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The Princeton Path **FINDER** Ancient Paths

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This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

Jeremiah 6:16



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Ancient Paths in This Modern World (Part 3) Blessing & Cursing

Blessing and Cursing

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" Genesis 12:1-3.

This was a covenant promise which God made to Abraham foretelling the coming and the purpose of Jesus Christ. Since this statement was made by God, He has been in the business of blessing families. God's purpose in Jesus' coming was to bless all the families of the earth. The primary unit through which God has committed Himself to work is the family. God is the "blessor." The devil is the "curser." Through Jesus Christ, God is intent on blessing all the families of the earth.

Blessing is God's primary mechanism of imparting His message of identity and destiny into your life. Therefore, it is important to understand the meaning of the word "blessing." Gary Smalley and John Trent have written an excellent book entirely dedicated to expounding on the biblical meaning of the concept of blessing. Their book simply entitled "The Blessing" will give you tremendous, further insight into the meaning of blessing.

Smalley and Trent define the blessing that should come to us through parents as containing the following five key elements:

"The family blessing" includes:



- Meaningful Touch
- A Spoken Message
- Attaching High Value to the One Being Blessed
- Picturing a Special Future for the One Being Blessed
- An Active Commitment to Fulfill the Blessing

Blessing: To Empower: to Prosper to Thrive

For our purpose here, a simple definition of **Blessing** is:

To receive, accept, ascribe high value to and consider a person as a success.

In the Hebrew language, the verb to bless is "BARUCH." One of the primary meanings of this word is, "To Empower or to Prosper." A good definition, then, of cursing would be "To Disempower from Prospering".

What does it mean to prosper?

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In our North American culture, we primarily think of prosperity in terms of money. However, economic prosperity is not all that this word entails. We could better define this verb "to prosper" **AS TO THRIVE, SUCCEED, OR DO WELL**. In the Hebrew language, this word primarily means "To Have a Pleasant Fulfilling Journey." So, to prosper would literally mean to have a pleasant journey through your life.

So, in combining these definitions, to bless, (BARUCH), would mean **TO EMPOWER THE ONE BEING BLESSED TO THRIVE, SUCCEED, DO WELL, AND TO HAVE A PLEASANT, FULFILLING JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE**. On the other hand, to curse would mean to dis-empower or to disable the one being cursed from thriving, succeeding, or having a pleasant or fulfilling journey through life.

Miracle Grow (Blessing) or Roundup (Cursing)

One of the best pictures of this came to mind as I remembered watching my ex-mother-in-law, Leesa, water her plants. Leesa was an expert at growing plants. As she cared for them, they thrived and grew exceedingly large and healthy.

When people came to visit, they frequently commented on her marvelous ability to grow plants and flowers.

When it is time to water the plants, Leesa mixes some Miracle Grow with water and pours just the right amount on each plant.

Suppose, however, that one day, she mistakenly adds Roundup to her water bottle and pours it on her plants instead of the nutrient-laden water.

How might the plants react? Instead of thriving, opening up their pores, and craving more, the plants would close all their little pores and attempt to repel as much acid as possible.

This example above is a good picture of the power of blessing and cursing. Parents, with their words, attitudes, and actions, possess the ability to bless or curse the identities of their children.

Blessing is like pouring nutrient-laden Miracle Grow over the child's inner being while cursing is like pouring Roundup over their inner being. One empowers the child to prosper, while the other cripples and disables. Blessing imparts God's message of identity and destiny, while cursing imparts Satan's message.



Tristen and the Hamburger

Many times we inadvertently curse the identity of those who are closest to us without even realizing it. The Lord made this very real to me one day as I sat in a restaurant with my son Tristen, attempting to get my then four-year old son to eat his hamburger. Tristen and I had come to an irreconcilable stand-off regarding a hamburger. We had gone to a restaurant one day, and he had wanted a hamburger for lunch. However, when the meal came, I noticed that the hamburger was much too big for him to eat without it being cut. So, I simply reached over with my knife and fork and cut his hamburger in half. I then said, "There you go buddy, now it will be much easier for you to eat." He looked at me with an anguished look of shock and disbelief. With tears starting to roll out of his eyes, he said, "You ruined it! I'm not going to eat it. He demanded...Fix it, Daddy." "I can't fix it, Tristen," I replied. "What do you want me to do?"

Get some tape and tape it back together? It's fine just eat your burger. However, he still refused and demanded that I fix it or at least get him a new hamburger.

Since neither bribery nor threats seemed to motivate him to stop crying and eat, silently I began to pray as most new parents often do and ask the Lord for a little help.

"Lord," I prayed, "I'm engaged in a bit of a power struggle here with a four-year-old, and I think I'm losing. How can I get my wife's child to eat his hamburger?" The Lord quickly reminded me of His Word in James 1:19-20 "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." I felt convicted but being stubborn as I am I thought: "Why should I repent? I'm the right one here. How can I repent, if I'm the one who's right. He should eat his hamburger, and I was right to cut it, because it was too big for him to handle."

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Then the Holy Spirit reminded me of a well-known scripture when Jesus told His disciples,

“Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?”
Mark 8:17-18

God’s Word and Spirit was convicting me even more now, “You are just like these disciples Aaron. You have physical eyes and ears, but you are not understanding the real issues in this matter.

You think that you are talking about a hamburger, but that is not the issue. When your son said to you, ‘You ruined it,’ he was not talking about the hamburger. He was talking about his value to you as your son. His identity was cursed by you, and his value as a person, in general, and as your son, in specific, is what was ruined, not the hamburger. However, you have had no eyes to see or ears to hear the real issue.”

“The hamburger is not really the issue of concern at all, but the message conveyed to your son through your method and attitude is of great concern.” I was beginning to see something, so I asked the Lord for more clarification. The Holy Spirit continued speaking into my spirit, “When you reached over and cut the food on Tristen’s plate, you didn’t extend to him the courtesy of communicating with him your intentions before just treating his plate as your own. Then when he reacted, you continued to treat him as if he were the one with an attitude problem and didn’t acknowledge his feelings on the matter at all. You treated him as if he had no feelings or as if his feelings didn’t matter. How would you like it if someone uninvited reached over to your plate and began to tinker with your food?”

