



The Bible Banner

April 2016



The Way to Life

It is said that as Benjamin Franklin concluded a stirring speech on the guarantees of the Constitution, a heckler shouted, "Aw, them words don't mean nothin' at all. Where's all the happiness you say it guarantees us?" Franklin smiled and replied, "My friend, the Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness; you have to catch it yourself." In like manner, the Bible shows us the way to life, but we must choose to follow its direction.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matt. 7:13, 14

Garden Vegetable Fajitas

Cut your choice of mixed vegetables to equal 4 heaping cups. (I like to use zucchini, different colors of bell pepper sliced, broccoli, onion slices, etc.)

1 Tbsp oil 1 Tbsp garlic powder

1 tsp cumin 1 tsp paprika

1 tsp basil ½ tsp salt

½ tsp beef-like seasoning

Steam vegetables in a skillet with the seasonings, adding a little water if needed.

Add your choice of meat replacement, if desired (tofu chicken [pictured] or gluten stakes or beef-like lunchmeat work well) or you may add kidney beans or olives for an interesting variation. Serve with your favorite tortilla shells.



SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOTS

For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD...

By thee have I been holden up from the womb... Psalms 71:5,6

Tofu Chicken

1 block of water packed tofu

1 Tbsp olive oil

1 ½ tsp beef-like seasoning

1 ½ tsp chicken-like seasoning

Freeze and thaw tofu. Squeeze out water. Dice. Add remaining ingredients stirring gently. Bake at 350°F until desired consistency.

If you would like to begin receiving our monthly newsletter via e-mail, please contact us at biblepathways@hotmail.com



Or visit us at:

biblepicturepathways.com
swiftrunnerministries.com

DIRECTIONALLY CHALLENGED



"Oh no, I think I left my wallet at home," my husband groaned. After a bumpy ride down the road from our house, we had just finally reached the pavement. Behind us lay 5 miles of gravel, dirt, deeply rutted roads and, worse yet, a stretch of impassable mud (except by foot) so there was no turning back to get it. "I don't have my driver's license; you're going to have to drive," he reiterated. I groaned, but switched seats to drive. It didn't even take 20 minutes of driving for the entire family to remember why Daddy does the all the distance driving. I have no sense of direction, and largely no visual memory of what is ahead even when I've been there before. Although typically I can get to Wal-Mart, past that I can't remember which lane to be in, where to turn, etc. Even on foot, I can easily get lost in your standard-sized mall. I have to admit, I am directionally challenged.

For example, several years ago, we were driving cross-country. My husband was so sleepy, that he handed off the driving to me saying, "Just stay on this interstate and go toward such and such a city." Truthfully, it wasn't five minutes until I was severely lost, the road split with two signs with the city name on it and I took what turned out to be an exit. It seemed right to me at the time, but in actuality it was one of the only exits that had no on-ramp to get back on the interstate and it took 20-30 minutes for my husband (who has a good sense of direction) to find a way back to interstate. It did serve to wake him up however, and he always drove after that.



My poor sense of direction often makes me think of the verse that says, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* (Prov. 14:12, 16:25) It is actually a very scary thought that the way that seems right is actually the wrong road. Obviously, feelings are an unsafe criterion. Spiritually speaking, mankind is directionally challenged. Eve thought the fruit on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil "seemed all right". Cain thought that his replacement for the way God said to worship "seemed right". The truth is, however sincere man may be, he will choose the wrong road every time.

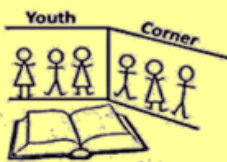
Man will, by default, choose counterfeit methods of healing because they "seem right". The upsurge of hypnosis, acupuncture, poisonous drugs, and other spiritualistic methods of healing testify daily to this. (See Deut. 18:9-11)* Equally disturbing, is the fact that, by default, man will choose false religions and religious practices just because they "seem right". For example, to many, all those who quote Bible verses and go to church are religious people. They don't realize that this often only creates a way that "seems right" because theosophists, evolutionists, new agers and many cult members also quote Bible verses and go to church. The list could go on and on --- by default, man will choose the unhealthy foods, unwholesome music, improper clothing, unbiblical lifestyles, corrupting entertainment, etc.

