

Do you know the way?

How would you answer that question?
You might say, the way to what?
The way to where?

These 4 messages might help answer the question …

Know the Way … Follow the Way

Show the Way … Remain on the Way

Background

The Bible, in Acts 9:2 and other passages in Acts, refers to the early followers of Jesus Christ as those belonging to **The Way**. These early followers, no doubt, took on this name because Jesus called Himself The Way.

To provide some context, Jesus made the statement in John 14:6 to His disciples near the end of His three-year ministry. He was preparing His disciples for His departure. Earlier, He told His disciples He would be killed but raised up in three days. (Luke 18:31-34). Now that the time was near, Jesus told His disciples, where He was going, they could not come. The apostle Peter said, Lord, where are you going? (John 13:36)

Jesus let them know He was going to prepare a place for them and come back for them and that they knew the way to this place. Apostle Thomas said Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way? (John 14:5)

Knowing His disciples did not understand, Jesus let them know clearly in John 16, He was returning to His Father in Heaven but would not leave them helpless. He would provide a Helper, the Holy Spirit to comfort them, and guide them into all truth, and their sorrow would turn to joy. Indeed, Jesus did appear to His disciples after His resurrection and before His ascension to His Father (Acts 1:6-9). The Holy Spirit came upon them and they became followers of The Way. Their sorrow turned to joy!

I pray that any doubts or sorrows **you** may have about belonging to The Way, would be relieved as you read what it means to **Know the Way, Follow the Way, Show the Way, and Stay on the Way.**

Know The Way

In John 14:6, Jesus declares, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* This powerful statement encapsulates the core of the Christian faith: Jesus Christ is the exclusive path to God and to heaven, offering salvation, truth, and eternal life. To understand this profound truth, we must explore what it means for Jesus to be "the way" in our lives.

Jesus is God

Jesus is not just a prophet or a great teacher—He is fully God. The Bible provides multiple instances where Jesus is explicitly called God. In **John 1:1-3**, we read:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

This passage identifies Jesus as the eternal Word (Logos) who was both with God and was God. Jesus is not a created being but has always existed as God. Jesus said in **John 10:10,** "the Father and I are one."

Additionally, in **John 8:58**, Jesus declares, *"Before Abraham was, I am."* This statement refers to God's name revealed to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**, where God says, *"I AM WHO I AM."* By using this divine name, Jesus directly claims to be God.

Good News: Jesus Has the Power Over Life and Death and All of Creation

Throughout Scripture, Jesus demonstrates His divine authority over life and death, revealing His power as the Son of God. From raising the dead to conquering the grave Himself, Jesus proves that He is the source of life and the ultimate victor over death. This truth offers believers hope, assurance, and confidence in His eternal promises.

Jesus' Power Over Physical Death

One of the most compelling examples of Jesus' authority over death is the raising of Lazarus in John 11. When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' tomb, he had already been dead for four days. Yet, with a simple command, "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:43), Jesus restored him to life. This miracle demonstrated that Jesus is not bound by natural laws—His power transcends death itself.

Similarly, Jesus raised Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:35-42) and the widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:11-15), showing His compassion and divine ability to restore life. Each of these miracles foreshadowed His own resurrection and pointed to His ultimate authority as the giver of life.

Jesus' own resurrection is the greatest demonstration of His power over death. He foretold His resurrection multiple times, saying, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (John 2:19). "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). When He rose from the grave, He fulfilled prophecy and defeated death once and for all (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). His resurrection assures believers that death is not the end but the gateway to eternal life with Him.

Jesus' Power Over Spiritual Death

Beyond physical resurrection, Jesus holds power over spiritual death. Sin separates humanity from God, leading to spiritual death (Romans 6:23), but Jesus came to redeem and restore. In John 5:24, He declares, “Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection broke the power of sin and death, offering salvation to all who believe in Him.

Jesus’ Power Over Creation

In Colossians 1:16-17, Paul writes: *"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

This passage affirms that Jesus is not just part of creation—He is the Creator and holds all creation together. His power over nature is seen when He calms storms (Mark 4:39) and multiplies food (Matthew 14:19-21). Such miracles testify to His divine authority over creation.

Bad News: Sin Brings the Penalty of Death

The "bad news" begins with the reality of sin. The Bible teaches that all humans are born into sin, which separates us from God. In the book of Romans, it is written, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin is not simply a matter of individual wrongdoing, but a deep-rooted condition of the human heart that turns us away from God’s perfect will.

