



Title: A Straight Path

Main Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

A straight path in life means ...

Appropriate the Good News. (v 1-3)

(Phil 2:6-8; Jn 14:6, 3:16; 1Jn 1:9)

Be baptized. (v 4-5)

(Matt 28:18-20, Acts 2:37-38)

Immerse yourself in the Holy Spirit. (v 8)

(Jn 16:7; Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-13)

How do I receive the Good News?

1. Acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and that you need Him in your life.

John 14:6, ... "*I [Jesus] am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*"

2. Be willing to turn from the things that God would not approve of as outlined in the Bible, and instead, decide to live according to His Word; honour Jesus Christ by how you live your life. (Repentance)

1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins to him, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave and accept His payment on your behalf.

John 3:16, *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.*

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life. Expect the Holy Spirit to live with you, live in you and give you power to live His way.

This prayer enables you to live eternally with Christ in heaven.

Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and that I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and I trust in You alone for my salvation. I choose to turn away from the things in my life of which You don't approve and now surrender my life to You. I invite You to come and reign and rule in my heart and life and open my spirit. Establish Your presence within me. I want to know the power of the Holy Spirit working in me and live forever with You in the Kingdom of God. I choose to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Surrender all of who you are (spirit, soul, body) to Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 (God can't fill what He can't have.)

Ask. God could fill us with His Spirit without our asking, but He wants our will to be engaged.

Luke 11:13 "... [The] *Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.*"

Receive by faith just as we received the Lord in salvation by faith.

John 20:22 "*Then he breathed on them and said ... 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'*"

Obey. Choose to live His way.

Acts 5:32 "*The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Him.*"

Remember

- The Promise of the Spirit is for **EVERYONE**.

Acts 2:17-18 "*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*"

- The Promise is for **YOU!**

Acts 2:39 "*The promise (the gift of the Spirit) is for you and your children and for all who are far off for all whom the Lord our God will call.*"

A Straight Path | November 5 & 6, 2022

Small Group Sermon Study | Mark 1:1-8



Prayer: Father, in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit, we invite You here to teach, correct and transform us. Lead our time together as we read, discuss and reflect on Your Word. Amen.

Icebreaker:

- Have you ever been lost? How did that feel (i.e., when you were young or on a hike)?

Take a minute and pray that as you read and discuss, the Holy Spirit would give you words, thoughts and pictures to highlight what He wants to teach you or challenge you with.

Then read Mark 1:1-8, Philippians 2:6-8, and Matthew 28:18-20 together.

From these Scriptures and notes from listening to the sermon, discuss the following together:

- When you meet someone who does not know Jesus, and they ask you to tell them about Him, how would you walk them through who He is and what He has done for you?
- Mark 1:2-3 talks about preparing the way for the Lord with straight paths. How might we be more uncompromising in our testimony, through word and action, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our family, friends, co-workers, neighbours and strangers that we meet?

Personal Reflection:

- For you, what differences do you see between when you were lost in sin, and now living under the forgiveness (Romans 3:23-25) and new life in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17)? Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit? How do you know?
- Pastor Al says, "To make a straight path one needs to acknowledge, be willing to turn, decide to live different from the world, believe and invite. This is how we prepare a way for the Lord in our life and heart" (Mark 1:3) (i.e., our language, selfishness, leisure time, etc.). How is the Holy Spirit challenging you to "prepare a way for the Lord" in your own life? What about in your small group?
- As a small group, take some time to participate in the Lord's Supper together (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and Communion under Pursue tab, "Being the Church" binder).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we pray to You that we would trust in You at all times, pouring our hearts out before You, as the One who is our refuge for us (Psalm 27:5). As You say in Proverbs 3:5-6, as we trust in You and acknowledge You in all our ways, You will indeed make our paths straight. In our times of trouble, out-of-control circumstances, or on the seemingly dark and winding paths, we acknowledge You as the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6) that will light our way through the darkness, achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs our momentary struggles and trials (2 Corinthians 4:17). Amen.