

A New and Living Way! Part 5: "How Far Away?"

"We now enter boldly into the presence of God by the *new and living way* Jesus opened up for us by His blood sacrifice!" **Heb 10.20**

Jesus became the "torn veil" opening; the way to God and His plans for our lives! The power of sin to separate us has been broken, there is no longer any reason why we cannot be all-in!

All-in, Unless... We hinder ourselves by becoming "Pharisees..." Legalistic religionists, promising the power of faith but replacing it w/rituals! **We allow distractions/hindrances/ excuses to take us off the way!** Unforgiveness, taking offenses, self-preservation, etc. **We begin deceiving ourselves that faith without works is okay!** Works are not the substitute for faith any more than faith substitutes for works...

Faith saves... "By grace we are saved *by faith*; nothing less than a gift from God!" **Eph 2.8** "Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!" **Rom 10.13** "He saved us, and called us with a holy calling, *not according to our works*, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." **2Tim 1.9** "And the just(ified) live (true, real life) *by faith!*" **Rom 1.17 Gal 3.11 Heb 10.38**

Works prove faith... "Faith without works is dead!" **Jam2.20** "If you are Abraham's children, you will *do the works* of Abraham." **John 8.39** "He that believes in Me, *the works that I do he will do also*; and *greater works* than these will he do; because I go unto My Father." **J14.12** "We are His workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works*, which God before ordained that we should walk in them." **Eph 2.10** "Charge those who are rich in this world *to do good, to be rich in good works*, ready and willing to give, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation for the time to come..." **1Tim6.17,18** "The word of God is given by His inspiration... that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished *for all good works!*" **2Tim 3.16,17** "Herein is God glorified, *that you bear much fruit!*" **J15.8,16** "In all things show yourself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing incorruptibility, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned..." **Titus 2.7,8** "Jesus gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all iniquity, and purify to Himself a peculiar people, *zealous of good works*. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." **Titus 2.14**

Faith and works... "We are not saved by any works of righteousness that we have done but by His mercy, by the washing of rebirth and renewing of the Holy Ghost; poured on us abundantly through Jesus... and being justified by His grace, we become heirs of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, *and I want you to affirm it constantly*, that they which have believed in God *should be careful to maintain good works.*" **Titus 3.5-8**

Faith without works is dead... but faith with works is evidence our faith is real and taking hold of us!

Faith that saves us is about His works of love for us... the works of our faith are proof of our love for Him!

The good works we do in the new and living way are proof that we are on the new and living pathway!

Exercise... Prayer! The Word and World wisdom say it's important! World says, "People who talk to a higher power find comfort and peace... If it makes you feel good – then it's good for you to pray!" Most people would tell you that they have prayed in their lifetimes... And felt better talking it out even if they didn't get an answer to their prayer. **That's not God's wisdom for praying!**

Most "religions," have ways, times, and formulas to "talk" to God! Some have to approach on bloody knees... Some have to bring gifts to sacrifice... Some have specific times of the day to believe they are heard... Some have written out prayers to be repeated; daily, seasonally, annually... **Jesus didn't do any of that!**

Most “Christians,” have ways, times, and formulas to “talk” to God! Some meet in the morning over coffee... Maybe again at lunch... Dinner and maybe bedtime... Like seeing wife before/after work! “Darlin’ I love you but give me Park Ave.” *Intervals separated by real world time...* Not talking about prayer anymore... Who taught us “that?” WHAT? Jesus relationship with God is 24/7 Too many Christians don’t get 24/7 relationships... [2:1] Need time away at work; mental candy, eye candy, building value, esteem, dream, sense of purpose, appreciation... **If anyone suggested two people walking together before God, day in and out... Branded a lunatic, for trying to create lunatics! “I would go crazy!!!!”**

Not talking about prayer anymore... Besides... I have to go to work... *“I have to earn a living!!!”* Who taught us “that?” WHAT? That we are here to earn a living! The fall made work hard... but God is still our Provider... He gives us the power to get wealth **D8.18** Promotion comes from the Lord... **Ps75.6** Give us what we have need of “on the way... doing what He says do...” **Mt 6.33, Mt 10.9,10 Lk 10.3-7**

The goal is not to upend our lives... but for us to see how far away we are from the way God planned!

And the only way back is God’s way, thru the veil, as doers, applying His wisdom to life!

The New and Living Way for...

Partnering: We have a lifelong vow with an eternal God, not a contract! I recognize that the “two” of us are the representation of God in our world! **Gen 1.26-28** As a follower of Christ I will love you like He loves His church! **Eph 5** I will keep my eyes from strange flesh, close my ear’s to flattery, not go near the door of sexual compromise! **Pr** We will not be *separated* except for fasting and prayer so we are not tempted! **1C7.5**

Parenting: Children are a reminder that I’m not here to satisfy my own desires... I will rule my children and house well **1T3.12** knowing that if I can’t rule my own house that I will not be enabled to rule well in the church of God! **3.4,5** I will not anger my children with the frustration of telling them one thing and doing another! **Col 3.21** As parents we will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord **E6.4** chastening them as ours does us! **Heb12.6**

Prospering: As an employee I will submit and work as unto the Lord. **Eph 6.5-8, 1Tim6.1,2** As a boss, I will treat my Father’s servants with equality/love! **Lk 12.45,46 Eph 6.9** As a receiver I will honor God w/tithes and offerings! **Mal3.10** I will not fall into greed **1T3.3** and a lust for riches thereby piercing myself with many sorrow! **6.6-12** I will deal fairly and honestly maintaining a good report! **1Tim 3.7**

Preparing for the future: Not wise to be rich in this world and poor towards God! **Lk 12.16-21** I will not lay up treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break in to steal it... **Mt 6.19-21** I will be careful how I build on my foundation in Christ to have lasting fruit... **1Cor3.10-15** I will learn to serve my generation by the will of God before I fall on sleep! **A13.36**