

8 Commonly Misquoted Bible Verses

A concise KJV wording check that distinguishes direct quotations, shortened quotations, paraphrases, and sayings that are not in the Bible.

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Review status: Reference and context review completed

How to use this reference

Read the classification first, then verify the reference and open the surrounding chapter. A correction should lead to better reading, not embarrassment.

1. 'Money is the root of all evil'

Classification: Shortened quotation

1 Timothy 6:10 begins, 'For the love of money is the root of all evil.' The warning concerns a disordered desire for wealth. The wider passage calls for contentment, generosity, and trust in God rather than uncertain riches.

2. 'God helps those who help themselves'

Classification: Not a Bible verse

Scripture values diligent action, but this sentence is not a biblical quotation. Proverbs 3:5-6, James 2:14-17, and Psalm 121 address trust, action, and help in different ways; none should be reduced to the slogan.

3. 'God will not give you more than you can handle'

Classification: Common misapplication

1 Corinthians 10:13 concerns temptation and a way to endure it. It is not a promise that every grief or crisis stays within unaided capacity. In 2 Corinthians 1:8 Paul describes being pressed 'above strength.'

4. 'The lion shall lie down with the lamb'

Classification: Blended paraphrase

Isaiah 11:6 says the wolf will dwell with the lamb, while the young lion appears later in the same verse. The remembered sentence blends nearby images from a larger prophetic vision of righteous rule and peace.

5. 'Uniquely and wonderfully made'

Classification: Remembered variant

Psalm 139:14 says 'fearfully and wonderfully made' in the KJV. The psalm concerns being known by God, divine presence, formation, moral searching, and guidance - more than a self-esteem slogan.

6. 'Spare the rod, spoil the child'

Classification: Proverb-like paraphrase

The sentence is not an exact Bible quotation. Proverbs 13:24 uses different wording. No proverb should be used to excuse fear, injury, humiliation, or abuse; discipline must be interpreted through the wider biblical call to patience, protection, and self-control.

7. 'This too shall pass'

Classification: Not a Bible verse

Scripture addresses changing seasons and temporary suffering, but this sentence is not a direct quotation. Ecclesiastes 3, Psalm 30, and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 offer related themes with their own contexts.

8. 'Where two or three are gathered'

Classification: Exact words, often detached from context

Matthew 18:20 appears within teaching about restoration, witnesses, agreement, prayer, and community responsibility. It does not mean Christ is absent from solitary prayer or that every small-group decision has divine approval.

Keep the translation and reference attached when sharing a quotation. If the wording is a paraphrase, label it as a paraphrase rather than placing it in quotation marks as Scripture.

Sources and further reading

- [VersePath sources and translation policy](https://bibleversepath.com/sources-and-translations/)

<https://bibleversepath.com/sources-and-translations/>

- [VersePath full online guide](https://bibleversepath.com/guides/commonly-misquoted-bible-verses/)

<https://bibleversepath.com/guides/commonly-misquoted-bible-verses/>

- [1 Timothy 6 \(KJV\)](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%206&version=KJV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%206&version=KJV>

- [Isaiah 11 \(KJV\)](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2011&version=KJV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2011&version=KJV>

- [Matthew 18 \(KJV\)](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2018&version=KJV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2018&version=KJV>