

VERSES ON POSITIVE VOLITION

1 Chronicles 28:9 9 ...Yahweh searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

2 Chronicles 15:2-4 2 ...[Azariah] went out to meet Asa and said to him, Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: Yahweh is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. 3 For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without Torah. 4 But when in their distress they turned to Yahweh, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.

2 Chronicles 33:12-13 12 ...When [Manasseh] was in distress, he entreated the favour of Yahweh his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. 13 He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty, heard his plea, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that Yahweh was God.

Isaiah 55:6-7 6 Seek Yahweh while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to Yahweh, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 65:10 10 Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have sought me.

Isaiah 66:2 2 ...This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble, contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

Lamentations 3:25 25 Yahweh is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Ezekiel 33:14-16 14 ...Though I say to the wicked, You shall surely die, yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, 15 if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live. He shall not die. 16 None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right. He shall surely live.

Jonah 3:4-10 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown! 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. 6 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, 8 but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish. 10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Zephaniah 2:3 3 Seek Yahweh, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of Yahweh.

Matthew 10:11-13 11 ...Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it.

John 9:30-34 30 The man answered, Why, this is an amazing thing! You [Jewish leaders] do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his desire, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.¹ 34 They answered him, You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us? And they cast him out.

Acts 2:37 37 Now when [the men of Israel] heard [Peter's message] they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brothers, what shall we do [positive volition]?

Acts 10:34-35 34 ...Peter opened his mouth and said, Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Acts 17:26-27 26 ...[God] made from one man every nation of humanity to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek (ζητέω, pres. act.) God, if indeed perhaps (εἰ ἄρα² γε) they might feel their way toward (ψηλαφάω, aor. act. opt.)³ him and find (εὕρισκω, aor. act. opt.) him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us....

2 Corinthians 3:16 16 ...When one turns to the Lord [Jesus], the veil is removed.

¹ The example of the blind man in Jn 9 shows how sustained positive volition leads to faith in Jesus.

² “[T]o express someth. tentative, *perhaps, conceivably* (BDAG, 127).

³ “[T]o touch by feeling and handling, *touch, handle*...to look for someth. in uncertain fashion, *to feel around for; grope for*; in imagery of humans in their search for God” (BDAG, 1098). The conditional optative “is the use of the optative in the *protasis* of a *fourth class* condition (the conditional particle used is *εἰ*). It is used to indicate a *possible* condition in the future, usually a remote possibility (such as, *if he could do something, if perhaps this should occur*)” (D. B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar beyond the Basics*, 484).