



# God Knows the Way That I Take

A Teaching Outline

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bellinger

## God knows the way that I take

### Job 23:10

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job continued his questioning, saying that his suffering would be more bearable if only he knew why it was happening.

If there was sin for which he could repent, he would! He knew about the wicked and the fact that they would be punished; he knew God could vindicate him if he so chose. In all his examples of the wicked in the world, his overriding desire was for God to clear his name, prove his righteousness, and explain why he was chosen to receive all this calamity.

Job tried to make his friends see that questions about God, life, and justice are not as simple as they assumed.

In chapter 22, Eliphaz had tried to condemn Job by identifying some secret sin that he may have committed. Here Job declares his confidence in his integrity and God's justice. We are always likely to have hidden sin in our lives, sin we don't even know about because God's standards are so high and our performance is so imperfect.

If we are true believers, however, all our sins are forgiven because of what Christ did on the cross in our behalf (Romans 5:1; 8:1). The Bible also teaches that even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings (1 John 3:20).

His forgiveness and cleansing are sufficient; they overrule our nagging doubts. The Holy Spirit in us is our proof that we are forgiven in God's eyes even though we may *feel* guilty. If we, like Job, are truly seeking God, we can stand up to others' accusations as well as our own nagging doubts.

When God has forgiven and accepted us, we are forgiven indeed.

**But he knoweth the way that I take; or, the way that is with me.**

My inability to find God does not in any way interfere with his perfect knowledge of me. God knows both "the way of the righteous"

**The way of the wicked turns upside down.**

**Psalm 1:6**

"And "the way of the wicked," which" he turns upside down

Chaff is the outer shell (or husk) that must be removed to get at the valuable kernels of grain inside. Chaff was removed by a process called threshing and winnowing. After the plants were cut, they were crushed, and then the pieces were thrown into the air.

Chaff is very light and is carried away by even the slightest wind, while the good grain falls back to the earth. Chaff is a symbol of a faithless life that drifts along without direction. Good grain is a symbol of a faithful life that can be used by God. Unlike grain, however, we can choose the direction we will take.

**God spieth out all our ways.**

**Psalm 146:9**

He is "about our path, and about our bed, and spieth out all our ways"

God's plans frustrate the "plans of the wicked" because his values are the opposite of societies. Jesus turned society's values upside down when he proclaimed that "many who seem to be the greatest now will be the least important then, and those who are considered least important now will be the greatest then" (Matthew 19:30). "If you try to hang onto your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it"

(Matthew 16:25). Don't be surprised when others don't understand your Christian values; but don't give in to theirs.

**When tried, I shall come forth as gold.**

**Psalm 139:2.**

When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold; **i.e.** as gold from the furnace, I shall come forth purified, when my trial is over.

Sometimes we don't let people get to know us completely because we are afraid they will discover something about us that they won't like. But God already knows everything about us, even to the number of hairs on our heads (and still he accepts and loves us. God is with us through every situation, in every trial—protecting, loving, guiding. He knows and loves us completely.

**The words of the Lord are pure words.**

**Psalm 12:6**

The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

God cares for the helpless and the poor. Here he promises to protect the downtrodden and confront their oppressors. We should identify with God's attitude. His work is not done until we care for the needs of the poor.

Sincerity and truth are extremely valuable because they are so rare. Many people are deceivers, liars, flatterers; they think they will get what they want by deception. As a king, David certainly faced his share of such people, who hoped to win his favor and gain advancement through flattery. When we feel as though sincerity and truth have nearly gone out of existence, we have one hope—the Word of God. God's Word is as pure and flawless as refined silver. So listen carefully when he speaks to you through his Word.

## **God will take away the dross.**

### **Isaiah 1:25**

And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

God promised to refine his people similar to the way that metal is purged with lye in a smelting pot. This process involves melting the metal and skimming off the impure slag until the worker can see his own image in the liquid metal. We must be willing to submit to God, allowing him to remove our sin so that we might reflect his image.

## **The Lord shall reject the wicked.**

### **Jeremiah 6:29, 30**

The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder malted in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away. Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the Lord hath rejected them.

Metal is purified by fire. As it is heated, impurities are burned away and only the pure metal remains. As God tested the people of Judah, however, he could find no purity in their lives. They continued in their sinful ways. Do you see impurities in your life that should be burned away? Confess these to God and allow him to purify you as he sees fit. Take time right now to reflect on the areas of your life that he has already refined; then thank him for what he is doing.

## **Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.**

### **John 14:4-6**

"And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

This is one of the most basic and important passages in Scripture. How can we know the way to God? Only through Jesus. Jesus is the way because he is both God and man. By uniting our lives with his, we are united with God. Trust Jesus to take you to the Father, and all the benefits of being God's child will be yours.

