

His Way!

2 Samuel 22:31 – “As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

David gives praise to God in this verse, who delivered him from his enemies. God's way is perfect he says and there is no lack or shortcoming in His ways. Do you know where to go or what to do when trouble comes? David knew where to go when trouble came near to him. And He knew when to give praise and honor to God for all that He had done for him.

When you come to a fork in the road in your life there is a choice you need to make. You either go with Satan and this world or go God's way. His way has proven to always work. Satan's way has shown its way in society, through torn and broken marriages, murder and so many horrible ways and disaster. You don't lose choosing God, you only gain with Him. Life is very short; eternity is very long. Don't worry about your lack but look at your gain by having Him in your life. Whatever He asks you to give up for His sake, do it. He will protect you and keep you through the storm and the reward is greater than you can imagine. Choose him today in whatever you are facing, and you will see that His way is always perfect.

Blessed!

Psalms 119:1 - Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Those who are obedient to God are blessed. It is really another way of saying that those who are led by the Spirit of God are blessed. Blessed in the faithfulness to God and His life-changing power, the transforming power, of God's word. Blessed are the complete. Blessed are those who are without blemish and are upright. Those who are without spot. Now, this is clearly God's plan for His children, that they are recovered from the power of sin. Jesus said, *“If you love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15.* Revelation says, ***“Blessed are those who do His commandments, and they will have a right to the tree of life and may enter in into the gates of “the city.”*** Revelation 22:14.

Christianity, faith in God, isn't just a matter of acknowledging God as God. Or just acknowledging Jesus as Savior, and then going on with the old life as though God has not **impacted** your life. Faith in God is about God taking away your old sinful heart and placing within you a new heart that beats in harmony with the heart of God. God makes you new. And after He makes you new, He wants to keep you and sustain you and to live in you. Then your life can be lived for God's glory in God's power. When God saves you, He puts you on a whole new path. We are to walk in the law of the Lord.

If you are looking for a life that honors God, a life that allows God to bring out the best in you, a spirit-filled life, God will do that in you today when you surrender your whole life and heart to Him. And then you will be truly blessed.

Power Over the Devil

Sin does damage to a person's life. Jesus came into the world to save us from the penalty of sin. Not just from its penalty but also from its power over us. The question is how are we to stay on that path? How can sinful people live new lives?

Luke 10:19 says, "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

The power you need to defeat the enemy comes from God. Are you using that power given to you today? Or are you walking around defeated because of the devil and all His lies. You don't have to allow Him to have that hold over you any longer. You can boldly stand against Him in the name of Jesus for your family, for your health, for your finances, for your marriage or whatever you may need. The authority has already been given to you and all you have to do is use it. Today you can start the New Year walking in that authority for your family and for your life as you live each day free from sin. Thank God that you can have this peace and freedom over **all** the tricks of the devil. Pray and don't stop praying no matter how horrible things may seem. Don't allow the Devil to roam free in your life today and all throughout the New Year. When you surrender everything to God, He will give you this power for the asking, forever!

What Makes You Clean?

Matthew 15:2,11 - "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." Jesus said, "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

Jesus was always correcting the Pharisees in His day on what is most important opposed to what they deemed important. Their self-righteous acts were a way that they could show the onlookers how "holy" they were, so to speak, because they kept the law.

They were defiled. That word means to *make unclean*. They were unclean and it wasn't because of what they ate. Jesus was not talking about food or what they ate, but what came out of their mouths. Which was attitude, sin, lies, pride and hypocrisy. The Pharisees were worried about the disciples not keeping the tradition of washing their hands, which does not clean the heart. While they themselves were filled with evil they thought they were alright. What came out of them, meanspirited, disrespect for their parents, and even murder was far worse than not following a tradition.

Many fail to keep a sense of respect of the true meaning of the word of God and worry about all the wrong things. They argue about minor things or things that mean nothing while ignoring the important things, like the deep sin that is being ignored in their own hearts. And the lack of peace within their minds. The Pharisees were blinded by tradition and were not keeping the Ten Commandments of God.

So, what is coming out of your mouth today, or your heart? Are you experiencing peace on the inside or turmoil? We want to be careful of that. Looking good to others is a trap for the devil when indeed your walk which is your heart is far from God. Tradition and looking squeaky clean to others doesn't make your heart clean, but doing what the word of God tells you, which is obedience, certainly will.

