## **Confirmation Bible Verses**

## Selections for Confirmation Essay and Certificate

## **OLD TESTAMENT**

- 1. "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." Genesis 1:3
- 2. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27 NIV
- 3. "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:31 NIV
- 4. "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be His treasured possession." Deuteronomy 14:2
- "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV
- 6. "Be strong and of good courage. Do not be fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 KJV
- 7. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV
- 8. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 NIV
- 9. "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9 KJV
- 10. "Then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve . . . but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15 NIV
- 11. "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart". 1 Samuel 16:7 NIV
- 12. "The Lord does not look at the things that man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 NIV
- 13. "But you are a shield around me O Lord, my Glorious One, who lifts up my head." Psalm 3:3 NIV
- 14. "But you are a shield around me, O Lord; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head." Psalm 3:3 NIV

- 15. "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8 NIV
- 16. "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge." Psalm 18:2 NIV
- 17. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 KJV
- 18. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters." Psalm 23:2 KJV
- 19. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 NIV
- 20. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 KJV
- 21. "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6 KJV
- 22. "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1 KJV
- 23. "In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness." Psalm 31:1 NIV
- 24. "Our soul waits for the Lord; the Lord is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in God, because we trust in God's holy name." Psalm 33:20 KJV
- 25. "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield." Psalm 33:20 The Lutheran Study Bible
- "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18
- 27. "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4 NIV
- 28. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5 KJV
- 29. "God is our Refuge and Strength; a very present Help in time of trouble." Psalm 46:1 KJV

- 30. "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will honor Me." Psalm 50:15 NIV
- 31. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10 KJV
- 32. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22 KJV
- 33. "He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." Psalm 62:6 NIV
- 34. "Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress." Psalm 71:3 NIV
- 35. "I will say of the Lord; He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2 NIV
- 36. "The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice." Psalm 97:1 NIV
- 37. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:4-5 NIV
- 38. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise." Psalm 111:10 NIV
- 39. "I love the Lord for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.

  Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him for as long as I live."

  Psalm 116:1-2 NIV
- 40. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love ensures forever." Psalm 118:1 NIV
- 41. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24 NIV
- 42. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11 KJV
- 43. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105
- 44. "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore." Psalm 125:2 NIV

- 45. "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:9-10 NIV
- 46. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:14 NIV
- 47. "How precious to me are your thoughts, O, God! How vast is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:17 NIV
- 48. "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life." Psalm 143:8
- 49. "For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6 NIV
- 50. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV
- 51. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 New King James
- 52. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6 King James
- 53. "Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil." Proverbs 3:7
- 54. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3 NIV
- 55. "Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?" Proverbs 20:9 NIV
- 56. "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him." Proverbs 30:5 KJV
- 57. "The Lord will save me, and we will play my music on stringed instruments all the days of our lives, at the house of the Lord". Isaiah 38:20 ESV
- 58. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 KJV

- 59. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31 NIV
- 60. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 NIV
- 61. "Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, and you are mine." Isaiah 43:1 Revised Standard
- 62. "O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8 NIV
- 63. "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me." Isaiah 65:1 NIV
- 64. "I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel". Jeremiah 15:21
- 65. "His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed I cannot." Jeremiah 20:9 NIV
- 66. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV
- 67. "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV
- 68. "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight." Daniel 6:22 NIV
- 69. "The Lord your God is with you; He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love; He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17 NIV
- 70. "I the Lord, do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." Malachi 3:6 NIV

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

- 71. "Jesus answered, "It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4 NIV
- 72. "Jesus answered him, "It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test." Matthew 4:7 NIV
- 73. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." Matthew 5:14-15
- 74. "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven". Matthew 5:16
- 75. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 NIV
- 76. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

  Matthew 6:25 and 33 NIV
- 77. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" Matthew 6:25 NIV
- 78. "See ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 KJV
- 79. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34 NIV
- 80. "So do not worry saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things and your heavenly father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:31-34 NIV
- 81. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7 NIV
- 82. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" Matthew 7:8 NIV

