

Knowing God's Will

Hearing the Guidance of your Advocate Within

The desire to decipher God's Will seems to dominate the thoughts of a growing number of "awakening believers" - those Christians who are no longer satisfied with merely soaking in life's "simple pleasures" and/or obtaining mere "spiritual comfort." Though they have professed Jesus as their personal Savior and believe in the righteousness of their faith, they still find themselves suffering from sadness, boredom, worry and frustration. In addition, they continue to slip regularly into non-Christian behaviors: championing violence, gossiping about their neighbors, condemning non-Christians for "false beliefs", and/or accumulating unnecessary material wealth. Despite their mental "righteousness", these individual's actions seem to show that they are still primarily concerned with their own physical well-being (living "in the flesh"), as opposed to focusing on enhancing the well-Being of others (i.e. living "in Christ").

"See what Love the Father has Given us, that we should be called Children of God, for that is what we are." ~ 1 John 3:1

Many yearn to live a more power-full "Christian" life and yet do not know how to do so. At the same time, they have never relinquished a fundamental hope - a belief that this life is more than a mere "proving ground" for the hereafter; that the Universe (a.k.a. God) has a "deeper purpose" for our existence; and that following God's Will is important Here & Now. In the depths of their Souls, they know that God has "plans" for us - unique gifts that we are each to actualize for the betterment of others. Our job, then, is to discover those gifts and bring them into fruition ...

"The Lord God Guides us; therefore we cannot be disgraced ... He who vindicates us is Within ..." ~ Isaiah 50:7

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed Me."
~ Isaiah 61:1

"Your Kingdom has come, your Will be Done on Earth as It is in Heaven."
~ Jesus (Matthew 6:10 -- see also Luke 17:20-21 in relation to "Heaven")

"He was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him."
~ Jesus in John 9:3

"You will know that I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in You."
~ Jesus (John 14:20)

"But where sin increased, Grace abounded all the more ..." ~ Romans 5:20

"Likewise The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."
~ Romans 8:26

“The Gifts of the Calling of God are irrevocable.” ~ Romans 11:29

“If there is a physical body, there is also a Spiritual body.”
~ 1 Corinthians 15:44

“And *all of us*, with unveiled faces, Seeing the Glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, **are being transformed into the same image - from one degree of Glory to another; for this comes from the Lord.”** ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands ... For in our tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling - and when we remove this tent, we will not be found naked.” ~ 2 Corinthians 5:1-3

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; See, **everything has become new!”** ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

“If we Live by the Spirit, let us also **be Guided by the Spirit.”**
~ Galatians 5:25

“Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.” ~ James 4:8

And yet, little had been offered us by our religious leaders in the form of **practical** methods for aligning our lives with the Bible's professed “Way.” We have not been given clear guideposts to be used to either make the “righteous choice” or know what God’s Will was (and still is) for our lives. We have no methods for accessing the perfect Knowledge of our Advocate Within (what some know as the “conscience” - see [John 14:16-26](#) & [John 15:26](#)). The church, supposedly the keeper of Christian Wisdom, has been teaching us doctrines and principles that cannot be reconciled with the Truth about Jesus’ Way of absolute Love and Forgiveness, much less our own God-Given understanding of Justice and basic Fairness ...

“For the sake of your traditions, you make void the Commandments of God.
You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: This people honors me with their lips, but their Hearts are far from me ...”
~ Jesus in [Matthew 15:6-8](#)

“Who are you, a human being, to argue with God? ... And indeed, [God] says:
Those who are not my people I will call my people, and those who are not beloved I will call beloved ... **They shall all be called Children of God.**”
~ Paul in [Romans 9:20-26](#)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To all who are thirsty, I Give the Gift of water from the Spring of Life. Those who conquer will inherit these things ... Let everyone who is thirsty come. **Let anyone who wishes take the Water of Life as a Gift.”** ~ God in [Revelation 21:6 + 22:17](#)

The church taught us that “non-believers” were damned to Hell for eternity and that God was a God of vengeance, and yet Jesus encouraged us to “Love your enemies ... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful ... Do not condemn and you will not be condemned.” ([Luke 6:35-37](#)). The church taught us that my Salvation came after I mentally professed a faith in Jesus as my “personal Savior”, and yet Jesus himself encouraged us me that “No one is Good but God alone” ([Mark 10:18](#))

and that “If you wish to enter into Life, uphold the Commandments.” (Matthew 19:17). The church taught us that some wars are “justified”, and yet Jesus noted clearly that “Blessed are the Peacemakers.” (Matthew 5:9). The church taught us that Divine Justice was a punishment-based “eye for an eye”, and yet Jesus informed us that “The Father judges no one ...” (John 5:22) and “I desire Mercy, not sacrifice.” (Matthew 12:7). The church quoted (and often still quotes) some of the more violent passages of the Old Testament, and yet the Book of Hebrews makes it quite clear that “In speaking of a New Covenant, [Jesus] has made the first one obsolete.” ~ Hebrews 8:13 (see also 2 Corinthians 3:15-16) ...

Needless to say, this is all somewhat confusing to more than few Christians ...