“The message you sent to Tristen in acting without consulting him was, ‘You are not really of any value.

Your opinion doesn’t really count. You’re just a child, and I’m an adult. I can treat you however I please, and I don’t need to consider your opinion or feelings. You have no right to make decisions, because you have no wisdom and are of no value.”

“Then as you persisted in your position that you are right and your son needs to stop the commotion and eat, you have sent him the message that you don’t care about him at all and that the issue (the hamburger) is really more important to you than he is as a person. Through all this, you have sent to your son a message that you are inconsiderate, uncaring and a dictator. Furthermore, your message continues that in your sight he is worthless, not worthy even of taking charge over his own plate of food, incapable of making any decision, and nothing but a bother to you.” As you can tell I was having my own personal Job moment here.

I finally saw that although I had been right on the external issue, I had conveyed to my little son a devastating and destructive message through my blindness to his feelings and my focus on the external issue. All that time I had thought that we were talking about a hamburger, while, in actuality, we were discussing Tristen’s value as my son and as a person. I had severely cursed his identity and had no idea that I had done so. It was as though I had poured Roundup on my own son and thought that I was perfectly right in doing so.

The Lord spoke all this to me in just a few quick seconds. I decided to check it out by asking Tristen if this were true. So I asked, “Tristen, have I made you feel as though you’re not very important to me?” His expression suddenly changed, and he began to look at me as if maybe somehow I really did understand.

He answered, “Yes.”

I continued, “Did you feel that Daddy was being a bit of a bully?”

“Yes,” he replied.

I then said, “Tristen I’m sorry. Daddy was only trying to help you but I can now see that I was wrong in not asking you if you needed help with that big hamburger. I should have talked to you before I cut your food. Will you forgive me?”

He replied, “Yes, Daddy.”

I then offered to replace his hamburger since I now see that this had more to do about me unknowingly displaying a cursing instead of my intended blessing. However, now that the identity problem was solved, he thought that the hamburger on his plate would be just fine, and it really was much easier to eat cut in half. As soon as the problem regarding his value as a person was solved, the problem with the hamburger vanished. This was an eye opening experience as a new father. Both to the craftiness of Satan and the power of my role to carry out the proper blessings God wants us to have.



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Ancient Paths in This Modern World *(Part 3) Blessing & Cursing*

For Lack of Knowledge, My People Perish

Many times, when we parents are attempting to motivate our children or stimulate them to excellence, without realizing it we are actually communicating a message to the son or daughter that no matter what level of achievement or accomplishment he or she might attain, the child is still not a success in the sight of us as their parents. There is something God-given on the inside of every one of us that longs to hear the words "Son (or Honey), I'm proud of you."

This is a form of blessing which God intended to flow frequently through us parents to our children. However, because of the lack of such from their own parents, many parents have never learned to allow their children to succeed in their sight and hence express to them a cursing. This was the case with Julie and her father.

Julie's father grew up in the time of the Great Depression.

He had never had an opportunity to gain a good education for himself since he was forced to drop out of high school to go to work to help support the family. As a result, Julie's father had vowed that all of his children would go to college. He had hopes that they would continue their studies in medical or other professional fields.

Julie knew that academic performance was very important to her dad, so she took her schoolwork very seriously. Fortunately, Julie was also highly gifted academically. Her grades were usually top-notch. During the first semester of her sophomore year in high school, Julie took some unusually difficult college level classes.

The academic load was quite a challenge to her, but she managed to come home with a report card showing "A's" in all classes, except one with a "B."

When Julie proudly presented her report card to her father, she expected to hear words of praise and affirmation from him. However, after carefully looking over the document, he looked up and scolded his startled daughter. "How come you only got a 'B' in this class?" he challenged. "You've been spending too much time in sports activities. You need to work harder. Let's see if you can pull that grade up next semester. If you want to make something out of your life, you're going to have to get good grades!"

Julie's heart was devastated. It felt as if her father had plunged a knife into her heart and was twisting it, gouging and tearing her heart to shreds. She had tried so hard to please her father, and yet it wasn't enough. That night as Julie lay awake in her bed with an inner wound that wouldn't stop bleeding, she vowed that the next semester she would get "straight A's" in all classes, even though she was still taking college-level, honor classes.

Sure enough at the end of the second semester, Julie came home with "straight A's" in every class on her report card. This time her father would have to acknowledge her, tell her that she was a success, and say that he was proud of her. Confidently, she handed her report card to her father when he arrived home from work that evening. Again, he thoroughly surveyed the report and then looked up into his daughter's hopeful eyes and remarked, "Obviously the classes you took were too easy if you can just breeze through them like that and get all 'A's.'"

Little did her father realize the night his daughter came to him with her report card, that he held a key in his hand with which he could open or close the door to Julie's future success. He could use the key of blessing to empower her to prosper, or he could refuse to use that key and, by default, through ignorance or neglect, use the key of cursing to pour Roundup, so to speak, on her inner being, thus crippling and disabling her.



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Since her father failed to use the blessing key that night, Julie's ambitions plummeted, and her grades soon deteriorated to "D's" and "F's."

In her junior year of high school, she became pregnant, moved in with her boyfriend, and dropped out of school all together. All her father's dreams for her life were shattered and he didn't even realize that he was the one who broke them into pieces by his constant curses of non-affirmation.

He said he wanted nothing more to do with her. It wasn't until years later when Julie gave her life to Jesus Christ that her relationship with her father began to be reconciled, and healing and restoration began to come to her life.

The concept of blessing is to instill God's image of identity and destiny into your life. When Satan's image of identity and destiny is imposed, a three-fold scheme is usually set in motion, as seen in Julie's life. This was previously mentioned in my last article **IDENTITY and DESTINY**, but it's worthy of repeating at this point. Through the cursing of identity, Satan aims to:

1. Distort or entirely replace your image of who God has called you to be.
2. Drive you out of your place of habitation, the place of protection and residence which is rightfully yours (such as your family, marriage, church, employment, home, city, or country).
3. Steal your inheritance – that which God intended to be an inheritance or heritage to you (such as your children, finances, ministry, pension, or relationships).



