

# *Knowledge Extraordinaire*

*From God  
From Jesus  
From the  
Holy Spirit*

*From Others  
From the Past  
The Right Way*

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## Forward

### John 6:45

"It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to me.

The discovery of man's guilt, danger, and remedy, by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, makes them willing and glad to come, and to give up everything which hinders applying to him for salvation.

The Father's will is, that not one of those who were given to the Son, should be rejected or lost by him.

No one will come until Divine grace has subdued, and changed his heart; therefore no one who comes will ever be cast out.

The gospel finds none willing to be saved in the humbling, holy manner, made known therein; but God draws with his word and the Holy Ghost; and man's duty is to hear and learn; that is to say, to receive the grace offered, and consent to the promise.

Men seek for knowledge thinking that knowledge is power. The wisdom and knowledge that God gives through the Holy Spirit gives faith, or power to achieve, to minister, and to have eternal life through Jesus our Lord.

From what source do you seek knowledge?

## Chapter 1



### Learning from God

#### Isaiah 54:13

"All your sons will be taught of the LORD; and the well-being of your sons will be great.

The church is all glorious when full of the knowledge of God; for none teaches like him. It is a promise of the teaching and gifts of the Holy Spirit. All that are taught of God are taught to love one another. This seems to relate especially to the glorious times to succeed the tribulations of the church. Holiness, more than anything, is the beauty of the church. God promises protection.

**All will know God from the least to the greatest.**

#### Hebrews 8:11

And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

The pardon of sin will always be found to accompany the true knowledge of God. Notice the freeness of this pardon; its fulness; its fixedness. This pardoning mercy is connected with all other spiritual mercies: unpardoned sin hinders mercy, and pulls down judgments; but the pardon of sin prevents judgment, and opens a wide door to all spiritual blessings.

## **You are taught of God**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:9**

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

We should notice in others what is good, to their praise, that we may engage them to abound therein more and more. All who are savingly taught of God, are taught to love one another. The teaching of the Spirit exceeds the teachings of men; and men's teaching is vain and useless, unless God teach.

## **You are Holy unto God.**

### **Leviticus 11:44-45**

'For I am the LORD your God Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. 'For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

The people were taught to make distinctions between the holy and unholy in their companions and intimate connexions. The law forbid, not only the eating of the unclean beasts, but the touching of them.

Those who would be kept from any sin, must be careful to avoid all temptations to it, or coming near it. The exceptions are very minute, and all were designed to call forth constant care and exactness in their obedience; and to teach us to obey.

## **You are Holy because God is Holy.**

### **Leviticus 19:2**

"Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

There are some ceremonial precepts in this chapter, but most of these precepts are binding on us, for they are explanations of the Ten Commandments. It is required that Israel be a holy people, because the God of Israel is a holy God, Lev 19:2. To teach real separation from the world and the flesh, and entire devotedness to God. This is now the law of Christ; may the Lord bring every thought within us into obedience to it!

## **Consecrate yourself for you belong to God.**

### **Leviticus 20:7**

'You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

If men will not avoid evil practices, because the law has made these practices sin, and it is right that we go on that principle, surely they should avoid them when the law has made them death, from a principle of self-preservation. In the midst of these laws comes in a general charge, sanctify yourselves, and be ye holy.

It is the Lord that sanctifies, and his work will be done, though it be difficult. Yet his grace is so far from doing away our endeavours, that it strongly encourages them. Work out your salvation, for it is God that worketh in you.

**Be imitators of God and walk in love.**

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Because God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven you, therefore be ye followers of God, imitators of God. Resemble him especially in his love and pardoning goodness, as becomes those beloved by their heavenly Father. In Christ's sacrifice his love triumphs, and we are to consider it fully.

**You shall be holy for God is Holy.**

**1 Peter 1:15-16**

But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

A strong and perfect trust in the grace of God, is agreeable with best endeavours in our duty. Holiness is the desire and duty of every Christian. It must be in all affairs, in every condition, and towards all people. We must especially watch and pray against the sins to which we are inclined.

The written word of God is the surest rule of a Christian's life, and by this rule we are commanded to be holy every way. God makes those holy whom he saves.

**God awakens my ear to listen.**

**Isaiah 50:4**

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of disciples that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.

