

Bible Stories and Memory Verses for 49 Character Qualities

Listed alphabetically

Alertness vs. Carelessness

- *Definition:* Being aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses.
- *Memory Verse:* “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)
- *Old Testament:* Nehemiah defends Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4)
- *New Testament:* Jesus notices who touched his cloak (Luke 8:40-48)

Attentiveness vs. Unconcern

- *Definition:* Showing the worth of a person by giving undivided attention to his or her words
- *Memory Verse:* “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” (Hebrews 2:1)
- *Old Testament:* Samuel listens to God (1 Samuel 3:1-21)
- *New Testament:* Mary at Jesus’ feet (Luke 10:38-42)

Availability vs. Self-centeredness

- *Definition:* Making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I serve
- *Memory Verse:* “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’” (Isaiah 6:8)
- *Old Testament:* Elijah recruits Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-22)
- *New Testament:* Philip meets the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)

Benevolence vs. Selfishness

- *Definition:* Giving to others’ basic needs without having as my motive personal reward.
- *Memory Verse:* “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17)
- *Old Testament:* Jacob deals selfishly with Esau (Genesis 25:29-34; 27)
- *New Testament:* Philippian church sends relief to Paul (Philippians 4:10-20)

Boldness vs. Fearfulness

- *Definition:* Confidence that what I have to say or do is true, right, and just
- *Memory Verse:* “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)
- *Old Testament:* The fiery furnace (Daniel 3)
- *New Testament:* Peter and John witness for Christ (Acts 4:1-31)

Cautiousness vs. Rashness

- *Definition:* Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions
- *Memory Verse:* “A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.” (Proverbs 22:3)
- *Old Testament:* Joshua deceived by the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:1-27)
- *New Testament:* Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10:1-11:18)

Compassion vs. Indifference

- *Definition:* Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others
- *Memory Verse:* “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:40)
- *Old Testament:* Pharaoh’s daughter rescues Moses (Exodus 1:8-2:10)
- *New Testament:* The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Contentment vs. Covetousness

- *Definition:* Realizing that true happiness does not depend on material conditions.
- *Memory Verse:* “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)
- *Old Testament:* Covetousness and punishment of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 21; 2 Kings 9:30-37)
- *New Testament:* Paul denies himself to accomplish his mission (1 Corinthians 9)

Creativity vs. Underachievement

- *Definition:* Approaching a need, a task, an idea from a new perspective
- *Memory Verse:* “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)
- *Old Testament:* Gideon and his three hundred men (Judges 7)
- *New Testament:* Jesus teaches in parables (Matthew 13:1-52)

Decisiveness vs. Procrastination

- *Definition:* The ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions.
- *Memory Verse:* “The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.” (Proverbs 11:3)
- *Old Testament:* Lot hesitates to leave Sodom (Genesis 19:12-29)
- *New Testament:* Matthias chosen as an apostle (Acts 1:15-26)

Deference vs. Rudeness

- *Definition:* Limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me
- *Memory Verse:* “It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.” (Romans 14:21)
- *Old Testament:* Abraham divides land with Lot (Genesis 13)
- *New Testament:* Paul avoids causing others to stumble (1 Corinthians 8)

Dependability vs. Inconsistency

- *Definition:* Fulfilling what I consented to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice
- *Memory Verse:* “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.” (Proverbs 25:19)
- *Old Testament:* David and Mephibosheth (1 Samuel 20:14-17; 2 Samuel 9)
- *New Testament:* Paul’s faithful friends (2 Timothy 4); *Contrast with Demas (verse 10)*

Determination vs. Faint-heartedness

- *Definition:* Purposing to accomplish the right goal at the right time, regardless of the opposition
- *Memory Verse:* “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.” (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- *Old Testament:* Jacob wrestles with God (Gen 32:22-32)
- *New Testament:* The ministry of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4)

Diligence vs. Slothfulness

- *Definition:* Investing all my energy to complete the task assigned to me
- *Memory Verse:* “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.” (Proverbs 22:29)
- *Old Testament:* Nehemiah builds Jerusalem’s wall in 52 days (Nehemiah 1:1-6:16)
- *New Testament:* Paul’s example to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-38)

Discernment vs. Judgment

- *Definition:* Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen
- *Memory Verse:* “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.” (Proverbs 3:5-7)
- *Old Testament:* Solomon and the two mothers (1 Kings 3:16-28)
- *New Testament:* Peter and Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-25)

Discretion vs. Simplemindedness

- *Definition:* The ability to avoid words, actions, and attitudes which could result in undesirable consequences
- *Memory Verse:* “Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass away.” (Proverbs 4:14-15)
- *Old Testament:* Joseph flees from Potiphar’s wife (Genesis 39)
- *New Testament:* Paul retracts statements against the High Priest (Acts 23:1-5)