And so, seeing as how the church seemed to be contradicting some of the more important sayings of Jesus Christ, I decided to extensively study the Bible myself. How happy I became when I read that the Bible itself teaches us that Christians are not to listen to, much less blindly follow, any teachings of men (including church dogma) that contradict Jesus' Way!

“Whoever disobeys even one of the least of these Commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but **whoever Does them and Teaches them** will be called great in the Kingdom ...”

~ Jesus (Matthew 5:19)

“Beware false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **You will Know them by their Fruits ...**”

~ Jesus (Matthew 7:15-16)

“**Something greater than the temple is here ...** For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 12:7-8)

“**Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.**

Let [your religious leaders] alone; they are blind guides for the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into the pit.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 15:13-14)

“Do whatever they Teach you and Follow it; but do not do as they do, for **they do not practice what they teach.**” ~ Jesus (Matthew 23:2-3)

“But you are not to be called Rabbi, for you have one Teacher, and **you are all students.** And call no one your father on earth, for you have only one Father - the One in Heaven.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 23:8-9)

“Woe to you [leaders of the church], for you love to have the seat of honor in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplace. Woe to you, for you are like unmarked graves, with others walking over them without realizing it.”

~ Jesus (Luke 11:43-44)

“And God, who Knows the human Heart, testified to them by Giving them the Holy Spirit ... and in cleansing their Hearts by Faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Why, then, are you putting God to the test *by placing on the neck of others a yoke* that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?”

~ Acts 15:8-10

“The God who made the world and everything in it ... does not live in shrines

made by human hands, **nor is He served by human hands**, as though He needed anything ...” ~ Acts 17:24-25

“As God is for us, who is against us? ... It is God who sets us Free. **Who then is to condemn?**” ~ Romans 8:31-33

“So **let no one boast about human leaders**. For all things are yours ...”
~ 1 Corinthians 3:21-23

“Even Satan disguises himself as an Angel of Light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of Righteousness. **Their ends will match their Deeds.**” ~ 2 Corinthians 11:14-15

“But **the Word of God is not chained.**” ~ 2 Timothy 2:9

“For the time is coming when they will not put up with Sound Doctrine, but ... will **accumulate teachers for themselves who suit their own desires**. They will turn away from The Truth and wander away into myths ...” ~ 2 Timothy 4:3-4

“Everyone who does not abide in the **Teaching** of Christ, but goes beyond It, does not have God ... **Whoever abides in the Teaching has both the Father and the Son.**” ~ 2 John 1:9

And as I continued to re-read the New Testament, hoping to find the answers that my family, my friends, the church and my community had all failed to provide, a “bigger picture” of a “Bigger God” began to take shape. The more I read the Scriptures, the more clearly this all-Loving Force became - a God that does not want us to be subservient at all, but rather desires for us to go boldly forth and Walk the Way using our own unique methods.

“And whoever does not **take up the cross** and Follow Me is not worthy of Me.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 10:38 - see also Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23)

“**Take my yoke upon you** and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in Heart, and you will find rest for your Souls.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 11:29)

“But as for what was sown on good soil, these are the ones who hear the Word and understand It, **who indeed bear fruit ...**”
~ Jesus (Matthew 13:23 - see also Mark 4:20 & Luke 8:15)

“Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 18:18)

“And because of the increase in lawlessness, the Love of many will grow cold. But **the one who endures** to the end will be Saved.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 24:12-13)

“The measure you Give will be the measure you Receive, **and still more will be Given you.**” ~ Jesus (Mark 4:24)

“A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you Give will be the measure you get back.”
~ Jesus (Luke 6:38)

“I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words *and Acts on them.*” ~ Jesus (Luke 6:47)

“Bless rather are those who Hear the Word of God **and adhere to It.**”
~ Jesus (Luke 11:28)

“My food is to Do the Will of Him who sent Me and to **complete His Work.**”
~ Jesus (John 4:34)

“If you **continue in** [i.e. actualize] **my Word**, you are truly my disciples; [only then] will you Know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you Free.”
~ Jesus (John 8:31-32)

“We must **Do the Works of Him** who sent me while it is day, for the night is coming when we cannot Work.” ~ Jesus (John 9:4)

“For this reason the Father Loves me, because I lay down my Life in order to take It up again.” ~ Jesus (John 10:17-18)

“The Works *that I Do* in my Father’s name testify to Me ...”
~ Jesus (John 10:25)

“If you Understand these things, **Blessed are you when you Do them** ... The one who Believes in me will also **Do the Works that I Do** ...”
~ Jesus (John 13:17+14:12)

“**Present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your Spiritual worship.” ~ Romans 12:1

“**Be Doers of the Word**, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves ...”
~ James 1:22

“It is God’s Will that *by Doing Right* you shall silence the ignorance of the foolish.” ~ 1 Peter 2:15

“Make every effort to **support your Faith with Goodness**, and ... Self-Discipline, and ... Endurance, and ... mutual affection, and ... Love. For if these things are yours, they will keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ ... Be all the more eager to confirm your Calling, for if you Do this, you will never stumble. *In this way* entry into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord will be richly provided for you.” ~ 2 Peter 1:5-11

