

THE WAY TO LIVE
By
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Acts 18:24-26 “**And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.**

25. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly”.

Beloved, there are many ways in the world of getting a thing done, and they all seem to be right, logical and sensible. Some of those ways might be very hurtful, some very harmful, perhaps unprofitable, one or two may be just okay. However, there is “the way” of getting a thing done.

Now to add to the dilemma, the Bible says that “**there is a way that seems right to a man, but that way is the way of death**” (Provs 16:25). Interestingly, to this man it means right.

If this man knew that, that way was the way of death he would not have gone that way. It seemed right to him, but the Bible says it is “**the way of death**”. No one will see death and run into it; it brings agony, destruction, pain and misery.

There are things men experience when they reject the way of God and follow other ways. Rom 3:16-17.

16. “Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17. And the way of peace have they not known”:

- i. Destruction and misery are in their ways, and the way of peace have they not known. There is a way of peace which somehow they put aside, and thought of other options; but what they experienced was destruction, misery and pain of heart. The way of peace they have not known.

The word “peace” means “one”. It means to be in harmony with God, to be in agreement with God, to harmonize your destiny with God’s plan. So it is one in spirit, soul and body with the plan of God. The Hebrew text for the word peace, shalom, means prosperity or sound well being. It also means the rest of soul. So there is a way of prosperity, a way that brings rest to your soul, a way that gives you a healthy well being, a way that will harmonize you with your destiny. But this way of peace have they not known.

The Bible says these people are experiencing destruction and misery because they have not known the way of peace: rest in their soul, peace in their body, increase in their business

Can you talk of peace when your job is not secure? Can you have peace when you're running at a loss in your small business? Of course not. But there is a way that secures peace for you, and that will bring gain instead of loss.

1 Cor. 7:15 ***"But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace"***.

If the guy is an infidel and is disturbing your soul saying he wants to pack out, let him go because God wants your peace undisturbed. He has called you to rest, and the man can be a hindrance to your life, your business, in fact to your whole system. He can even kill you, but God has called us to peace. Hallelujah!

Col 3:15 ***"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful"***.

God has called you to a prosperous life. To progress in life is a calling. He called you to have rest of soul and rest of mind. He called you to be one with him so you could enjoy heaven on earth. There is a way of peace.

Roms. 15:13 ***"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost"***.

How do you experience this calling of peace? You are in the path of peace when God gives you a word or speaks to you and you believe it. But when you do not believe you are out of the path of peace. You become troubled and vulnerable.

God's word brings peace to the soul. Think of it. Whenever you dare to believe God in your trouble times, you just know rest. That is the first sign to you that you have connected. If you say you believe God's word and there is no peace in your soul, it means you have not believed yet. The sign of the connection with the father is "peace". If in your confusion, worry and stress you believe and receive His word, somehow your soul just calms down. God's word speaks peace. Hallelujah.

It says ***"..peace in believing..."***. No man knows the peace of God until he believes what God says. Believing is the first step in the path of peace. However bad your home or job is, however threatening that condition is, if you will dare to believe God you will enter the path of peace because He is the God of peace.

God expects us to always believe because ***"the battle is not yours, but God's"***, (2 Chro. 20:15b). If you won't believe your struggle will continue, but if you

believe your struggle ends. That peace tells you that God has taken over.

Your worry is a sign to you that God is not bearing your burden, you are. When you believe God's word, and that peace picks up in your soul, it tells you that God now bears the burden, He's in charge.

Phi. 4:6-7 says "**Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus".

The peace of God will come after you have believed. That I believe is in a sense not enough because believing is unstable. This can be explained through a chemical reaction.

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous unstable gas that every car emits. As soon as it gets out of the exhaust pipe it oxidizes, it becomes Carbon dioxide which is not harmful to man, but that gas is so unstable. As it gets to air it changes to dioxide. That is how belief is, it is very unstable.

When I say I believe, and nothing is done about my belief, it can return to unbelief again. The evidence of my belief is my action: what I say and do in response to my belief is what is called Faith.

Rom 10:10 "**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**".

Nobody knows what you believe in your heart and nobody sees it except you. The only way we will know that you believe is by what you say or do. "**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness...; salvation**". Now he is justified, now blameless, now fit, now qualified to receive. "**And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**" he confesses what he believes unto his salvation. The man now experiences the grace when he has done according to his belief.

