

# Lesson 1: Living Life God's Way

## Introduction: Inheriting God's Heart

**Spiritual truth to be mastered:** We were created by God to inherit His heart and rule with Him over His creation which He calls the Kingdom of God.

**Why do we need this truth operating in our lives?** Without it, our lives fall short of God's purposes; we would return to Him as largely untrained babes in Christ not having been available to Him for the expansion of His Kingdom.

### Key Scriptures:

**Matthew 6:9-13:** "This then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.'"

**Matthew 6:33:** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

**John 5:3:** "This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome..."

**Matthew 16:18:** "And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it."

This teaching is about why God created us and how He wants us to live. Many ultimate issues come up when we come before God with an open heart. If these ultimate issues are dealt with honestly, our lives can be changed. However, sustainable change is only the result of practice.

- How can we move beyond the pain that life serves up?
- How can we discover the power of living with a strategy?
- What is the way of the Lord?

We don't find life in "theory"; we find life in what works. Jesus practiced truth and it worked. [Hebrews 5:8](#) says that "although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered." Jesus was fully human and fully successful. He practiced truth and so should we.

### There is a way to live: The way of the Lord.

What does the word "heaven" mean? The Greek root describes it as a place of rising up and bursting forth without restraint. God has given us eternal life. This phrase "eternal life" is not just about the amount of time, it is also tied to the quality of life. The quality of life promised in Christ is a place of rising up and bursting forth without restraint. This is true freedom.

**People don't read  
our tracts; they read  
our faces. What is  
yours saying?**

Unlike most 20<sup>th</sup>-century Christians, Christ was free to relate to the common person with conviction and authenticity. Our message must be relevant to the person on the street and in the office building. The authenticity of our message modeled on Christ's life is based on whether we are living the things we profess. Religious unreality that binds Christians into irrelevancy must be broken.

“**Living Life God’s Way**” is about giving you the ability to move through life with a plan and a vision that is on the offense. The Church is not a group of victims, rather we are rulers set free by the Truth.

Practice is the issue. **PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT.** If you practice the wrong things, it will never work.

**Hebrews 5:11-14** “We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by practice have trained themselves to discern good from evil.”

Living a victorious life is about practicing the Word of God and having someone coach you who knows how to make it work. Training and practicing produces maturity.

**1 John 5:3:** “This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not grievous.”

**Matthew 16:18-19:** “And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Truth that becomes a reflex makes life easy. What truths are you practicing right now so that they will become reflexes?

Is your life a “drag” because you are simply marking time waiting for Jesus to return?

**As a coach, God plays everybody who is in shape, and He plays us at our level of trained preparation.**

**The issue is learning how to live... because escaping life is not an option.**

As a book Proverbs, focuses on the words, “wisdom” and “instruction.” The Hebrew translation for “wisdom” is literally “skill.” What are your skills? The Bible tells us in [Proverbs 4:7](#) that “wisdom [skill] is supreme.” The word “instruction” translated is literally “discipline.”

Jesus came to give us “the way He lives.” God has a life, and He wants us to live like He does.

**Wisdom:** Hebrew, *chokmah*, derived from *chakam*, meaning wise in mind, word, or act; intelligent, skillful, or artful.

**Instruction:** Hebrew *muwcar/musar* derived from *yacar*, meaning bond, check, discipline, chastise.

**Philippians 3:12:** “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

Paul was asking the questions, “What does God want with you?” and “Why did He take hold of us?”

- For salvation?
- For retirement in the sky?
- For no real reason?

### **The Nature of Pain**

Why do we experience pain in our lives? Most of the time it happens because we’ve gotten ourselves into a mess. God uses our messes to train us. The resistance produces something God is after. It is the sand in the oyster that produces the pearl. NO PAIN, NO GAIN. These trials or pains force us to grow up. Father allows pain to make us grow up.

There is a problem with pain: It can freeze our learning capacity. You can't "close up" from the pain and learn at the same time. The pain in a person's face tells you they are stuck in something. What is the missing ingredient? How do we get out of it? The positive outlook on pain is that it is a stimulant to growth.

### **The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength**

Where is the reality of this "joy?" What makes God happy makes you strong. So, if you want to be strong, you must change your motivation. **YOU** are no longer the focus; **GOD** is. **You don't get strong trying to get happy.** All that will produce is self-centeredness; you must become Christ-centered.

Religion is not going to free us. If religion was going to work, it would have already. This isn't about some kind of Christian magic—if I just say the "right thing" it will work. The way of the Lord is far more than religion.

#### **A. Defense vs. B. Offense**

On the A-side, all our skills focus on self-mastery. This side tends to be oriented heavily toward self-awareness, self-actualization, ego needs, and self-esteem.

**In the game of life,  
God plays everyone  
who is in shape.**

On the B-side, the focus is on attacking demonic powers, ideologies, and governmental systems. This side is focused on freeing people and seeing the Kingdom on earth. This is the life Christ lived.

What does this have to do with my salvation? NOTHING. This has to do with living in victory, now! This has to do with moving from being victims to being warriors. Jesus was a warrior who knew how to tell the devil where his place was.