Some try to get ahead by following the assertions of other men. But just because Mr. *"I Should Know"* said it, is no evidence that it is truth. In fact, according to the Word of God, following other men's opinions is dangerous. For example, reading someone else's commentary on the Bible is not a replacement for reading the Bible for yourself. Psalm 146:3 advises, *"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help."* While Jer. 17:5 declares, *"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."* Even finding and following the opinions of the masses, thinking that the majority is right, is unsafe. For Exodus 23:2 proclaims explicitly, *Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:* In the history of the world, I cannot think of one example where the majority has ever been in the right. There was one Elijah versus all of apostate Israel, one Daniel who chose to pray to the true God, one Abraham that left Ur, only 3 Hebrews that would not bow to Nebuchadnezzar's image, one Noah, who, of all those on earth, believed God and built the ark for the saving of his family.

With statistics like that, is there any hope for a directionally challenged mankind? Take it from one who is directionally challenged, there is only one way for a directionally challenged person to survive and go the right direction--that is to carefully

follow the step by step instructions of one who has been there before and knows the way. None need err from the way of life, for God has given his own beloved Son to be our guide to Paradise. He says, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."* John 10:27 Also the pathway to life and truth is straight and narrow and thus not difficult to follow even for the directionally challenged. Isaiah 35:8 states, *"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."* The right path is not just for those who are learned in the world's eyes. In fact, *"The Bible was not written for the scholar alone; on the contrary, it was designed for the common people. The great truths necessary for salvation are made as clear as noonday; and none will mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God."* {Steps to Christ page 89} There is but one rule to aid the directionally challenged in choosing the right path. *"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."* Isaiah 8:20 May God grant us the grace to follow His Infallible Word and not our own finite judgment.

*For more info, watch our health documentaries "Counterfeit CUREncy" and "Pharmakeia, the Sorcerer's Wand" at <http://www.biblepicturepathways.com/invading-the-castle-of-the-dragon.php>

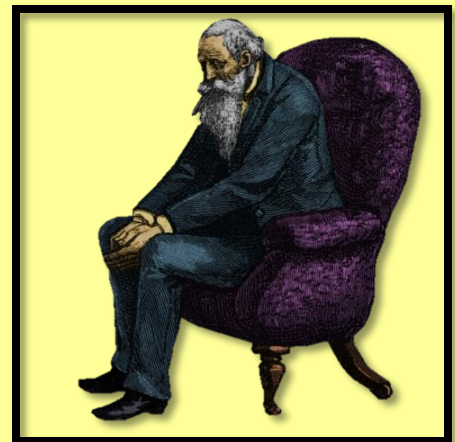


THE WISER CHOICE

"I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me." Psalm 119:30

Thousands stood in Westminster Abbey watching the moving of a casket to its final place of rest. Inside the casket lay the body of the famous explorer and African missionary David Livingstone. Although his heart had been buried in Africa, his body had been shipped to England for its burial.

Within the crowd was a former friend of Livingstone. The two had been friends in their youth, but had taken different paths, as they grew older. Now one was dead and the other an old man. However, as the old man thought back on the two lives, his own was a life wasted, one filled with selfishness. "He made the wiser choice," the old man said. "I put the emphasis upon the wrong world."



How many youth are today putting the emphasis on the wrong things in life? They live only for the present world, not thinking of the future. Some pursue a career often at the sacrifice of their personal devotions and prayer life. Others sell their lives over to addictive behaviors such as drinking alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco, using drugs, or pornography viewing, or perhaps an even more socially allowable addiction such as computer gaming. All of these roads if continued on, will end in misery and eventually even death.

