

Getting The Driver's License

Quick Backdrop

Of all the age-related milestones of life, gaining a driver's license may be one of the most immediately impactful. Not only does it suddenly open up channels of freedom (you can now get to places without depending on someone else) but it also brings loads of responsibility (you are now in control of an object that weighs one to two tons and is capable of great speed). This might be a good time to take a pause and reflect on this next life stage.

1 Digging In (God, Show Me!)

We're pretty sure the Bible doesn't give specific instructions related to driving a car. But it does give guidance on alertness and self-control, issues that directly impact the dynamics of getting a driver's license. This might be timely insight in light of your newly realized freedom and responsibility. Plus, a few references to chariots do give us some surprising perspective on driving. As you read these verses, underline anything that might be pertinent to driving a car.

Insight from Chariots

Genesis 46:29 (NIV)

Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel.

Psalms 20:7 (NIV)

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Alertness

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind.

Self-Control

Proverbs 16:32 (NIV)

Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.

Proverbs 14:29 (NIV)

Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

Titus 2:6 (NIV)

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age ...

2 Taking It Inward (God, Teach Me!)

Note: We confess, singling out a very specific application such as getting a driver's license may seem like a stretch, but these verses do address the bigger context of living life while waiting on Jesus' return. And, driving is a big part of living life.

Write down a specific point of wisdom you glean from each of these passages with regard to car responsibility:

Insight from Chariots

Alertness

Self-Control

3 Seal the Deal (God, Change Me!)

Driving may not rank as an important spiritual discipline, but it is a part of life where we can practice applying traits that God asks us to possess, such as alertness and self-control. You now have a new place in life where you can practice obedience: behind a steering wheel. And when you do, it's just like any other instruction God gives: we're better in the long run when we obey. When we apply readiness, alertness, and self-control to our driving, we are much safer, we're protected, and we spend less money (in gas, insurance premiums, body shop bills, brake repair, tire wear, etc.). It's been said that our true selves are revealed when we drive. Driving is a good place to practice obedience.

You'll find on the next page some suggested points of application from these verses, a "Code to Drive By." It's likely you don't own the car you currently drive, but as a frequent driver you can help with the "ready" points. Read these and then do something with these points to help you integrate them into your driving routine: write up a covenant and sign it; make a sign and tape it to your dashboard; create your own "Code to Drive By" and share it with your friends. Then, for the next 21 days (21 is the magic number to form a habit), follow these guidelines obsessively.

Fold or Cut



 **Code to Drive By** 

Chariot Ready (Genesis 46:29; Psalm 20:7)

- I will buckle up before putting the vehicle in gear.
- I will keep track of tire tread wear (Google “check tread wear”) and mileage between oil changes (check the owner’s manual).
- I will stay aware of gas levels (no lower than ¼ tank is a good rule of thumb).
- Other: _____

Alertness (1 Peter 5:8)

- I will pay attention to things outside, not inside the car.
- I will NOT text and drive.
- I will NOT drive distracted by cell phone, GPS, or others in the car.
- I will assume other drivers may not be obeying traffic lights or doing what their turn signals say.
- Other: _____

Self Control (Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 14:29; Titus 2:11)

- I will make it a habit (even a personal game) to know the speed zone I’m in and drive appropriately.
- I will not roll through stop signs, but make “driver’s-ed-quality” stops.
- I will be patient with my fellow drivers, giving them space.
- I will be aware of and obedient to traffic laws.
- I will obey the rules laid down by my parents/guardians.
- I will trust in the name of the Lord MORE than my vehicle. A vehicle is not a statement of status (or lack thereof). It is simply a convenient way to get from point A to point B.
- Other: _____

Make It a Prayer

Use the points above to write a prayer that expresses your desire to be an alert and self-controlled driver.

Fold or Cut