Endurance vs. Discouragement

- *Definition:* The inward strength to withstand stress and do my best.
- *Memory Verse:* “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1)
- *Old Testament:* Noah builds the ark (Genesis 6:5-22)
- *New Testament:* Jesus endures mockery, beatings, crucifixion, separation from the Father, and death (Mark 15:16)

Enthusiasm vs. Apathy

- *Definition:* Expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort
- *Memory Verse:* “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)
- *Old Testament:* The Lord defeats Jehoshaphat’s enemies (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)
- *New Testament:* The shepherds visit baby Jesus (Luke 2:8-20)

Faith vs. Presumption

- *Definition:* Confidence that actions rooted in good character will yield the best outcome, even when I cannot see how.
- *Memory Verse:* “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of his flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Galatians 6:7-8)
- *Old Testament:* Daniel and his friends obey God (Daniel 1)
- *New Testament:* Examples of those who walked in faith (Hebrews 11; 12:1-2)

Flexibility vs. Resistance

- *Definition:* Willingness to change plans or ideas without getting upset
- *Memory Verse:* “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)
- *Old Testament:* Jonah resists the Lord (Jonah 1-4)
- *New Testament:* The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2)

Forgiveness vs. Rejection

- *Definition:* Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge
- *Memory Verse:* “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)
- *Old Testament:* Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37, 39-50)
- *New Testament:* The prodigal son returns to his father (Luke 15:11-32)

Generosity vs. Stinginess

- *Definition:* Managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need
- *Memory Verse:* “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- *Old Testament:* Boaz provides for Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 2-3)
- *New Testament:* Church members share with one another (Acts 4:32-37, 11:27-30)

Gentleness vs. Harshness

- *Definition:* Showing consideration and personal concern for others.
- *Memory Verse:* “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)
- *Old Testament:* Ammonites mistreat David’s servants (2 Samuel 10)
- *New Testament:* Jesus blesses the children (Luke 18:15-17)

Gratefulness vs. Unthankfulness

- *Definition:* Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life
- *Memory Verse:* “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- *Old Testament:* The Israelites complain (Numbers 11)
- *New Testament:* The grateful leper (Luke 17:11-19)

Honor vs. Disrespect

- *Definition:* Respecting others because of the higher authorities they represent.
- *Memory Verse:* “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.” (Titus 3:1-2)
- *Old Testament:* Youth make fun of Elisha’s baldness (2 Kings 2:19-23)
- *New Testament:* Centurion honors the authority of Jesus (Luke 7:1-10)

Hospitality vs. Loneliness

- *Definition:* Cheerfully sharing food, shelter, and friendship with others
- *Memory Verse:* “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.” (Hebrews 13:2)
- *Old Testament:* The Shunammite woman and Elisha (2 Kings 4:8-37)
- *New Testament:* Lydia and the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:11-40)

Humility vs. Arrogance

- *Definition:* Acknowledging that achievement results from the investment of others in my life.
- *Memory Verse:* “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5)
- *Old Testament:* Nebuchadnezzar’s arrogance and humility (Daniel 4)
- *New Testament:* Every member is important in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12)

Initiative vs. Idleness

- *Definition:* Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it
- *Memory Verse:* “In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.” (Proverbs 14:23)
- *Old Testament:* Abigail meets David (1 Sam 25)
- *New Testament:* Zaccheus meets Jesus and makes restitution (Luke 19:1-10)

Joyfulness vs. Self-Pity

- *Definition:* Maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions.
- *Memory Verse:* “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)
- *Old Testament:* David brings the ark to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15; 16)
- *New Testament:* Paul and Silas sing in prison (Acts 16:24-34)

Justice vs. Corruption

- *Definition:* Taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true.
- *Memory Verse:* “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.” (Proverbs 4:18-19)
- *Old Testament:* The way of the righteous and the end of the ungodly (Psalm 1)
- *New Testament:* Jesus evicts the moneychangers from the temple (Matthew 21:12-17)

Loyalty vs. Unfaithfulness

- *Definition:* Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to those I serve
- *Memory Verse:* “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
- *Old Testament:* Jonathan and David’s friendship (1 Samuel 20)
- *New Testament:* Peter denies Christ (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75) *Contrast with Acts 5:27-32*

Meekness vs. Anger

- *Definition:* Yielding my personal rights and expectations with a desire to serve.
- *Memory Verse:* “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)
- *Old Testament:* As a response to anger (Proverbs 15:18)
- *New Testament:* Jesus washes the disciples’ feet, including Judas (Matthew 13:1-35)