As Jesus was God and man in one person, we find him sometimes speaking, or spoken of, as the Lord God; at other times, as man and the servant of Jehovah. He was to declare the truths which comfort the broken, contrite heart, those weary of sin, harassed with afflictions.



## Chapter 2



### Learning from Jesus

#### Matthew 11:29

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

The truths Christ teaches are such as we may venture our souls upon. Such is the Redeemer's mercy; and why should the labouring and burdened sinner seek for rest from any other quarter?

Let us come to him daily, for deliverance from wrath and guilt, from sin and Satan, from all our cares, fears, and sorrows.

But forced obedience, far from being easy and light, is a heavy burden. In vain do we draw near to Jesus with our lips, while the heart is far from him. Then come to Jesus to find rest for your souls.

**Do as Jesus has done to you.**

#### John 13:15

"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

This should make us the more cautious. From yesterday's pardon, we should be strengthened against this day's temptation. And when hypocrites are discovered, it should be no surprise or cause of stumbling to us. Observe the lesson Christ here taught. Duties are mutual; we must both accept help from our brethren, and afford help to our brethren.

### **You have been taught of Jesus.**

#### **Ephesians 4:20-21**

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.

The truth of Christ appears in its beauty and power, when it appears as in Jesus. The corrupt nature is called a man; like the human body, it is of divers parts, supporting and strengthening one another. Sinful desires are deceitful lusts; they promise men happiness, but render them more miserable; and bring them to destruction, if not subdued and mortified.

These therefore must be put off, as an old garment, a filthy garment; they must be subdued and mortified.

### **Have the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.**

#### **Philippians 2:5**

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

The example of our Lord Jesus Christ is set before us. We must resemble him in his life, if we would have the benefit of his death. Notice the two natures of Christ; his Divine nature, and human nature.

Who being in the form of God, partaking the Divine nature, as the eternal and only-begotten Son of God, John 1:1, had not thought it a robbery to be equal with God, and to receive Divine worship from men.

## **Christ left an example of suffering.**

### **1 Peter 2:21**

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

Christians to be patient when corrected for their faults? But if when they behaved well they were ill-treated by proud and passionate heathen masters, yet bore it without peevish complaints, or purposes of revenge, and persevered in their duty, this would be acceptable to God as a distinguishing effect of his grace, and would be rewarded by him.

Christ's death was designed not only for an example of patience under sufferings, but he bore our sins; he bore the punishment of them, and thereby satisfied Divine justice.

## **Walk in the same manner that Jesus walked.**

### **1 John 2:6**

The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Christ's commands, has holiness and Excellency which, if universal, would make the earth resemble heaven itself. The command to love one another had been in force from the beginning of the world; but it might be called a new command as given to Christians.

It was new in them, as their situation was new in respect of its motives, rules, and obligations. And those who walk in hatred and enmity to believers, remain in a dark state. Christian love teaches us to value our brother's soul, and to dread everything hurtful to his purity and peace.

## **Follow Jesus and become fishers of men.**

### **Matthew 4:19**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

When Christ began to preach, he began to gather disciples, who should be hearers, and afterwards preachers of his doctrine, who should be witnesses of his miracles, and afterwards testify concerning them.

He went not to Herod's court, not to Jerusalem, among the chief priests and the elders, but to the Sea of Galilee, among the fishermen.

The same power which called Peter and Andrew, could have wrought upon Annas and Caiaphas, for with God nothing is impossible. But Christ chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise

## **They Left their nets and followed Jesus.**

### **Matthew 4:20**

Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

The same power which called Peter and Andrew, could have wrought upon Annas and Caiaphas, for with God nothing is impossible. But Christ chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

Diligence in an honest calling is pleasing to Christ, and it is no hindrance to a holy life. Idle people are more open to the temptations of Satan than to the calls of God.

## **Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus.**

### **Matthew 16:24**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.

A true disciple of Christ is one that does follow him in duty, and shall follow him to glory. He is one that walks in the same way Christ walked in, is led by his Spirit, and treads in his steps, whithersoever he goes.

"Let him deny himself." If self-denial be a hard lesson, it is no more than what our Master learned and practiced, to redeem us, and to teach us.

