

FOLLOWING GODS PATH #5

1. Gods plan for your life always have you moving forward. .

A. Ephesians 2:10 We are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].”(AMPC

C. Psalm 115:14 The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

D. Everything in God is increase, advancement, and promotion. There's nothing in God that's in the backward direction. So, we shouldn't be okay if we are not increasing. Things in our life shouldn't stay the same year after year. There should be increase, because faith in God's Word will promote us – it won't leave us where we are at.

E. It would help us to evaluate the fruit in each arena of our lives to make sure we are advancing. What are the different arenas? Spiritually, mentally, physically, materially, and in our relationships.

F. We press toward our own advancement! Stir yourself up to take hold of the advancement and promotion that God authored for you.

G. Jesus said, “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it” (Luke 16:16). **H.** Paul wrote, **Philippians 3:12** Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own. Amplified

I. While we are on our path Press in. That's as important a concept for us today as it was in Moses' time. Moses pressed in the Spirit. He wanted to see God's glory

J. That heart cry to know God keeps us pressing in to lay hold of more of His kingdom each day of our lives. It pushes us toward the goal of knowing Jesus and finishing the race God has set before us.

K. If you want to go on with God like Moses and Paul did, then that desire is going to have to become the cry of your heart. Paul's heart cry to know the Lord made him determined not to quit. He was determined to press on until he laid hold of every task the Lord had for him.

L. Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

M. The race you have been chosen to run is impossible to finish on your own.

Everything we're chosen to do is impossible because God wants it done by faith

N. God never intended for you to know how to do what He tells us to do He intended to do it through us. He knows how! We just have to do what we're told

O. Our part is to maintain our fellowship with Him. His part is to do the work through us. When you're in God, you're in over your head all the time. Get used to it and keep on pressing in

2. For us to advance and be promoted, our thinking must advance. **A.** Right thinking positions us for promotion and increase. We can't be promoted if we have wrong thinking. Wrong thinking robs from us. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but he can't accomplish that on those who think right.

B. Gideon started with an army of 22,000, but God had him send anyone home who was fearful and did not want to fight. He was then left with 10,000 men. God had him take those down to the water to see how they drank of the stream. Those who laid down their weapons were to be sent home – only 300 didn't lay down their weapons.

C. Only 300 out of the 22,000 were qualified to advance. Those sent home did not think right – they were fearful, and they laid down their weapons – wrong thinking.

D. Joshua & Caleb had faith to advance into the Promised Land, but for 40 years they had lived with an unbelieving, disobedient generation who didn't think right. Because of their wrong thinking, that generation never arrived; wrong thinking held them out of God's best

E. After Moses died, God gave Joshua his instructions so he could lead the people in. **In Joshua 1:8** we see what God gave him as his instruction to arrive. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

F. Meditating on, speaking, and doing the Word would give him the mindset of success so they could advance and arrive. **G.** One of David's "mighty men" was surrounded by an army of 800, and he killed them all with the sword – divine ability assisted him

H.2 Samuel 23:8 These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

I. think of the kind of mentality he possessed to face that without thinking wrong – without running, quitting, or giving up!

J. The mind is the gateway to the spirit – the mind determines what is or is not allowed into the spirit. We couldn't even be born again until our mind agreed to receive it. Eternal life could not come into our spirit until our mind agreed. Nothing else from God comes into your spirit without your agreement either.

K. What we believe is a result of our thinking. If we think wrong, we will believe wrong. If our believing is wrong, our confession will be wrong – what we say will be wrong. It all hinges on our thinking! But the Word of God has been given to us to straighten out our thinking!

L. If we don't think right, we will have faith problems. A faith problem is a thinking problem. To increase faith, we must bring up our thinking to be in line with the Word

M. **Isaiah 55:8 & 9** reads, "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."

N. God's not just showing us that our thinking is low, but He's inviting us to come up to

His thoughts. The Word of God is the thoughts of God. God offers us His thoughts – let’s take them. Taking higher thoughts can’t help but lift our life into new level

O. **Romans 12:2** instructs us Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].” (AMP)

P. Renewing our minds by feeding and acting on God’s Word will help us to think right and position us for promotion and increase that God has planned for us on our path.

