

# **Go the Way You Should Go**

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## **Introduction**

God says that if we will train up a child in the way they should go, even when they are old they will not depart from it.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6)

Many of us with children sought the blessing of that promise and raised children in the way we thought they should go. Much of the time that was to do the things we thought had worked well for us and to avoid doing the things we thought had caused problems to us or those around us. And some of our children grew up and stayed on the path we trained them to follow: they did the things we thought were good and avoided the things we thought were bad.

How many of us, however, thought to seek God and teach our children to go the way he says they should go? To submit themselves daily to God and have him show them what to do and how to do it, what to be, and how to become and be it, to guide, direct, and order their steps?

*Go the Way You Should Go* is written for parents seeking to train up their children in the way God says they should go. It is written for those who may counsel others on the way they should go. Finally, it is written for anyone who is seeking to go the way they should go and to be the manner of person they should be.

## **Power and Processes of Life and Death**

Do you want to live and have things go well with you (shalom)? To have a long life with good days?

There is a power that produces life and shalom - to cause you to live a long life with good days.

There are processes by which you store up / increase that power and sustain / strengthen it. There is a process by which you apply the power to produce life and shalom.

There is, however, a power that produces death and evil - to shorten your life and fill your days with evil. Like the power that produces life, the power that produces death and evil also has processes by which it is stored up / increased and sustained / strengthened. It also has a process by which it is applied to produce death and evil.

If you want to live and have shalom - to have a long life with good days - choose, and continue choosing, to align your life with the power that produces life and shalom and all of its processes. Choose, and continue choosing, to align your life against the power that produces death and evil and all of its processes.

Align all of your life and being - your desires, beliefs, thoughts, words, and actions - with the power and processes that produce life and shalom and against that which produce death and evil.

To choose you must discern the truth of the powers and processes and the truth of your alignment with them. If you want to live and have shalom, align your life with the power and process by which you discern truth and error, the process of life, and the process of death.

### **The Power of Life and Shalom**

God's power is the power of life and shalom. God's words are filled with his power, his life, and the nature of his being. Align your life and being with the power of life and shalom by aligning your life and being with God's words.

Partake of the power of life and shalom by sowing God's words into your heart and guarding them against the power of death and evil. God's words work in you to impel you to align, to will to align, and to discern truth and error. Everything you need for life and shalom is supplied by God's words.

Aligning with God's power and processes is done only by continual submission to the commands of God - to his will - to the rule and authority of God's Son, the Lord Jesus. Humble yourself and receive what he says is true and do what he says to do. The only alternative is death and evil.

God gives you his armor so that you can resist and overcome the power and processes of death and evil. Put on God's armor.

Pray: Father, in the name of your son, the Lord Jesus, I put on your armor: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

God sends his Spirit of Truth to guide you into all the truth so you can discern the power and processes of life and shalom and death and evil. He will guide you into the truth of your alignment with them so you can choose the way you should go. Ask God to send his Spirit of Truth to you to guide you into all the truth.

Pray: Father, in the name of your son, the Lord Jesus, I ask you to send your Spirit of Truth to guide me into all the truth - especially the truth of your power

and processes of life and shalom and the truth I need to resist and overcome the power and processes of death and evil.

God also sends his ministering spirits to give you knowledge, understanding, and to strengthen you. Ask him to send them to help you.

God gives instructions in his word that tell how to discern the Spirit of Truth and the spirits he sends to help you from the ones Satan sends to destroy you. Follow God's instructions and test the spirits. (1 John 4:1-3, 1 Corinthians 12:3)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. (1 John 4:1-3)

I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. (Matthew 7:15, 16)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22, 23)

When you hear a spirit speak to you in your thoughts, ask it to confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Ask it to confess that Jesus is Lord. Listen for its response. Only accept those things said by the Spirit of God. Reject the words of the spirit of error.

## **The Power of Death and Evil**

Satan's power is the power of death and evil. His words are filled with his power and the nature of his being.

If you align your life and being with Satan's words, you align your life with death and evil. If you accept Satan's words into your heart as true, or to be desired, then you partake of the power of death and evil.