“Whoever says ‘I abide in him’ must **Walk as he Walked.**” ~ 1 John 2:6

“You may be sure that **everyone who Does Right has been Born of Him.**”
~ 1 John 2:29

Appropriately, this article is founded on my years of radically practicing “The Way” - a method of living clearly described by Jesus in the Gospels of the Bible. So often, we read or hear a Truth and make excuses for it. We read that we should “Love our enemies”, and yet assume that means “everyone but terrorists.” We hear that we should not worry and let “today’s troubles

be enough for today”, and yet rationalize that it’s still OK to plan for the future, fill our savings accounts and/or sign legal contracts with others; hoping to guarantee a “security” that God apparently cannot. I, too, used to read the Bible in this manner. I, too, read the words of Jesus and rationalized that they could not be literally applied to my life. Of course, applying his Divine Truths half-heartedly only reaped me half-hearted benefits. I still struggled with feelings of sadness, frustration and Meaninglessness when I did so. It did not comfort me if I was going to Heaven after I died – as that hope seemed selfish. Deep within, I **K**new that there was so much more to this Life and its Living ...

So one day, after reading the New Testament dozens of times (see **Hebrews** 7:18-19, 7:22, 8:6-7, 8:13, and 10:9), I decided to completely give up my old way of “living” and purely Follow Jesus’ advice therein - every verse of it. I identified all of Jesus’ admonitions related to The Way and what walking that Way in Its purest sense entails (see **Matthew** 4:4, 4:7, 4:10, 5:3-11, 5:16, 5:19, 5:39, 5:42, 5:44, 5:48, 6:3, 6:9-13, 6:14, 6:19-20, 6:25, 6:34, 7:1-2, 7:12, 8:20, 10:7-9, 10:12, 12:49-50, 18:4, 18:21-22, 19:21, 19:29, 22:30, 22:36-40, 23:12, 26:39 and **Mark** 1:13, 1:22, 1:35, 10:15, 10:21, 10:29, 11:25, 12:29-31, 12:43-44, 13:10, 14:36 and **Luke** 6:27-31, 6:37, 8:1, 9:5, 11:41, 12:11-12, 12:15, 12:22, 12:33, 14:8-10, 14:33, 17:20-21, 18:17, 18:29-30, 21:4, 22:42, 23:34 and **John** 3:3-8, 7:24, 8:15, 8:50, 10:25, 10:37-38, 12:47, 13:1, 13:34, 14:15, 14:23, 15:4, 15:12, 20:23). To do so, I simply assumed that he had meant *exactly* what was written, and then I acted accordingly ...

On paper, living this way was “dangerous”, “irresponsible” - even “rebellious.” And it took no small measure of courage to actually take that leap of Faith. And yet I made that leap and have been living The Way ever since. And, throughout these recent years, I have never been Happier; never been more Content; and never been more Power-fully Effective in my Life ...

It was (and still is) a Beauty-full Way of Living, filled with Peace and Love and an intimate relationship with God. Along with this deep-seated sense of inner peace, my life “in Christ” has allowed me to re-discover some amazing truths about the Word that are not available to the average church-going Christian. The most important one of these truths is that **God is actively Communicating with us all** in every moment of your lives. Just as important – I realized that we can all hear what God has to say; **We can clearly Know His Will**. And, most importantly of all, you do not need to “walk radically” in order to follow that Will's guidance ...

So, for both those Christians who are already certain of their post-mortem Salvation, as well as those who feel a bit “lost” and yet have not abandoned hope, this article offers an awakening to a “fresh Faith” - a Way of Living *literally* “in Christ.” The grace of God’s Will is His greatest gift, and this epistle shines a clear light upon that grace - a beacon that all Christians can use to illuminate their respective Ways to God; a practical Way to Truth-filled Christian living, and a “hearing aid” which all Christians can use to know God’s Will for their lives ...

“Nothing is covered that will not be uncovered, and **nothing is secret that will not become known.**” ~ Jesus (Matthew 10:26)

“From his fullness **we have all Received, Grace upon Grace.**” ~ John 1:16

“Anyone who resolves to Do the Will of God will Know whether the Teaching is from God ... Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but **the one who Seeks the Glory of Him who sent me is True.**” ~ Jesus (John 7:17-18)

“The Word is near you; on your lips and in your Heart ... Be transformed in the renewing of your minds, so that you may **discern what is the Will of God.**”
~ Romans 10:8+12:2

“For we are God’s servants ... You are God’s field; God’s building ... *Each builder must Choose* with care how to build on [the foundation of God’s Grace] ... Do you not Know that you are God’s Temple, and that **God’s Spirit dwells within you?**” ~ 1 Corinthians 3:9-10+16

“Let each of you lead the Life that the Lord has assigned, to which God Called you.” ~ 1 Corinthians 7:17

“With the eyes of your Heart enlightened, you may come to **Know the Hope to which God has Called you.**” ~ Ephesians 1:18

“Lead a Life worthy of the Calling to which you have been Called ... making every effort to maintain the Unity of the Spirit *in the body of Peace.*”
~ Ephesians 4:1