The Role of Parents

Whether they realize it or not, parents hold a powerful key to the future lives of their children in blessing and cursing. Through one, parents can literally empower their children to prosper and thrive as adults in their marriages, family relationships, businesses, ministries, health, and finances. Through the other, parents can mar, cripple, and literally prevent their children from thriving and prospering in all these same areas of adult life. This is again due to the fact that blessing is God's ordained method of imparting identity and destiny to people, and parents are God's ordained agents through whom this is to come.

Unfortunately, many of our parents failed to have knowledge of their job description before they became parents. As a result, many of us received the devil's message, by default, throughout most of our growing-up years.

Through studying the ancient Hebrew culture in the Bible, I discovered that there are essential times when God intended to impart a powerful message of identity and destiny into the life of each person. In Bible times, no one had to have any knowledge of the need to bless and give out God's message at these appointed times. God had strategically placed right within the culture ceremonies, customs, practices, and other mechanisms to ensure that lives were permeated with His message of identity and destiny. Parents could not do it wrong. All they had to do was just follow what everybody else in that culture did, and it would come out right.

However, in modern day North America, over the last 150 years or so, the devil has systematically ripped out of our American culture every ceremony, custom, practice and other protective mechanisms that God had established to ensure our being blessed. As a result, if parents today just adhered to our present culture, by default, they will totally miss imparting God's message of identity and destiny into their children's lives according to God's plan. In my understanding of blessing at these critical times of life, I can't see that the culture of Christian people in the church today is really very different from that of those outside the church. Many Christians believe that if they pray for their children, take them to church, put them in a Christian school, teach them the Bible, make sure that they have Christian friends, love them, and properly discipline them, they should grow up to be godly Christian adults.

Although all these activities are good, none of them actually delivers God's message of identity and destiny when most needed. As a result, we've all experienced many broken-hearted parents who are weeping over the devastation that has occurred in the lives of their teenage and adult children.

"For lack of knowledge My people perish." Hosea 4:6

The good news is that Jesus Christ has come to this earth as a Redeemer to restore to your life and to the lives of your children everything that the kingdom of darkness has stolen. Affirmation or blessing is positively received and needed through the lives of our children even through their adult years so rebuilding can begin and with God at the helm it can and will begin almost immediately.

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Cursing Binds; Blessing Looses

In dealing with our own marriages and relationships we quickly begin to discover that there are many situations and conflicts that cannot be solved horizontally just between the husband and wife etc. Many of the “issues” stem back to unhealthy ties to one or both parents.



Genesis 2:24 states: ***“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”***

I noticed that many couples had many areas where they were not cleaving together. So I began to ask the Lord why this was. The answer came very clearly from the above scripture. In any area of your life where you don’t leave, you cannot cleave.

What does the Bible mean “to leave father and mother?” I don’t believe that this is talking about a geographic change of location necessarily. It is more likely speaking of an emotional leaving or a leaving in the heart. You don’t have to move to another city when you marry in order to leave your father and mother. But the Lord began to show me that if in any area of a man’s life, he has not left his father and mother, he CANNOT cleave to his wife. So it is vital that when a couple marries, there is a healthy, emotional leaving of the father and mother.

The next obvious question that I began pondering is, “What causes a man or woman to leave or not leave, since he or she can’t cleave where he or she didn’t leave?” I began to find a pattern as I studied lineages of people in the Bible, as well as observing the lives of people to whom I’m close to. Those who were blessed by their parents were able to leave in a healthy way, and those who were not blessed did not properly leave. I found that in the areas of a person’s life in which he or she was blessed, that person could leave, and thus when married, cleave. On the other hand, in the areas in which he or she was not blessed, the cleaving could not take place after marriage. Blessing of parents loosens the identity to leave and thus to cleave.

Cursing (or by default lack of blessing) binds the identity to the parent and hinders cleaving.

There are two primary reactions to cursing of identity, either of which equally binds one to the parent and hinders cleaving in a marriage:

1. Decision to isolate from the parent and write him out of one’s life. “If he won’t bless me, I don’t need his blessing or acceptance. I don’t care what he thinks. It doesn’t matter.” In attempting to cut the parent out of your life, you actually bind yourself to him. You also loose an internal, emotional focus which will often reproduce in your own life, or sometimes in the life of your marriage partner, the very qualities you hate in your parent.
2. Decision to continue striving after the blessing of the parent no matter how long it takes or what it costs.

“If I can just make enough money, or do something very important, or win enough people to Christ, then he will have to acknowledge me and bless me.” In striving after the parent’s blessing, you bind yourself to the parent and are not free to cleave to a spouse.

Freedom for Jim

Jim was a man who had made the #1 decision above regarding his mother and had reproduced in his wife the very qualities that he had hated in his mother.

Jim’s wife sought out professional help, stating that she loved Jim very deeply, but there were certain situations in their marriage that made life intolerable for her. She was considering leaving her husband. She went on to describe that Jim simply refused to take any type of responsibility at home. He acknowledged that many duties were indeed his responsibility, but then he failed to follow through with any action.

Jim’s wife explained that the bank was about to repossess their house, because they had not made any payments for several months. They actually had sufficient money, but Jim just “never got around” to making the mortgage payment. He acknowledged that it was his responsibility to pay the bills, keep the yard, maintain the cars, and shovel the walks in the winter. However, he never really did any of these things. Consequently, Jim’s wife had begrudgingly taken over all of these duties and was extremely weary and frustrated.

The following week the counselor met with Jim. Initially, He asked him how his marriage was going. He replied, “Oh, we have our ups and downs like everyone else, but we really love each other and have a good stable marriage. I can’t really complain about anything.” The counselor noticed that there was quite a discrepancy between his perception and his wife’s perception of their marriage.