Satan's words work in a person to impel them to will to align, to align, and to fail to discern truth and error. They work in a person to produce corrupt desires. Corrupt desires bring forth sin and sin produces death. They work in a person to produce corrupt beliefs. Corrupt beliefs hinder discerning truth and error.

## **The Process to Store Up / Increase the Power of Life and Shalom**

God's words are filled with the power of life and shalom. Store the power of life and shalom in your heart by sowing God's words into your heart.

God's words are words he has written or spoken. They are words he has told or inspired others - people, angels (ministering spirits), his Son Jesus, or the Spirit of Truth - to write or to speak.

Fill your heart with the power of life and shalom by sowing God's written and spoken words into your heart in abundance. Read his written words and hear his spoken words. Discern the words you read and hear. Receive God's words into your heart even if you do not understand them - they will work in you to help you hear and to increase in understanding.

Sow the words of God into your heart first - as your first priority. They will work in you to help you in all the rest of your life. Never stop sowing God's words into your heart.

## **The Process to Store Up / Increase the Power of Death and Evil**

The words Satan speaks, or inspires others to write or speak, are filled with the power of death and evil. The power of death and evil is stored up in a person's heart by sowing Satan's written or spoken words into their heart - by reading his written words and hearing his spoken words. It is stored up when a person does not discern the words they read and hear.

The power of death and evil is in written or spoken words that deny the truth of what God's words say. They work to produce corrupt beliefs which hinder discerning, hinder understanding, and cause one to reject words filled with life and shalom.

The power of death and evil is also in words that give birth to desires that are contrary to God's will and approval: contrary to life and shalom.

## **The Process to Sustain / Strengthen the Power of Life and Shalom**

Sow God's words into your heart in abundance. Think on God's words - deeply, intensely, and frequently. Meditate on them. Align your life and being with them: your desires, beliefs, thoughts, words, and actions.

See, hear, and discern evidence that shows the power and processes of life and shalom and what they produce, death and evil and what they produce. Ask God to show you evidence in his word and in the things you see and hear.

### **The Process to Sustain / Strengthen the Power of Death and Evil**

The power of death and evil is sustained / strengthened by sowing Satan's words into one's heart in abundance. Thinking on Satan's words - deeply, intensely, and frequently. Meditating on them. Aligning one's life and being with them: desires, beliefs, thoughts, words, and actions.

The power of death and evil - corrupt desires and beliefs - may also be sustained and strengthened if one sees, hears, and fails to discern - or discerns incorrectly. This may happen if one leans to their own understanding instead of asking God to send the Spirit of Truth to guide them. In such a case, one incorrectly believes that the evidence they see and hear shows that aligning with corrupt desires and beliefs - the power of death and evil - contributes to a desirable life.

### **The Process to Apply the Power of Life and Shalom**

The power of life and shalom is stored up in your heart. It is applied to your life and to the lives of those around you from your heart: by the thoughts, words, and actions that flow from your heart. The power of life and shalom is applied by submission to God, trust, and love, by being trustworthy and faithful, by bearing witness of the truth, by being thankful, and by seeking shalom. Prayer applies the power of life and shalom in a more intense, focused way.

Submit all of your thoughts, words, and actions to what God approves of and to what pleases him. Faithfully follow the guiding of the Spirit of Truth. Align your life and being with the truth. Speak the truth. Speak God's words and testify of his works. Give God's words and his love to those around you. Trust. Be trustworthy. Give. Forgive. Be a shalom-seeker and a shalom-maker.

### **The Process to Apply the Power of Death and Evil**

The power of death and evil is stored up in a person's heart. It is applied to the life of that person and to the lives of those around them from their heart: by the thoughts, words, and actions that flow from their heart. The power of death and evil is applied by living independently from God - without regard to what he approves of or is pleasing to him, by fear, by selfishness and indifference, by being untrustworthy and unfaithful, by deceiving, by oppression, and by being unthankful.

The power of death and evil is applied by those who lean to their own understanding and align their life according to their desires: those who are self-seeking, self-pleasing, and are not submitted to God. It is applied by those who use worldly weapons - legal and military force - to wrestle against other people.