“**Do the Will of God.** Render Service *with enthusiasm*, as to the Lord and not to mere men and women.” ~ Ephesians 6:6-7

“Therefore my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, **work out your own Salvation with awe and reverence**; for it is God at work in you, enabling you both to intend and to work for his Will.” ~ Philippians 2:12-13

“Indeed, **the Word of God is Living and active** ... It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the Heart.” ~ Hebrews 4:12

“You are Strong, and **the Word of God abides within you.**” ~ 1 John 2:14

“And **the Spirit is the one who testifies**, for the Spirit is the Truth.” ~ 1 John 5:6

Even though living exactly as Jesus lived is obviously a very power-full Way to knowing a sense of perfect contentment, it is not *necessary* to do so to experience the grace of which he speaks. Rather, the truths Jesus preached are general guidelines, designed to allow *everyone* to more effectively design their own paths to Salvation (“Not everyone can accept this Teaching, but only those to whom It is Given ... Let anyone accept It who can.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 19:11-12 & “I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them ...” ~ Jesus in John 12:47). Indeed, to obtain the inner peace of the Kingdom of Heaven, it is only necessary for us to **incorporate** the truths underlying Jesus’ Way into our current lives (“Everyone who Does what is Right is Righteous, just as God is Righteous.” ~ 1 John 3:7 & “Love is from God; everyone who Loves is Born of God and Knows God.” ~ 1 John 4:7) ...

To make this clearer, every sentence that follows is supported by verses of Scripture (well over **400** of them!), showing clearly that what I have experienced (and am now professing) is not merely “my idea”, but rather a more representative way to both honor the Word of God and to worship the Way of Jesus Christ ...

Step One: Choosing to Hear God’ s Will for your Self

Considering the quagmire of conflicting opinions in the Christian community with regards to what The Way actually entails, what Jesus really meant (“Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.” ~ Matthew 13:34 & “The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but will show you plainly of the Father.” ~ Jesus in John 16:25), and what it means to “be a good Christian”, we are fortunate that the Bible clearly tells us that we must each decide for ourselves what the Will of God is for our lives ...

“Ask, and it will be given you; **search, and you will find**; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:7)

“Every scribe trained for the Kingdom of Heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his Treasure *what is new and what is old.*”
~ Jesus (Matthew 13:52)

“And why do you not **judge for yourself what is Right?**”
~ Jesus (Luke 12:57)

“These Jews were more receptive ... for they welcomed the message very eagerly and **examined the Scriptures every day to See** whether these things were true.” ~ Acts 17:11

“The Faith that you have, **have as your own conviction** before God.”
~ Romans 14:22

“I speak as to sensible people; **judge for yourselves what I say.**”
~ 1 Corinthians 10:15

“For why should our liberty be subject to another’s conscience?”
~ 1 Corinthians 10:29

“**Examine yourselves**, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”
~ 1 Corinthians 11:28

“If we judge ourselves, we will not be judged.” ~ 1 Corinthians 11:31

“**Examine yourselves to see whether you are Living in the Faith.** Test yourselves.” ~ 2 Corinthians 13:5

“**All must test their own Work** ... For all must carry their own loads.”
~ Galatians 6:4-5

“If any of you is lacking in Wisdom, **ask God**, who Gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and understanding will be Given to You.” ~ James 1:5

“Do not believe every Spirit, but **test their teachings to know if they are of God.**” ~ 1 John 4:1

General Guidance: Listening to your Advocate Within

First of all, it is quite clear, both from reading the Bible over and over again, as well as from putting its Truths into practice, that **the Advocate of John 14 is real**; an actual “Moral Compass” residing within each of us. Whether we label it our “conscience”, the “Advocate” or

the “Spirit of Truth” is irrelevant. This “larger voice” is within us all; constantly guiding us towards repentance from the past, righteousness in the moment and thereby Salvation in the here-and-hereafter. And it is not only our personal experience that confirms this Truth. The Bible itself repeatedly expresses this point as well ...

“And I will ask my Father, and he will Give you **another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth** ... you Know It, because **It abides with you and It will be Within you** ... This Advocate, the Holy Spirit, ... will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said ... When It comes to you, ... this Spirit of Truth, which comes from the Father, **will testify on my behalf.**”

~ Jesus (John 14:16-17+26 & John 15:26)

“When [those] who do not possess the Law do instinctively what the Law requires, ... they show that **what the Law requires is written on their Hearts** ...”

~ Romans 2:14-15

“**Become obedient from the Heart** to the Teaching to which you were entrusted.” ~ Romans 6:17

“For I delight in **the Law of God in my inmost Self** ...” ~ Romans 7:22

“These mysteries God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for **the Spirit searches everything - even the depths of God.**” ~ 1 Corinthians 2:10

“Those who are Spiritual **discern all things**, and they themselves are subject to no one else’s scrutiny.” ~ 1 Corinthians 2:15

“Now concerning Love for others, ... **you yourselves have been taught by God** to Love one another ...” ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:9

“The anointing that you received from Him abides in you [see John 14:16-26 above], and **you do not need anyone to Teach you.**” ~ 1 John 2:27

Testing your Choices: Using your actions’ “fruits” as Guideposts

So, it is clear that we **do** always **Know** what our Life-Mission is. Even if only on an intuitive level, we do **Know** which course of Action we can take to better satisfy God’s Will. But how are we to determine what this internal voice is telling us? Fortunately, Jesus himself gave us the most accurate method for determining God’s Will in our lives - looking at the consequences (i.e. the “fruits”) of our actions. Those actions that bring us peace and enable Love to flourish (both for ourselves and, more importantly for those around us) are in Harmony with God’s Will. And those that do not, are not ...

