

The Path of Life

**What is
life?**

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And **if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**” (Revelation 20:11-15)

**What is
the path of
life as God
sees it?**

The path of life, in simple terms, is a series of events with which we as individuals engage.

The choices we make as we engage with those events can either align with God's plans and purposes or be choices driven by our own determination of what we should do at that moment.

The path of God's life is walked when we live life in the way God wants us to live it. It is living life in accordance with His plans and purposes.

It has all been mapped out by Him. He knows the beginning, the end and every bit in between of that path of life.

“My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

(Psalm 139:15-16)

Our task in this world is to discover God's path of life, get on it and walk it till its end.

Walking God's path of life is the best possible thing we can do in life.

Nothing else even comes close, as our Creator God designed life to find this path and walk it.

**How do we
get on
God's path
of life?**

There is only one way – through Jesus Christ.

When God the Father looks at us humans, He finds us completely unworthy of His plans and purposes. In fact, He is righteous and holy and unable to engage with us because, outside of His grace, we are certainly not righteous or holy. So, He sent His Son into this world to give us humans the opportunity to be able to engage with Him and embrace the life and the life path that He offers.

Jesus said, “I am the door.
If anyone enters by me, he
will be saved and will go in
and out and find pasture.”

(John 10:9)

Jesus said, “I am the way,
and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the
Father except through
me.” (John 14:6)

Jesus Christ is God
the Father's gateway
to His path of life. In
fact, through Him we
are born into the life of
God. This is because
when we accept
Jesus Christ as our
Lord and Saviour,
God gives us His life –
the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, “Truly,
truly, I say to you,
unless one is born of
water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the
kingdom of God. That
which is born of the
flesh is flesh, and that
which is born of the
Spirit is spirit.”

(John 3:5-6)

When we die to the world's way of living and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we become one with Him, as we are grafted into His body; and we are adopted into His family as one of His children or sons and so we are heirs of God.

We become a wholly different type of human being, a new creation in Christ Jesus – and this gives us the capability and capacity to get onto and walk God's path of life.

That is why Jesus says that He is the life, because it is only by being grafted into and abiding in Him that the life God has for us is possible.

“You are the body of
Christ and individually
members of it.”

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

“For in Christ Jesus
you are all sons of
God, through faith.”

(Galatians 3:26)

Once we
are on the
path of
life, what
should we
do?

“Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ....”

(Ephesians 5:23-24a)

“By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

(1 John 2:6)

When we are part of the body of Christ, we have Jesus Christ as our Head. We are to submit to Him and walk as He walked.

We won't be perfect in obedience to the instructions our Head gives to us, but we should aspire to walk as Christ Jesus did and only do what we know our heavenly Father wants us to do.

This is not an impossible task, because we are created in Christ Jesus and fashioned by our heavenly Father to fulfil the plans and purposes that He has created us to accomplish.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

(Ephesians 2:10)

Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”
(John 15:5)

God calls us to live a life of faithful obedience, which is the way Jesus Christ lived; and, like Him, if we live such a life, we will be fruitful for God. But we cannot do this in our own strength. We must abide in Jesus Christ so that we can draw on His life. It is His life in us that enables us to be faithfully obedient to God and to produce the resultant fruit for God that He expects us to produce.

**How do
we live
like this?**

- **We must
keep Him
as our Lord**

- **We must obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus said, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”
(John 16:13-14)

The Spirit of God will only lead us to do the things God wants us to do.

If we live life in the way we want only, we are going to miss out, because the choices our flesh will make will never align with what the Spirit of God is leading us to do.

The Spirit and the flesh are at war with each other and, to choose to do as the flesh dictates, is to carry out a work that is lifeless as far as God is concerned. It is a **dead work** and we are to repent of such works.

“Let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works.**” (Hebrews 6:1)

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from **dead works to serve the living God.**” (Hebrews 9:14)

“Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” (Galatians 5:16-17)

To walk the path of life,
we need to walk the line
the Holy Spirit guides us
to walk upon.