"Let him take up his cross." The cross is here put for every trouble that befalls us. We are apt to think we could bear another's cross better than our own; but that is best which is appointed us, and we ought to make the best of it.

We must not by our rashness and folly pull crosses down upon our own heads, but must take them up when they are in our way.

## Chapter 3



### Learning From the Holy Spirit

#### John 14:26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

To all the saints, the Spirit of grace is given to be a remembrancer, and to him, by faith and prayer, we should commit the keeping of what we hear and know. Peace is put for all good, and Christ has left us all that is really and truly good, all the promised good; peace of mind from our justification before God.

This Christ calls his peace, for he is himself our Peace. The peace of God widely differs from that of Pharisees or hypocrites, as is shown by its humbling and holy effects

**The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say.**

#### Luke 12:12

For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

To deter us from denying Christ, and deserting his truths and ways, we are here assured that those who deny Christ, though they may thus save life itself, and though they may gain a kingdom by it, will be great losers at last; for Christ will not know them, will not own them, nor show them favour. But let no trembling, penitent backslider doubt of obtaining forgiveness.

This is far different from the determined enmity that is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which shall never be forgiven, because it will never be repented of.

### **Combine Spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.**

#### **1 Corinthians 2:13**

Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

This is most clear testimony, both to the real Godhead and the distinct person of the Holy Spirit. The apostles were not guided by worldly principles. They had the revelation of these things from the Spirit of God, and the saving impression of them from the same Spirit.

These things they declared in plain, simple language, taught by the Holy Spirit, totally different from the affected oratory or enticing words of man's wisdom.

### **The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.**

#### **John 16:13**

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

To be led into a truth is more than barely to know it; it is not only to have the notion of it in our heads, but the relish, and savour, and power of it in our hearts. He shall teach all truth, and keep back nothing profitable, for he will show things to come.

**The Lord gives you a spirit of wisdom and knowledge of him.**

### **Ephesians 1:17**

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

Nothing less than Almighty power will work this in us. Here is signified that it is Christ the Saviour, who supplies all the necessities of those who trust in him, and gives them all blessings in the richest abundance.

And by being partakers of Christ himself, we come to be filled with the fulness of grace and glory in him. How then do those forget themselves who seek for righteousness out of him! This teaches us to come to Christ

**Faith brings comprehension of the depth of God's love.**

### **Ephesians 3:16-19**

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth.....

How powerfully the apostle speaks of the love of Christ! The breadth shows its extent to all nations and ranks; the length that it continues from everlasting to everlasting; the depth, its saving those who are sunk into the depths of sin and misery; the height, its raising them up to heavenly happiness and glory.

Those who receive grace for grace from Christ's fulness, may be said to be filled with the fulness of God. Should not this satisfy man? Must he needs fill himself with a thousand trifles, fancying thereby to complete his happiness.



## **God reveals to you things unknown to angels.**

### **1 Peter 1:12**

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.

God is pleased to answer our necessities rather than our requests. The doctrine of the prophets, and that of the apostles, exactly agree, as coming from the same Spirit of God. The gospel is the ministration of the Spirit; its success depends upon his operation and blessing.

Let us then search diligently those Scriptures which contain the doctrines of salvation.

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## **You have an anointing from the Holy One.**

### **1 John 2:20**

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

The unction from the Holy One, alone can keep us from delusions. While we judge favourable of all who trust in Christ as the Divine Saviour, and obey his word, and seek to live in union with them, let us pity and pray for those who deny the Godhead of Christ, or his atonement, and the new-creating work of the Holy Ghost.

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## Chapter 4



### Learning from Other People

#### Philippians 4:9

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The way to have the God of peace with us, is to keep close to our duty.

All our privileges and salvation arise in the free mercy of God; yet the enjoyment of them depends on our sincere and holy conduct.

These are works of God, pertaining to God, and to him only are they to be ascribed, and to no other, neither men, words, nor deeds.

**Moses spoke direction to the people.**

#### Deuteronomy 4:10

"Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to me, that I may let them hear my words so they may learn to fear me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

What are laws made for but to be observed and obeyed? Our obedience as individuals cannot merit salvation; but it is the only evidence that we are partakers of the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ, Considering how many temptations we are compassed with, and what corrupt desires we have in our bosoms, we have great need to keep our hearts with all diligence.