To the contrast are the youth who have chosen to place their emphasis on the right world. Their goal is heaven, and this earth is simply somewhere they are passing through on a mission. Although they may have trials, they find their happiness in studying the Bible, praying, and helping others.

Which world will you place your emphasis upon?

LITTLE RUNNER'S HEALTH STORY SPECIAL

Mrs. D Learns to Eat Her Vegetables



Mrs. D was sick, very sick. She didn't have a cough and runny nose like some people do when they are sick. And she wasn't sneezing either. But when she looked outside she didn't feel like going for a walk. She was too tired. She didn't feel like vacuuming or sweeping anymore even though she liked to have a nice clean house. She was too tired. She didn't even go to see Mrs. F's burnt house after some wires in the ceiling caught on fire. She was too tired. Something was definitely wrong with Mrs. D.

Finally Mrs. D decided to go to the doctor. The doctor tested her blood to see what was wrong. He told her, "Mrs. D, you do not have as much blood as you should. You have very bad anemia. Without good blood you can die. You need more red blood cells to carry oxygen (Air) to your feet, so you will feel like walking. You need more red blood cells to carry oxygen to your hands so you will feel like vacuuming and sweeping. You need more red blood cells to carry oxygen to your heart, and lungs and brain so you will feel like visiting your friends. I will give you something to make you feel better."



When Mrs. D was back home, Mrs. F told Mrs. D, "What the doctor gave you will not fix your problem forever. You need to find out what is causing the problem. In order to feel better you must have good blood. (Mrs. F knew that God said "The life... is in the blood." [Lev. 17:11]) Your body needs more iron to help the red blood cells carry the oxygen. Your body gets iron from what you eat. You can get iron in raisins, apricots, dates and blackstrap molasses. So Mrs. D agreed to eat more raisins, apricots and blackstrap molasses. Mrs. F said, "You will die if you do not eat the food God has given us to make our bodies healthy." (Mrs. F knew that God had said "Thou shalt eat the herb of the field." [Gen. 3:18] She knew that that meant vegetables.) Mrs. F said "You have to eat more vegetables. Mrs. F said "You have to eat lots of salad and leafy green things every

day. They have iron and Vitamin C that helps the iron. The green juice from plants called chlorophyll will make your blood better."

Mrs. D was not so sure she liked the idea of eating more vegetables. She liked potatoes but she was not sure she wanted to eat lots of salad. But she was tired of being tired, and anemia sounded serious. She did want her blood to be happy so she could get better. So she decided to try it. Mrs. F showed Mrs. D how to make her leafy greens taste better.



Every day Mrs. D ate her salad. Soon it didn't seem to taste quite so bad. Day after day she remembered to eat things like raisins, apricots, dates and blackstrap molasses. She started to feel better.



One day several weeks later Mrs. D's phone rang. Ring-a-ling-a-ring! It was Mr. R. He said "I just called to see how your vegetable eating was going". Mrs. D said she was feeling much better. She said "Now I see the floor to sweep and think maybe I should go sweep the floor". Mr. R said "It is getting warmer outside, maybe you should go for a walk". Mrs. D looked out the window. She said "Maybe I should go for a walk". Mrs. D was happy because she did not feel sick anymore. She knew that eating vegetables was part of God's Plan for Good Health.

(Based on a true story)

GOD'S WAY--STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED

1. How does the Bible describe God's way in 2 Samuel 22:31? His way is _____.

"As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him." 2 Samuel 22:31

2. According to Isaiah 55:8,9 God's ways are _____ from our ways.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8, 9