Sin, in its essence, is a rebellion against God’s holiness and a disruption of His divine order. When humanity first sinned in the

Garden of Eden, it not only broke the perfect relationship between man and God, but it also introduced death into the world. God’s perfect justice required a penalty for sin, and that penalty is death. The book of Romans again highlights this truth: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Death, in this sense, is not merely physical, but spiritual separation from God. It means eternal separation from the presence of God and the fullness of life He offers.

The reality of sin and its penalty present a bleak and troubling picture of the human condition. We are born into this world separated from God, and no amount of human effort or good deeds can overcome this separation. If left on our own, we would all face the eternal consequence of our sin: spiritual death.

More Good News: Jesus Christ Paid the Penalty and Made a Way

While the "bad news" is dire and inescapable for all of humanity, the "good news" is equally remarkable and life-changing. The good news is that Jesus Christ, God incarnate, came into the world to offer a way out of the penalty of sin. The Bible teaches that God, in His love and mercy, sent His Son to die for our sins so that we could be reconciled to Him.

Sin creates a chasm between us and God, and no amount of human effort—whether through good deeds, religious rituals, or moral living—can bridge that gap. Jesus came to be the bridge, the way back to God. Through His death on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to all who believe in Him (1 Peter 2:24).

The apostle John writes in the gospel of John, *"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"* (John 3:16).

The essence of this good news is that Jesus, though He was without sin, took upon Himself the penalty for sin that we deserved. Jesus, fully God and fully man, lived a perfect life and willingly sacrificed Himself on the cross. In doing so, He paid the penalty for our sins, taking upon Himself the judgment of God that should have been ours. This act of love and sacrifice made it possible for sinful humans to be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, summarizes this beautiful truth: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Jesus did not wait for us to become worthy of His love or sacrifice; He died for us while we were still enemies of God, trapped in our sin. This is the heart of the gospel—the message of God's love for humanity and His willingness to pay the price for our sins through the death of His Son.

Conclusion: The Good News is for Us

The invitation to know The Way is simple: believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who died for your sins and was raised to life, and you will be saved from eternal separation from God. The apostle Paul writes in the book of Romans: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). This belief is not just intellectual assent, but a wholehearted trust in Jesus as the only one who can save from the penalty of sin. It involves a turning from sin (repentance) and a turning toward Jesus in faith. It involves surrendering our will and submitting to God's will (Matthew 16:24 & Proverbs 3:5-6).

When we believe in Jesus, we are not merely receiving a ticket to heaven; we are entering into a new relationship with God. We are adopted into God's family, given the Holy Spirit, and empowered

to live in a way that honors Him. Eternal life begins the moment we believe in Jesus, as we experience His presence in our lives and grow in our relationship with Him.

Follow The Way

Following The Way is following Jesus. It is not simply knowing about Him—it is responding to His call and walking with Him. Jesus said, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:19), inviting us into a new life of faith, obedience, and transformation.

To follow Jesus is to learn from Him, grow in Him, and become more like Him. It is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:30–31). This journey begins with a decision and continues as a daily walk guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

1. Embrace Jesus' Love for You

Following Jesus begins with understanding God's love.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

God is not distant or indifferent. He loves you and desires a relationship with you. Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it (John 3:17). His love is the foundation of everything that follows.

2. Admit Your Sin and Separation from God

We must recognize our need for God.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Sin separates us from God and leads to spiritual death (Romans 6:23). This separation cannot be overcome by our own efforts. Admitting our sin is the first step toward healing and restoration.

3. Repent — Turn and Follow Jesus

Repentance means turning away from sin and turning toward God.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out." (Acts 3:19)

To follow Jesus, we must leave behind the ways of the world and begin following Him as King. This is not simply feeling sorry—it is a change of direction, a new way of living.

Jesus calls us to enter through the narrow gate:

"Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life." (Matthew 7:14)

This path requires intentional choice, humility, and a willingness to follow Him wholeheartedly.

4. Believe in Jesus Christ

Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for your sins and rose again.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

This belief is not just intellectual—it is trusting Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Through His death and resurrection, He reconciles us to God and gives us new life.

5. Commit Your Life to Jesus

Following Jesus requires surrender.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Jesus also calls us to count the cost:

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost…?" (Luke 14:28)

To follow Him is to surrender your will, your plans, and your life to His leadership. It is a daily decision to walk in obedience, even when it is difficult.

6. Pray and Receive the Holy Spirit

Respond to God in prayer.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Pray and ask God to forgive you, lead you, and fill you with His Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth (John 16:13), strengthen us, and help us live a life that honors God.

Once we are born again (John 3:5-6) and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), Scripture calls us to walk in the Spirit:

"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

7. Connect and Grow with Other Believers

You are not meant to walk this journey alone.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds… not giving up meeting together." (Hebrews 10:24–25)

God designed us to grow in community. Through fellowship, teaching, encouragement, and accountability, we grow stronger in our faith and more like Christ.