### **The Process to Overcome the Power of Death and Evil**

To overcome the power of death and evil a person must remove the stored up power of death and evil from their being and they must stop following the processes by which it is stored up and sustained. They must remove the corrupt desires from their heart and resist all of Satan's efforts to replant them.

Put on the armor of God. Ask God to send his Spirit of Truth to guide you into all the truth. Sow God's words into your heart.

Discern all words. Cast down, reject, and turn away from the words that are filled with the power of death and evil.

Command all corrupt desires to be plucked up by the root and cast into the sea. Corrupt desires are "what I want."

- What I want to have
- What I want to do
- What I want to consume
- What I want to be
- What I want others to think I am
- I want to live my life to please myself, to direct and order my steps to satisfy my desires
- I want to live my life according to my own understanding
- I want to determine for myself what is real, true, good; what to desire, what to believe

Ask God to show you the desires you should have that are opposite the corrupt desires. Sow God's words into your heart in abundance to produce them. Turn away from corrupt desires and turn towards the desires God says you should have.

See, hear, and discern evidence that shows the power and processes of life and shalom and what they produce, death and evil (corrupt desires and beliefs) and what they produce. Ask God to show you evidence in his word and in the things you see and hear.

Discern what you see and hear - especially the things you see and hear spiritually in your thoughts. Discern. Hold fast to that which is good. Turn away from and cast away all that is corrupt.

Prepare your heart before doing all other things. Sow God's words into your heart. Cast out all wrong desires and beliefs that choke the word. Guard your heart with all vigilance.

Sow God's words in abundance. Read an abundance of them every day.

If you memorize a few verses, you may remember them, spend a lot of time, sow little seed, and bear little fruit.

If you study a few verses, you may know more about them, spend a lot of time, sow little seed, and bear little fruit.

If you read a few verses, stop and meditate on them, then read and meditate some more, you may gain insight into / from those verses, spend a lot of time, sow little seed, and bear little fruit.

If you read a lot of verses, just sowing them into your heart, you will sow lot of seed and bear more fruit.

Read a lot of verses. Memorize key verses like Ephesians 6:10-15, 1 John 4:1-3, 1 Corinthians 12:3, Galatians 5:22, 23). Meditate on God's words as you go through your day and when you lie down to sleep. Study those verses God prompts you to study. This will give you the fruitfulness of sowing a lot of God's words along with the benefits of memorizing, meditating, and studying. Plus sowing more words will help you more in understanding.

### **Discern Temptation vs Corruption**

Corrupt thoughts come from Satan or from the corrupt words he has sown into your heart. The corrupt thoughts that come from Satan must be handled one way and those that come from your heart must be handled a different way. You must cast down and reject thoughts that come from Satan - temptation. Putting on God's armor is effective in reducing the intensity of such thoughts and the frequency with which they occur.

Corrupt thoughts that come from your heart reveal corrupt desires or beliefs that must be uprooted and cast out. You do not incur guilt from corrupt thoughts - temptation - which come from Satan, but you do incur guilt from corrupt desires in your heart. After you cast them out you must seek to be forgiven and cleansed.

Ask God to show you if a corrupt thought is a temptation coming from Satan or if it is coming from corruption in your heart. You are not able to tell by your own understanding.

If you have a corrupt thought that God says is coming from your heart, ask him to show you the corruption in your heart that is producing it, then command it in the name of the Lord Jesus to be plucked up by the roots and cast into the sea. Ask God to show you the desire opposite to the corruption you cast out and what you should do to plant it into your heart and cause it to grow to strengthen you against future corruption and temptation in that area.

## **Choosing**

Whether life and shalom or death and evil is stored up within you and flow from you to those around you depends on what and how you choose.

To choose a person discerns the possible outcomes, the power and the processes that produce those outcomes, and the steps they need to take to follow the processes and apply the power to produce the outcome they choose.

The outcomes to seek are

- The will of God
- What he approves of
- What pleases him
- Fear of the Lord
- Truth
- Righteousness
- Shalom

Ask God to show you the possible outcomes. He may reveal outcomes to you that are far beyond what you would ask for or even imagine.