- 83. "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14 NIV
- 84. "Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit." Matthew 7:17-18 NIV
- 85. "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in Heaven." Matthew 10:32 NIV
- 86. "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32 KJV
- 87. "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22 KJV
- 88. "Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 NIV
- 89. "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39 KJV
- 90. "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Matthew 23:12 NIV
- 91. "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20 NIV
- 92. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20 KJV
- 93. "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20 NIV
- 94. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15
- 95. "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer believe you have received and it will be yours." Mark 11:22, 24 NIV
- 96. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and all your strength." Mark 12:30 NIV
- 97. "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37 KJV

- 98. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peach and good will towards men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 NIV
- 99. "Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it." Luke 11:28 Revised Standard
- 100. "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28 NIV
- 101. "He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:40 ESV
- 102. "And He said, "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am He", and "The time has drawn near." Therefore, do not go after them." Luke 21:9, Gideon's International Version (GIV)
- 103. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 KJV
- 104. "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV
- 105. "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14 NIV
- 106. "To whom shall I go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:68 KJV
- 107. "I am the Light of the World; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." John 8:12 KJV
- 108. "I am the Light of the World; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12 NIV
- 109. "If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth will make ye free." John 8:31-32 KJV
- 110. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10: 27-28 KJV
- 111. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28 NIV
- 112. "Jesus wept." John 11:35 KJV and NIV

- 113. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34 NIV
- 114. "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me."

  John 14:6 KJV
- 115. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV
- 116. "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27 KJV
- 117. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid." John 14:27 NIV
- 118. "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him he shall bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NIV
- 119. "I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me, ye can do nothing." John 15:5 KJV
- 120. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31 KJV
- 121. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved you and your household." Acts 16:31 NIV
- 122. "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." Romans 1:16 KJV
- 123. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Romans 1:16 NIV
- 124. "Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3-4 NIV
- 125. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 KJV
- 126. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NIV
- 127. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 NIV

- 128. "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 NIV
- 129. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 KJV (NOTE: HAS TO BE GRAPHED on 16-COUNT FABRIC)
- 130. "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:10 NIV
- 131. "Do not repay evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the sight of everyone." Romans 12:17 NIV
- 132. "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." Romans 13:8 NIV
- 133. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13
- 134. "Ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV
- 135. "Now to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7 NIV
- 136. "... if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."
  1 Corinthians 13:2 NIV
- 137. "Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)
- 138. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (NIV)
- 139. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
- 140. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong" 1 Corinthians 16:13
- 141. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

- 142. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV
- 143. "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10
- 144. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV
- 145. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves. It is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV
- 146. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV
- 147. "... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-18 NIV
- 148. "... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" Ephesians 3:17-18 NIV
- 149. "And I pray that . . . you will be able to feel, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great you will never see the end of it, or fully understand it." Ephesians 3:17-19 The Living Bible Translation
- 150. "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV
- 151. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth." Philippians 2:10 NIV
- 152. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!" Philippians 4:4 NIV
- 153. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". Philippians 4:6

- 154. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things". Philippians 4:8 NIV
- 155. "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 NIV
- 156. (b) "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13
- 157. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 KJV
- 158. "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6-7 NIV
- 159. "Remember what Christ taught. Teach it to each other and sing to the Lord with thankful hearts." Colossians 3:16 TLB
- 160. "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity for the believers."
  1 Timothy 4:12 NIV
- 161. "Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him." 2 Timothy 2:11
- 162. "Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call on the Lord out of pure heart." 2 Timothy 2:22 NIV
- 163. "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. "Titus 3: 4-7 NIV
- 164. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intention of the heart". Hebrews 4:12 English Standard Version
- 165. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 KJV

- 166. "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2 NIV
- 167. "Be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."" Hebrews 13:5 KJV
- 168. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 NIV
- 169. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7 NIV
- 170. "You love him even though you have never seen him, though not seeing him you trust him; and even now you are happy, and filled with the inexpressible joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:8-9 (combined versions from NIV and TLB)
- 171. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins". 1 Peter 4:8 NIV
- 172. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 KJV
- 173. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" 3 John 1:4
- 174. "Dear Children, let us not love withy words or tongue, but with actions and in truth." 1John 3:18 NIV
- 175. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10 KJV
- 176. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life." Revelation 2:10 Revised Standard
- 177. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will open the door and eat with him, and he with me."

  Revelation 3:20 NIV
- 178. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4 NIV
- 179. "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:12-13 NIV

- 180. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:13 NIV
- 181. "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen." Revelation 22:21 NIV

If there is another Bible verse you wish to select, please get the Pastor's approval before you write your essay.