Following Jesus is not a one-time decision—it is a lifelong journey.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God:

- **Walk in the Light** — "Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness" (John 8:12)
- **Obey His Word** — "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15)
- **Pray Continually** — (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)
- **Stay Connected to the Body of Christ** — (Hebrews 10:24–25)

Jesus promises more than forgiveness—He promises life.

"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

This abundant life is not about material wealth, but a deep, lasting joy found in God's presence.

As we follow Him:

- We experience **peace and purpose** (Psalm 16:11)
- We trust God to **provide for our needs** (Philippians 4:19)
- We find **rest for our souls** (Matthew 11:28–30)
- We grow in the **fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22–23)

A life led by the Spirit is a life of transformation, joy, and eternal significance.

Jesus invites you:

"Follow me." Will you follow The Way?

Have you made a decision to follow Jesus?

If you have made a decision to follow Jesus, we encourage you to contact We Care Bowie or a Bible-believing church in your community. We would be honored to encourage you, pray with you, and walk alongside you as you begin your journey of faith.

Following Jesus was never meant to be a journey walked alone. Let us help you take your next steps, grow in your faith, and connect with other followers of Jesus.

Show The Way

As followers of Jesus Christ, we want to share the Good News about Jesus and show The Way to others.

Being the Light of the World

We are called to be the light of the world, reflecting the love and truth of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus says, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* This passage emphasizes the importance of living a life that visibly radiates Christ's love and righteousness. By embodying the teachings of Christ, we can share and show Jesus to others through our prayers, actions, words, and love.

Living as an Example

One of the most powerful ways to share Jesus with others is by living as an example of the Christ-like life. Our actions should align with our faith, demonstrating integrity, kindness, and humility. In a world filled with darkness and moral confusion, a genuine witness can serve as a guiding light, leading others toward Jesus. When people observe how we handle challenges, treat others with respect, and uphold biblical principles, they may be drawn to the hope and peace that comes from knowing Jesus. The website www.LightoftheWorldFoundation.org describes a model for how to love others, how to love our neighbors by praying for them, caring for them, and then sharing the Good News about Jesus.

Jesus himself was the perfect example of how we should live. He was compassionate, forgiving, and full of grace. As His followers, we are to emulate His character in our daily interactions. This means being honest in our dealings, showing patience in difficult situations, and practicing self-control. Our lives should reflect the transformation that comes from following Christ, making others curious about the source of our joy and peace. And always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope we have in Jesus, and do so with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Loving Others as Jesus Loves Us

Love is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, and through love, we reveal Jesus to the world. In 1 John 4:11, we are reminded, *"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* This verse emphasizes that our love for others should be a reflection of God's love for us. Love is not just a feeling but a deliberate action. It involves selflessness, sacrifice, and a willingness to serve others without expecting anything in return.

Furthermore, 1 John 4:12 states, *"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."* This means that when we show love to others, we not only make the invisible God visible to them but more visible ourselves. Our love can be a powerful testimony that points people toward Christ and grows us to be more like Christ. Whether it is through acts of kindness, offering encouragement, or simply being present for someone in need, our love can shine brightly in a world that desperately needs it.

Demonstrating Love in Action

True Christian love is more than words; it is demonstrated through action. In 1 John 3:18, we are urged, "*Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."* This verse challenges us to go beyond mere verbal expressions of love and to actively live it out. Loving in action means helping the less fortunate, forgiving those who have wronged us, and putting others before ourselves.

In practical terms, we can demonstrate Christ's love by volunteering in our communities, comforting the brokenhearted, and sharing the Good News with those who do not know Him. Even simple acts, such as checking in on a friend, giving to the needy, or listening to someone's struggles, can make a significant impact. When we put love into action, we show the world the true nature of Jesus and His transformative power.

Jesus commanded us to love others as He loves us (John 13:34-35). Here's how to grow in love for people:

• See Others Through God's Eyes – Recognize that every person is made in God's image and is deeply valued by Him (Genesis 1:27).

• Pray for a Loving Heart – Ask God to fill you with His love so that you can love others selflessly (Romans 5:5).

• Serve Others – Love is action. Help those in need, encourage the hurting, and be generous with your time and resources (Galatians 5:13).

• Forgive as Christ Forgave You – Holding onto bitterness prevents love from growing. Forgive others just as Jesus has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32).

• Practice Humility and Patience – Love requires humility and patience, even when dealing with difficult people (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

• Share the Good News – The greatest way to love someone is to point them to Jesus and eternal life (Matthew 28:19-20).