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As he began to confront Jim regarding his irresponsibility, as his wife had reported, he acknowledged that these were his duties, but he just seemed to forget or “space them out” all the time. At first, he began to work with Jim on time management and goal setting, but try as he might, he never fulfilled his responsibilities around the house. The counselor began to understand Jim’s wife’s frustration.

The counselor began to pray with Jim asking the Lord to reveal the root of his problem. One day he began to ask Jim a series of questions regarding his mother, and the answers began to come. Jim was the second born of two children.

His mother overtly favored his older sister and conveyed a message to him that he couldn’t do much of anything right.

Jim’s mother wanted to spare him the embarrassment of making any mistakes, so she constantly followed up everything that he did and redid it so that it would be “right.” When she asked Jim to set the table, it was never to her satisfaction, so she always came and reset it after him. She also instilled in him that making a mistake was a terrible thing, and he should always avoid mistakes at all costs. Every time Jim’s mom would redo one of his tasks and criticize him for the job he had done, it deeply wounded the heart of the little boy. It was a form of cursing his identity and was very painful emotionally. Jim learned from a very early age that he couldn’t do anything right to please his mother, so the best way to avoid being hurt and criticized, he thought, was not to do anything at all for her. He was then scolded for not doing the task, but that was far less painful than being chastised for doing it “wrong.” Besides, his mom would then come and do it the way she wanted, anyway, and he was off the hook altogether.



When Jim married, what kind of woman do you think he looked for? You are right: one exactly the opposite of his mother. He found a wonderful, Christian girl, who loved Jim just the way he was and never criticized him or told him he did it wrong, as his mom used to do. However, because Jim had never been blessed by his mom and had never forgiven her in his heart for all the cursing and criticism, deep inside he was still tied to her. He carried an emotional expectation that “eventually women will criticize you and curse your identity,” even though his wife had never yet treated him that way. It was this unhealthy tie to his mother that was wreaking havoc in Jim’s marriage. Over the years, Jim had forced his wife into the same role his mother had played. It was the unconscious fear of being criticized that caused Jim to default on all his domestic responsibilities.

He left his wife with only three bad options: 1. Do nothing and watch everything go down the tubes. 2. Continue to nag Jim and try to get him to perform, usually with little success and great frustration. 3. Give up and do it herself.

She eventually chose the third option, much to Jim’s relief. Now he thought everything was great, but she was frustrated beyond belief. The net result was that Jim had forced his wife into the role of being his mother rather than his wife and had reproduced in her the same criticism and cursing of his identity that he had so hated in his mother.

Without realizing it, Jim was still bound to his mother and was not free to cleave to his wife and be a proper husband to her. Until he was able to truly forgive his mom from his heart for the constant cursing of his identity and then go to the Lord and receive from Him the blessing of his correct identity and destiny, he would not be liberated.

Tremendous freedom and healing have come to many couples just like Jim and his wife as soon as the blessing from God is allowed to override the curses given by Satan’s unintentional agents. Most marital difficulties and relationships problems in general are not merely horizontal.

Often one or both marriage partners are still tied to a parent through cursing of identity and are virtually unable to properly cleave.

God intended for each person to be blessed by his or her parents at many times in life, thereby imparting His image of identity and destiny. However, there really are seven special times which I will mention later.

Blessing is such a powerful, releasing force that the Bible does not record any miracles, preaching, or ministry whatsoever of Jesus Christ until He received the audible blessing of His Father on His life at the Jordan River.

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"Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form as a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well pleased.'"

Luke 3:21-22

Blessing your children at key times in life imparts to them God's intended message of who they are and where they are going.

It also virtually ensures that that image will be lived out in adulthood and more than likely carried on naturally to the next generation, your grandchildren.

A Special (Blessed) Identity

Genesis 1:27 tells us *"God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female."* Male and female both reflect the image of God. God created everything and said, *"It is good."* Psalm 139:13 shows that you are no accident. *You were fearfully and wonderfully made, intricately knitted together in your mother's womb.* Ephesians 2:10 says you are *God's handiwork*. The word means God's masterpiece made in the image of God to reflect His image. God planned works for you to do that are unique from everyone else's. Identity is important. If you don't believe that just lose your driver's license or passport! God made you with a special identity and there is no one like you.

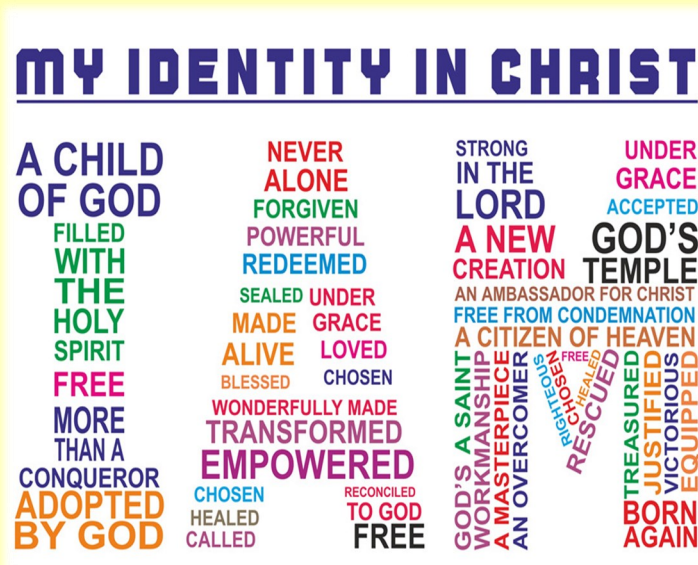
A Stolen (Cursed) Identity

You also can have a stolen identity. Our adversary does not want you to know who you were created to be. The beauty of our God-given identity has been distorted by sin. Adam and Eve believed the devil's lie and rebelled against God. God's good world became a place of brokenness and depravity. No one has to teach us to be selfish. Why do we argue and think more highly of ourselves, our opinions than we ought? Why do we think the world revolves around us? Why do we point out the sins of others but not our own? 2 Peter 1:3-4 says, *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."* Notice he says "knowledge" and then that we can live a godly life because of His glory and goodness. That is grace! We are all broken. *"There is none good no not one"* (Rom. 3:10). Only Jesus is good. Only Jesus lived a perfect life. He offers us a new identity by His grace. You need more than knowledge. The Bible says knowledge alone puffs up (1 Cor. 8:1). The goal is not information but transformation. The goal of the Christian life is to be like Christ. Jesus was full of grace and truth. So let us all strive to *"Grow in the grace and knowledge...."*

