

Jesus certainly fit in the category of being at his wit's end and end of his rope and surviving - did he ever survive!!! Here are some fabulous verses - some of my favorites.

Ask, and Seek and Find

- Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks find, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! ~ Luke 11: 9-13

The same passage from the Message¹:

- Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?~ Luke11:9-13
- And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. ~ Matthew 21: 22
- Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you will have them. ~ Mark 11: 24
- Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask it he Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ~ John 16:23-24

Isn't it interesting that this same passage is throughout all the gospels? Did you ever wonder why? It's because God did not mean for us to be deprived or without our needs on this Earth. It is our demons who take this comfort and beautiful gift of God away from us. And all we have to do is ask and believe and it is ours. It is important here to realize that poverty during Jesus's time was considered to be a punishment from God. If Jesus were poor, no one would have paid the least bit of attention to him - instead he multiplied the bread and wine, he multiplied the fishes in the nets. He was the embodiment of plenty, fullness, miracles and gratitude which is as much a part of his message as loving one another, being good to and forgiving of one another and caring for each other.

¹The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language, by Eugene H. Peterson a Presbyterian minister who spoke many Sundays on the Bible, and was asked to write these down so that we could better understand what a lot of the verses meant in contemporary terms.

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. ~ Proverbs 24:10

Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. ~ Proverbs 4:23

Here are some familiar passages from "The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language" by Eugene H. Peterson.

The Beatitudes

Matt 5:1-12

1 When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down

2 and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

3 "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

4 "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5 "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are — no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

6 "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

7 "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'carefull,' you find yourselves cared for.

8 "You're blessed when you get your inside world — your mind and heart — put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9 "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

10 "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

11 "Not only that — count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you

out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.

12 You can be glad when that happens — give a cheer, even! — for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

The 23rd Psalms

1 God, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing.

2 You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.

3 True to your word,
you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.

4 Even when the way goes through
Death Valley,
I'm not afraid
when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook
makes me feel secure.

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

6 Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God
for the rest of my life.

Some Prayers - famous and otherwise:

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Oh God of all comfort,
May your promise to us be fulfilled.
In Christ's name,
Amen.
~ Anonymous

This is a Catholic prayer to St. Michael written by Pope Leo XIII
It is a traditional Catholic prayer which some may find rigid, but I find the last 9 lines particularly meaningful during times of adversity.

St Michael, the Archangel,
Defend us in battle
Be our safeguard against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.
Make God rebuke him
We humbly pray
And do thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts
By the power of God
Thrust into hell Satan
and all evil spirits
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen

Father I need your love.
Come to the core of my heart.
Come and bring your love for me
Help me know You for who You really are,
not as I see my earthly father.
Reveal Yourself to me.
Reveal Your love for me.
Tell me what I mean to you.
Come and father me.
~Anonymous

Jesus come to me and heal my heart.
Come to the shattered places within me.
Come for the little girl (boy) that was wounded
Come and hold me in your arms and heal me,
show me by beauty.
Allow me to rest and unveil my beauty.
Fulfill your promise to me...
Heal my broken heart
and set me free.
~Anonymous

Here's a good prayer if you feel you have been wronged and need to let it go:

Jesus come and rescue me,
Set me free from my past, and
release me from darkness.
Bring your vengeance on my enemies.
I reject them and
ask you to take them to judgement.
Set my heart free.
~Anonymous