

## The Right Path

**All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies** (Psalm 25:10, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** Psalm 25:1-10

**Song:** “Trust and Obey”

Rain clouds gathered overhead, and my legs ached as I looked again at the state park’s map. My efforts to get a proper bearing among the woods, ravines, and spiderweb of trails were failing. The trails weren’t marked as shown on the map, and I was lost. Being a type 2 diabetic, I needed to get back to my car as soon as possible. I feared my blood sugar would drop suddenly. But how to get back? So many paths. Which one to follow?

“Lord, help me,” I prayed. And I believe that He did, leading me to the most direct and easiest path to my car. I received His direction that day as His mercy. Had I veered from that one path, I might have been in trouble.

If we veer from God’s precepts, we’ll fall into the deep ravine of sin. The only way out is to follow the paths of the Lord. Unlike the trails in that park, God’s paths are well marked in His Word. They lead us to His mercy and truth, where we receive perfect counsel for our daily living. Learn to walk in obedience to the Lord and His wonderful Word.

**Father**, lead me in the right paths, Your paths, full of mercy and truth. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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March 15–21. **Jack Cunningham** lives in Alabama and enjoys history and reading. He also serves on his church’s board of stewards and teaches Sunday school.

## Resting in God

**We which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world** (Hebrews 4:3, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** Hebrews 4:1-11

**Song:** “I Will Rest in You”

A few days after a worship meeting in China, Eric boarded a train. Opposite him sat a gloomy young man, his face drawn and his eyes distracted. Concerned, Eric struck up a conversation. The young man poured out his heart, saying he was considering suicide. Providentially, Eric carried in his pocket a letter from a lady he'd met at the meeting. Her face was severely disfigured—she'd even lost an eye and gone deaf; yet at the bottom of her letter, she'd written in Chinese: “Keep Smiling.” Using this, Eric Liddell, former Olympic champion turned missionary, shared the gospel with the man. The man listened to Eric's words and believed. His suicidal thoughts fled and his soul entered into rest, just as the writer of the book of Hebrews said would happen to those who lived by faith.

Are we troubled? Do we find ourselves struggling over issues big and small? This Chinese lady, disfigured though she was, held Christ's joy. She knew God loved her, and the young man came to realize how much God loved him too. God loves us all. By trusting Him to care for us in every situation, we enter into His rest. We will also find joy.

**Father**, I place my trust in You to carry me through every situation every day. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

## God Provides

**I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot** (Deuteronomy 29:5, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 29:1-6

**Song:** “God Will Make a Way”

George Müller, founder of orphanages and schools for poor children in nineteenth-century England, practiced total dependence on God. To have money and other things his ministry needed, he called on the Lord—never on man. And the Lord always came through, though sometimes His provision came at the last minute. We know this because Müller kept a record of his prayers and God’s answers, even in great difficulties and trials when poverty and necessity seemed overwhelming. Müller experienced God’s grace to trust Him and spoke well of God because of his deep conviction that God never failed him. The Lord always provided for the care and blessing of some 10,000 children through Müller’s lifetime work.

For Israel’s difficulties in the wilderness, the Lord provided. The Israelites’ clothes remained in good condition, and the people never lacked food and drink. In the way that God took care of Müller and his children’s needs, and that God cared for Israel during its wilderness wanderings, He can likewise care for any of His children. When we cast our cares on God, and leave our cares with Him, we can be assured of His grace and care for us.

**Father,** today I am putting all my worries and cares in Your hands, and I’m leaving them with You. Thank You that You care for me. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Walking in Integrity

**Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully** (2 Kings 22:7, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 22:1-7

**Song:** “Let Your Light Shine”

My late grandfather, a bank president in a small southern town, stared in disbelief at the bank’s janitor as the janitor handed him a \$100 bill. “I found it on the floor yesterday while I was sweeping,” the janitor told him. “Er, thank you,” my grandfather said. Stunned by the man’s honesty, my grandfather’s respect for him skyrocketed. Though the janitor might have pocketed this money, he didn’t. My grandfather never worried about this employee stealing anything—he’d proven he could be trusted.