Discerning the truth is critical to choosing. God helps you with his armor, sending his Spirit of Truth, and giving you fear of the Lord. Put on the armor of God. Ask God to send his Spirit of Truth to guide you into all the truth. Ask for fear of the Lord. He gives you his words to sow into your heart so you hear him revealing truth to you. The book of Proverbs is written specifically to help you hear, discern, and grow in fear of the Lord.

The next steps in the process of choosing is to will and to do the things necessary to do what you choose. The fear of the Lord and the words of God work in you to will and to do the things that are pleasing to God.

## **Trust**

Trust / faith comes from hearing God's words. What the words of God produce in your heart is completed by your choice to trust.

Trust God. There is no power of evil in him and he cannot be tempted to have it. He has been trustworthy since eternity past and will remain trustworthy through eternity future. He is absolutely steadfast: he does not change. He takes pleasure in your health and prosperity. He desires shalom for you and those around you. He guides you in truth and righteousness. He discerns all things: past, present, and future. He knows the way you should go to have life and shalom.

Trust God's power and processes (ways). They are sufficient to do exceeding abundantly beyond all you can ask or imagine. They are sufficient to overcome death and evil.

Trust God's guiding you into truth. You must trust either your discerning of truth or that of a guide. God sends his Spirit of Truth to guide you into all the truth. Trust him, not yourself or other people, to discern truth and error, what to desire, and what to believe. Trust him to discern God's will and what he approves of. Trust God's measure of you.

Trust God's guiding, directing and ordering of your steps: your desires, your beliefs, your thoughts, your words, your actions, and the nature of your being. He discerns everything past, present, and future. Follow his guide without turning to the left or to the right.

Do not trust your understanding or that of other people for discerning truth and error, for measuring yourself, or for guiding, directing, and ordering your steps.

## **Shalom**

Shalom is the fellowship of God and those who, through the power of life and shalom flowing from their hearts, are partakers of his nature. Those in shalom overcome the cares of this world, desires for other things, pleasures of this life, and trust in false riches. Shalom includes love, trust, joy, peace, contentment, and thanksgiving. Eternal life is unending, absolute shalom life.

Live in shalom with God and creation. As much as possible, live in shalom with all people. Use the power of God to wrestle against principalities and powers, not against flesh and blood. Wrestling against flesh and blood does not produce shalom.

Be alert to how your life is intersecting with the lives of those around you.

Beware unbalanced attachments with other people. Do not form strong attachments with people who are not in shalom: people who wrestle against flesh and blood and are overcome by the cares of this world, desires for other things, pleasures of this life, and trust in false riches.

Avoid forming attachments with other people that are stronger than the attachments they form with you. Grief, not shalom, may be the result.

Give and forgive. Be content. Be thankful.

Maintain healthy spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical fellowship with others. This is part of shalom. Breaches in fellowship are like breaches in the wall of a city: they provide an easy place for the enemy to attack with forces of death and evil.

### **Jesus Is Lord - the one to whom you must give an account for your choosing**

God has made Jesus Lord. You will give an account to him for your choosing of life and shalom or death and evil.

God gives you his armor to give you power to resist and overcome the power of death and evil. You will give an account to him for choosing to put it on, or choosing not to.

God sends his Spirit of Truth to you to guide you into all the truth. You will give an account to him for choosing to have him guide you into truth, or leaning to your own understanding.

God gives his words to you to sow into your heart - to fill you with power to will and to do his will, to make you a partaker of his nature, to fill you with his life. You will give an account to him for sowing abundantly, sparingly, or not at all. You will give an account to him for guarding his words in your heart, or letting them be choked.

God gives you fear of the Lord. You will give an account to him for choosing it or refusing it.

God gives you relationships and fellowships with others. You will give an account to him for what you choose to do with those relationships and fellowships.

Jesus - the Lord - commands you to remove everything that causes you to sin from your being. You will give an account to him for removing them or not. Whether you enter into eternal life or eternal punishment depends on whether you have removed that which causes you to sin and give a good account, or give a bad account. (Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-48)

You will give an account to God at times in this life and at the end of this life. The account you give will determine the nature of your life in this life and the life to come.