Conclusion: The Importance of Being the Light by Reflecting His Light

Being the light of the world means reflecting Christ in all that we do. By living as examples of the Christian life, loving others as Christ loves us, and demonstrating love through action, we can effectively share and show Jesus to those around us. Matthew 5:16 reminds us to let our light shine before others so that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. As followers of Christ, it is our duty and privilege to illuminate the darkness with His love and truth, leading others to eternal life and a deeper relationship with Him. In doing so, we fulfill our calling as ambassadors of Christ, shining brightly for His glory.

Remain on The Way

Jesus said in John 15:4 *Remain in me as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself, if must remain in the vine.* Remain in Jesus means maintaining your relationship with Him, seeking and doing His will, His priorities in your life. In a world filled with distractions and competing demands, aligning our life with **God's priorities** is essential for fulfilling our calling, *"for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, prepared in advance that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). Matthew 6:33 serves as a foundational scripture to help us stay focused on Jesus, on the path of righteousness: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these*

things shall be added to you." This verse reminds us that placing God first aligns every other aspect of our lives in its proper order. By examining five critical areas—reaching up to God, reaching into self, reaching over to family, reaching across to one another, and reaching out to others and the world—we can establish priorities that reflect God's divine plan.

1. Reaching Up to God

Our primary priority must be our relationship with God. Mark 12:30 commands, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* This verse emphasizes the totality of our devotion to God. Colossians 3:1-2 further instructs us to *"set our minds on things above, not on earthly things."* Developing a daily and lifelong deep connection with God through prayer, worship, and scripture ensures that our lives are centered on His will rather than fleeting worldly concerns. Abiding in Jesus means to live, remain, and persevere in a close intimate relationship with Him, drawing life and strength from Him, and bearing fruit through His power as a branch connected to the vine (John 15:4).

2. Reaching Into Yourself

Spiritual growth requires self-examination and development. 2 Peter 1:3-8 outlines a progression of virtues—faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love—that build a strong Christian character. Additionally, 2 Corinthians 13:5 urges believers to *"examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves."* By cultivating spiritual maturity and ensuring our hearts remain aligned with Christ, we become more effective in fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

3. Reaching Over to Family

Godly priorities extend to our families, as they are a fundamental unit of Christian living. Ephesians 5:33 highlights the importance of love and respect in marriage: *"Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."* Luke 18:26 acknowledges that what seems impossible for man is possible with God, offering encouragement for families striving for godliness. Furthermore, 1 Timothy 5:8 warns that failing to provide for one's family is a denial of faith, stressing the duty of care within the household.

4. Reaching Across to One Another

Jesus commanded His followers to love one another as a reflection of His love for us. John 13:34-35 states, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples."* Similarly, 1 John 3:16-18 teaches that true love is expressed through action, not just words. Make quality relationships within the body of Christ a priority. It fosters unity and spiritual strength. Stir up one another to love and good works and never stop meeting together, but encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).

5. Reaching Out to Others and the World

Christian faith is not meant to be confined; it must be shared. Mark 12:31 instructs believers to *"love your neighbor as yourself,"* extending God's love beyond personal and church circles. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20 commands disciples to spread the gospel worldwide, while John 17:15-18 highlights Jesus' prayer for His followers to engage with the world without being corrupted by it. Evangelism, service, and outreach are essential expressions of a Godly life.

Conclusion: The Importance of Persevering

Prioritizing God and living according to His will require endurance. James 1:12 declares, *"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* Maintaining godly priorities, even in the face of adversity, leads to eternal reward. By seeking God first and aligning our lives with His purpose, we can navigate life's challenges with faith, hope, and assurance.

- Spend Time in Worship and Prayer – Express your love for God through worship, thanksgiving, and honest conversations with Him (Psalm 95:6-7). Be devoted in prayer, being watchful and thankful (Colossians 4:2).
- Meditate on His Love for You – The more you understand God's deep love for you, the more your love for Him will grow (1 John 4:19).
- Obey His Commands – Jesus said, *"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me"* (John 14:21). Obedience demonstrates true love for God.
- Eliminate Idols from Our Life – Anything that takes priority over God (money, relationships, ambitions) can weaken your love for Him. Seek to put Him first (Matthew 6:33).
- Trust Him Fully – Loving God means trusting Him completely, even in difficult times (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Structuring our lives according to Godly priorities—seeking God first, growing spiritually, nurturing our families, fostering Christian fellowship, and reaching the world—ensures that we live with purpose and fulfillment. By steadfastly holding to these principles, we reflect God's glory and fulfill His divine calling.

Light of the World Foundation THE WAY