“Every Good Tree bears Good Fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A Good Tree cannot bear ad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear Good Fruit ... **for the tree is known by its fruit.**” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:17-18+12:33)

“The Good person out of the Good Treasure produces Good, and the evil

person out of the evil treasure produces evil ... **Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.**" ~ Jesus (Luke 6:45+7:35)

"If I am not Doing the Works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I Do them, even though you do not believe me, **Believe the Works**, so that you may Know and Understand that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father."
~ Jesus (John 10:37)

"If a plan or undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, no one can overthrow it ..." ~ Acts 5:38-39

Making Decisions: God's Will and the 9 "Fruits of the Spirit"

The Advocate within (a.k.a. the conscience) always encourages us to act in ways that are in alignment with guidance constantly provided by the Holy Spirit. Any choice that we make in our lives resonates either harmoniously or discordantly with this underlying awareness (a.k.a. "God's Will"). Of course, the afore-mentioned, more general ways of **Knowing God's Will** can be a bit difficult to apply. Fortunately, Jesus gives us the following, more specific standard through which we can **Know** if we are acting in harmony with the Will of the Father:
-- namely, whether or not our actions produce the "Fruits of the Spirit."

"The Kingdom of God is Given to those who produce the Fruits of the Spirit." ~ Jesus (Matthew 21:43)

And Paul blesses us further by specifically listing the nine aspects of this Holy Fruit ...

"The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-discipline." ~ Galatians 5:22-23

Thus, for Christians who believe that the Bible directly reflects God's Word, every choice that is power-fully in alignment with God's Will must be **Peace-full, Patient, Generous, Kind, Loving, Self-Disciplined, Gentle, Joyful** and **Faith-full**. Indeed, every Right Action must embody these nine characteristics - allWays bringing us and those around us an intimate experience of bliss and contentment. These nine traits of "correctness" exemplify our true "Life Missions." In essence, they reflect God's Will for our lives ...

I took it upon myself over the last several years to radically apply these nine Truths to my own life. It came as no small surprise that, whenever I had the courage to do so, they **allWays** functioned for enhanced peace in my life; they allWays furthered Love in all of my relationships; they allWays emPowered my choices; they allWays strengthened my connection with God. And so I have dedicated the rest of my life to spreading this "Good News" to all who have both the "ears" (i.e. the Humility) to hear this message and the "legs" (i.e. the Courage) to apply its Loving Way ...

In order to produce the "Fruits of the Spirit" in your life, their deeper meanings must be comprehended. And in order to understand them, they must be experienced. And in order to experience them, they must be actively applied to everyday living. And in order to apply them appropriateky, they must be redefined ...

Thus, every one of these nine characteristics is expounded upon below and every one of their explanations is supported by numerous references to **Scripture**. Initially, the characteristic in question is stated simply and described. Then, in the section labeled “clarifications”, some of the common misconceptions related to the characteristic are explained. Thirdly, in the section labeled “synopsis”, the characteristic’s qualities are concisely summarized. Fourthly, in the section labeled “determining factor”, a key question(s) is isolated with regards to applying the characteristic in any decision-making process. Finally, each characteristic’s explanation is substantiated by a collection of additional Biblical verses ...

So, without further ado, the Nine Characteristics of God’s Will:

The 1st Characteristic: God’s Will is Peace-full

① **God’s Will is allWays Peace-full** (column #1 in the example-charts below) and stems from the inner peace that is felt in our personal relationship with the Father. God’s Will is not something “difficult” or “impossible” to follow. Rather, even if our ego-minds and political leaders would have us believe otherwise, doing the Will of the Holy Spirit is our *natural* State of Being. The “True Path” is always one of simplicity (“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me ... and you will find Rest for your Souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 11:29-30). Thus, more often than not, God’s Will wishes for us to engage life on an intimate, personal level - and this often results in actions that we undertake alone in solitude and can fulfill without the assistance of others (“Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father in secret ...” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:6) ...

Peace-full choices, by their nature, encourage us to be at Peace; with a calm mind and in calm surroundings (“It is to Peace that God has Called us.” ~ 1 Corinthians 7:15). This inner Peace is grounded in the acceptance of what allReady IS (“We know that all things work together for Good for those who Love God; who are Called according to His Purpose.” ~ Romans 8:28). Thus, Peace-full choices are those that attempt to do something with what allReady exists, as opposed to striving to change the status quo into “something better.” Personal decisions work with what IS, as opposed to striving to create what “should be” (“And why do you worry? ... Consider the lilies of the field, how they Grow; they neither toil nor spin, and yet even Solomon is all his glory was not clothed like one of these ... Strive first for the Kingdom of God ... and all [your material concerns] will be provided as well.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:28-29+33). This acceptance is strengthened when we choose to repent our own mistakes and forgive others who have done us harm (“Bear Fruits worthy of repentance” ~ Luke 3:8 & “Forgive us our trespasses, as we Forgive those who trespass against us.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:12) ...