Josiah knew he could trust Hilkiah, and those repairing the temple, with the temple’s money. No reckoning, or accounting, would be made with them regarding it, because they walked in personal integrity. What a testimony they had!

When we walk in integrity, others notice because we’ve become a light in a dark world. Just as my grandfather’s employee resisted the temptation to pocket money that was not his, so we can resist the temptations we encounter. We have the Holy Spirit living inside us, whom we can rely on to help us in similar situations. “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,” we read in Proverbs 10:9. Not only does integrity give us a good reputation; it makes us good ambassadors for our faithful Lord.

**Father,** may I be a light to others. May I represent You the right way, the way of integrity. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## God's Valuable Word

**And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes** (2 Kings 22:11, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 22:8-13

**Song:** "Nuggets of Gold"

As I strolled through a bookstore one day during my college years, the title *God's Smuggler* grabbed my attention and led me to purchase the book. Its author, who called himself Brother Andrew, told exciting stories of how God used him to smuggle Bibles into the Soviet Union, where owning them was a crime. It awakened me to the twentieth century's persecuted church. I began praying for my brothers and sisters in oppressive countries. They starved for a copy of God's Word. Many thousands risked their lives to own it. For them it was (and is) more valuable than all the world's silver and gold.

King Josiah valued God's Word. After someone found it during the temple's repair, the court secretary read it to him. In response, Josiah repented of his and his people's sins.

Let's not take God's Word for granted, nor leave it lying around collecting dust as it did in the temple. Instead, follow Josiah's example and that of our persecuted brethren by taking it seriously. Spend quality time reading it, studying it, and memorizing it. This way, if the day ever comes in our society when owning a Bible is a crime, His Word will be well hidden in our hearts.

**Father**, thank You for the valuable gift of Your holy Scriptures. Teach me to never take Your Word for granted. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Follow God

**The king . . . made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD** (2 Kings 23:3, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 23:1-3

**Song:** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

During the 1300s, multitudes in Europe believed they were following the Lord, but they weren't. This troubled one famous medieval theologian, John Wycliffe, known to history as the Morningstar of the Reformation. In his book *On the Truth of the Holy Scripture*, he wrote, “To be ignorant of the Scripture is the same thing as to be ignorant of Christ.”

Though many people in his day were sincere, Wycliffe knew that because of their ignorance of what the Bible taught, they were wandering astray. This ignorance stemmed from the fact that they had no English Bible. But the Lord used Wycliffe to translate the Bible into English, and people learned what God required of them.

Since God's Word had been found in the temple, King Josiah learned what God required of him as well. With this knowledge, he made a covenant to “walk after the LORD,” to do those things that pleased Him.

In our generation, Bible translations abound. We don't have to be ignorant of its teaching like those people in the days of Josiah and Wycliffe. Let's determine not to just spend time in God's Word and become knowledgeable about what it teaches; let's also determine to follow God in the way He wants us to—through obeying His Word. Obeying God's teaching is the only way we can truly follow Him.

**Father**, help me respond, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to follow You in full and life-long obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Humility

**Because thy heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place . . . I have also heard thee, saith the LORD** (2 Kings 22:19, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 22:14-20

**Song:** “Here I Bow”

Early in my Christian walk, it often seemed like my prayers ricocheted off the ceiling. I’d pray and sometimes pace my apartment shouting at the Lord. I demanded that God act—but He did not. Why? I think it was because of my proud attitude.

King Josiah’s attitude was different. He listened to the Word of the Lord, humbly sought the Lord, and repented. Then the Lord promised to spare him from the judgment about to come down on his kingdom because of its disobedience. And the Lord, as always, kept this promise.

God won’t be manipulated or respond to prideful demands, but He will lend a loving ear to respectful, humble requests. Once I learned this, I’ve seen Him move in my life through answered prayers. I’ve learned that my humility often aligns with God’s answers. This doesn’t mean He always answered my prayers in the way I wanted, but He has always answered them in ways that were best for me. Over the years I’ve learned that by approaching God with the reverence and humility He deserves, we’ll see Him marvelously move in our behalf.

**Father,** I bow before You today with reverence and awe. I am grateful to You for all the prayers You’ve answered in my life, and for those prayers You will answer in the future. In Jesus’ name, amen.