Embracing Your Best Self: A Comprehensive Guide for Young People

# BECOMING THE HIGHEST VERSION OF SELF

## WRITTEN BY

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# Part 1: Laying the Foundation

## Embracing Your Best Self: A Comprehensive Guide for Young People

Becoming the best version of yourself is a lifelong journey, and it starts now. As a young person, you have the power to shape your future, develop your skills, and cultivate positive habits. In general, you have the power to intentionally become better and how and who you were meant to be. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore practical tips and advice to help you on your path to self-improvement and personal growth, including spirituality, health, mindset, life, and more. Each day presents new opportunities to learn, reflect, and evolve. You are given one chance to be you, and that is life.

# Part 2: Defining Your Core Values and Beliefs

#### **Know Your Values**

What matters most to you in life? What do you stand for? What do you believe in? When you know your values, you'll be able to make decisions that align with who you are and what you want to achieve. Your values are the principles and beliefs that are most important to you, and they can guide your decisions and actions in life. They are the principles that you hold dear. They are often abstract concepts like honesty, integrity, compassion, revenge (negative), family, peace, envy (negative), diversity, discipline, accountability, materialism (negative), independence, greed (negative), justice, freedom, popularity (negative), hard work, etc. They are not just words; they are the internal compass that directs your life.

Your values dictate your priorities and choices, influencing how you even relate to money. By aligning your financial actions with your core values, you create a strong foundation for financial security and overall life satisfaction. This self-awareness empowers you to make conscious decisions about spending, saving, and investing, ensuring your financial journey aligns with your life purpose. Whether it's prioritizing experiences over material possessions, saving for long-term goals, or giving back to the community, understanding your values provides a clear compass for navigating financial decisions.

#### **Explore Spirituality**

Here we talk more about Christianity. In other philosophical traditions/sources, they have different names/terms. Your spirit is the most important part of your being. It suggests that your inner being, often intangible and beyond the physical realm, is the primary catalyst for personal growth and transformation.

Ask yourself:

- What do I believe in?
- Who is God?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- What about the Holy Spirit?
- What is salvation?
- Who is a Christian?

In your spirit is where the Holy Spirit connects with your being, and sometimes you have to shut the noise in you or around you to discern and have a clear focus. Some people do so by fasting. The spirit is often linked to consciousness (soul and mind), allowing us to introspect, reflect, and understand our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors better. Your spirit is the most divine part of you. If you enhance your spiritual growth, you tend to know yourself better. For Christians, this is the part that is the image of God. His Holy Spirit resides here. Allow Him to take care of your spirit, and eventually, this manifests in the outer you, that is, your soul, mind, body, and life.

Explore your spiritual side by engaging in practices that resonate with you, such as prayer, fasting, reading the Bible, meditating on the Word, or connecting with other people of the same beliefs. Grow into salvation and make your spirit vibrant, alert, discerning, and better. If you believe and are committed to Christ, then the journey will be transformational.

Spirituality can provide a sense of purpose, direction, inner peace, and connection to something greater than oneself.

Work on your faith and trust in God. Know your God better and know His voice. Be conscious not to copy the routines of other man-made gods or anything else that is not your God

displayed in the media or elsewhere. God is one (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and He is the creator. He created you and everything else, including mother earth, the universe, stars, moon, mountains, money, men, angels, etc. All these are idols if you worship them. Know that He lives in you, and you can seek Him anytime, anywhere.

# Part 3: Goals, Dreams, and Mindset

#### Dreams

Dreams are the aspirations, visions, goals, and desires that ignite your soul and propel you toward your full potential. When you have a clear vision of where you want to go, it's easier to make choices that lead you there, and you will always remain motivated, and laziness will never be a part of you. Break down your big dreams into smaller, achievable goals daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, or in clusters of 3, 5, 10, or lifelong years.

To achieve life dreams, one must embark on a journey of self-discovery, which involves developing self-awareness, spiritual awareness in Christ, setting goals, planning, taking action, and reflecting on progress. Life should be intentional. Don't allow a day to start without a goal in mind. Let it be as clear as possible; this allows your mind's antenna to be very sensitive to opportunities. Whatever you think, it will always look for you. It is also said that if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Love what you do now because a thousand-mile journey starts with one step. Remain kind and optimistic, be patient and hopeful as you put in the work without losing focus on the bigger picture, but also enjoy the journey of life, which is made of ups and downs and that makes it sweet. Unless you start and persist, you can't achieve your dream—whether wealth-wise, socially, health-wise, or spiritually. Don't allow your environment to give you identity. Your true self lies within, unaffected by external factors, whether in plenty or in lack.