Clarifications: Peace-full is not to be confused with “isolationist.” Even though a particular action is more power-full when effectuated in solitude, this does not mean that you

must emotionally isolate yourself while performing any action (“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 18:20). Socially interactive options are not “wrong.” It is totally acceptable and often right to collaborate with, work amongst and/or engage the assistance of others. It is simply the case that the solitary option is the one you undertake without assistance from others, regardless of whether you are working among them or alone. It is the most power-full option; the one requiring the most faith and thus, the one most in harmony with God’s Will for your life (“And Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted ... Then, filled with the Power of the Spirit, he returned to Galilee ...” ~ Luke 4:1-2+14 see also Matthew 7:21, 8:18, 8:20, 9:1, 10:14, 10:22, 12:15, 13:1, 14:13, 14:23, 15:21, 15:29, 16:21, 16:24, 17:1, 19:1-2, 19:29, 20:17-18, 24:3, 24:40, 26:36-39 and Luke 4:42, 5:3, 6:12, 9:23, 9:36, 9:58, 12:51, 13:24, 14:26, 16:15, 18:29-30, 19:28, 21:37, 22:42, 23:34) ...

That others do not follow your way does not make them “wrong” or even “sinners” - that is not for us to judge (“God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean.” ~ Acts 10:28). Rather, our desire as Christians must be to help others to help their Selves along *their* paths back to God. Remember to be humble and gentle with everyone, for this is The Way (“The Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome, but rather Kind to everyone; and apt Teacher, patient; Guiding [even] opponents with gentleness.” ~ 2 Timothy 2:24-25) ...

Some will say that this definition seems “distant” or “passive” - that we cannot help others when acting individually. Yet we must re-member that it is not possible to ever “help” another to “get better” (“If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 10:14 & “When they heard this, they were filled with rage ... But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went on his Way.” ~ Luke 4:28-30). We can only offer true assistance to others while being true to God’s Will. We can only be truly compassionate with others when we are not determined to change them or judge their chosen Ways (“First say ‘Peace to this house’, and if anyone is there who shares in Peace, your Peace will rest upon that person, but if not, your Peace will return to you.” ~ Jesus in Luke 10:5-6) ...

Additionally, even though Peace-full actions must be forgiving, their forgiveness in no way condones or encourages the “evil” that has been forgiven. Forgiveness brings us Peace by accepting whatever has happened and letting God do the judging thereof (“Beloved never avenge yourselves ... for it is written: Vengeance is mine saith the Lord.” ~ Romans 12:19 & “Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? God will judge those outside.” ~ 1 Corinthians 5:12 & “He will repay according to each one’s deeds ... For God shows no partiality.” ~ Romans 2:6+11). Forgiveness brings us Peace by giving Love to those who need it the most (“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath, ... together with all malice. Be Kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God has Forgiven you.” ~ Ephesians 4:31-32). Forgiveness does not keep us from being just or defending the weak. Rather, it allows us to do Good against the wrong that others perpetrate without condemning the wrongdoer in the process. It allows us to be compassionate towards the pain that caused these “perpetrators” to behave poorly in the first place (“If you Forgive the sins of any, they are Forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ~ Jesus in John 20:23) ...

Likewise, an action that is direct, and therefore “simple”, is not necessarily “easy.” Often, the greatest challenge and/or the most complicated alternative will provide the doer with the most Peace - as long as that task is actualized in a personal way (“No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” ~ 1 Corinthians 10:13). The Bible is filled with admonitions for us to persevere through hardship, disappointment

and disillusionment (“Be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer.” ~ Romans 12:12). So, Peace-full actions are not necessarily those bringing us the most pleasure. Rather, they are the choices most in harmony with God’s Will (i.e. loving, selfless service), thereby bringing us the most Peace *while* performing them (not necessarily beforehand) ...

Finally, merely because an action Inspires inner Peace, it in no way makes that choice a “boring” one. In fact, there are many options in each moment that can be simultaneously “right” and exciting (“I have said these things to you that my Joy might be in you, and that your Joy might become complete ...” ~ Jesus in John 15:11). Joyful actions bring as much inner Peace as calm ones. It is not *what* we are doing that satisfies God’s Will, but rather *why* we have chosen to engage a particular action that determines its importance and its “holiness” - indeed, its effectiveness as well (“Be Wise in what is Good and guileless in what is evil.” ~ Romans 16:19) ...

Synopsis: Peace-full Actions are personal and bring a sense of inner calm **while** performed ... They are individually performed, soothing to the self and accepting of others.

Determining Factor: During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Does this particular option cause strife or does it inspire Peace? Does it require external assistance to be effective or can it be actualized directly by mySelf?”