3. What does Psalm 77:19 use to describe God's way? _____

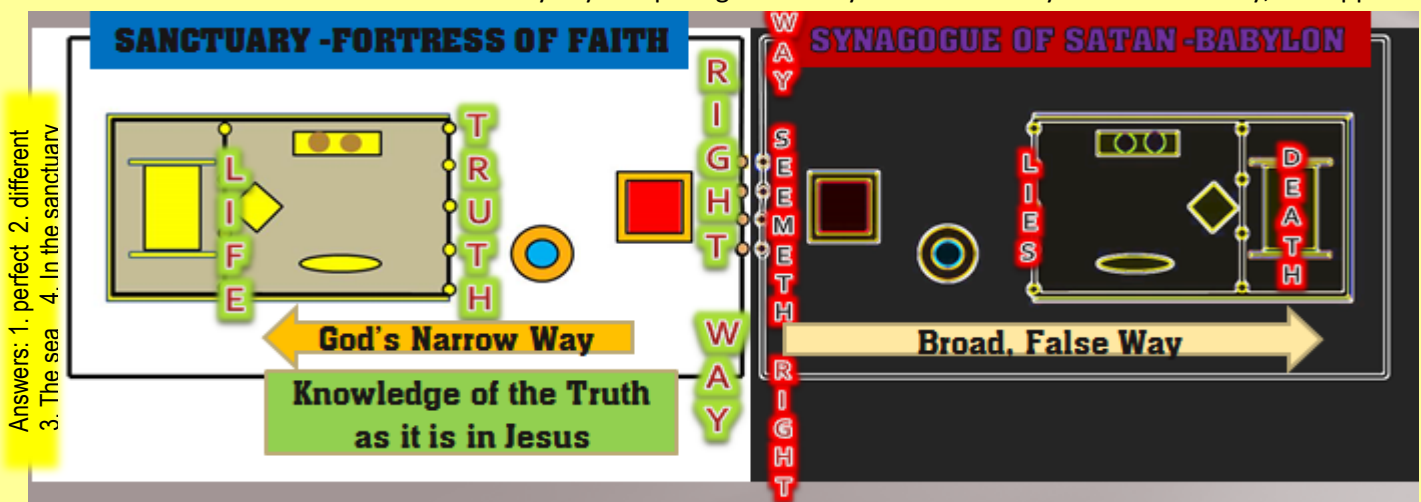
"Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known." Psalms 77:19

Note: To date, only about 5% of the oceans or sea has been explored.

4. Where does Psalm 77:13 say God's way is? _____

"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?" Psalm 77:13

Note: We can learn much about the two ways by comparing God's way in the sanctuary with Satan's way, the opposite.



Try following the word "way" through the Bible. Compare God's Way and Satan's Way

Jer. 21:8 *"And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death."*

God's Way—Life

All about Jesus --John14:6—The Way, The Truth, The Life

Order --Ps. 37:23--The steps of a good man are ordered...

Truth --Ps. 119:30-- I have chosen the way of truth..

Understanding--Ps. 119:27-- Make me to understand

Light --Prov.6:23 --Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

Law abiding, undefiled --Ps. 119:1 Blessed are the undefiled

Righteousness ---Prov.15:9 followeth after righteousness

Right according to God's Word -- Ps. 119:128-Hate false way

Satan's Way—Death

All about Self-- Is.65:2--Own thoughts and rebellion

Disorder--Isa. 3:12--Children oppress and women rule

Lying--Ps. 119:29-- Remove from me the way of lying...

No understanding-- Pro. 21:16-- Out of the way

Darkness--Pro. 4:19-- Way of the wicked is as darkness:

Evil Men, Do Not Enter-- Pro.4:14

Abomination --Pro. 15:9--Way of the wicked is an abomination

Seemeth Right—Prov. 16:25-- Ends in Death

Profitable Traditions

Cultivate Family Togetherness—"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." (Jeremiah 6:16) In the evenings, establish a story reading time for the whole family. This is one of the old paths that serves as a nice replacement for TV. Take turns reading, or simply choose your best reader. This is a great way to learn about the Reformers, the Waldensians, Christian Missionaries like William Carey and David Livingstone and others who have lived to defend the faith. Some of our favorite books are Pilgrim's Progress, A Thousand Shall Fall, and Dare to Stand Alone.