Those cannot walk aright, who walk carelessly. Moses charges particularly to take heed of the sin of idolatry.

### **Moses speaks statutes and ordinances.**

#### **Deuteronomy 5:1**

Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully.

Moses demands attention. When we hear the word of God we must learn it; and what we have learned we must put in practice, for that is the end of hearing and learning; not to fill our heads with notions, or our mouths with talk, but to direct our affections and conduct.

### **Observe the law as was given by Moses.**

#### **Deuteronomy 31:12**

"Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law.

It is a rule to all, therefore should be read to all. Whoever has read of the pains taken by many persons to get scraps of the Scriptures, when a whole copy could not be obtained, or safely possessed, will see how thankful we should be for the thousands of copies amongst us. They will also understand the very different situation in which the Israelites were placed for many ages. But the heart of man is so careless, that all will be found too little, to keep up a knowledge of the truths, precepts, and worship of God.

## **You may exceed what is written.**

### **1 Corinthians 4:6-16**

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.....

We have no reason to be proud; all we have, or are, or do, that is good, is owing to the free and rich grace of God.

A sinner snatched from destruction by sovereign grace alone, must be very absurd and inconsistent, if proud of the free gifts of God. St. Paul sets forth his own circumstances, ver. 9. Allusion is made to the cruel spectacles in the Roman games; where men were forced to cut one another to pieces, to divert the people; and where the victor did not escape with his life, though he should destroy his adversary, but was only kept for another combat, and must be killed at last.

The thought that many eyes are upon believers, when struggling with difficulties or temptations, should encourage constancy and patience. "We are weak, but ye are strong."

All Christians are not alike exposed. Some suffer greater hardships than others. The apostle enters into particulars of their sufferings.

And how glorious the charity and devotion that carried them through all these hardships!

They suffered in their persons and characters as the worst and vilest of men; as the very dirt of the world, that was to be swept away: nay, as the off scouring of all things, the dross of all things.

## **Be imitator of Christ.**

### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

The first verse of this chapter seems properly to be the close to the last. The apostle not only preached such doctrine as they ought to believe, but led such a life as they ought to live.

Yet Christ being our perfect example, the actions and conduct of men, as related in the Scriptures, should be followed only so far as they are like to his.

## **Observe those who walk a godly pattern.**

### **Philippians 3:17**

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

The enemies of the cross of Christ mind nothing but their sensual appetites. Sin is the sinner's shame, especially when gloried in. The way of those who mind earthly things, may seem pleasant, but death and hell are at the end of it. If we choose their way, we shall share their end.

The life of a Christian is in heaven, where his Head and his home are, and where he hopes to be shortly; he sets his affections upon things above; and where his heart is, there will his conversation be.

## **Follow the example of the apostles.**

### **2 Thessalonians 3:7-9**

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

Those who have received the gospel, are to live according to the gospel.

Such as could work, and would not, were not to be maintained in idleness.

Christianity is not to countenance slothfulness, which would consume what is meant to encourage the industrious, and to support the sick and afflicted. Industry in our callings as men, is a duty required by our calling as Christians.

### **Continue in the things you have learned.**

#### **2 Timothy 3:14**

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

Those who would learn the things of God, and be assured of them, must know the Holy Scriptures, for they are the Divine revelation. The age of children is the age to learn; and those who would get true learning, must get it out of the Scriptures.

### **A wise man will hear and increase in learning.**

#### **Proverbs 1:5**

A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.

The lessons here given are plain, and likely to benefit those who feel their own ignorance, and their need to be taught.

If young people take heed to their ways, according to Solomon's Proverbs, they will gain knowledge and discretion. Solomon speaks of the most important points of truth, and a greater than Solomon is here. Christ speaks by his word and by his Spirit

## Chapter 5



### Learning from the past

#### Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The Scriptures are written for our use and benefit, as much as for those to whom they were first given. Those are most learned who are most mighty in the Scriptures.

That comfort which springs from the word of God, is the surest and sweetest, and the greatest stay to hope. The Spirit as a Comforter, is the earnest of our inheritance. This like-mindedness must be according to the precept of Christ, according to his pattern and example.