Jesus says he is the *only* way to God the Father. Some people may argue that this way is too narrow. In reality, it is wide enough for the whole world, if the world chooses to accept it. Instead of worrying about how limited it sounds to have only one way, we should be saying, "Thank you, God, for providing a sure way to get to you!"

As the *way*, Jesus is our path to the Father. As the *truth*, he is the reality of all God's promises. As the *life*, he joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally. Jesus is, in truth, the only living way to the Father.

### **There is one mediator between God and men.**

#### **1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Though some people think there are many ways to God, in practice, each person must choose a single way. We can stand on one side of a gorge and discuss the possibility of many bridges across the abyss, but if we are determined to cross, we will have to commit to one bridge. Those who insist that there are many bridges to God usually fit one of the following categories:

(1) They have not personally committed to any "bridge." They are surprised that their belief in multiple ways does not exempt them from having to choose one.

(2) Their belief in "many ways to God" hides their true belief that finding God doesn't really matter at all.

(3) They are convinced that arguing for "many ways to God" will insure that they won't be wrong. If there is only one way, their generalized belief will presumably have included it.

(4) They have decided that believing in "many ways to God" requires less work than going to the trouble of actually considering the claims of various religious systems.

The facts remain: We human beings are separated from God by sin and we need a Savior—a way across the abyss of sin and back to God. Only one person in the universe is our Mediator and can stand between us and God and bring us together again—Jesus, who is both God and man. Jesus' sacrifice brought new life to all people. Have you let him bridge the gap between you and God.

**You enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus.**

#### **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

The Most Holy Place in the Temple was sealed from view by a curtain (10:20). Only the high priest could enter this holy room, and he did so only once a year on the Day of Atonement when he offered the sacrifice for the nation's sins. But Jesus' death removed the curtain, and all believers may walk into God's presence at any time

**Only through the name of Jesus can you be saved.**

#### **Acts 4:12**

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Many people react negatively to the fact that there is no other name than that of Jesus to call on for salvation. Yet this is not something the church decided; it is the specific teaching of Jesus himself). If God designated Jesus to be the Savior of the world, no one else can be his equal. Christians are to be open-minded on many issues but not on how we are saved from sin.

No other religious teacher could die for our sins; no other religious teacher came to earth as God's only Son; no other religious teacher rose from the dead. Our focus should be on Jesus, whom God provided as the way to have an eternal relationship with himself. There is no other name or way!

**Those who do not believe will be condemned.**

**Mark 16:16**

"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Today people still have to make up their minds about Jesus. Some think that if they can name what he is—prophet, teacher, good man—they can weaken the power of his claim on their lives. But what they *think* does not change who Jesus *is*.

**God has given the right to become children of God.**

**John 1:12-13**

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually, receiving new life from God. Through faith in Christ, this new birth changes us from the inside out—rearranging our attitudes, desires, and motives.

Being born makes you physically alive and places you in your parents' family (1:13). Being born of God makes you spiritually alive and puts you in God's family (1:12). Have you asked Christ to make you a new person? This fresh start in life is available to all who believe in Christ.

### **Eternal life promised to those who believe.**

#### **John 3:15-16**

So that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, God sent a plague of snakes to punish the people for their rebellious attitudes. Those doomed to die from snakebite could be healed by obeying God's command to look up at the elevated bronze snake and by believing that God would heal them if they did. Similarly, our salvation happens when we look up to Jesus, believing he will save us. God has provided this way for us to be healed of sin's deadly bite.

The message of the Good News comes to a focus in this verse. God's love is not static or self-centered; it reaches out and draws others in. Here God sets the pattern of true love, the basis for all love relationships—when you love someone dearly, you are willing to give freely to the point of self-sacrifice. God paid dearly with the life of his Son, the highest price he could pay. Jesus accepted our punishment, paid the price for our sins, and then offered us the new life that he had bought for us. When we share the Good News with others, our love must be like Jesus'—willingly giving up our own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God's love.

Some people are repulsed by the idea of eternal life because their lives are miserable. But eternal life is not an extension of a person's miserable, mortal life; eternal life is God's life embodied in Christ given to all believers now as a guarantee that they will live forever. In eternal life there is no death, sickness, enemy, evil, or sin. When we don't know Christ, we make choices as though this life is all we have. In reality, this life is just the introduction to eternity. Receive this new life by faith and begin to evaluate all that happens from an eternal perspective.

To "believe" is more than intellectual agreement that Jesus is God. It means to put our trust and confidence in him that he alone can save us. It is to put Christ in charge of our present plans and eternal destiny. Believing is both trusting his words as reliable, and relying on him for the power to change. If you have never trusted Christ, let this promise of everlasting life be yours—and believe.

**An invitation is given to open your heart's door.**

**Rev. 3:20**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

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:**

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation  
New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