A Saved Identity

Our identity may have gotten lost or distorted but it can be found! Only the one who gave you life has the right to name you. God changed Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, and He can change you. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* You will never find your identity horizontally. We get our identity vertically. I am not something because of what I do. I am something because I am in Christ. Our identity is not in our past sin or present struggles. It is in Christ. We are children of God. *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God..."* (1 John 3:1-2). You are loved. God is not ashamed of you. You were adopted. He wanted you and now wants you still.

Growth is caused internally not externally. How do kids grow? Isn't it by what they eat. You need nourishment. Make every effort to spend time in the Word and to allow God to replace your stolen identity with who He created you to be. Only in Christ's Identity is Satan's crafty Stolen Identity of our worthlessness, meaninglessness, and hopelessness are all gone!



In our fall edition of The Princeton PathFinder we will set our attention to God's wisdom in placing protective measures in cultures and societies of the world so that people would naturally be blessed and not cursed.

For Christ and His Kingdom,

~ Aaron Jones

The Ancient Path Leads Home

*Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.
Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.*

I love old hymns. They have richness and depth that many contemporary songs lack. Ancient Words by Michael W Smith is by far my favorite contemporary Christian song. A close encounter with the "Ancient Words" in the spring of 1983 led me away from the path of destruction on a 2-year journey to the Ancient Path which led to the foot of the Old Rugged Cross.

I quickly learned that the "Ancient Path" was not a 6-lane interstate with no speed limit. The Ancient Path is a narrow 2 lane over rugged mountainous terrain. At every corner there is someone saying, "Look here is a new and better way, go this way instead". Many of those pathways proclaim to arrive at the same destination as the ancient path. Some at first even seem to run parallel to the Ancient Path. But just as GPS can give us a "Bird's Eye View" of roads as we travel when viewed from above using "God's Positioning System" it becomes apparent that the paths are radically different.



One of the first "Alternative Paths" to appear was Romanism. This was the result of church at Rome conforming to the pattern of the Roman government and proclaiming itself to be "The One True Path". Unfortunately nothing could be farther from the truth. Romanism followed the pyramid structure of the Roman government with one man at the top having absolute authority.

His edicts or "Bulls" were considered authoritative. Tradition was considered equal in authority to the Holy Scriptures and the subjects of Romanism were denied access to the bible. This insured that the common man remained in subjection to the papacy because they had no means to fact check those who ruled over them. This is the whore of Babylon recorded in Revelation 17.

Babylon, the Prostitute on the Beast

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

*Babylon the great
the mother of prostitutes
and of the abominations of the earth.*

I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.
Revelation 17:1-6a

On October 31, 1517, another "Alternative Path" was created, this path is called Protestantism. Protestantism returned access to the bible to the common man but followed the hierarchical structure of Romanism.

Men wanting to be in power added to or subtracted from God's word to create Denominations" (divisions) each with their own pyramid. Just hours before his crucifixion Jesus prayed for the unity of all believers. For me, to create divisions in the body of Christ violates the very will of God.

~Continued on Page 10

The Ancient Path Leads Home

Jesus Prays for All Believers

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." John 17:20-26

The apostle Paul also warned against this.



Divisions in the Church

I appeal to you, brothers, and the name of our lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: one of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul cru-

cified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? I'm thankful that I didn't baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that they were baptized into my name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel—not with words with human wisdom, less the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Another "Alternative Path" is Evangelicalism. Evangelicalism is uniquely American in nature as it follows the pattern of the American political system. They hold conventions and vote to pick and choose what parts of the bible to follow. Congregations send delegates to the convention to establish the platform of the church. They go so far as to vote on which books of the bible are the Holy inspired word of God. By doing this they can disregard the biblical blueprint for the church. This has led to women being ordained as preachers and elders as well as their approval of homosexual marriage. Evangelicalism is a democracy (mob rule) where the majority decides what is right and wrong. Paul would not be pleased with this.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 3:1-6

~Continued on Page 11

The Ancient Path Leads Home

As for me and my house, we choose to follow the ancient paths.
Jesus said

The Narrow and Wide Gates

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:1-6

Everyday we must choose which path to take, the paths of men (broad) or the path of Jesus (narrow). Jesus commissioned his apostles to build his church. The blueprint (path) for the church is recorded in the book of Acts. We would be wise to do as the first century Christians did and be steadfast in our obedience to the apostles teaching.

The Fellowship of the Believers

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Choose this day which path you will follow

~Ron Smith

Jesus the Way to the Father

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

The Old Paths: *Obsolete or Pressing Need?*

For this issue of Pathfinder, I yield my space to Wayne Jackson, Church of Christ preacher and author of Christian Courier.

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

These were the paths that the people of Judah had departed. In Jeremiah 6:16, the prophet Jeremiah is speaking to the people of Judah, urging them to turn away from their sinful ways and follow the "ancient paths" and the "good way" in order to find rest for their souls.

The prophet Jeremiah had one of the more difficult tasks in the history of Israel. His divine assignment was to admonish the citizens of ancient Judah to return to the Lord, from whom they had wandered.

The nation was languishing under the threat of impending punishment (the Babylonian captivity), and repentance was its only hope. Note, therefore, the prophet's plea.

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk in it." (Jer. 6:16).

This passage contains such a range of truths that it is worthy of careful analysis — even for our day (**Rom. 15:4**). The immediate context has to do with Jeremiah's declaration that a sinister force threatened Jerusalem because of her great wickedness. O, that she would receive instruction from the Lord (**Jer. 6:1-8**).