**Do not forget the things your eyes have seen.**

#### Deuteronomy 4:9

"Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Take heed lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God. We must take heed lest at any time we forget our religion. Care, caution, and watchfulness, are helps against a bad memory.

### **Consider the years of all generations.**

#### **Deuteronomy 32:7**

"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, your elders, and they will tell you.

Moses gives particular instances of God's kindness and concern for them. The eagle's care for her young is a beautiful emblem of Christ's love, who came between Divine justice and our guilty souls, and bare our sins in his own body on the tree.

And by the preached gospel, and the influences of the Holy Spirit, He stirs up and prevails upon sinners to leave Satan's bondage.

### **Listen and give heed to the voice of the Lord.**

#### **Zechariah 1:4**

"Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Return now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds "' but they did not listen or give heed to me," declares the LORD.

Review what is past, and observe the message God sent by his servants, the prophets, to your fathers.

Turn you now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings. Be persuaded to leave your sins, as the only way to prevent approaching ruin. What is become of our fathers, and of the prophets that preached to them?



## **Do not be idolaters**

### **1 Corinthians 10:6-11**

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.....

Carnal desires gain strength by indulgence, therefore should be checked in their first rise. Let us fear the sins of Israel, if we would shun their plagues. And it is but just to fear, that such as tempt Christ, will be left by him in the power of the old serpent. Murmuring against God's disposals and commands, greatly provokes him. Nothing in Scripture is written in vain; and it is our wisdom and duty to learn from it.

The Christian's security against sin is distrust of himself. God has not promised to keep us from falling, if we do not look to ourselves. To this word of caution, a word of comfort is added. Others have the like burdens, and the like temptations: what they bear up under, and break through, we may also.

God is wise as well as faithful, and will make our burdens according to our strength. He knows what we can bear. He will make a way to escape; he will deliver either from the trial itself, or at least the mischief of it. We have full encouragement to flee from sin, and to be faithful to God. We cannot fall by temptation, if we cleave fast to him.

## **Cain's deeds were evil.**

### **1 John 3:12**

Not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother and for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous.

We should love the Lord Jesus, value his love, and therefore love all our brethren in Christ. This love is the special fruit of our faith, and a certain sign of our being born again. But none who rightly know the heart of man, can wonder at the contempt and enmity of ungodly people against the children of God.

We know that we are passed from death to life: we may know it by the evidences of our faith in Christ, of which love to our brethren is one. It is not zeal for a party in the common religion, or affection for those who are of the same name and sentiments with ourselves.

The life of grace in the heart of a regenerate person, is the beginning and first principle of a life of glory.

## Chapter 6



### Learning the Right Way

#### Psalm 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word.

To original corruption all have added actual sin. The ruin of the young is either living by no rule at all, or choosing false rules: let them walk by Scripture rules. To doubt of our own wisdom and strength, and to depend upon God, proves the purpose of holiness is sincere. God's word is treasure worth laying up, and there is no laying it up safe but in our hearts, that we may oppose God's precepts to the dominion of sin, his promises to its allurements, and his threatenings to its violence.

**Ask for the ancient paths.**

#### Jeremiah 6:16

Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

Ask for the old paths set forth by the written word of God. When you have found the good way, go on in it, you will find abundant recompense at your journey's end. But if men will not obey the voice of God and flee to his appointed Refuge, it will plainly appear at the Day of Judgment, that they are ruined because they reject God's word

**David walked with the integrity of his heart.**

**Psalm 101:2**

I will give heed to the blameless way When will you come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

In this psalm we have David declaring how he intended to regulate his household, and to govern his kingdom, that he might stop wickedness, and encourage godliness. It is also applicable to private families, and is the householder's psalm.

It teaches all that have any power, whether more or less, to use it so as to be a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well

**Commit your ways to the Lord.**

**Psalm 37:5**

Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

To delight in God is as much a privilege as a duty. He has not promised to gratify the appetites of the body, and the humors of the fancy, but the desires of the renewed, sanctified soul.

What is the desire of the heart of a good man? It is this, to know, and love, and serve God. Commit thy way unto the Lord; roll thy way upon the Lord, so the margin reads it.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, the burden of thy care. We must roll it off ourselves, not afflict and perplex ourselves with thoughts about future events, but refer them to God.

