

On a Positive Note...

Changing The World, one life at a time... from the inside out.

In these contemporary days where evil is so prevalent, choose to engage in all that is good... Why? I choose to embrace life with all its abundance. I do so in full understanding of the risks. However, I feel the call to engage life to the fullest that others may come to grasp and experience the peace, security, confidence, and Hope, not the to lessen the love and encouragement, that all cherish. This season choose not to fall prey to that which is evil. Rather, choose to pursue and engage in what is right. We will never find good in evil... live for what is right. Let not your good be evil spoken of. Let your life so radiate good as to disinfect the darkness. Be the divine shine that outshines evil... wherever and in whatever form it exists, especially in the seemingly small and quiet and insignificant moments.

The last thing this world needs is yet another devil's advocate... Be an angel of and advocate for good.

In Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus values those who are poor in spirit and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. He promises them the Kingdom of Heaven. This shows us that God's kingdom is not like the kingdoms of this world. In God's kingdom, the values are different. Those who are humble, those who are willing to suffer to do what is right, will be rewarded in the end. So, if you are feeling poor in spirit, if you are persecuted for doing what is right, take heart. God sees your struggles and promises you a place in His Kingdom. Keep your faith strong and continue to do what is right, even in the face of opposition. Remember that in Heaven, justice will be perfect, and the needs of the poor will be met.

What is biblical positivity and what are its attributes?

The Bible does not explicitly use the term "positive" as it is commonly understood today, but it emphasizes many traits and attitudes that align with a "positive" outlook. These are often described through virtues, commands, and encouragements.

The biblical attributes of positivity are closely tied to virtues and attitudes that reflect trust in God, love for others, and hope for the future. These attributes emphasize spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being, focusing on what is good, uplifting, and righteous. Here are some key biblical attributes of positivity:

1. Joy

- **Description:** A deep, abiding sense of happiness rooted in God's presence and promises.
 - **Key Verse:**
 - *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.”* (Philippians 4:4)
 - *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* (James 1:2-4)
 - **Example:** Biblical joy is not based on circumstances but on trust in God's faithfulness.
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2. Hope

- **Description:** Confident expectation in God's promises and the fulfillment of His plan.
 - **Key Verse:**
 - *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”* (Romans 15:13)
 - **Example:** Hope encourages perseverance and a positive outlook even in difficult times.
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3. Gratitude

- **Description:** Thankfulness to God for His blessings, grace, and provision.
 - **Key Verse:**
 - *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*
 - **Example:** Gratitude shifts focus from problems to God's goodness.
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4. Peace

- **Description:** A sense of inner calm and assurance, rooted in trust in God's sovereignty.
 - **Key Verse:**
 - *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)*
 - *"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." (Isaiah 26:3)*
 - **Example:** Peace reflects a positive, steady heart amid life's storms.
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5. Love

- **Description:** Selfless care for others, reflecting God's unconditional love.
 - **Key Verse:**
 - *"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13)
 - "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful..." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
 - **Micah 6:8:** "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
 - **Example:** Love motivates positivity by seeking the best for others and building relationships.
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6. Encouragement

- **Description:** Speaking and acting in ways that build others up and inspire hope.
 - **Key Verse:**
 - *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up."* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."* (Ephesians 4:29)
 - "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)
 - **Example:** Encouraging words and actions reflect a positive spirit that uplifts others.
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7. Patience

- **Description:** Endurance and calm in the face of trials, rooted in faith in God's timing.
 - **Key Verse:** *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”* (Romans 12:12)
 - **Example:** Patience shows positivity through trust and perseverance.
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8. Kindness

- **Description:** Compassion and gentle actions toward others.
 - **Key Verse:** *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”* (Ephesians 4:32)
 - **Example:** Kindness fosters a positive environment and reflects God's grace.
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9. Faith

- **Description:** Belief in God's power, love, and promises.
 - **Key Verse:** *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”* (Hebrews 11:1)
 - **Example:** Faith allows positivity to flourish, knowing God is in control.
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10. Forgiveness

- **Description:** Releasing resentment and offering grace to others, as God has forgiven.
 - **Key Verse:** *“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”* (Colossians 3:13)
 - **Example:** Forgiveness promotes peace and positive relationships.
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11. Humility

- **Description:** Acknowledging one's dependence on God and valuing others above oneself.
 - **Key Verse:** *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”* (Philippians 2:3)
 - **Example:** Humility fosters a positive and cooperative spirit.
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In summary, the Bible encourages believers to embody a positive perspective through joy, gratitude, hope, faith, encouragement, patience, peace, love, kindness, forgiveness, and humility. This outlook is deeply rooted in trust in God and His promises. Its attributes are deeply rooted in faith, hope, and love. I do not profess to be an expert in positivity. However, I am certain of this, the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). It is also essential to remember the source of positiveness. We read in Jeremiah 31:13 about God's ability to turn mourning into dancing and bring joy out of sorrow. These roots guide us to focus on God's goodness, trust His plans, and reflect His character in our relationships and daily lives.