


Why study Scripture:

➡ ¹⁶ **All Scripture** is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training** in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for **every good work.**

➡ **2 Timothy 3.14-16**



Go to The Bible, Lesson 4: Independence or Dependence?

- ▶ **Independence:** the fact or state of being independent; freedom from the control, influence, support, aid, or the like, of others.
- ▶ **Synonyms:** freedom, liberty, autonomy, separation, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, self-sustenance, neutrality, detachment, objectivity, impartiality, sovereignty



So, independence – is it good or bad?

- ▶ Can be very good:
- ▶ Politically, nationally (July 4th, right?)
- ▶ At work or school
- ▶ Self-reliance often a must have quality

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What about Dependence?

- ▶ the state of relying on or being controlled by someone or something else.
- ▶ Synonym: *reliance*
- ▶ Often seen as a negative quality



Go to The Bible . .

Verses declaring our dependence on God


►⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.


► John 15





The Christian must understand he is totally dependent!

- ▶ For apart from me you can do nothing.
- ▶ Dependent on Jesus power through the Holy Spirit to live the victorious Christian life!

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- **Self-reliance and Christian discipleship cannot coexist in anyone who truly follows our Lord and Savior. We are not talking about the kind of self-reliance manifested in a strong work ethic whereby an individual labors hard in order to provide for himself and his family, seeking to meet the needs of his household without outside assistance.**

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- **Instead, we are referring to the kind of self-reliance that does not turn to Jesus for spiritual strength but rather tries to muster up the power necessary for Christian growth and for defeating Satan without Christ.**

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- ▶ **No Christian would ever say that absolute dependence on Jesus is optional. However, it is nonetheless easy even for believers to go through their day as if they can do so under their own power.**



► Lest we become self-reliant in a negative way, ***we must remain aware of our need for Jesus.*** Regular prayer helps us do that, for by it ***we remember our full dependence upon Him.***

► <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/dependence-christ/>

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Isaiah 50.10, ESV

- ¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
- and obeys the voice of his servant?
- Let him who walks in darkness and has no light
- trust in the name of the LORD and *rely on his God.*



Proverbs 3, ESV:

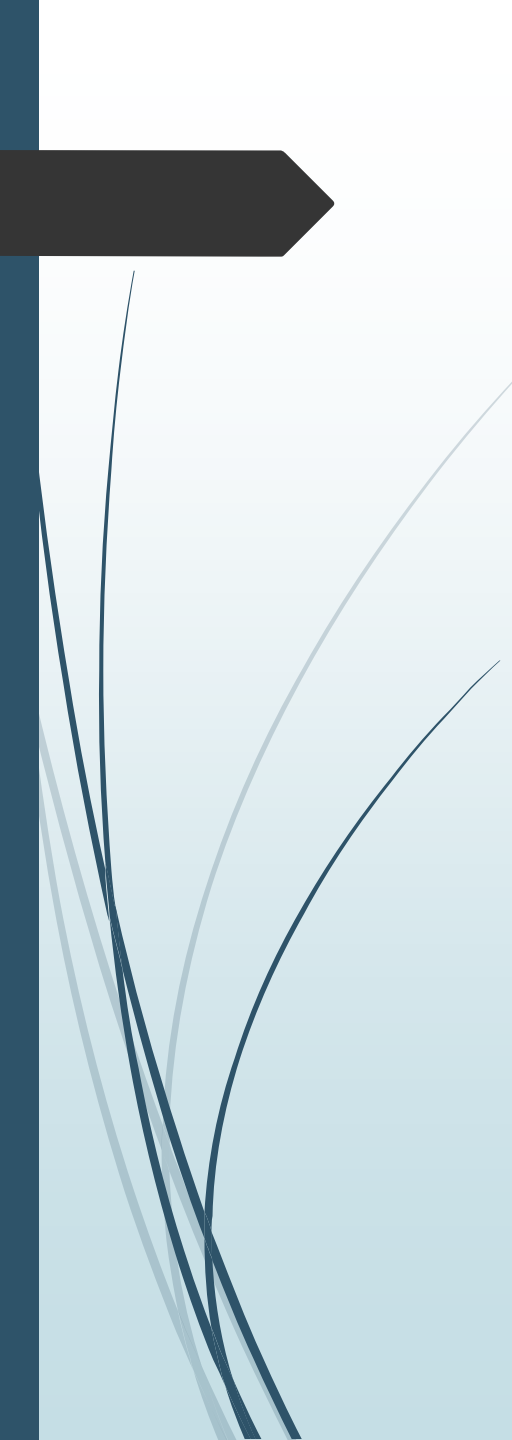
- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with *all your heart,*
- and do not lean on your own *understanding.*
- ⁶ *In all your ways* acknowledge *him,*
- and he will make straight your paths.


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- ⁷ **Be not wise in your own eyes;**
 - **fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.**
 - ⁸ **It will be healing to your flesh**
 - **and refreshment to your bones.**




The World vs Jesus

- ▶ The world says,
- ▶ 'be yourself'
- ▶ The Bible says,
- ▶ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2.20

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- ▶ The world says:
 - ▶ Follow your heart, your dreams
 - ▶ **The Bible says:**
 - ▶ ***⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.
Who can understand it? - Jeremiah 17:9***

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- ▶ **The world says:**
 - ▶ **Don't let anyone stand in your way!**
 - ▶ **The Bible says:**
 - ▶ **He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be *the servant of all*." Mark 9.35, MSG**

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- ▶ **The world says:**
 - ▶ You deserve *the best* – in fact, it is owed to you!
 - ▶ **The Bible says:**
 - ▶ **In the same way, those of you who do not *give up everything* you have cannot be my disciples. – Luke 14.33**

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You and I need strength!

- ▶ What Paul wrote to young Timothy:
- ▶ ¹² **I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord,**
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 1.12



Jesus can help us
do what we need to do!

➡¹³ I can do all things through him
who strengthens me.

➡ Philippians 4



Our nation needs Jesus!

- ▶ if my people who are called by my name *humble themselves*, and pray and *seek my face* and turn from their *wicked ways*,
- ▶ then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and *heal their land*.
- ▶ **2 Chronicles 7.14**