“If we live by the Spirit,
let us also keep in step
(‘stoicheo’ ‘walk in line
behind a leader’) with
the Spirit.”

(Galatians 5:25)

- **We must
read, study
and meditate
upon God's
Word**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable to teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- **At times,
we must
have the
help of
others**

We are called to walk this path of life with others whose life path intersects with ours. If we are walking the path of life rightly in God, then these intersections are not by chance. God wants us to interact. In fact, we need each other, as what we lack or need will be found in those other people enabling us to better walk the path of life God has for us. And we will be able to offer others what we have in God to help them. No one person will have all the skills and talents necessary to traverse the path of life achieving the good works God has initiated for us to do for Him. We also need the love and encouragement and help of others to keep going when times are tough.



Throughout history, God has chosen to use human instruments to carry out His will. It would be easy for Him to intervene supernaturally – and sometimes He does – but more often He uses the likes of you and I to be His hands and help in times of need. Lets always be available to be used by God in such a way.

I don't think it is wrong to help wherever we can, but it is sin to avoid the prompts of God. We need each other. Don't let those cries for help turn into disillusionment or bitterness from those with the outstretched hands, because they will probably only reach out for a time.

- **At times,
we need to
take leaps of
faith**

“Now faith is the assurance
of things hoped for, the
conviction of things not
seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith is not switching off our brain and jumping off a figurative cliff.

Faith is understanding the good work that God wants you to do on the path of life and trusting that He will supply all you need to fulfil what He has called you to do, even if it looks completely impossible. He will provide the material needs and human resources and Holy Spirit power to do whatever is needed.

Our job is obedience once we are sure it is God who is doing the prompting.

- **We must
allow
ourselves to
be shaped
by the path**

God wants us to grow in Him and be shaped ready for the next stage of the path of life that He has for us.

Our growth spurts in God more often than not occur when we take on trials and overcome difficulties.

“And not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

(Romans 5:3-4)

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

(James 1:2-4)

We are the clay in the Master potter's hands. To make something beautiful or useful, the clay has to be moulded and shaped, and then baked and finished off with glaze.

Let's trust ourselves into the Master's hands and allow Him to shape us; and accept the heat when it comes trusting our Lord to do whatever is necessary to make us more Christlike and to get us ready for the tasks that lie ahead.

Let us be who He wants us to be, go where He wants us to go and do what He wants us to do.

Just as Christ suffered, so also should we as we seek to live a life led of God in an enemy controlled world that seeks to oppose us in any way possible.

Suffering for the sake of Christ may seem a terrible thing to our flesh, but to God it is a sign we are a child of His and a fellow heir with His Son, Christ Jesus.

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him** in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”

(Romans 8:16-17)

If we, who love God,
are called according to
His purpose, then all
things will work together
for our good –
especially those things
which bring hardship
and suffering for the
sake of Christ (Romans
8:28).

Suffering for Christ is a
sign we are on track!

- **One
day, we
all will
reach the
path's
end**

The path of this life finishes when we are done with our mortal body. We may not see the paths end, but by faith we know that we will be with our Lord and Saviour in glory forever. We will be citizens of the new Jerusalem on the new earth with a new body that does not die. **‘What is mortal will be swallowed up by life’** (2 Corinthians 5:4b) There will be no mourning, nor crying nor pain; and the dwelling place of God will be with us (Revelation 21:1-4).

And if we have carried out any of the good works our God has prompted us to do for Him on the path of life, we will be rewarded with treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

“So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.** For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-10)

Let's get on the
God's path of life
and, with the grace
and help of God,
make good choices
while we are on it
knowing that, if we
make right choices
in God, we will be
rewarded.

“One thing I do:
forgetting what lies
behind and straining
forward to what lies
ahead, I press on
toward the goal for the
prize of the upward
call of God in Christ
Jesus.”

(Philippians 3:13b-14)