

# Acceptable To God

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*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51:17*

*Many times when we approach the Lord, we are afraid of Him. Not a Godly fear—the Fear of the Lord—because He is so awesome, but a fear of our own unacceptability. In Immanuel, we often find that the answer to the question, “What’s in the way?” is that fear. But the love of God does not flag. It cannot be earned nor discredited. He knows our hearts and where our struggles come from. He is gentle and kind as well as light and truth. We are safe with Him.*

Studies included in this article are: Acceptable, Accept, Respect, Regard; Reject; Despise; Am I Acceptable To The Lord?

For related material about this topic, please see: “Jesus Knows Our Hearts”; “Full of Compassion”; “Personal Relationship with God”

## Acceptable

Leviticus 22:20 Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall **not be acceptable** on your behalf.

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart **Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD**, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalm 69:13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, **in the acceptable time**; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

Proverb 10:32 The lips of the righteous know **what is acceptable**, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

Proverb 21:3 **To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD** than sacrifice.

Ecclesiastes 12:10 The Preacher sought to find **acceptable words**; and what was written was upright— words of truth.

Isaiah 49:8 Thus says the LORD: "In **an acceptable time** I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages;

Isaiah 58:5 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And **an acceptable day to the LORD?**

Isaiah 61:2 To proclaim **the acceptable year of the LORD**, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn.

Jeremiah 6:20 For what purpose to Me Comes frankincense from Sheba, And sweet cane from a far country? Your burnt offerings are **not acceptable**, Nor your sacrifices sweet to Me.

Jeremiah 42:2 And said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please, let our petition **be acceptable to you**, and pray for us to the LORD your God, for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see).

Daniel 4:27 Therefore, O king, let **my advice be acceptable to you**; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

Luke 4:19 To proclaim **the acceptable year of the LORD.**"

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present **your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God**, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

Romans 14:18 For he who serves Christ in these things is **acceptable to God** and approved by men.

Romans 15:16 That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be **acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 15:31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be **acceptable** to the saints.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "**In an acceptable time** I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is **the accepted time**; behold, now is the day of salvation."

Ephesians 5:10 Finding out what is **acceptable to the Lord.**

Philippians 4:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is **good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.**

1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is **good and acceptable before God.**

1 Peter 2:5 You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

## Accept

Deuteronomy 33:11 Bless his substance, LORD, And [accept](#) the work of his hands; Strike the loins of those who rise against him, And of those who hate him, that they rise not again."

1 Samuel 26:19 Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him [accept](#) an offering. But if *it is* the children of men, *may* they *be* cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

2 Samuel 24:23 "All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God [accept](#) you."

Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed [accept](#) good from God, and shall we not [accept](#) adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 42:8 "Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will [accept](#) him, lest I deal with you *according to your* folly; because you have not spoken of Me *what is* right, as My servant Job *has*."

Psalms 20:3 May He remember all your offerings, And [accept](#) your burnt sacrifice. Selah

Psalms 119:108 [Accept](#), I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, And teach me Your judgments.

Proverbs 6:35 He will [accept](#) no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

Jeremiah 14:10 Thus says the LORD to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not [accept](#) them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins."

Jeremiah 14:12 "When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not [accept](#) them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

Ezekiel 20:40 "For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will [accept](#) them, and there I will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things.

Ezekiel 20:41 "I will [accept](#) you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles.

Ezekiel 43:27 'When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will [accept](#) you,' says the Lord GOD."

Hosea 8:13 *For* the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat *it*, *But* the LORD does not [accept](#) them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.

Amos 5:22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not [accept](#) *them*, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

Malachi 1:8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, *Is it* not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, *Is it* not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. *While* this is being *done* by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:10 "Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

Malachi 1:13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.

Matthew 19:11-12 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given: "For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."

Mark 4:20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

Acts 24:15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of *the* just and *the* unjust.

1 Corinthians 6:7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?

## Respect

Genesis 4:3-5 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Psalms 40:4 Blessed *is* that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Psalms 74:20 Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

Isaiah 17:7 In that day a man will look to his Maker, And his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 17:8 He will not look to the altars, The work of his hands; He will not respect what his fingers have made, Nor the wooden images nor the incense altars.

Isaiah 22:11 You also made a reservoir between the two walls For the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, Nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago.

Lamentations 4:16 The face of the LORD scattered them; He no longer regards them. *The people* do not respect the priests Nor show favor to the elders.

Matthew 21:37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

Mark 12:6 Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, "They will respect my son."

Luke 20:13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, "What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect *him* when they see him."

2 Corinthians 3:10 For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

## Regard

1 Kings 8:28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today.

2 Kings 3:14 And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you."

2 Chronicles 6:19 "Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You.

Job 13:24 Why do You hide Your face, And regard me as Your enemy?

Job 30:20 I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me.

Job 34:19 Yet He is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they *are* all the work of His hands.

Job 35:13 Surely God will not listen to empty *talk*, Nor will the Almighty regard it.

Psalms 28:5 Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, Nor the operation of His hands, He shall destroy them And not build them up.

Psalms 31:6 I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the LORD.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Psalms 102:17 He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer.

Isaiah 5:12 The harp and the strings, The tambourine and flute, And wine are in their feasts; But they do not regard the work of the LORD, Nor consider the operation of His hands.

Amos 5:22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept *them*, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

Jonah 2:8 Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.

Malachi 2:13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands.

Matthew 22:16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men."

Mark 12:14 When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

Luke 18:2, 4 Saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man...And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, "Though I do not fear God nor regard man."

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer.

## Reject

Numbers 14:11 Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

Psalms 119:118 You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, For their deceit *is* falsehood.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Mark 7:9 He said to them, "*All too* well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

Galatians 4:14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 Therefore he who rejects *this* does not [reject](#) man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 4:7 But [reject](#) profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

Titus 3:10 [Reject](#) a divisive man after the first and second admonition.

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, [reject](#) authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

## Despise

1 Samuel 2:30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who [despise](#) Me shall be lightly esteemed.

Job 5:17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not [despise](#) the chastening of the Almighty.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not [despise](#).

Psalms 69:33 For the LORD hears the poor, And does not [despise](#) His prisoners.

Psalms 73:20 As a dream when *one* awakes, *So*, Lord, when You awake, You shall [despise](#) their image.

Psalms 102:17 He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not [despise](#) their prayer.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools [despise](#) wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not [despise](#) the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction.

Proverbs 6:30 *People* do not [despise](#) a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.

Proverbs 23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will [despise](#) the wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not [despise](#) your mother when she is old.

Jeremiah 23:17 They continually say to those who [despise](#) Me, "The LORD has said, "You shall have peace"; And *to* everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'"

Malachi 1:6 A son honors *his* father, And a servant *his* master. If then I am the Father, Where *is* My honor? And if I *am* a Master, Where *is* My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who [despise](#) My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'

Matthew 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and [despise](#) the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 14:3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

Galatians 4:14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 Do not despise prophecies.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 6:2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Hebrews 12:5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him."

2 Peter 2:10 And especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.

### **Am I Acceptable To The Lord?**

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 66:2 "For all those *things* My hand has made, And all those *things* exist," Says the LORD. "But on this *one* will I look: On *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

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