Studies have shown that having a sense of purpose and direction can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and improve overall well-being.

## Cultivating a Growth Mindset

Cultivating a growth mindset is the belief that your abilities and intelligence can be developed through trust in God, dedication, and hard work. It's the belief that your abilities and intelligence are not fixed, and recognizing that your potential is limitless because it's rooted in a divine source to whom you submit. Embrace challenges, learn from criticism, and celebrate the efforts of others. When you approach life with this mindset, setbacks become stepping stones rather than obstacles.

## Part 4: Planning and Achieving Goals

#### Set Clear Goals

Define what being the "best version" of yourself means to you. Break down your long-term vision into smaller, achievable goals. Start by setting clear, achievable goals. Break them down into manageable steps that you can work on daily, weekly, or monthly. Write them in a book and keep reviewing them to see how far you are. Let them be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART)—to help clarify your objectives. Here's an example:

**Goal: Improve Chinese Speaking Fluency** 

- **Specific**: Have a 10-minute conversation in Chinese with a native speaker about everyday topics (weather, hobbies, family) without relying heavily on translation tools.
- **Measurable**: Record myself speaking Chinese for 10 minutes and assess fluency based on grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.
- Achievable: Practice speaking Chinese with a language partner twice a week for at least 30 minutes and watch Chinese-language movies or TV shows.
- **Relevant**: Improving Chinese fluency will allow me to communicate with Chinesespeaking friends, family, and potentially open up new job opportunities.
- **Time-bound**: Achieve this goal by the end of the next 2 months.

Highlight your goals. Whether it's improving your relationship with God, enhancing your health, or cultivating a new hobby, having defined goals will keep you motivated and focused.

## Part 5: Building Inner Strength

#### **Believe in Yourself**

The most important person you'll ever influence is yourself. Believe in your abilities, set goals, and take steps to achieve them. Confidence is attractive, and it starts from within. Embrace even the tiny achievements because they have taken effort and will. It means having faith in your own abilities, potential, and judgment. It's about trusting that you can overcome challenges, achieve your goals, and make sound decisions. If you know, you know. Don't listen to naysayers.

## Practicing Compassion (for Self and Others)

As you strive for improvement, it's essential to be kind to yourself. Acknowledge that growth and results take time and that you will encounter setbacks. Treat yourself with the same understanding and patience that you would offer a friend in a similar situation. Embrace the journey, not just the destination. Be kind to yourself, and don't be too hard on yourself when things don't go as planned. Remember that everyone makes mistakes.

Extending compassion to others helps cultivate profound self-awareness and resilience. By understanding and sharing the emotional experiences of others, we develop a deeper connection to our own inner world. This empathy fosters humility, preventing arrogance and encouraging a growth mindset. Witnessing the strength of others in adversity inspires our own perseverance, while connecting with the struggles of humanity creates a profound sense of purpose. Compassion also acts as a balm for the soul, offering inner peace as we shift focus from our own challenges to the well-being of others. Ultimately, the path to selfmastery is not solely about conquering personal limitations, but about expanding our capacity for empathy and kindness, thereby enriching both our inner and outer worlds.

# Part 6: Positive Habits and Lifelong Learning

## Creating Positive Habits

The first step is to envision your ideal self. What qualities, skills, and values define this person? This vision will guide your habit formation.

For instance: Practice gratitude by being thankful for even tiny things like a bright moon, a baby laughing, or a hen stretching—this builds positive energy in you. Practice empathy by not being selfish. Practice humility even when you achieve something.

Positive habits are the building blocks of personal growth and development. They contribute significantly to boosting self-esteem, confidence, and overall well-being. These habits apply to all your spheres—focusing on mental, spiritual, physical, and social well-being. Replace unproductive habits with positive ones. Identify triggers and create strategies to overcome them. Use tools like habit trackers or accountability partners to help you stay on track.