Should this disciplinary force assault the land, Judah will be harvested like a crop of grapes — a token of the wrath of God.

Even though false prophets protested, claiming that "peace" would prevail (i.e., destruction would not come), nevertheless Jehovah would "visit" them, and cast them down (**Jer. 6:9-15**).

Out of this background came the prophet's invitation to return to the "old paths." Several important truths may be extracted from this powerful narrative.

1. The true mode of serving God is characterized as the "old paths"; it is further described as "the good way."
2. The Hebrews were under obligation to "walk" in these paths.

3. They had, however, strayed from the noble way.
4. It was imperative that they repent and hasten back to the Lord.
5. If they would return, "rest" could be their possession again.

A consideration of these truths is of utmost significance.

The Good Way

The prophet speaks of the "old paths" where is "the good way." In biblical literature these expressions suggest several ideas.

They may denote the days of their early history (**Deut. 32:7; Mic. 7:14**) — happier times in contrast to the present distress (**Psa. 77:5-6**).

There certainly is a reference to a standard of truth, a path charted by God (**Psa. 17:5**) and characterized by righteousness (**Psa. 23:3**) and straightness (**Psa. 107:7; Jer. 31:9**). It is the way wherein one **should** walk (**1 Kgs. 8:36**).

In the days of Jesus, he announced himself as "the way" to fellowship with the Father (**Jn. 14:6**). When the Lord implemented his new covenant system, inspiration makes it plain that this "way" became the exclusive path of truth (**Acts 4:12**). In the book of Acts, the expression "the Way" is synonymous with the kingdom of Christ, the citizens of which must yield to the Lord (**Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22**).

How strange this seems to those of our present pluralistic society who so disdain the concept of a solitary way of truth in which all members of the human family are required to walk. The reality is, only "the truth" sets men free (**Jn. 8:32**).

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall*

DIRECT

your paths.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

The Old Paths: *Obsolete or Pressing Need?*

The “Walk”

To “walk” in the “old paths” is the equivalent of **obeying** that which the Lord has commanded.

*But this command I gave them: “Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And **walk in all the way that I command you**, that it may be well with you.” (Jer. 7:23).*

From that restrictive way one was not to digress — neither to the right nor left (**Isa. 30:21**). The way in which the Hebrews were to walk was that which was **taught by God** (**1 Kgs. 8:36**).

The New Testament uses the term “walk” extensively. The Greek word, **peripateo** — literally to “walk around” — denotes a **sphere of spiritual existence**.

The Christian is to walk in newness of life (**Rom. 6:4**), following the instruction of the Holy Spirit (**Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16**), as this divine Guide leads through the revelation of Scripture (**Eph. 6:17**).

The heavenly command to walk in the right way presupposes several things.

1. God has the right to command obedience (**Rom. 9:21**).
2. There is an objective way in which the walk is to be pursued. Humanity is not permitted to direct its own steps (**Jer. 10:23**).
3. Man can know the way in which he is to walk. He does not have to rely upon religious “hunches.”

Drifting from the Way

Jehovah’s invitation to ancient Judah, to stand in the “old paths,” is clear evidence that the Hebrew people had wandered from the Lord’s teaching.

Elsewhere we have summarized the matter in this way: *“Over and over again the prophet [Jeremiah] stresses that the nation of Judah is a ‘backsliding’ people (13 times). The Hebrews have ‘committed iniquity’ (or sin, transgression, etc. — 53 times) against Jehovah. She should thus ‘return’ (47 times) to the Lord. Because of their sins, the people of Judah would be ‘scattered’ (14 times), and held ‘captive’ (or be in ‘captivity’) (51 times) by the Babylonians.*

It is one of the remarkable oddities of theological history that some should allege that God’s people can never drift away from him, so as to finally be lost. Scripture is saturated with protestations to the contrary (**Num. 14:12; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 3:12; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 5**).

The Urgency of Restoration

There will always be the need to speak to wayward brethren, urging them to reunite with their God. There are numerous passages in the New Testament that stress this concept. For instance, the book of Galatians is an appeal for restoration. Though the recipients of the letter had entered a relationship with Christ through their obedience to the gospel (**Gal. 3:26-27**), false teachers had arisen who were leading them away from the truth to “another gospel,” i.e., a perverted one (with Judaistic overtones) (**Gal. 1:6-9**).

Accordingly, Paul addresses these brethren with great vigor. The tone of his letter is biting. He never refers to these folks as “saints.” He never thanks God for them, or praises them. His warnings are very severe (**Gal. 3:1; 4:8; 5:1**).

Other books, e.g., Colossians and Hebrews, contain similar rebukes. The need for restoration is perpetual, for there will ever be the inclination to drift (**Heb. 2:1**).

In Jeremiah’s plea for a return to the “old paths,” he appeals (either explicitly or implicitly) to several lines of argument, which he hopes will prevail in convincing his erring kinsmen to stand for truth again.

An appeal to their past history

As indicated earlier, the expression “old paths,” or “ancient paths” is **an appeal to history**.

During the course of their ministries, the prophets had repeatedly urged the Hebrews to “remember” the past (**Deut. 16:3; 24:9; Psalms 105:5**).

Nor does the New Testament ignore this principle of motivation. Jesus urged his disciples to “remember” the disobedience of Lot’s wife (**Lk. 17:32**). Compare the admonition to Jewish Christians to remember the “former days” (**Heb. 10:32**).



~Continued on Page 14

The Old Paths: *Obsolete or Pressing Need?*

Peter declares that some Christians never develop because they have not remembered their history, i.e. they have “forgotten” the cleansing from their sins (**2 Pet. 1:9**). Some of us who are older can remember our own history in the church. In days of yore, controversies in the church were mostly matters of disagreement as to what the Scriptures teach, all parties equally reverencing the Bible as a divine production.

Now, numerous professing disciples could not care less about scriptural authority. There was a by-gone era when one could travel the country and have little concern about when he would stop for worship. Many of our young preachers know little, if anything, about restoration history. Those who ignore history are destined to repeat its mistakes.