Obedience vs. Willfulness

- *Definition:* Quickly and cheerfully carrying out the direction of those who are responsible for me
- *Memory Verse:* “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17)
- *Old Testament:* Abraham sacrifices Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)
- *New Testament:* Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Orderliness vs. Disorganization

- *Definition:* Arranging myself and my surroundings to achieve the greatest efficiency
- *Memory Verse:* “Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)
- *Old Testament:* Jethro’s advice to Moses (Exodus 18)
- *New Testament:* Jesus feeds five thousand (Mark 6:30-44)

Patience vs. Restlessness

- *Definition:* Accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it
- *Memory Verse:* “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” (James 1:2-4)
- *Old Testament:* The patience of Job (Job 1-2)
- *New Testament:* The disciples wait at Pentecost (Acts 1)

Persuasiveness vs. Contentiousness

- *Definition:* Guiding vital truths around another’s mental roadblocks
- *Memory Verse:* “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” (Colossians 4:6)
- *Old Testament:* Esther appeals to the king (Esther 5-8)
- *New Testament:* Paul testifies in Athens (Acts 17:16-34)

Punctuality vs. Tardiness

- *Definition:* Showing high esteem for other people and their time
- *Memory Verse:* “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16)
- *Old Testament:* Solomon builds the Temple (1 Kings 5-6)
- *New Testament:* Ananias prays for Saul’s eyes to open (Acts 9:1-22)

Resourcefulness vs. Wastefulness

- *Definition:* Wise use of that which others would normally overlook or discard
- *Memory Verse:* “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Matthew 25:21)
- *Old Testament:* David’s resources for righting Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- *New Testament:* Jesus turns water into wine (John 2:1-12)

Responsibility vs. Unreliability

- *Definition:* Knowing and doing what is expected of me
- *Memory Verse:* “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17)
- *Old Testament:* Abraham’s servant finds a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24)
- *New Testament:* The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Security vs. Anxiety

- *Definition:* Structuring my life around that which cannot be destroyed or taken away.
- *Memory Verse:* “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)
- *Old Testament:* The potter and the clay (Jeremiah 18:1-11)
- *New Testament:* Trust in God, not riches (Luke 12:4-34)

Self-control vs. Self-indulgence

- *Definition:* Instant obedience to the initial promptings of God’s Spirit
- *Memory Verse:* “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” (Proverbs 16:32)
- *Old Testament:* David spares Saul (1 Samuel 24; 26)
- *New Testament:* Christ resists temptation (Luke 4:1-15)

Sensitivity vs. Callousness

- *Definition:* Using my senses to perceive the true attitudes and emotions of others
- *Memory Verse:* “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15)
- *Old Testament:* The servant girl helps Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-19)
- *New Testament:* Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42)

Sincerity vs. Hypocrisy

- *Definition:* Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives
- *Memory Verse:* “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.” (1 Peter 1:22)
- *Old Testament:* Josiah’s reform (2 Kings 22:1-23:30)
- *New Testament:* Mary anoints Jesus (John 12:1-8)

Thoroughness vs. Incompleteness

- *Definition:* Knowing what factors will diminish the effectiveness of my work or words if neglected
- *Memory Verse:* “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it.” (Luke 14:28)
- *Old Testament:* The details of the Passover (Exodus 12:1-30)
- *New Testament:* The wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7:24-29)

Thriftiness vs. Extravagance

- *Definition:* Letting myself and others spend only what is necessary
- *Memory Verse:* “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:11)
- *Old Testament:* Joseph manages Egypt’s resources during famine (Genesis 41:14-57)
- *New Testament:* Collection for the Jerusalem saints (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9)

Tolerance vs. Prejudice

- *Definition:* Acceptance of others as unique expressions of specific character qualities in varying degrees of maturity
- *Memory Verse:* “And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- *Old Testament:* David tolerates Shimei (2 Samuel 16:5-14)
- *New Testament:* The sinful woman is forgiven (Luke 7:36-50)

Truthfulness vs. Deception

- *Definition:* Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts
- *Memory Verse:* “The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.” (Proverbs 12:19)
- *Old Testament:* Micaiah prophesies the truth (1 Kings 22:1-40)
- *New Testament:* Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)

Virtue vs. Impurity

- *Definition:* The moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right
- *Memory Verse:* “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)
- *Old Testament:* Daniel in the lion’s den (Daniel 6:1-28)
- *New Testament:* The stoning of Stephen (Acts 6:8-7:60)

Wisdom vs. Natural Inclinations

- *Definition:* Seeing and responding to life situations from a perspective that transcends my current circumstances
- *Memory Verse:* “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)
- *Old Testament:* The Queen of Sheba interviews Solomon (1 Kings 10)
- *New Testament:* Gamaliel’s advice (Acts 5:33-39)