## Embrace Lifelong Learning / Cultivate Your Mind

Ignite a passion for learning and expanding your knowledge. Immerse yourself in books, audiobooks, workshops, podcasts, YouTube videos, blogs, and online courses to acquire new skills, such as investments, home decor, knitting, gardening, career development, swimming, driving, self-mastery, public speaking, repairing shoes, communication skills, etc. Engage with inspiring individuals who challenge your perspectives. Your mind is an incredible asset. Fuel it with knowledge, curiosity, and critical thinking. Embrace new ideas and never stop asking questions. A sharp mind opens doors to endless possibilities. The brain is like a muscle; the more you exercise and equip it, the stronger and more resilient it becomes.

# Part 7: Self-Care and Mental Health

## Practice Self-Care

Prioritize your physical and mental well-being. Establish a consistent sleep schedule, eat a balanced diet, and exercise regularly. Develop mindfulness practices, such as meditation or journaling, to help manage stress and maintain a positive mindset.

Physical health is integral to your personal development. Incorporate regular exercise into your routine, aiming for activities that you enjoy, whether it's dancing, hiking, or team

sports. Nourish your body with healthy balanced meals full of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Also, take care of your skin, hair, nails, and oral hygiene—even for men. It's not just about looking good; it's about feeling good and boosting your overall well-being.

Don't neglect your mental health. Practice healthy self-attentiveness and introspection to develop greater awareness and reduce stress. Sometimes spend time alone. Solitude can be a powerful tool for introspection and connection with your inner self.

#### 'Fill Your Cup'

Capture your thoughts and emotions monthly, weekly, or even daily. Keeping a record of your life experiences is a great way to unwind and create space for better things. Take time for yourself to recharge and replenish your energy, just like filling an empty cup—spiritually, mentally, and physically. Use journaling as a means of self-discovery and personal development. Write about your adventures and feelings in a dedicated journal or book. Take time to reflect on your thoughts and emotions to gain insight into yourself and your aspirations. This will give you clarity about where you are in life, what you need to let go of, and what you need to embrace. Remember, we give from a place of abundance. This practice will also leave your mind clear, lighter, and more focused.

# Part 8: Setting Boundaries and Managing Relationships

## Be Careful Where You Take Advice From

It's crucial to be discerning about the sources of advice you turn to. Trusting your own judgment and aligning your decisions with your values and aspirations is paramount. While it's valuable to seek guidance, it's essential to acknowledge that you bear responsibility for your life and choices. Just as a captain steers a ship, you are in control. Others may offer advice, but ultimately, the final decision is yours, and you should also give a chance to your inner voice. It's important to sift through the advice and retain only what serves your goals. Be careful what you watch or listen to as well. The media you consume can significantly impact your thoughts, emotions, and perspectives.

#### **Keep Your Promises**

It's a commitment to integrity, discipline, and self-respect that propels you towards your goals. By consistently fulfilling your word to yourself, you cultivate a deep sense of trust and

reliability that extends beyond self-perception. This internal fortitude empowers you to overcome obstacles, make sound decisions, and maintain focus on your aspirations.

Moreover, the act of keeping promises fosters a positive feedback loop; each accomplishment strengthens your belief in your abilities, motivating you to take on greater challenges. Remember, progress is often marked by small, consistent steps, and honoring your commitments is a fundamental building block for lasting change. Examples include:

- "I will read 10 pages of a personal development book every day."
- "I will network with at least two professionals in my field each month."
- "I will call or text a friend or family member once a week to catch up."
- "I will research and explore new investment opportunities in the next 3 days."
- "I will limit my screen time to only necessary tasks and engage in more offline activities."

## Part 9: Overcoming Challenges and Developing Resilience

#### **Building Resilience and Facing Challenges**

Life inevitably presents challenges and hardships. Resilience is the ability to adapt and recover from adversity, trauma, tragedy, and significant sources of stress. It means having the capacity to "bounce back" from these difficult experiences and move forward with a positive outlook. Resilience is not something innate; it is a skill that can be developed and strengthened over time.

It's important to remember that building resilience doesn't mean you won't experience difficult emotions such as sadness, helplessness, anger, or fear. It means that you'll be better able to manage these emotions and move forward in a positive direction. When you fall, you stand up, dust yourself off, clear your lenses, and forge forward. So long as you are breathing, it is too early to round off. In whatever stage or season you are in, never fail to show up—God will do the rest.

## Be Careful with Your Words

Be mindful of the impact of your words: Your words are powerful tools and can have a significant effect on your beliefs, attitudes, and experiences. Choose your words thoughtfully, as negative self-talk can diminish self-confidence, while positive affirmations can foster resilience. Mindless chatter can be energy-draining, but intentional communication can inspire and connect. Each word you use is like a seed planted in the garden of your mind. Cultivate a language that empowers, is kind, and speaks the truth. Keep in mind that your words have the ability to both create and destroy. Use them wisely.