Additional Scripture:

“There was a great wind ... but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and *after the fire the sound of sheer silence*. When Elijah heard [that silence], he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. **Then** there came a Voice to him ...” ~ 1 Kings 19:11-13

“**I desire Mercy, not sacrifice.**” ~ God (Matthew 9:13)

“If a brother sins against me, how often should I forgive -- as many as seven times? Jesus said to him: [Forgive] not seven, but seventy times seven times.”
~ Matthew 18:21-22

“[God] is Kind to both the ungrateful and the sinful. **Be merciful**, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned. **Forgive** and you will be Forgiven ...”
~ Jesus (Luke 6:36-37)

“So he set off and went to his Father. Yet while he was still far off, his Father saw him and was filled with Compassion; [His Father then] ran out and put his arms around the son and kissed him [*before* the son had a chance to repent!].”
~ Jesus (Luke 15:20)

“**Father, Forgive them, for they know not what they do.**”
~ Jesus (Luke 23:34)

“Peace I leave with you; **my Peace I Give to you.**” ~ Jesus (John 14:27)

“I have said this all to you, so that, by Following my Way, you might **find Peace.**” ~ Jesus (John 16:13)

“While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed ... Then he knelt down and cried out in aloud voice: Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” ~ Acts 7:59-60

“**For God is a God not of disorder but of Peace.**” ~ 1 Corinthians 14:33

“**Live in Peace**, and the God of Love and Peace will be with You.”
~ 2 Corinthians 13:11

“**And the Peace of God ... will guard your Hearts and Minds ...**”
~ Philippians 4:7

“**Comfort your Hearts** and strengthen them in every Good Work and word.”
~ 2 Thessalonians 2:17

“For judgment will be without Mercy to anyone who has shown no Mercy;
Mercy triumphs over judgment.” ~ James 2:12-13

“A Harvest of Righteousness is sown in Peace *for those who make Peace.*”
~ James 3:18

The 2nd Characteristic: God’ s Will is Patient

① **God’s Will is allWays Patient** (column #2 in the example-charts below), making your actions conscious as opposed to reactionary (“Be Alert; I have already told you everything ... And what I say to you I say to everyone: Keep Awake.” ~ Jesus in Mark 13:23+37). The Way encourages us to pro-actively participate in life by making choices and then *consciously* performing them. Our ego-based personality, on the other hand, tempts us to retreat and hide from bold, intimate decisions (“The ones on rock are those who ... have no root; believing only mentally and falling away [from the Word] in times of testing ... But as for those in the Good Soil, these are the ones who, when they Hear the Word, they hold it fast in an honest and Good Heart, **and then bear Fruit with patient endurance.**” ~ Jesus in Luke 8:13+15). This “small self” encourages us to believe either that we have no choice at all or that we should wait to choose. Harmonious options, on the other hand, are active, not passive (“But those who look into the Perfect Law - the Law of Liberty - and persevere, being not mere hearers who forget but Doers who Act, they will be **Blessed in their Doing.**” ~ James 1:25). Divine Patience is applicative, not analytical ...

Clarifications: While divine Patience is clearly active, it is not to be confused with choices that are “impulsive” or “rushed.” It is not the traditional “patience” that encourages us to wait for a “better time” to act or prepare for a “more important alternative” in the future. True Patience, rather, encourages us to do in each moment what is allReady on hand to do (“**Be Ready for every Good Work**” ~ Titus 3:1). Of course, “doing what there is to do” does not mean reacting to what happens to us -- reacting is not choosing. Patient actions are not only thought and felt - they are *consciously* decided, in that they are thought-through before they are actualized (“Everyone then who hears these words **and** acts on them will be like a wise man who built his House on stone.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:24)). The ego reacts with self-centered sinning while the Soul allWays pauses long enough to choose to do Good despite those lusts and fears (“Consider yourselves dead to sin and Alive to God.” ~ Romans 6:10-11) ...

Finally, the activeness of divine Patience has nothing to do with being “productive” or

“busy”; labels implying that our efforts must be validated as “acceptable” by others (“It is the same with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.” ~ James 1:11). In actuality, the opposite is true, as our actions are right (i.e. in Harmony with God’s Will) or “wrong” (i.e. discordant with that Will) irrespective of their externally judged effects (“You are servants of whomever you serve; either of sin, which leads to death, or of Giving, which leads to Righteousness.” ~ Romans 6:16 & “Whatever does not proceed from Faith is sin.” ~ Romans 14:23). In fact, it is integral to our lives that we act lovingly -- especially when judged incorrectly by others (“When reviled, we Bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly.” ~ 1 Corinthians 4:12-13) ...

Synopsis: Patient actions are pro-active (i.e. purpose-fully chosen) ...

They are consciously enacted, grounded in the present and Relaxed in their completion.

Determining Factor: During Decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option passive or does it encourage me to act? Is it being made consciously or is it reactive?”

Additional Scripture:

“Do you not say ‘Four months more, then comes the Harvest’? But I tell you, look around you and See how **the fields are Now ripe** for harvesting.”

~ Jesus (John 4:35)

“It is not for you to know the times or the periods that the Father has set by His own Authority.” ~ Acts 1:7 [i.e. Just Do It!]