The consequences of not following the old paths

A second motivation for returning to the “old paths” is the **consequence of not doing so**.

The weeping prophet warned:

“Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts” (Jer. 6:19).

Note that the term “evil” has to do with a **judgment** from the Lord, not moral evil.

Jeremiah thus turns from the past to the future:

“If you don’t reflect upon the lessons of the past, you can, in the future, reap the reward of trusting your own thoughts.” This reference obviously is to the impending captivity. This horror was to come because the people said: “We will not walk therein” (Jer. 6:16c).

Similarly, the New Testament rings with the admonition that a horrible future awaits those who ignore the instructions to walk in the ways prescribed by the Creator.

A stark example is found in 2 Peter, chapter 3. There, the inspired apostle reminds his readers of the great Flood of the distant past, and of the coming destruction of this globe. In view of such, the Christian must be diligent so as to “be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight” (**2 Pet. 3:14**).

Remember God’s law

Further, there is an **entreaty to consider the law of God**. Punishment will come to Judah because she has not “hearkened unto [Jehovah’s] words; and as for [his] **law**, they have rejected it” (**Jer. 6:19**).

Society cannot survive without law, and legal codes existed in abundance in the antique world. The Sumerians (in southern Mesopotamia) had a law system in the 20th century B.C. Hammurabi, 150 years later, initiated a very advanced law code.

It is widely conceded, however, that the Mosaic system was much more elevated in character than the laws of Israel’s heathen neighbors.

Jehovah expected Israel to abide by **his** laws.

There will always be those of the “outlaw” disposition, who choose to do what is right in their “own eyes” (**Jud. 21:25**). There will ever be a need to remind men that they are subject to the **law** of the Creator.

It is an amazing thing that in our day there are those rebels who suggest that as Christians, we are not under law. Rather, in their view, the New Testament is but a mere “love letter” — a volume of suggestions and/or recommendations. **Wrong!**

We are under law to our Sovereign (**Isa. 2:2-4**;

Jer. 31:31-34; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2), who has the **right** to command (**Rom. 9:21**). The call back to the “old paths” is not obsolete.

The old paths are the only paths

Finally, a concluding motivation of returning to the ancient way is that this is the **only avenue** to the rest that is so sought by the weary.

There is considerable parallel, at least in sentiment, between Jeremiah 6:16b and the Savior’s invitation:

“Come unto me ... and I will give you rest” (Mt. 11:28).

There is no genuine rest when one wallows in the muck of rebellion.

A Sad Epitaph

In reading the literature of the pioneers of the American “restoration” heritage, one thrills to the ringing call to return to the “old paths.” Journals incorporated that title, and sermons heralded the familiar petition.

Thousands responded to this message, which was so uniquely in contrast to stale Romanism and Protestantism. It was a glorious time.

Now, the climate of the brotherhood of Christ is chillingly different. A wide variety of protestors ridicule the concept of restoring the old paths — from the halls of our universities and through the pages of religious journals.

It is now urgent that courageous men and women repeat the ancient refrain, “ask for the old paths ... and walk therein”

~Robin Fortner

Finding Our Way

In the history of the American frontier, pioneers built overland trails throughout the 19th century, especially between 1840 and 1847 as an alternative to sea and railroad transport.

These immigrants began to settle much of North America as part of the mass overland migrations of the mid-19th century. Settlers emigrating from the eastern United States did so with various motives.

Among these motives were religious persecution and economic incentives. These motivated these pioneers to move from their homes in the east to destinations further west.

Their routes of travel took them on various trails, such as the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, and the Mormon Trail among several others.

Throughout the history of mankind on earth, man has considered the various pathways available to him to follow toward his destination.

In the history of the earth from the day of God's creation, man has travelled many pathways to arrive at a specific destination.

Those pathways are, of course, physical avenues by which man has always found his way to his destination where he would establish his home, in most cases to work the land which provided physical existence for his family.

In our 21st-century life in these United States, we rarely consider the hardships our ancestors endured to provide the blessings we enjoy nearly 200 years since they trudged through so many hardships to eventually reach their goal.

To 21st-century folks like us, those days are considered the "olden days". It's interesting that my grandchildren and great-grandchildren ask me about the "olden days" as if I actually lived in that time. Of course, those days are considered olden days to them, and I must acknowledge that they were indeed olden days.



Now that brings us not just to olden days, but to "ancient paths."

Ancient Paths in scripture symbolize the timeless truths and divine principles laid down by God.

This call is an invitation to return to a life of obedience, righteousness, and reverence for God.

It is a sad truth that many who claim to be Christians have become distracted by so many new and false teachings that they have deserted these ancient paths. In their place, they have formed new paths that, on the Great Judgement Day will lead, not to eternity with Christ, but to eternity in Hell.

That life of obedience, righteousness, and reverence for God is in direct opposition to the life adopted by multitudes of peoples of the world as they have chosen to follow the contemporary paths of disobedience that lead one astray.

One of the Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah, recognized the pathway those multitudes had chosen to follow.

~Continued on Page 16

Finding Our Way

When we read about the “ancient paths” what we are reading is “the Good Way.” And, of course, the Good Way is God’s Way.

God’s Way instructs us how to live through His Word. God’s Way instructs us about His character and His life. When we walk in His Way we find rest for our souls, peace in trials, and comfort in knowing what He has in store for us – not just for today or tomorrow, but for eternity.

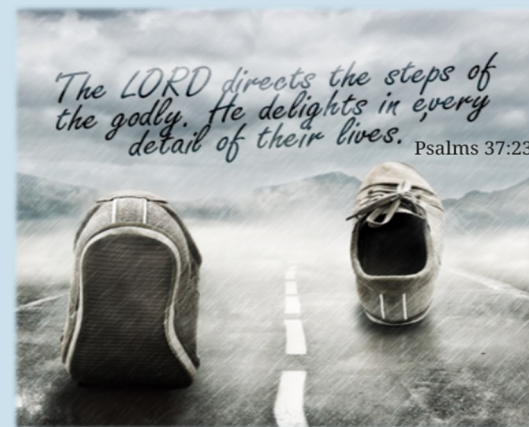
After Jesus was physically on this earth he accomplished His purpose. And when He left the earth, He didn’t leave us without help and support.

