

# On Our Way Back to God

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The whole objective of the Gospel, and of Jesus' coming is, that we may find our way back to God. And the whole objective of God's working with us, is to get us back home—really back to Him, in the true Bible way--to where we know and serve Him, have Him first in our lives—to where we give Him His rightful place—and take ours.

Only God can accomplish this great work. In our natural condition--our character, our ways and doings, and our attitude towards God and towards each other, are just as far from God as it is possible to be. We were born that way, as the result of Adam's great sin—and we can't help it.

However, under God's teaching, guidance, and control, we are to travel that long road back to Him. The Scriptures tell us the road back...They give us the very beginning of that road, and the various circumstances which arise on our journey.

Then, we have teaching and examples which tell us just what are the conditions of getting back home to God, and the attitude we are to take. We always should remember that God alone can teach and develop us and bring us back to Himself.

God always takes us by the hand when we surrender our lives to Him without reservation. We can do this, if we will—and we can make a sincere and final decision to go through with God and His Son, Jesus.

If there is any reservation in our surrender, we will stumble and be worse off than if we never started.... And, eventually, we could be drawn out of the Truth unless you repent and start over.

So, it is of the greatest value to us to know, that we must start right (which everyone can who will, any time they choose) or not undertake to be a Christian at all .... Because it will make far more trouble for us—to not have started right.

Jesus plainly said, in Luke 14:28-29, *“Which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not sit down first and calculate the cost, asking if he has the means to finish it?—lest perhaps, when he has laid the foundation and is unable to finish, all who see it shall begin to jeer at him,”* meaning that we would never make a success of the Christian life if we didn't settle it right to go through with Him, regardless of consequences—regardless of

everything and everybody, and regardless of even our own lives. Verse 33 *“Just as no one of you who does not detach himself from all that belongs to him can be a disciple of Mine.”*

Often, before we settle it to go God's way, Satan tries to make us afraid to give up the human things we are depending upon—things which would send us to the Lake of Fire. The devil fills our minds with discouragements, and with scarecrows which look very real, to frighten and upset us, and to make us afraid to take the leap in the dark.

The step of faith is always a leap in the dark! It would have to be, in the very nature of things, where there was a decided risk. In the divine life, the greater the risk, the more valuable the step.

It is like the women who had gotten up early, on the first day of the week, to go to the sepulcher of Jesus with the spices. There was a “great stone” placed at the opening of the tomb. And Satan used this to make it difficult for them to enter the tomb. They said— *“who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?”* But, *“when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.”*

That is an illustration of what happens when we surrender the human thing we are trusting in and accept God in the place of it.

Instead of it being so terrifying, and according to the dark pictures the devil has presented— after we make our final decision—all that passes away, and we are filled with God's peace.... We find that the rough place has been made smooth—and “every stone has been rolled away.” And we feel very annoyed with ourselves for being so foolish as to listen to the “lying vanities” of the devil, and “forsaking our own mercy.”

In Luke 15, we have the story of the prodigal son. When he was feeding the swine, he was as far from his father as it was possible to be. But when he came to himself.... (God is trying to bring everybody to themselves every moment of their life) he made a decision to go back to his father---to get back home.

So, he returned in a very humble way. And he said, Luke 15:19 & 21 *“Father, I have sinned before Heaven and in thy sight and am no more worthy to be called thy son....(19) make me as one of thy hired servants.”*

That was the right combination—that was the way to go back home. The prodigal's father said,(22-23) *“bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; for let us eat, and be merry.”*

No wonder Jesus said, (10) *“there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth”* — and gets back to God— (7) *“than over*

*ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”*

God gave us an illustration, in that story, of how surprised people will be when they really get back to God.

In the divine life, we would never grow an inch, if we did not have any battles with Satan. People who are not being tried or tempted by Satan, are not growing or developing at all—and, neither are they getting ready for Eternal Life....A real and growing Christian has the continual attacks of Satan.

“And, as I have often told you,” the pastor continued, “in my early Christian life, I had the idea that I was being tormented by Satan because I was such a hard case.

I soon found out it was just the very opposite. The reason why my fellow-church-members were not attacked, was because they had not a particle of Christianity. But Satan told me just the opposite to the real Truth, which he always does, being the father of lies.”

I found it was because they had not made a genuine beginning of the Christian life, nor did they have a real spirituality, that would draw the fire of Satan. The devil does not bother spiritually—dead Christians...he just lets them drift with the tide on the surface.

I want to praise and thank God again, and call your attention to what God has done, in revealing to us the true way back to Him, to our original righteous character, to a true knowledge of God, and to our absolute loyalty to Him.

In the divine life, the two important things for a real Christian are—to get back to God right, and to trust in Him alone for everything that pertains to this present life. Nothing else in the Christian life amounts to anything....Every particle of time spent in any other pursuit, is worse than wasted.

Our only hope of Eternal Life is to get back to God, and learn to trust Him alone for everything in this present life—our spiritual life, our bodies, and everything that pertains to their health and protection—to learn to trust God for our families, not only to control them, and cause them to act as we would like them to—but for them to come into the Truth and become genuine Christians....These are the lessons God teaches us in our development on the road back to Him.

Then, we are to come to the place where we trust God alone for our financial support, and for our daily living. It is our privilege of trusting God for our daily bread as the Bible teaches.... And, it is a delightful

experience, a most happy and carefree one—and a most all-sufficient one.

What a contrast! A person who is depending on human sources of income altogether, and has never learned any better, will have the curse overtake them.

Jesus said in Luke 16 that if our trust was in earthly sources, that is where our heart would be. But, if we had all our sources of financial help in Heaven, our heart (meaning our confidence and trust) would be up there! Our hope then, would be in God alone.

Learning to trust God alone for everything in our life here, brings us right back to the Garden of Eden—and to the walk and character of the true Bible examples....That was the pathway they walked in—learning to trust God alone, and to believe His Word as the only evidence of their deliverance and answered prayer. My! What a safe plan!

You will notice that anybody who took such an attitude, under God’s teaching, guidance, and control, had a full manifestation of God’s glorious presence and power.

That is a lost art in the average Christian’s life. The average professing Christian has not a particle of manifestation of God’s power and presence in their entire lives. The cause of it is—they are taught by man instead of God.... And they are taught to trust in man for the things of this present life, instead of the living God alone. That is the great mark of division between genuine Christians, and false or demon-controlled Christians.

Demon-controlled Christians trust man instead of God for the things of this present life....God-controlled, and God-taught Christians trust in Him, and Him alone, for all the things of this present life.

We all were born, filled to overflowing with self-confidence, self-plans, and self-efforts. We were born with that obsession of the devil—that we could make our own way in this life, without God—that we could be our own god, that we could get the things that God provided in the Garden of Eden, all by our own efforts. We could do what God did—and we would know what God knew!

All that has to be gotten rid of—every particle of it. If you and I die with any possession of the devil, or with that obsession of the old self-life, we would go directly to the Lake of Fire.

When we start out in the Christian life, and really become awakened and “aroused from the dead,” as the saying is, we want to serve and please God, and do His will--and we try our best to do it—that is, a genuine Christian does—but unconscious to ourselves

