

The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language

1 Chronicles 29:13-14

13 And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you, praising your splendid Name. 14 "But me - who am I, and who are these my people, that we should presume to be giving something to you? Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand.

Malachi 3:10-12

10 Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams. 11 For my part, I will defend you against marauders, protect your wheat fields and vegetable gardens against plunderers." The Message of God-of-the-Angel-Armies. 12 "You'll be voted 'Happiest Nation.' You'll experience what it's like to be a country of grace." God-of-the-Angel-Armies says so. The Difference Between Serving God and Not Serving Him

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

6 Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. 7 I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. 8 God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. 9 As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out. 10 This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, 11 wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

Deuteronomy 15:6

6 Oh yes - God, your God, will bless you just as he promised. You will lend to many nations but won't borrow from any; you'll rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

Deuteronomy 15:11

11 There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbors in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbors.

Deuteronomy 30:9

9 God, your God, will outdo himself in making things go well for you: you'll have babies, get calves, grow crops, and enjoy an all-around good life. Yes, God will start enjoying you again, making things go well for you just as he enjoyed doing it for your ancestors.

Ruth 2:1-2

1 It so happened that Naomi had a relative by marriage, a man prominent and rich, connected with Elimelech's family. His name was Boaz. 2 One day Ruth, the Moabite foreigner, said to Naomi, "I'm going to work; I'm going out to glean among the sheaves, following after some harvester who will treat me kindly." Naomi said, "Go ahead, dear daughter."

Ruth 2:5-6

5 Boaz asked his young servant who was foreman over the farm hands, "Who is this young woman? Where did she come from?" 6 The foreman said, "Why, that's the Moabite girl, the one who came with Naomi from the country of Moab.

Ruth 2:8

8 Then Boaz spoke to Ruth: "Listen, my daughter. From now on don't go to any other field to glean - stay right here in this one. And stay close to my young women.

Ruth 2:10-12

10 She dropped to her knees, then bowed her face to the ground. "How does this happen that you should pick me out and treat me so kindly - me, a foreigner?" 11 Boaz answered her, "I've heard all about you - heard about the way you treated your mother-in-law after the death of her husband, and how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth and have come to live among a bunch of total strangers. 12 God reward you well for what you've done - and with a generous bonus besides from God, to whom you've come seeking protection under his wings."

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Philippians 4:4

4 Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him!

Philippians 4:6

6 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns.

Philippians 4:19

19 You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus.

Romans 12:9

9 Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good.

Romans 12:20

20 Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness.

1 Samuel 25:14-18

14 Meanwhile, one of the young shepherds told Abigail, Nabal's wife, what had happened: "David sent messengers from the backcountry to salute our master, but he tore into them with insults. 15 Yet these men treated us very well. They took nothing from us and didn't take advantage of us all the time we were in the fields. 16 They formed a wall around us, protecting us day and night all the time we were out tending the sheep. 17 Do something quickly because big trouble is ahead for our master and all of us. Nobody can talk to him. He's impossible - a real brute!" 18 Abigail flew into action. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep dressed out and ready for cooking, a bushel of roasted grain, a hundred raisin cakes, and two hundred fig cakes, and she had it all loaded on some donkeys.

1 Samuel 25:23-24

23 As soon as Abigail saw David, she got off her donkey and fell on her knees at his feet, her face to the ground in homage, 24 saying, "My master, let me take the blame! Let me speak to you. Listen to what I have to say.

1 Samuel 25:28

28 "Forgive my presumption! But God is at work in my master, developing a rule solid and dependable. My master fights God's battles! As long as you live no evil will stick to you.

1 Samuel 25:32-33

32 And David said, "Blessed be God, the God of Israel. He sent you to meet me! 33 And blessed be your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and taking charge of looking out for me.

1 Samuel 25:35

35 Then David accepted the gift she brought him and said, "Return home in peace. I've heard what you've said and I'll do what you've asked."

Psalms 118:1

1 Thank God because he's good, because his love never quits.

Colossians 3:17

17 Let every detail in your lives - words, actions, whatever - be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

Luke 7:37-40

37 Just then a woman of the village, the town harlot, having learned that Jesus was a guest in the home of the Pharisee, came with a bottle of very expensive perfume 38 and stood at his feet, weeping, raining tears on his feet. Letting down her hair, she dried his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfume. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was the prophet I thought he was, he would have known what kind of woman this is who is falling all over him." 40 Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Oh? Tell me."

Luke 7:44

44 Then turning to the woman, but speaking to Simon, he said, "Do you see this woman? I came to your home; you provided no water for my feet, but she rained tears on my feet and dried them with her hair.

Luke 7:46-47

46 You provided nothing for freshening up, but she has soothed my feet with perfume. 47 Impressive, isn't it? She

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was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal."

Psalm 26:6-7

6 I scrub my hands with purest soap, then join hands with the others in the great circle, dancing around your altar, God, 7 Singing God-songs at the top of my lungs, telling God-stories.

Psalm 23:5

5 You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

2 Corinthians 2:14

14 And I got it, thank God!

John 11:1

1 A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

John 11:17

17 When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead.

John 11:41-44

41 Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone." 42 I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me." 43 Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."

Colossians 2:6-7

6 My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. 7 You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

2 Corinthians 9:15

15 Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

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1 Chronicles 29:13-14; Malachi 3:10-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Deuteronomy 15:6; Deuteronomy 15:11; Deuteronomy 30:9; Ruth 2:1-2; Ruth 2:5-6; Ruth 2:8; Ruth 2:10-12; Philippians 4:4; Philippians 4:6; Philippians 4:19; Romans 12:9; Romans 12:20; 1 Samuel 25:14-18; 1 Samuel 25:23-24; 1 Samuel 25:28; 1 Samuel 25:32-33; 1 Samuel 25:35; Psalm 118:1; Colossians 3:17; Luke 7:37-40; Luke 7:44; Luke 7:46-47; Psalm 26:6-7; Psalm 23:5; 2 Corinthians 2:14; John 11:1; John 11:17; John 11:41-44; Colossians 2:6-7; 2 Corinthians 9:15 (The Message)