He left us with the Holy Spirit to comfort us, to guide us in our daily decisions and actions.

He – the Holy Spirit – is our Guidepost – our Ancient Path. A guidepost may serve as a directional aid to point us in different directions.

For example:

- a sign posted at the square in Princeton may indicate a westward arrow will take us to Mt. Carmel;
- a northward pointing arrow would eventually get us to the town of Patoka;
- an arrow pointing eastward would get us to the metropolis known as Francisco; and an arrow pointing southward will take us to Ft. Branch.



In a similar manner, our Guidepost - the Holy Spirit - points to different paths.

One path is **Selflessness**. Selflessness means, simply, self. When loving God’s way and serving His people are the way we travel, we are in alignment with His perfect will.

Serving others, with a humble and meek manner, is one of our guideposts. Our lives should reflect the life of Christ as servant-leaders. Service to others is always an outpouring of selflessness.

Suffering in our lives is inevitable. Those times of suffering will come. There will be differences from person to person and from time to time. Suffering includes trials, storms, and sometimes giving up something – or someone – we cherish and desire to hold onto.

Sacrifice should be an active path in our lives as Christians. God made that ultimate sacrifice to His creation of humanity. First, to come to the earth in the form of humanity in Jesus, His Son. He sent Him, knowing that the necessary sacrifice would be His Son. That is our pattern of being willing to sacrifice for others in times of need and suffering.

So, understanding that going through trials and storms of life is actually a tool to help us build trust rather than a form of destroying us or the things and persons we hold dear.

These paths: selflessness, service, suffering – and our accepting them as evident in our lives will guide us to another path. That is, to the path of **Spirituality**.

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is vital as we seek to walk upon the Ancient Paths.

It is vital that when we find paths in our lives that do not lead to Christ – we must diligently purge them from our hearts and our lives through the leading of the Holy Spirit to realign ourselves and return our feet to the ancient paths. ~ Gary K Fair

Opportunities To Connect With Us

Sunday School - 9:30 am Crazy Love (Overwhelmed by a Relentless God)

Morning Worship - 10:30 am Dr. Gary Fair

Sunday Prayer Meeting - 5:30 pm Talking to God and Interceding on Behalf of Others

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm The Unfolding Plan of God

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 6:00 pm Saved by Grace *"The Essence of Christianity"*

Monthly Events

Held Every First Sunday Of The Month

•• FRIENDS & FAMILY ••
SUNDAY

Let's all come together and invite our friends and family to join us in worship. It's a great opportunity for visitors to feel at ease as they won't be the only new faces, so they won't feel singled out.

SOS

Serving Our Savior
 Women's Ministry Group

S.O.S Women's Ministry

Meets Every First Tuesday Of The Month at 6 PM
 At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)
 Food Provided



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 LOVING GOD • LOVING OTHERS • LOVING YOU

WatchMen
 Men's Ministry Group

They plotted together to come and fight against us, but we prayed to our God and posted a guard on the wall, both day and night, to meet this threat.
Taken from Nehemiah 4:8-9

WatchMen Men's Ministry

Meets Every Second Saturday Of The Month at 9 AM
 At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)
 (*Manly Sized*) Breakfast Provided

We are delighted to share that we have resumed the tradition of congregating with our fellow Christians on each 5th Sunday in 2024. We had a remarkable experience on Resurrection Sunday evening with those who chose to attend and display their support for Christian unity and fellowship of the brotherhood on such a momentous day.

We hope to see you join us in the future for an uplifting and unifying experience.

Future dates in 2024 are as follows:

- September 29
- December 29



5th Sunday Fellowship Rally

September 29th @ 6:00 PM CST



Princeton Christian Church
219 N Gibson St
Princeton, IN 47670

Guest Evangelist
Scott Sheridan
Director of A.C.R.E
(African Christian Restoration Evangelism)



*A Publication of
Princeton Christian Church*

The Princeton Path **FINDER**

Attention all writers! We are excited to announce that The Princeton PathFinder is now accepting article submissions for our Fall edition. We welcome and encourage all members of the Princeton Christian Church to contribute their work.

This year, our theme is "Ancient Paths," based on the passage in Jeremiah 6:16. We kindly request that all submissions align with this theme. Let your creativity and inspiration flow as you express your thoughts and insights on this topic.

Submitting your article is easy! Just send it to Ron at ron47648@gmail.com, and our Elders will review it. Upon approval, our media team will begin the editing and formatting for the next edition. Your work for the Lord will be used to edify and build up the congregation here locally and quite possibly around the world.

We can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us through you!

In addition, we have decided to offer our newsletters only in digital format due to rising printing costs. If you know someone who would enjoy receiving our newsletter in their inbox, please contact Aaron Jones at aaron.jones.pcc@gmail.com, and we will happily add them to our mailing list.

We appreciate your contribution and look forward to reading your work. Thank you for your continued support of the Princeton Christian Church.



The Princeton Path **FINDER** Ancient Paths

Spring
2024



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD - LOVING OTHERS - LOVING YOU



**GET
IN**

Connect to God through faith in Jesus Christ and to the local Church. We want to help people discover what it means to have life through an authentic connection to God and His Church.



**GROW
UP**

Grow in relationship with God (vertically) and in relationship with other Christ-followers (horizontally). A true sign of life is constant growth. Our hope is that people will learn to know and live in response to God's love.



**GIVE
BACK**

Serve the local church by recognizing and utilizing each person's God-given hardwiring. Our desire is to walk with people in discovering how God has uniquely equipped each one to strengthen Christ's Church and bring joy to their souls.



**GO
OUT**

Reach those far from Christ, locally and globally, with the good news we have in Jesus Christ and inviting them to know and follow Him. Our desire is to equip people so they can confidently declare and demonstrate their faith in Jesus Christ through words and deeds.



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD - LOVING OTHERS - LOVING YOU

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