

THE OTHER TYPES OF PATHS WE CAN CHOOSE

We can choose the path of the wide way or the **narrow way**. The Bible (the inspired Word of God) records **“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25)**. The wide way is described as ‘the ways of death’ in this proverb. They are the life choices which we make that seem like fun or a good idea at the time, but actually, lead us down a path of misery, pain and destruction in our lives. The **narrow way** includes making life choices that, in the long run, leads us to a life that is full of love, life and few regrets. Jesus talked about this narrow way when He was here on earth and said: **“Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth to life and few there be that find it” (Matt 7:14)**. There are few people who find it, not because the narrow path is not available, but because it may be the less popular choice of path to take.

Whichever path *we choose*, there are consequences that we will have to live with tied to our choices. It is up to us to choose.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH

God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus, through His Holy Spirit are calling you to come to Him. Will you respond to His call? God is willing to forgive you, cleanse you, and empower you to live a life that is full and rich no matter which path you had chosen to walk on up to this point in your life.

If you decide to come to God the way He has designed us to come, through His son Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made by His death on the cross, then, pray this prayer right where you are: “Dear God, I come to You now and ask You to forgive me because of the sacrifice and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. I believe in my heart and say “Thank You” for forgiving me. I ask that You help me to walk on the straight and narrow path that You have designed for me. I receive You, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, to guide me and comfort me daily. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.”

Now, continue to talk to God (pray) daily, read the Bible (starting with the Gospel of John), and ask (pray) for help making the daily choices. Trust God to work things out in your life as you continue walking on the straight and narrow path with Him.



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Which Path Do I Choose?

The Crooked Path or the Straight Path?



THE WIDE OR THE NARROW PATH?

WALKING IN THE WOODS

Generally, people enjoy walking in the woods. For some adventurous people, they like the thrill of heading out, finding their way through the woods on a challenging course without a specific path. But for the other type of people, they prefer a more direct, narrow path like the ones pictured here. This type of straight and narrow path fills them with a sense of security and enjoyment. They get to experience the outdoors, without the chance of getting lost. In fact, these people may actually prefer a loop trail where you start at the beginning, follow the path, and come out where you began. Just as there are paths in our earthly walk, are there similar paths we can choose in our spiritual walk?

OUR SPIRITUAL WALK

The answer is “yes”. The Bible speaks about the paths we can choose in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Throughout the Bible, we are given choices between two paths. God created us with free will in the beginning. He didn’t want His creation to be robots that were *programmed* to serve Him. Our first chance to exercise our free will came in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. They were given a choice to obey or not to obey what God had told them. Their choice to disobey has impacted mankind even to this day. So, let us take a moment to consider which paths we might choose today.

PATHS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

After Adam and Eve’s decision in the Garden of Eden, their sons made choices, too (Genesis chapter 4). Abel chose to sacrifice to God in the way which God had outlined and God was pleased, but his brother, Cain, chose to sacrifice in a way not outlined by God. Cain was so jealous of Abel, that he actually murdered him!

In Deuteronomy 30:19 (and elsewhere), God described the choice of paths the Israelites’ could make and listed the consequences of each choice so that they knew ahead when they made their decision. **“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life that both thou [you] and thy seed [your descendants] may live.”** Like the Israelites, God loves us and wants us, our children, grandchildren, and the rest of our descendants to live a joy-filled, quality life.

PATHS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Throughout the New Testament, believers were instructed to choose paths that led to a good life. For example, Paul encouraged the Roman believers: **“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good”** (Romans 12:9 NLT).

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT CHOOSING PATHS?

Most importantly, Jesus (while He was on earth) spoke about the most important path we could choose. He was *very clear* when He said: **“I am the way, the truth and the Life and no one gets to the Father except through Me”** (John 14:6). You see, Jesus is the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament. His birth, life, death and resurrection fulfilled **ALL** of the prophecies given about the Messiah in the Old Testament.

Jesus is also The WORD. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God”** (John 1:1). We don’t understand all of the facets of this statement, but, by faith, we choose to believe it. Therefore, as the Word, when He speaks, He speaks with authority and what He says is true.

THE PATHS WE CAN CHOOSE

As humans with free will, we can choose which path we take. We can choose the crooked way (immorality, error and sin that goes against God’s Word), or the **straight way**. The writer of Psalms talks about both ways. **“O LORD, do good to those who are good, whose hearts are in tune with You. But banish [lead away] those who turn to crooked ways, O LORD. Take them away with those who do evil...”** (Psalm 125:4-5 NLT).