Believing is incomplete without the action. When I speak according to what I believe, my speaking is called faith. If I do according to what I believe, that action is called Faith.

Now the way of peace is to believe. The Bible says that "**The just shall live by faith.**" (Roms 1:17). It says those who are just shall enjoy this life by faith. God's prescription for you and I to live is the way of faith. There is no other way. If you live along this prescribed path you will know the peace of God in your job, your family and in every area of your life. He will settle and calm down every disturbance in your life.

Faith is the evidence of your belief on the word of God. (Ref Hebs 1:6).

Habk 2:4 "**Look at the proud; his soul is not straight or right within him, but the [rigidly] just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness**". (AMP)

“..but the just shall live by his faith” (KJV). Some people show faith only when there is a need, but God rewards your lifestyle of faithfulness, and this is the way to live.. There should be a consistency in your belief.

“The just shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness” (AMP). If you live in this path of faith you will know the peace of God that passes understanding. It is not the peace that the world gives, but God’s peace that passes understanding. It is beyond what the mind can comprehend.

How does this faith come? Monkey’s have faith that they would not go hungry. They do not plant, they do not’ have farms, but they always eat. But that is not the faith we are talking about. God’s faith is divine, it comes from above.

Rom 10:17 **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”**.

This faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. But how can a man hear what he does not listen to, and that which he does not know? Sad to say, many Christians including Pastors do not take out time to study God’s word. It is sad. So they do not know what God is even saying. Not knowing the word of God is more undoing than the devil himself. There is no faith without the word of God.

Beloved, **“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”**. That word is called rhema. Meaning a word spoken to you. God will not speak a word that is against or outside what is written. That voice will either be yours or that of the devil. God will only remind you of His word when you already know what is written in it.

Sometimes you may be reading the Bible then somehow a verse is spoken to you. When a word is spoken to you it ignites your soul, it wakes you up, keeps you agile and sharp because when God speaks power follows it. God’s word is not just letters, He speaks too. When you hear that word it gives you an uncommon boldness and courage. **“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”**.

How do you hear? The word (hear) has two words in it. For instance, when a word is preached, people hear according to their own perceptions and convictions. Now what is spoken is what is heard. Faith comes by hearing and understanding what is spoken. Christ said **“take heed what you hear”** (Mark 4:24) because what you hear determines what you do. How you hear shows how far you can go in life.

The word faith means the sound of the word and what is understood. So it means that faith comes first by listening then by understanding. Live a lifestyle based on your understanding.

When you’re reading in your closet or you’re listening to a message, and a word leaps in your mind, it renews your mind, it gets your mind conditioned. Once you believe a thing normally it changes you. Same way once you have an insight, a revelation of the word of God, it changes, and patterns your lifestyle after what you heard or read.

Beloved, make Bible reading a habit. The Lord says in John 8:31-32 **"If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; 32. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"** That means you will have an experience of the truth.

2 Cor 5:7 **"For we walk by faith, not by sight:"** That is a lifestyle. We may face challenges, but it is not abnormal. So when you face challenges see it as a normal process of life and not something out of the ordinary. Christ said **"In the world you will have tribulations, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"**(Jn 16:35b). See all of them as stepping stones.

If you must advance in life truly you must have challenges. When they come your way see beyond them. God said **"Be of good cheer I have overcome the world..."**, so even that situation will bow. No trouble is ordained to last forever, none. They have their end point, you can choose to end it now. **"the just shall live by his faith"** not by what he sees. Your faith will change what you see to what you want to see. What you see maybe unpleasant, but your faith can change it to become pleasant. This is the new and living way that Christ ordained for us; to live by faith.

You will see and hear of things; some threatening, some frightening, they are all tests; you are more than them. Before they came your way God knew. Whatever you're going through has been gone through before; nothing is new. Your case is not the first and will not be the last so have the mindset that you have no problems. Though around you are seas of problems; you're faith in your God and your mindset of His presence will push down all those shouting mouth and make them conform to what you say:

God has called you to peace; whatever wants to come against your peace let it fight God. He has called you to peace and peace you will have. You should therefore enforce peace in your life, your job, your business, and let the devil obey. Choose to rest; choose to have peace because God has called you to peace.

As long as you're worrying the burden rests on you not on God, but when you rest He takes charge.

Choose to keep peace. Stop worrying over issues; beloved rejoice. You're a child of the King; keep the peace. Hallelujah!