

# The Spiritual Life: The Higher Way

There's a way that appears right to us all, but each individual path leads to the same destruction. Jesus is the way, and has given us His spirit to lead us higher.

Opening Corporate Prayer:

Psalm 143:8-10

New Living Translation

8 Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning,  
for I am trusting you.

Show me where to walk,  
for I give myself to you.

9 Rescue me from my enemies, Lord;  
I run to you to hide me.

10 Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.

May your gracious Spirit lead me forward  
on a firm footing.

## The beginning of wisdom

Proverbs 9:10-12

New Living Translation

10 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom.  
Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

11 Wisdom will multiply your days  
and add years to your life.

12 If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit.  
If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.

## Who do we think we are in comparison to God?

Job 38:1-21

New Living Translation

38 Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind:

- 2 “Who is this that questions my wisdom  
with such ignorant words?
- 3 Brace yourself like a man,  
because I have some questions for you,  
and you must answer them.
- 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  
Tell me, if you know so much.
- 5 Who determined its dimensions  
and stretched out the surveying line?
- 6 What supports its foundations,  
and who laid its cornerstone
- 7 as the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels[a] shouted for joy?
- 8 “Who kept the sea inside its boundaries  
as it burst from the womb,
- 9 and as I clothed it with clouds  
and wrapped it in thick darkness?
- 10 For I locked it behind barred gates,  
limiting its shores.
- 11 I said, ‘This far and no farther will you come.  
Here your proud waves must stop!’
- 12 “Have you ever commanded the morning to appear  
and caused the dawn to rise in the east?
- 13 Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth,  
to bring an end to the night’s wickedness?
- 14 As the light approaches,  
the earth takes shape like clay pressed beneath a seal;  
it is robed in brilliant colors.[b]

15 The light disturbs the wicked  
and stops the arm that is raised in violence.

16 “Have you explored the springs from which the seas come?  
Have you explored their depths?

17 Do you know where the gates of death are located?  
Have you seen the gates of utter gloom?

18 Do you realize the extent of the earth?  
Tell me about it if you know!

19 “Where does light come from,  
and where does darkness go?

20 Can you take each to its home?  
Do you know how to get there?

21 But of course you know all this!  
For you were born before it was all created,  
and you are so very experienced!

## **I am nothing!**

Job 40:1-5

New Living Translation

40 Then the Lord said to Job,

2 “Do you still want to argue with the Almighty?  
You are God’s critic, but do you have the answers?”

3 Then Job replied to the Lord,

4 “I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers?  
I will cover my mouth with my hand.

5 I have said too much already.  
I have nothing more to say.”

## From dust to dust

Genesis 3:19

New Living Translation

19 By the sweat of your brow  
will you have food to eat  
until you return to the ground  
from which you were made.  
For you were made from dust,  
and to dust you will return.”

- We walk on the same substance from which we were made.
- Apart from God our ways will lead us back into the ground.

Revelation 21:21

New Living Translation

21 The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

- There is a place where there is a street made of gold.
- The people who get to walk that street, will have been made as pure as that gold.

Job 23:10-12

New Living Translation

10 “But he knows where I am going.  
And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold.  
11 For I have stayed on God’s paths;  
I have followed his ways and not turned aside.  
12 I have not departed from his commands,  
but have treasured his words more than daily food.

## The fruitless way

John 15:5

New Living Translation

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

**Before we can recognize there’s a higher way we must first have an encounter with God while going the wrong way.**

Acts 9:1-18

New King James Version

9 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [a]It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much [b]harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children[c] of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord [d]Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

*As I was leaving the house this morning my son Dominic sat straight up in the bed and said, "Daddy lay down." I told him I had to go to work but His mommy was right next to him. He then laid back down knowing that he was not alone.*

John 16:5-15

New Living Translation

5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate[a]

won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

*Remember when I told you that everyone is spiritual but not all are under the influence of the right spirit?*

*How do you know if your way is being influenced by God or Satan? If it glorifies God, it's God. If it satisfies your sinful flesh, it's Satan.*

*Glorify vs. Satisfy*

## **Sons of God**

Romans 8:14-15

New Living Translation

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children[a] of God.

15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.[b] Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

## **Sons of disobedience**

Ephesians 2:1-3

New King James Version

2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the [a]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3

among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

## Higher ways

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.

## The high road

Matthew 18:15-17

New Living Translation

Correcting Another Believer

15 “If another believer[a] sins against you,[b] go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person

back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go

back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three

witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church.

Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.