## **Miscellaneous**

Learn how to discern truth and error.

Learn how to pray.

Learn the process by which you receive eternal life.

Ask God to show you what he has called you to do - then ask him to show you how he wants you to do it.

Always seek to live such that your steps are ordered by the Lord - timing and direction.

Be content. Submit your desires to God and trust him to satisfy them. Be thankful.

Do not measure yourself by yourself (by your own understanding). Do not compare yourself to others.

Take no pride in the nature of person you are or the nature of the things you do / have done. Taking pride in anything opens a door for the enemy to gain a stronghold in your life.

Beware of measuring yourself right. Submit your measure of yourself to God. Receive correction - seek it.

Pride and measuring yourself right (self-righteousness) blind you to themselves working in your life. Be extra careful to avoid them. Discern them carefully.

## **What Things Are**

Doubt is trusting that two different representations of reality correspond to reality. When one doubts one attempts to align with both representations of reality. This results in wavering instability.

Eternal life is unending, absolute shalom life. It is implanted into you and is sustained in you by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God.

Faith is trust that a given representation of reality is accurate, complete, and corresponds to reality, – i.e. that the representation of reality is true. Faith in God - in his person, power, and processes - is implanted into you, is sustained in you, and becomes part of the nature of your being by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God.

Fear is believing that, under certain conditions, you will suffer loss or harm. True fear, shalom fear, is based on believing a representation of reality that is true. It is sustained by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God. For example: Proverbs 13:3 says that one who talks too much comes to ruin. This states the condition under which one will suffer ruin. False fear, evil fear, is based on believing a representation of reality that is not true, or on rejecting a representation of reality that is true. It is sustained by the power of death and evil.

Fear of the Lord is part of the nature of God, implanted into your being and sustained by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God, characterized by alignment with the truth that to choose for yourself the way you should go and order your own steps, instead of having God show you the way you should go and order your steps, is to choose death and evil - and death and evil may come upon you with no warning and no way of escape.

Hope is believing that, under certain conditions, you will experience blessing or shalom. True hope, shalom hope, is based on believing a representation of reality that is true. It is sustained by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God. False hope, corrupt hope, is based on believing a representation of reality that is not true, or on rejecting a representation of reality that is true. It is sustained by the power of death and evil.

Humility is part of the nature of God, implanted into your being and sustained by the words of God, characterized by alignment with the truth that you are dependent on God to discern truth and error, the way you should go, to order your steps, and to live and have shalom.

Love is part of the nature of God characterized by an active desire that others live lives of shalom. It is implanted into you, is sustained in you, and becomes part of the nature of your being by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God.

Prayer is the application of God's power - the power of life and shalom, according to spiritual law, to produce results.

Pride is part of the nature of Satan, implanted into your being and sustained by the power of death and evil - by corrupt desires and beliefs - by the words of Satan, characterized by alignment with the deception that you are able - independent from God - to discern truth and error, the way you should go, to order your steps, and to live and have shalom.

Shalom is the fellowship of God and those who, through the power of life and shalom flowing from their hearts, are partakers of his nature. Those in shalom overcome the cares of this world, desires for other things, pleasures of this life, and trust in false riches. Shalom includes love, trust, joy, peace, contentment, and thanksgiving. It is sustained by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God.

Sin is part of the nature of Satan, which is manifest in a manner of life characterized by discerning and choosing for yourself the way you will go and the manner of person you will be; self-willed, self-reliant, and not submitted to God; desiring, believing, thinking, saying, and doing without regard to the will of God or the shalom of others. It is implanted into you, is sustained in you, and becomes part of the nature of your being by the power of death and evil – by Satan's words.

Truth is the accurate and complete representation of reality. It is important that we discern representations of reality that are sufficiently accurate and sufficiently complete - complete enough that we can rely on them.

Wisdom is part of the nature of God which is manifest in a manner of life characterized by discerning truth, righteousness, and the way one should go, cautious discerning what steps fit the path of good and what steps fit the path of evil, and steadfastness in submission to following the path of good. It is implanted into you, is sustained in you, and becomes part of the nature of your being by the power of life and shalom - by the words of God and fear of the Lord.