Q.. A renewed mind is not just mentally agreeing with God, but it includes acting in line with the Word. The mind is only renewed in a particular arena once we are acting and conducting our lives in line with the Word in that arena. We must renew our minds to what the Word says in every arena. In the Amplified translation, notice the word “entire” renewal – every arena addressed – not just some of the arenas of life. This is a life-long process that must happen every day for the rest of our lives.

R. **Third John 1:2** Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers” (AMPC).

S. Notice, this verse connects our physical prosperity and our financial prosperity to the prosperity of our soul – the renewing of the mind. Our prosperity doesn’t begin with money, but with a renewed mind. “*Beloved, I pray that you prosper and be in health even as your SOUL prospers*” – not as your FAITH prospers – but as your SOUL

T. Faith is important, but it won’t take the place of having a renewed mind and right thinking. In all your getting of faith, don’t overlook getting right thinking, which comes from renewing the mind. Your mind will either shut down the flow of faith or cooperate with the faith in your heart.

3. A Renewed Mind — Our Greatest Defense

A.

Our greatest defense against the enemy is a renewed mind. The mind is Satan’s chief battleground. The reason that Satan attacks the mind is because he knows if the thinking is wrong, the believing and speaking will be wrong

B. By attacking the mind, he can automatically affect every other arena of our lives. Every attack that comes will also be accompanied by an attack on the mind – to try to get us to think wrong. His whole intent is to get us thinking wrong because then our believing and speaking will be wrong.

C. That deception happens in the mind. The devil can’t do anything to you anytime he wants – if he could, he would just go ahead and do it. But he can’t – that’s why he has to try to deceive you first. He has to get someone thinking wrong to gain entrance. When someone thinks right, the devil has no place of entry.

D. This why he likes to send confusion because confusion first happens in the mind.

E. **1 Corinthians 14:33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

F. **Isaiah 26:3** tells us, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose MIND is stayed on thee....”

Faith isn't mentioned here in connection with peace – the mind is

G. How do we know that we're thinking right regarding a particular arena of life? Two ways: 1) if we are advancing in that arena, and 2) if we have total peace and joy regarding that arena.

H. A lack of peace and joy is due to wrong thinking. Wrong thinking leads us to wrong believing, wrong speaking, and wrong actions – which rob us of peace and joy. Right thinking removes all struggle from life. Our lives today are a picture of how we think.

I. We need to realize that thoughts come to our minds from two different sources; the thoughts that come to our minds do not always originate in our minds. The devil brings thoughts against our minds from the outside. That's one source.

J. The thoughts from God come from within us; they come up from within our spirits into our minds. As we renew our minds with the Word, we are able to distinguish which source a thought flows from.

K. Thinking right will enlarge what we reach for. Some don't think they deserve much – that's wrong thinking. We don't want to be satisfied with too little when God offers us so much

L. Giving is a struggle for some, not because of money, but because of wrong thinking. There are Christians that are good givers, but they aren't prospering; they don't think right toward money, and that wrong thinking is hindering their increase. Many times, their motive and intent are wrong.

M. If an arena of your life is not increasing and prospering, address that arena with the Word – further renewing of the mind in that arena is called for – that will bring advancement

N. Those who take the Word, renew their minds, meditate on it, let it govern their thoughts and actions, and become doers of it are the ones that will rise to the top.

O. Right thinking doesn't just promote us, but it helps us maintain what's laid hold of. Everything we receive from God, the enemy is busy trying to steal it from us. It's wrong thinking that opens the door for him to steal from us.

P. Wrong thoughts include: doubt, fear, unforgiveness, offense, etc. But he can't steal from us if we are thinking and speaking right, and it's the Word of God that offers us right thinking.

Q. Don't let the natural realm determine your level of courage or disappointment. The life of spirit beings is not sustained in the natural. A lot of our troubles are caused because our desires are incorrectly focused. Peace and joy, however, belong to those who keep their hearts full of God