For example, instead of saying, "Life is so hard" or "I hate math," try to reframe your thoughts in a more positive light. Also, if someone engages in gossip or negative talk, consider redirecting the conversation or steering it in a more positive direction. Additionally, strive to change your self-talk from "I'm terrible at managing my finances" to "I'm learning to manage my finances more effectively," and from "You never listen to me" to "I feel like I'm not being heard right now. Can we try again?" Lastly, remember that our brains tend to seek confirmation of our beliefs and opinions, so be aware of cognitive dissonance and counteract negative thoughts with positive words.

#### Manage Emotions and Moods

Develop emotional intelligence by practicing active listening, empathy, and assertive communication. Negative emotions like anger, fear, sadness, jealousy, guilt, and shame can often be overwhelming, while even positive emotions like excitement can present challenges. Developing effective strategies to manage these emotional fluctuations is crucial for overall well-being and personal growth. They can disrupt relationships, hinder career success, and negatively impact overall well-being. Unresolved anger might lead to conflict or physical aggression. Chronic fear can manifest as anxiety disorders. Unprocessed grief can lead to depression. Jealousy can erode trust in relationships and create unhealthy competition. Guilt and shame can hinder personal growth and self-esteem. Moreover, the inability to manage overwhelming positive emotions can lead to burnout or unrealistic expectations and hopelessness. Learn to recognize and regulate your emotional responses to various situations. Seek professional help if needed.

# Part 10: Letting Go and Living with Intention

## Forgive and Let Go

Practice forgiveness towards others and yourself. Let go of grudges, resentments, and negative emotions that no longer serve you. Forgiveness allows you to move forward and focus on personal growth. Learn from your mistakes. Nobody is perfect, and everyone makes mistakes. Instead of beating yourself up over mistakes, use them as opportunities to learn and grow.

#### Live Healthy

Adopt a balanced diet and regular exercise routine. Eat nutrient-dense foods, stay hydrated, and engage in physical activities that you enjoy. A healthy lifestyle can improve your mood, energy levels, and overall well-being. Sleep at least 6-8 hours a night. Maintain good hygiene. A balanced diet includes:

- **Carbohydrates**: These provide the body with energy. Examples include whole grains like brown rice, quinoa, and whole-wheat bread.
- **Proteins**: Essential for building and repairing tissues. Good sources include lean meats like chicken and fish, legumes like lentils and beans, and tofu.
- **Fats**: Important for energy storage, hormone production, and nutrient absorption. Healthy fats can be found in avocados, nuts, seeds, and olive oil.
- Vitamins and minerals: These micronutrients are crucial for various bodily functions. Fruits and vegetables are excellent sources of vitamins and minerals. For example, citrus fruits are rich in vitamin C, while spinach is high in iron.
- **Fiber**: Aids in digestion and helps regulate blood sugar levels. Whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and legumes are good sources of fiber.
- Water: Essential for hydration and overall bodily functions. It's recommended to drink plenty of water throughout the day, as much as you are satisfied with. Your plate should have all these components, and taking water 2 hours before or after meals enhances good digestion.

# Part 11: Relationships and Mentorship

## **Build Strong Relationships**

Surround yourself with supportive and positive people. Cultivate meaningful connections with friends, family, and mentors who encourage you to grow and challenge you to be your best. Be open to giving and receiving constructive feedback. Maintain healthy relationships, and establish and maintain healthy boundaries in your relationships. Communicate openly, honestly, and respectfully. Seek support from trusted individuals when needed.

Remember that friends can come and go depending on where you are in your journey. Some are temporary as they may not be accommodated by your growth, while others are permanent because you understand each other well, no matter the different journeys. Recognize individuals who drain you, especially those who are always negative-minded, complaining, and never grateful for anything. Be kind to others. Being kind to others is not only good for them, but it's also good for you. When you focus on helping others, you'll feel more confident, happy, and fulfilled.

## Seek Mentorship and Guidance

By providing guidance, support, and knowledge sharing, mentors empower you to discover your potential, make informed decisions, and overcome challenges. Through mentorship, young individuals can develop essential life skills, explore career paths, and build confidence. Mentors can be found in schools, churches, communities, and professional networks, offering invaluable support as young people navigate their journeys to self-discovery and success.