By prayer spread thy case and all thy cares before the Lord, and trust in him. We must do our duty, and then leave the event with God.

**Watch the paths of your feet.**

**Proverbs 4:26**

Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established.

We must set a strict guard upon our souls; keep our hearts from doing hurt, and getting hurt. A good reason is given; because out of it are the issues of life.

Above all, we should seek from the Lord Jesus that living water, the sanctifying Spirit, issuing forth unto everlasting life.

Thus we shall be enabled to put away a froward mouth and perverse lips; our eyes will be turned from beholding vanity, looking straight forward, and walking by the rule of God's word, treading in the steps of our Lord and Master.

Lord, forgive the past, and enable us to follow thee more closely for the time to come.

**Teach them the statutes and the law.**

**Exodus 18:20**

Then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do.

Wisdom is profitable to direct, that we may neither content ourselves with less than our duty, nor task ourselves beyond our strength. Jethro advised Moses to a better plan. Great men should not only study to be useful themselves, but contrive to make others useful. Care must be taken in the choice of the persons admitted into such a trust.

**A fire by night, a cloud by day.**

**Deuteronomy 1:33**

Who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go.

Moses reminds the Israelites of their march from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea, through that great and terrible wilderness. He shows how near they were to a happy settlement in Canaan. It will aggravate the eternal ruin of hypocrites that they were not far from the kingdom of God.

As if it were not enough that they were sure of their God before them, they would send men before them.

**God's eye is upon you.**

### **Psalm 32:8**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

God teaches by his word, and guides with the secret intimations of his will. David gives a word of caution to sinners. The reason for this caution is, that the way of sin will certainly end in sorrow. Here is a word of comfort to saints.

They may see that a life of communion with God is far the most pleasant and comfortable. Let us rejoice, O Lord Jesus, in thee, and in thy salvation; so shall we rejoice indeed.

**You are directed in the way of wisdom.**

### **Proverbs 4:11**

I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths.

Get wisdom, take pains for it. Get the rule over thy corruptions; take more pains to get this than the wealth of this world. An interest in Christ's salvation is necessary. This wisdom is the one thing needful. A soul without true wisdom and grace is a dead soul. How poor, contemptible, and wretched are those, who, with all their wealth and power, die without getting understanding, without Christ, without hope, and without God!

## **God is King among the troops.**

### **Job 29:25**

“I chose a way for them and sat as chief, and dwelt as a king among the troops, as one who comforted the mourners.

Every one that has the spirit of wisdom, has not the spirit of government; but Job had both.

Yet he had the tenderness of a comforter. This he thought upon with pleasure, when he was himself a mourner. Our Lord Jesus is a King who hates iniquity, and upon whom the blessing of a world ready to perish comes. To Him let us give ear.

## **God will make known the path of life.**

### **Psalm 16:11**

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

And Christ being the Head of the body, the church, these verses may be applied to all Christians, guided and animated by the Spirit of Christ; and we may hence learn, that it is our wisdom and duty to set the Lord always before us.

And if our eyes are ever toward God, our hearts and tongues may ever rejoice in him. Death destroys the hope of man, but not the hope of a real Christian. Christ's resurrection is an earnest of the believer's resurrection.

In this world sorrow is our lot, but in heaven there is joy, a fulness of joy; our pleasures here are for a moment, but those at God's right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Through this thy beloved Son, and our dear Saviour, thou wilt show us, O Lord, the path of life; thou wilt justify our souls now, and raise our bodies by thy power at the last day; when earthly sorrow shall end in heavenly joy, pain in everlasting happiness.

## **Walk in the right way.**

### **Isaiah 30:21**

Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

A famine of bread is not so great a judgment as a famine of the word of God. There are right-hand and left-hand errors; the tempter is busy courting us into by-paths. It is happy if, by the counsels of a faithful minister or friend, or the checks of conscience, and the strivings of God the Spirit, we are set right when doubting, and prevented from going wrong.

They shall be cured of their idolatry. To all true penitents sin becomes very hateful. This is shown daily in the conversion of souls, by the power of Divine grace, to the fear and love of God.

### **To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

### **References:**

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.