#### **Seven Major Questions**

**There are seven major questions we must address.** God's revelation is our source for the answers.

##### **QUESTION ONE: Why did God create me?**

The answer is because He loved the thought of you. He loved the notion of you sharing in His life with Him and His family. Seeing the love He has moves us and motivates us unlike anything else. Out of this love, He has designed you to inherit His heart.

**Philippians 3:12:** "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

**Romans 8:17:** "Now if we are his children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

Until we begin to approach solving the sin and pain problem God's way, life's pains or hurts tend to trap us in a defensive and protective perspective on life, freezing our learning capacities. This makes the protection or exaltation of flesh our primary reaction to life's pressures.

##### **QUESTION TWO: Of what benefit is life's pain?**

The benefit of pain in our lives is that it tells us where we really are. Life's pain is like the nervous system in our body. Pain is informative. It is a signal that something is out of order. Pain in life is ultimately the result of the fall of man into sin.

God is not surprised by sin or Satan. God uses His children's battle with the flesh to mature and train them into righteousness. Since we are justified freely by Christ's sacrifice but are still alive in the flesh, we must overcome sin by the transformation of our minds through the Holy Spirit.

**While frozen  
in pain and the  
pattern of exalting  
our flesh,  
we unwittingly  
have the life  
drained from us.**

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### **QUESTION THREE: Why did God permit sin and our fallen state?**

In God's goodness and sovereignty, He allowed sin and its consequences to teach us to solve problems His way and to partner with Him to turn pain and evil into strength and blessing.

God gave man the power to choose. Adam chose death. Because Adam was the assigned ruler of the earth ([Genesis 1:26-28](#)), sin, death, and Satan took authority over man as he stepped out from Christ's covering and relationship ([Romans 7 & 8](#)). Satan still plays his con game, deceiving many into fear and intimidation. Christ, however, as the last Adam, regained full authority for man ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

**Without resistance  
there is no growth.  
NO PAIN, NO GAIN!**

### **QUESTION FOUR: How do we overcome and master sin?**

[Genesis 4:7](#): "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

The solution to pain, non-creativity, wasted living, and "frozen learning skills" is found in searching for truth ([John 8:32](#)) and correctly practicing it ([Hebrews 5:14](#)) until we walk in the fullness of who we are in Christ.

[John 8:32](#): "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

[Hebrews 5:14](#): "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

By loving truth ([John 3:19-21](#)) and practicing obedience, we enter "the way of the Lord" through the Holy Spirit's power. This power transforms our will to obey ([Philippians 2:12-13](#)). What we really believe is what we do most often. What are you doing?

### **QUESTION FIVE: What spiritual skills must I practice to achieve this "reigning in life?"**

[Romans 5:17](#): "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

**Power is guarded by problems:** God opens more of His power and resources to us as we incrementally learn how to solve life's problems God's way.

### ***Seven spiritual life skills to begin the journey to mastery (one skill per day of the week):***

1. The recognition and rejection of death and the practiced art of choosing life and truth.
2. The constant affirmation of God's work in my life and the use of every situation and relationship to grow and to please God.
3. The daily, monthly, and yearly planning with God of the relationships He wants me to sow into, yielding the character qualities and projects He wants me to produce in my life and the lives of others.
4. The constant rejection of accusation and bitterness against self or others and the release of people to God after we have fulfilled our biblical obligations to them.
5. The recognition that God has called us to both rule and judge in obedience upon the earth, gain God's perspective, and reject the fear of man.
6. The grateful recognition of God's commitment to take us to levels of excellence and opportunity we could never reach without the help of others.
7. The blessing of practicing daily the calling that is on our Master, Jesus Christ, as the life of God grows within us.

## **QUESTION SIX: How will our lives most benefit each other?**

Our lives will most benefit others as we fulfill the destiny we have as children of God. That destiny is to be transformed into servant-rulers. As we move into this way of life, we finish our earthly obedience by passing on the inheritance we received: **Father's heart to bring every son and daughter to maturity in Christ.**

The transfer of God's heart and blessing removes the curse of [Malachi 4:5-6](#) and releases the godly transfer of our hearts to the next generation.

## **QUESTION SEVEN: How do we enter the joy of the Lord and experience the same kind of life He is living?**

We must stand before Him each day before we stand before anyone else. We must seek a moment-by-moment relationship with Him. We must love Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. We must take up the cross of crucifying our flesh daily.

**[Nehemiah 8:10b](#):** "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

What makes God happy, makes me strong. We must move from the mentality of "pain killers" to the idea of the healing of God. This will occur only as we practice the truth God reveals to us. Life's greatest joy is to be used by Him to express His life, truth, and love to others as He brings the Kingdom into human lives through us. We are after the very life of God.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. If God plays everyone who is in shape, what will I do tomorrow morning to begin getting in shape?
2. How long did you spend in prayer today?

**As you reflect on this lesson, pray about it and make notes in your journal. What is the Lord saying, and what are you thinking about today's workout?**