Mentors influence facilitates the discovery of potential, informed decision-making, and the ability to overcome challenges. Mentorship provides a platform for young individuals to cultivate essential life skills, explore various career paths, and foster confidence. It is imperative to actively seek out a suitable mentor and subsequently consider taking on a mentoring role to contribute positively to others' development.

# Part 12: Creative Pursuits and Personal Balance

#### **Pursue Creative Hobbies**

Engage in creative hobbies that bring you joy and fulfillment. Pursue activities such as painting, writing, music, or dance. Creative expression can help you tap into your emotions, reduce stress, and foster a sense of accomplishment.

#### Set Boundaries

Setting boundaries is a crucial aspect of self-development. It's about defining your limits and communicating your needs to others. By establishing clear boundaries, you protect your mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

Establish and maintain healthy boundaries in all areas of your life. Communicate your needs and expectations clearly and respectfully. Learn to say "no" when necessary to preserve your time, energy, and well-being. Stay true to yourself and your values. Don't compromise your beliefs or integrity to please others. These boundaries include physical, emotional, personal, and professional. Benefits of setting boundaries include improved self-care by prioritizing your needs, increased empowerment, better relationships, reduced stress, and increased productivity. Don't be afraid to be different. It's easy to get caught up in trying to fit in with the crowd, but being different in a better way is what makes you unique and special. Don't be afraid to stand out and be yourself.

Set boundaries even for your phone and similar devices. Designate phone-free zones like bedrooms and dining areas to prioritize real-world connections. Schedule regular digital detoxes to recharge and reduce screen time. Customize notifications to minimize distractions and limit social media consumption for improved focus and well-being. Remember, mindful phone usage and charging devices outside the bedroom can enhance sleep quality and overall life satisfaction. By establishing these boundaries, you reclaim control over your time and attention, fostering a more balanced and fulfilling life.

# Part 13: Staying Curious and Embracing Change

#### Seek Professional Help

Don't hesitate to seek professional help if you are struggling with any issues, including other personal challenges. Therapists, counselors, and support groups can provide valuable guidance, resources, and support.

Find mentors or role models who embody the qualities you aspire to have. Learn from their experiences, ask for advice, and seek guidance when needed. Everyone needs a mentor. A skilled mentor offers invaluable guidance, support, and accountability, accelerating progress toward one's goals. Through shared experiences and knowledge, mentors provide a unique perspective, helping mentees navigate challenges, develop new skills, and build confidence. Effective mentorship is a two-way street, requiring open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to growth. While finding the ideal mentor may require effort, the rewards of such a partnership can be transformative, shaping both personal and professional trajectories.

#### **Stay Curious**

Cultivate a sense of curiosity and wonder about the world around you. Embrace new experiences, travel, and learn about different cultures, ideas, and perspectives. Stay openminded and receptive to new ideas and opportunities. Take risks and try new things. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try new things, but make calculated moves. This is where the magic happens, and you'll discover new passions, talents, and better ways to live your life and impact others.

## Practice Patience

Cultivate patience and perseverance in all areas of your life. Recognize that personal growth takes time, effort, and dedication. Stay committed to your goals and trust the process.

# Part 14: Final Thoughts and Prayer

## **Embrace Change**

Understand that change is a natural part of life. Embrace new opportunities, experiences, and challenges with an open mind and a positive attitude. Stay flexible and adaptable in the face of uncertainty.

#### Live in the Present

It is always good to plan for the future, but don't remain there. Live now. It involves focusing on the current moment and making the most of it, rather than dwelling on the past or worrying about the future. Furthermore, a good future is made by living better now, and the past destroys your now and stagnates the future.

#### Sex and Intimacy

This includes your sexual values. Consider questions like:

- Do you value your personal beliefs?
- Do I love myself?
- Is it the right time?
- Am I ready?
- Is it a priority now?
- What do I believe about sex, relationships, and intimacy?
- Are my sexual choices aligned with my overall goals, values, and faith?
- Am I respecting myself and others in my sexual relationships?
- Is my sexual relationship built on mutual respect, trust, and consent?
- Am I feeling emotionally fulfilled and satisfied in my relationship?
- Are my sexual experiences enhancing my overall well-being?
- Am I prioritizing my physical and emotional well-being?
- Am I communicating my needs and desires effectively?

