

# In With The New: Higher Ways, Higher Thoughts

Our ways and thoughts only lead us away from the goodness and mercy of God, we must be led into the new.

## ***In With The New: Out With the Old***

*So far we have learned that the old is no good. The old holds onto things of the past and over time they will bring devastation into our lives. Old mindsets, trauma, bitterness, unforgiveness. Our sinful lives cannot contain the new life and the blessings God has promised.*

## ***In With The New: Faith in Jesus Christ***

*There we learned that only faith in Jesus Christ gives us access to the new life. Right standing with God, peace with God, and joy all accessible only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Outside of faith in Jesus who is the way, truth, and the life, there is only our old ways that leads to sin and death.*

## ***In With The New: The Required Sacrifice***

*So as we seek to let go of the old and put our faith in Jesus what are those steps we must take? What does God require from us?*

## ***In With The New: Choose Life***

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20 New Living Translation*

*19 "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! 20 You can make this choice by **loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him**. This[a] is the key to your life.*

## ***In With The New: Higher Ways, Higher Thoughts***

*Our ways and thoughts only lead us away from the goodness and mercy of God, we must be led into the new.*

*Isaiah 55:6-9 New Living Translation*

*6 Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near.*

7 Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously. 8 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

## You Can't Get to New Places With Old Maps

Proverbs 14:12 New Living Translation

12 There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

- Instead of going the way that seems right we must ask God for directions that lead to life.
- We inherited the old sinful ways of Adam, the old map.

John 14:6 New Living Translation

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

- To enter the new we must separate ourselves from our evil ways.

2 Corinthians 5:17 New King James Version

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- We are only new, and experience the new IN Christ, as soon as we abandon His ways/commands we'll go right back to our old ways.
- So again we must not go the way that seems right.
- Are any of our ways currently wicked?

Jeremiah 6:16-19 New King James Version

16 Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ 17 Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ 18 Therefore hear, you nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them.

19 Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people—  
The fruit of their thoughts, Because they have not heeded My words Nor My law,  
but rejected it.

- Ask for the path, the good way, walk in it, find rest!
- Because you have ignored my ways/laws, I will bring calamity.
- The calamity is the fruit of their thoughts, (they received/reaped a harvest of destruction, from their evil thinking.)
- Their low ways (wicked behavior below God's standard of righteousness), were a result of their low thoughts (self-centered, evil mindset).

### ***Reasons Jerusalem was punished (Jeremiah 6)***

1. Full of oppression
2. Wickedness
3. Violence & stealing (As a result of:)
4. Closed ears that cannot hear
5. God's word was rejected, no delight in it
6. No shame when committing abominations/ (all sin is wicked in God's eyes but some bring Him disgust)

Psalm 10:4 New King James Version

4 The wicked in his proud countenance (pride) does not seek God; [a]God is in none of his thoughts.

Galatians 6:7-9

New Living Translation

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

- If you feed the flesh it will come back alive. Our will turns us from His path and leads back to the old. (Sinful, physical, lustful, faithless)
- Sow to the flesh, reap corruption (death & decay)
- We must see our ways for what they are WICKED

- Determine your ways that bring you to corruption and moral failures.
- There's only one state for the old man, CRUCIFIED, not men's traditions and religion and rules.
- All my failure is in me, all my victory in Christ

### Like Sheep Without a Shepherd

Isaiah 53:5-6 New Living Translation

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

- Nothing more pitiful than a sheep gone astray
- Gone the way that seems right
- We may instinctively know the difference good and evil but are powerless to perform it.

Romans 7:15 New Living Translation

15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.

Romans 12:1-2

New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### Going Into the New

Matthew 9:35-36

New Living Translation

The Need for Workers

35 Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Sheep without a shepherd are pitiful, confused, and helpless.
- He wants to rescue us from the hold of the old, and lead us into the new.

### Psalm 23 New King James Version

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not [a]want. 2 He makes me to lie down in [b]green pastures; He leads me beside the [c]still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will [d]dwell in the house of the Lord [e]Forever.

1. We enter the new with a declaration and commitment that the Lord alone is our shepherd. Because He keeps us out of lack, he keeps us out of lust.
2. With the shepherd leading us into the new we have plenty to eat and drink, in a place of rest.
3. In these new conditions are souls are restored, and empowered to be led on righteous paths because that's who He is, and what He does! For His name sake, His trade-mark/brand name. Yeshua means, to deliver/rescue,
4. The shadow of death stretches across our whole lives, but His perfect love expels fear, His voice as a rod and staff, to defend and lead comforts. Sheep that stray become prey.
5. While our enemies are hungry in their desire to consume us, they watch us consume what He prepares for us. He anoints us with His own oil, gives us His Holy Spirit overflowing.
6. And because of His leading us into His higher ways, by His higher thoughts we are assured to be followed by perpetual goodness and mercy always, and enter His house forever.

Romans 7:4-6

New Living Translation

4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature,[a] sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. 6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.