It's Not Getting Any Better

Look around you and what do you see? Crime, homelessness, sickness, changes in the weather pattern, betrayal, people who are unloving, wars and rumors of wars. And it's not going to get any better. None of this should be shocking for a true child of God. Sad, but not shocking. Why? Because the bible already told us this would be. **Matthew 24:10-13 - "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**

False teachings mixed with truth and error, will rise up and is already here. So, what can we do when there are some who face issues as these right in their own back yard? Jesus gave us this news, but He also gave us Himself to help us deal with this world. He said I will comfort you and I will never leave you and I will make all that is crooked straight. We can have hope today knowing that even though trouble is right at our own back door, God has conquered all of the pain we will suffer in this world. Hold on to that truth, that no matter how bad it may seem and will be, God is still in control. Stay with God and He will stay with you. And that will keep you through the storm.

Now is the Time!

Building a new building can be very costly and I am sure a lot of attention must be focused on detail, plans, drawings, blueprints and so much more. It takes careful work to build a building. But while it takes a lot of time and great detail, there is a building project that every person should be working on. And that is building character within for eternity.

1 Peter 3:3-4 - Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

Character building takes attention, care, and a respect for detail. The only thing we are going to leave this earth with is our *character*. Now is the time to prepare your character for eternity. If you will allow Jesus to do that work in you today, it will be a beautiful new building worth taking home.

Be Strong

Every day has its challenges. How do you face your day of challenges? Jesus said, Lo I am with you always, even until the end of the world. [Matthew 28:20] So, with that kind of assurance standing with us, do we face the day with fear or with courage knowing He is standing right there beside you?

Joshua 1:7 - “Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.”

When things don't go the way we planned, God is there. When that horrible phone call comes, God is there. When there just isn't enough to get by, God is there and when someone says those unthinkable words of hurt and discouragement, God is there.

So, if your day just doesn't get off to a great start, don't fear or turn to the left or to the right. Trials will come but stay focused on the one who is always beside you. Jesus will help you through your day, no matter how it is going. And you will prosper wherever you go.

Come to Me

If anyone knew about pain in this world it was Jesus. They did everything imaginable to Him that they could do, and He continually trusted in His Father. If you are facing pain in your life as a believer today, I want you to know that there is hope, there is peace, there is love and there is freedom in Jesus.

Jesus suffered great pain, and He came to save us from it by going through it for us. We all know that one day in heaven we will be without pain or fear or tears. But did you know He can take those burdens away right now? He promised that He would, right here on earth.

Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Do you see what He offers? You can give your burdens to Him. He wants you to lean on Him and learn from Him and He will give you rest. The same power that Jesus overcame during His time here on earth, is available to you, right now. If you are facing fear beneath the pain, you don't have to. Your burden bearer Jesus is standing right there, and He will make you smile again. He will take your burdens and in return He will give you peace and rest.

My Redeemer!

Job 19:25 - For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth.

What the world needs is a Redeemer, and we find that in Jesus Christ who became one of us for exactly that purpose and that was to buy us back. At the Cross of Calvary, Jesus earned the right to take over the whole world. Jesus is our Redeemer, and He lives and gave us back our land that He purchased with His own blood.

When we first gave this planet away, when we first chose rebellion against God, we made ourselves more closely aligned to a fallen angel than to the kingdom of God. We surrendered our sovereignty over to this world and now we have an unfortunate relative who simply doesn't love us. Satan doesn't love you. Even worse his agenda seems to be as a murderer and Father of lies to use you to trample on our wonderful God.

We can reverse this hatred and lack of loyalty brought on by the Devil, by joining forces with the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. You have the power and authority to do it. It has been given to you by our Lord. (Luke 10:19) Stand today and let the world know that you will not follow Satan through your behavior and conduct. Let the world know whose side you are on by the way you live. Say no to anger, say no to worry and say no to fear and anxiety. Say yes to Jesus through His power and freedom showing Satan you are free indeed. You will stand with the Holy of Holies one day but now you can join in a partnership with the true Redeemer, Jesus Christ, right now!

An Opportunity to be Faithful

Daniel 3:17,23 - "... Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

What do you do when the heat is turned up in your life? We have the example of three young men in the book of Daniel who were persecuted when they refused to violate their conscience and participate in false worship. Their faithfulness led them into a fiery furnace and Jesus was there with them.

Daniel himself was ordered to worship the king, a false god. But he wouldn't do it and was thrown into a den of lions and God delivered him. His faithfulness gave God the opportunity to work in his behalf.

When you have the opportunity to be faithful to God, take that opportunity, no matter what your surroundings and circumstances may look like. And know that as you do, it gives God the opportunity to do great things for you. Whether or not God delivers a person from persecution, or a difficult situation is not really the point. God doesn't always deliver people who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus. The question is are you willing to trust God enough that you will choose to be faithful to Him no matter the cost. Today, no matter which way the crowd is going, or no matter who you deem precious in your life, or how afraid you may be, stay loyal to God. The Christian life is not free from trials, but you can trust God through your trials. You will reap a harvest of blessings here and in heaven when you do.