TRUMPETER SWAN

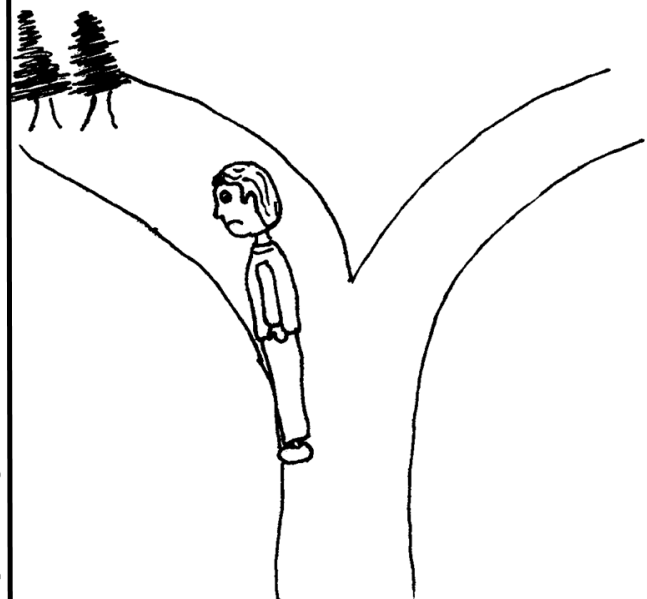
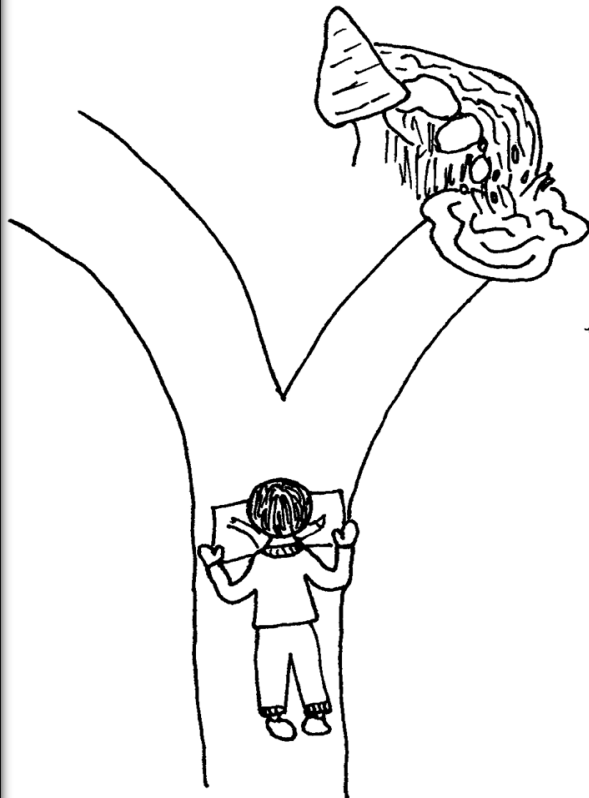
Written by D. Roberts, Age 12

Illustrated by D. Roberts, Age 11

The Trumpeter Swan is a very big bird. In fact, it is the heaviest wild bird that lives in North America. It is mostly seen in Mexico, Russia, and the United States. The adult Trumpeter Swan has white feathers. These birds feed while they are swimming. When the food is too far down they stick their heads down in the water and their tails up in the air in order to reach the food. Large groups of these swans migrate, or travel back and forth, from one place to another. They fly together in V-shaped flocks. Jesus helps the Trumpeter Swan to know which way to migrate. He will help us to know the way to heaven too, if we listen to his words in the Bible.



Christian was going for a Sabbath afternoon hike to a waterfall. When he came to a split in the trail, he pulled his map out of his pocket to see which way to go. He followed that trail and it took him right to the waterfall. He was glad he had followed the map.



Carnal was going for a walk too. When he came to a split in the trail he just took the path that looked easier. He thought he was smart enough to decide without a map. Carnal got lost and scared. He also missed seeing the pretty waterfall.

**The Bible is our map
to Heaven. Don't
forget to use it!**