

How to Be a Black Belt for the Kingdom!

Faith	White belt
Excellence	Yellow belt
Knowledge	Orange belt
Self-control	Green belt
Steadfastness	Blue belt
Godliness	Purple belt
Brotherly affection	Brown belt
Love	Black belt

Galatians 5:1, 13

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Stand firm therefore,

and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers.

Only do not use your freedom
as an opportunity for the flesh,
but through love serve one another.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,
and self-control.



Proverbs 25:28

A man without self-control
is like a city broken into
and left without walls.

James 3:1-10

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers,
for you know that we who teach
will be judged with greater strictness.

For we all stumble in many ways,
and if anyone does not stumble in what he says,
he is a perfect man,
able also to bridle his whole body.

James 3:1-10

If we put bits into the mouths of horses
so that they obey us,
we guide their whole bodies as well.

Look at the ships also: though they are so large
and are driven by strong winds,
they are guided by a very small rudder
wherever the will of the pilot directs.

So also the tongue is a small member,
yet it boasts of great things.
How great a forest is set ablaze
by such a small fire!

James 3:1-10

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.
The tongue is set among our members,
staining the whole body,
setting on fire the entire course of life,
and set on fire by hell.

For every kind of beast and bird,
of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed
and has been tamed by mankind,
but no human being can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:1-10

With it we bless our Lord and Father,
and with it we curse people who are made
in the likeness of God.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Matthew 12:34

“You brood of vipers!

How can you speak good, when you are evil?

For out of the abundance of the heart
the mouth speaks.”

Sow a thought, reap an action.

Sow an action, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

Sow a character, reap a destiny.

~possibly Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Romans 7:15-19

I do not understand my own actions.

For I do not do what I want,
but I do the very thing I hate...

I have the desire to do what is right,
but not the ability to carry it out.

For I do not do the good I want,
but the evil I do not want
is what I keep on doing.

2 Peter 1:5-6

For this very reason,
make every effort to supplement
your faith with virtue,
and virtue with knowledge,
and knowledge with self-control [*engkrateia*]...

Deuteronomy 12:1

These are the statutes and rules
that you shall be careful to do in the land
that the LORD, the God of your fathers,
has given you to possess,
all the days that you live on the earth.

Deuteronomy 12:2-4

You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire.

You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way.

Acts 17:30-31

“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Matthew 5:45
“For he makes his sun rise
on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain
on the just and on the unjust.”

Mark 8:34

And he called to him the crowd
with his disciples, and said to them,
“If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and take up his cross
and follow me.”

Mark 9:43

“And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.
It is better for you to enter life crippled
than with two hands to go to hell,
to the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter life lame
than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out.

It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God
with one eye than with two eyes
to be thrown into hell,
where their worm does not die
and the fire is not quenched.

Matthew 11:12

“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.”

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.
They do it to receive a perishable wreath,
but we an imperishable.

So I do not run aimlessly;
I do not box as one beating the air.

But I discipline my body and keep it under control,
lest after preaching to others
I myself should be disqualified.

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this
or am already perfect, but I press on
to make it my own, because Christ Jesus
has made me his own.

Brothers, I do not consider
that I have made it my own.

But one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:9-11

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest
for the people of God,
for whoever has entered God's rest
has also rested from his works as God did from his.
Let us therefore strive to enter that rest,
so that no one may fall
by the same sort of disobedience.

Hebrews 12:14

Strive for peace with everyone,
and for the holiness without which
no one will see the Lord.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control.

Against such things there is no law.

James 4:7-8

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners,
and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Peter 5:8-10

Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.