• Am I able to say no to unwanted sexual advances?

Your sexual decisions should contribute positively to your overall well-being—physically, spiritually, logically, and emotionally.

As a young person, you're constantly growing, learning, and evolving. You're figuring out who you are, what you want to do with your life, and how you want to make a positive impact on the world. But with all the pressure to succeed, fit in, and meet expectations, it can be easy to lose sight of what's truly important: being the best version of yourself.

In conclusion, it takes time, effort, and patience, but the rewards are well worth it, both now and in the future. By following these tips, you'll be well on your way to becoming the best version of yourself and making a positive impact on the world. Remember to always be true to yourself, never give up on your dreams, and know that every step you take brings you closer to your goals.

How Do You Know You Are on the Right Track to the Highest Version of Yourself? Self-development is a never-ending process, but it gets better every day as life unfolds. Knowing you are on the right path to your highest version of self often involves a combination of self-awareness, spiritual awakening, emotional intelligence, and alignment with your values and goals, as mentioned earlier. Here are some indicators:

- **Clarity of Purpose**: You have a clear understanding of your values, goals, and what truly matters to you.
- Emotional Well-being: You experience a sense of inner peace, joy, and contentment, even in challenging situations. You've mastered the ability to walk away from unnecessary battles. You choose your battles wisely and stop throwing stones at every dog that barks. Sometimes you become silent and walk away, but that doesn't mean you tolerate the trash thrown at you. Instead, you act with God-given wisdom to fight battles that truly matter—battles for your faith, your destiny, and your best relationships, including family. You always prioritize your peace first, understanding that not all battles are worth your time or energy.

- Authenticity: You feel comfortable being yourself and expressing your true thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment. You can easily detach from situations or people that do not align with who you are or are becoming.
- **Resilience**: You can navigate challenges and setbacks with a positive mindset, viewing them as opportunities for growth.
- Empathy and Compassion: You have a strong ability to understand and connect with others, showing kindness and support.
- Your Relationship with God Improves:
  - You are able to fully surrender yourself to God.
  - Surrendering to God involves releasing the need to control outcomes and trusting in a higher power. Self-development helps you loosen your grip on control because God knows better, especially when things don't go your way. You have peace, knowing He has you in His care. You also cultivate a spirit of joy and gratitude, recognizing the blessings in your life and expressing thankfulness to God.
- **Continuous Growth**: Opportunities for personal development constantly arise, wherever you are.
- **Healthy Relationships**: You cultivate and maintain relationships that are supportive, respectful, and fulfilling. You also become more forgiving, empathetic, and patient.
- **Balanced Life**: You find a healthy balance between work, relationships, self-care, leisure activities, and spiritual enhancement. Your moral integrity improves.
- Intuition and Trust: You trust your instincts and make decisions that feel right for you, even if they go against external expectations.

#### Sex and Intimacy in the Highest Version of Self

- It's the realization of respecting one's own body (a temple), boundaries, and values.
- You feel comfortable in your own skin, whether in a relationship or not.

- You communicate openly, respectfully, and honestly, fostering healthy and supportive relationships. Whether you're exploring, abstaining, or deeply connected, you're able to identify the energy/aura of the opposite sex, recognizing whether it aligns with your version of self or repels because it doesn't match.
- You know the difference between love and lust. Lust is a primal urge rooted in
  physical attraction and desire, often intense but temporary. It is a fleeting spark
  driven by instinct and sensation. Love, on the other hand, is a profound connection
  that transcends physicality. It is a complex interplay of emotional, intellectual, and
  spiritual bonds, characterized by care, respect, and a deep commitment to another
  person's well-being

#### Prayer

#### Gracious and loving Lord,

I stand before You, humbled by the journey of becoming my best self. Guide me through this labyrinth of growth and transformation. Illuminate the path ahead, revealing the shadows and the light within me. Grant me the courage to confront my fears and limitations, and wisdom to embrace my strengths and potential. Strengthen my resolve to live authentically, with integrity and compassion. Fill me with a deep sense of purpose, inspiring me to contribute meaningfully to the world around me. May I be a vessel of Your love, radiating kindness and understanding to all I encounter.

In moments of doubt and challenge, be my steadfast companion. Remind me of Your unwavering support and the infinite possibilities that await. As I strive to become the best version of myself, may I always remember that my true worth lies in being Your child.

#### In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.