

# The Way of the Lord

## Way 1: Discussing and Applying the Word of God

Hi. We're Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz of Restoration Ministries International. We want to welcome you to our series, *THE WAY OF THE LORD*. Our series title comes from God's words to the Hebrew Patriarch, Abraham: "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the WAY of the LORD" (Genesis 18:19).

Why is Abraham so important to people who follow Jesus as their Lord? Because the Bible tells us that Abraham is the FATHER of all who put their trust in Jesus (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:29). Abraham's trust-filled WAY OF LIFE shows us the WAY our Father wants ALL His children to live. And the Spirit of Jesus within His followers empowers you to live the WAY OF THE LORD.

If you really belong to Jesus, you'll want to live in a way that reflects this. In a sense it's the way of a marriage that's based on genuine love. Our devotion (as a married couple) is obvious to others. And the depth of your heartfelt love for our Lord will be seen in the WAY YOU LIVE. The way of the Lord flows out of your heart motive. It's seen in a LOVE FOR OTHERS that only the Spirit of Jesus can give you.

The Bible is clear that the WAY OF LIFE of the earliest followers of Jesus was readily apparent to the people around them. Did you ever wonder why they were so active in living for their Lord? Their secret was the Hebraic process of DISCUSSION that leads to LIFE APPLICATION. Discussing God's Word together is the critical step that enables you to align your life with the way of the Lord.

To better understand this, let's look at how people take what they've learned, and make it their WAY OF LIFE.

### **How to Make God's Word Your *Way of Life***

- If you hear something, you'll remember 20% of it.
- If you read it, you'll recall 30%.

Now here's the important part:

- If you DISCUSS IT with others, you'll hold onto 70% of what you learned.
- And, If you DO IT, you'll retain 90%!

DISCUSSING and DOING makes the way of the Lord real in your life.

Scripture frequently describes the ACTION that genuine faith calls for. Jesus makes crystal clear that "*whoever DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN is My brother and sister and mother*" (Matthew 12:50). So in HIS sight, the real family of Jesus are those who ACTIVELY do His Father's will. And, James sums up the connection of your faith and your actions: "*But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you MY FAITH BY WHAT I DO... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead*" (James 2:18,26).

No matter what the cost or consequence, your ACTION motivated by LOVE identifies you as a follower of Jesus. Please listen carefully: No one puts their faith

into action by just *studying* the Bible. If you're going to DO the will of our Father, you need to DISCUSS His Word with others, intending to make it YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

Jesus gives us two essential truths about making God's Word your way of life. *"I tell you the truth, whatever you BIND ON EARTH will be bound in heaven, and whatever you LOOSE ON EARTH will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where TWO OR THREE COME TOGETHER IN MY NAME, there am I with them"* (Matthew 18:18-20).

Jesus is assuring you that when you discuss His Word, you can BIND (that is, avoid what God doesn't want you to do), or LOOSE (which means do what's right in His sight). As a follower of Jesus, it's vital that you're absolutely confident in HIS PRESENCE. HIS SPIRIT is your indwelling Source for both the guidance and the power which enable you to make God's Word YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

And, through DISCUSSION your heart motives are revealed as you speak. As Jesus says, *"For out of the OVERFLOW OF THE HEART the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34). There's a strong connection between the WORDS you speak and the FEELINGS you reveal. Together your words and your emotions reveal the MOTIVE OF YOUR HEART—WHY you do what you do. And, your Father in heaven is very interested in your motives.

The Bible is His means to reveal your inner motives: *"For the WORD OF GOD is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES OF THE HEART"* (Hebrews 4:12).

Do you really desire to live a life that reflects authentic devotion to your Lord? Then make DISCUSSION WITH OTHERS who are following Jesus with you, your WAY OF LIFE. Use the Bible to scrutinize WHY you do what you do.

Your discussions don't have to be at formal scheduled times. Learn to use everyday opportunities to talk about God's truths with others, like during walks, or riding in a car, or over meals. After all, the Spirit of Christ is within you! Our Father wants you to bind or loose His Word in your lives so that you'll LIVE THE WAY OF THE LORD.

#### For Further Study

- See our book, *Christian Halahkahs—Loving Jesus Through the Way You Apply His Word*. It's a free download from our website: [Restorationministries.org](http://Restorationministries.org)