, even the most complex sacrifices are meaningless. If we do not treat others in the world fairly and responsibly, how can we expect God to be pleased with our worship?

Justice and righteousness in everyday life

With this verse in mind, we can think about how we can apply justice and righteousness in our daily lives. Justice means treating others equally, regardless of social status, race, gender, or religion. Righteousness involves making ethical and fair decisions in everything we do.

We can practice justice in our daily lives by respecting others, not taking advantage of the disadvantaged, and avoiding unfair treatment of others. When it comes to righteousness, it is important to carefully consider the consequences of our actions and how they will affect others.

Gratefulness to God

Finally, it is important to remember that justice and righteousness are important not only for their own sake, but also because they reward God. In the Bible, God presents Himself as someone who values ??justice and righteousness. Doing good to others, making a positive contribution to our community, and ensuring that our actions are fair and reasonable at all times are ways we can show our gratitude to God.

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from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.
> — *Proverbs 3:27*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, debt, giving

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is a treasure trove of wisdom, offering practical advice to help us in our daily lives. *Proverbs 3:27* tells us not to refuse to help those in need, especially if we have the means to do so. The teaching of this verse is simple but important: as humans, we should be generous and supportive of others.

Don’t refuse to do good

The commandment in *Proverbs 3:27* calls us to take the initiative to help others and to do good at all times. We should be attentive to the needs of others and, if we have the opportunity, to help them without rejecting them.

Generosity and solidarity are not only Christian virtues, but also necessary conditions for harmonious coexistence and building a more just society.

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> Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.
> — *Proverbs 4:25*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: honesty, reliability, righteousness

Interpretation:

The Book of Proverbs is a biblical book that contains a collection of wise advice and practical instructions for daily living. This book was written primarily *by King Solomon*, who was renowned for his wisdom and insight throughout biblical history.

Verse interpretation

Proverbs 4:25 talks about the importance of focusing on what is right. Simply put, this means that we should focus on the good and positive and not be distracted by things that can cause us harm.

Verse application

This verse is relevant to all of us, regardless of our race and culture. Life can present us with many distractions and challenges that can lead us astray, and the discipline to stay on track will help us avoid these dangers. This applies to many different aspects of our lives: we can focus on our goals, healthy relationships, ethical and moral actions, and our relationship with God.

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> Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.
>
> *— Psalm 112:5*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: honesty, generosity, mercy

Interpretation:
Psalm 112:5 mentions the virtuous man, emphasizing his ability to practice mercy and justice in his daily life. This verse encourages us to reflect on the role of compassion and justice in our lives and how we can apply these values ??to become better people and build a more just and equal society.

First, this verse speaks of mercy—a virtue that involves compassion and empathy for others. Mercy encourages us to show empathy and seek to understand the situation of others, rather than judge or criticize them. If we want to be like the virtuous man in *Psalm 112:5*, we must have a sensitive heart and be willing to help those in need. By showing mercy, we can change the lives of others for the better and strengthen our interpersonal relationships.

Furthermore, this verse also suggests that the virtuous man lends. The idea of ??lending implies generosity and a willingness to share what we have with others. It's not just about lending money or material goods, but also about giving our time, resources, and skills to help others. By lending, we demonstrate our solidarity and commitment to the common good, which enriches both our lives and the lives of those who receive our help.

This verse also emphasizes the importance of justice in the life of a virtuous person. Justice implies the impartial and fair application of the laws, norms, and values ??of our society. A virtuous person is one who acts fairly in interpersonal relationships, at work, and in all areas of their life. By doing so, they contribute to building a more just and equal society in which the rights and needs of all are respected.

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> Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.
> — *Psalm 37:7*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: honesty, life, patience

Interpretation:
Psalm 37:7 calls us to be quiet before the Lord and patiently wait on Him. Silence is a crucial aspect of our spiritual life and our relationship with God. Silence allows us to find peace and tranquility by distancing ourselves from worldly distractions that can prevent us from hearing God's voice. When we are silent, we not only listen to God but also trust in Him and place our faith in Him.

Don't worry about those who prosper in their own way

This verse also calls us not to worry about those who prosper or those who do wrong. Sometimes we see people who prosper while behaving unjustly. This may seem unfair and cause us to experience negative feelings, such as envy, disappointment, or anger. However, the Bible calls us not to worry about these things but to focus on God and our own lives.

Waiting on God

This passage also emphasizes the importance of waiting on God. It's easy to despair when things don't go according to plan or when we see others succeed while we don't. But those who wait on God are promised that He will provide for us, provide for us, and guide us on the right path. Waiting on God also means trusting Him and giving up trying to control everything in our lives ourselves.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.
> *— Romans 13:6*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: honesty, greed, money

Interpretation:
The book of Romans was written by *the Apostle Paul* to the Christians in Rome who were living under the rule of the Roman Empire. In this context, paying taxes to the Roman authorities was mandatory, but many Christians refused to do so because of their belief in *the Kingdom of Heaven* and their rejection of any form of earthly authority.

In *Romans 13:6*, Paul reminds Christians that they must pay taxes because the authorities are in the service of God and are dedicated to that service. Also, in the previous verse *(Romans 13:5)*, Paul speaks of the importance of submitting to the authorities rather than resisting them, since resisting the authorities is resisting what God has established.

Taxes and civic obligations

Paying taxes was not only an obligation under Roman rule, but is a civic obligation in most countries of the world. As Christians, we must recognize that we are citizens of the world and therefore must fulfill our civic obligations, including paying taxes.

Moreover, paying taxes is a way to contribute to the well-being of our society. Taxes are used to fund government programs and services that benefit all citizens, such as health care, education, security, and infrastructure. As Christians, we must recognize our responsibility to contribute to the well-being of our society.

Serving God through our civic responsibilities

In this verse, Paul also reminds us that governments are in the service of God. In other words, our civic responsibilities can also be a way to serve God. When we fulfill our civic responsibilities conscientiously and responsibly, we contribute to the well-being of our society and reflect Christian values ??in our daily lives.

Moreover, paying taxes can also be a way to demonstrate our trust in God. When we pay taxes, we trust that God will provide us with sufficient funds to meet our financial needs and that we are doing what is right in *His Kingdom*.

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> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
> — *Romans 13:7*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: honesty, awe, debt, money

Interpretation:
Romans 13:7 tells us about the importance of financial responsibility and paying our debts. In the context of the Roman society in which the early Christians lived, this was a very relevant issue, given that taxes were a heavy burden on citizens. *St. Paul* reminds us that we have a moral and civil obligation to pay all our debts and tax obligations.

Pay your respects

In this passage, St. Paul encourages us to pay our debts in full and on time. We must pay our taxes to the appropriate authorities according to the law. This is not only a financial responsibility, but also an ethical and moral responsibility that helps us build a just and responsible society.

In addition, we must recognize that the authorities imposing these taxes are concerned with the common good, which is also important for the well-being of society as a whole. *1 Timothy 2:1-2* says, *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and*

holiness.”

Respect and honor

It is also important to note that this verse goes beyond paying taxes and tribute. St. Paul tells us that we are to show respect to those who are charged with governance and justice. Justice and peace in society are fundamental to its functioning and overall well-being.

Finally, we are also asked to give credit to those who have earned our respect and admiration. Not only to these leaders of society, but to anyone who has made a significant contribution to our lives, community or country.

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