“I do not shrink from Doing **anything** Help-full ...” ~ Acts 20:20

“Or do you despise the riches of His Kindness and *forbearance* and **patience**? Do you not realize that God’s Kindness is meant to lead you to return to His Way?”

~ Romans 2:4

“**Now more than ever**, make use of your present condition.”

~ 1 Corinthians 7:21-22

“I stay ... because a door for effective Work has opened to Me ...”

~ 1 Corinthians 16:9

“If we are being afflicted, it is for ... consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for ... peace, which you experience when you **patiently endure** the same sufferings that we are also suffering.” ~ 2 Corinthians 1:6

“*Whenever we have an opportunity*, let us **Work for the Good of all**.”

~ Galatians 6:10

“Observe my Teaching, my conduct, my Purpose, my Faith, my **patience**, my Love, my *steadfastness* ...” ~ 2 Timothy 3:10

“Proclaim the Message; be *persistent* regardless of whether the time is favorable or unfavorable ... Encourage others **with the utmost patience**.”

~ 2 Timothy 4:2

“**Be temperate**, ... prudent and sound in Faith, with Love and *endurance*.”

~ Titus 2:2

“[Be] imitators of those who, **through Faith and Patience**, inherit the promises.”

~ Hebrews 6:12

“You know that the testing of your *Faith produces endurance*; and **let endurance have its full effect**, so that you may be mature and complete ...”

~ James 1:3-4

“**Be patient**, therefore ... [as] the farmer who waits for the precious crop from the earth; *tending it* until it receives both the early and the late rains.” ~ James 5:7

“You must also **be patient**. Strengthen your Hearts, for the Lord is at hand.”

~ James 5:8

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, but rather is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance ... Therefore, ... strive to *be Found by Him at Peace* ... and **regard the patience of our Lord as Salvation**.” ~ 2 Peter 3:9+14-15

The 3rd Characteristic: God’s Will is Generous

① **God’s Will is allWays Generous** (column #3 in the example-charts below). The “True Path” is selfless and serving of others. “Sin-full” action, on the other hand, is self-centered and serves one’s self. Right Action gives while “wrong action” takes away. God’s Will desires for us to create by furthering Love, rather than destroy by enhancing fear. Divine Generosity is the cheerful giving (1 below) of more than is expected (2 below), in ways other than desired (3 below), with no motivation for personal benefit (4 below), for those judged “least deserving” (5 below) (“When you have Done all that you should Do, say ‘We are servants and have Done only what ought to have been Done’” ~ Jesus in Luke 17:10) ...

(1) “Each of you must Give as you have made up your mind to Give, not reluctantly or under any compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful Giver**.” ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

(2) “Woe to you ... for you tithe mint, dill and cumin, and yet have neglected *the weightier matters of the Law: Justice and Mercy and Faith*.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 23:23

(3) “If you have bitter envy *or selfish ambitions* in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the Truth. Such wisdom does not come from Above, but is earthly and unspiritual ...” ~ James 3:14-15

(4) “**One sows and another reaps**.” ~ Jesus in John 4:37

(5) “Love your enemies and **Give expecting nothing in return**. Your reward will be great, and you will be Children of the Most High ...” ~ Jesus (Luke 6:35-36)

Clarifications: Initially, “generosity” is not to be confused with “charity” or mere “tithing.” True giving is intimate; something that the mere donation of money cannot engender (“So Give for alms those things that are within you; and see, everything will be made Clean for you.” ~ Jesus in Luke 11:41). Refrain from merely “giving” of things and instead give of your time (“From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” ~ Jesus in Luke 12:48), your service (“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the Law of Christ.” ~ Galatians 6:2) and your Self (“Each [person] has a particular Gift from God, one having one kind and another a different kind.” ~ 1 Corinthians 7:7 & “We have Gifts that differ according to the Grace given us [at birth].” ~ Romans 12:8) ...

The most power-full way to do anything meaning-fully is to do it anonymously and do it “for free” (“So whenever you Give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do .. so that they may be praised by others ... But when you Give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right

hand is Doing.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:2-3). Simply stated, your Life-Purpose is found where your most power-full giving meets your environment’s most intense needs ...

Likewise, divine Generosity does not always mean “help” or even “assistance.” True giving must be done with the *sincere belief* that the receiving party’s personal way will be enhanced by the giving act (“Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks. Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 18:7). Whether or not Peace actually ensues is irrelevant, and yet the intention of the giver must be pure in this regard. You can “help” another commit suicide, and yet this is clearly not a service to them (“When you come together, [Know that every person] has a hymn or a Lesson or a revelation or an interpretation. Let all things be Done for building up.” ~ 1 Corinthians 14:26). Similarly, it is arrogant to “know” what is best for another – just as it is counterproductive to attempt to “rescue” them (“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are setting your mind not on Divine things but on human things.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 16:23). Instead, simply Choose to be generous towards others without expectation (“I do not condemn anyone who hears my word and yet does not keep them; for I came not to condemn the world, but to offer it Salvation.” ~ Jesus in John 12:47)...

Finally, true giving need not be an action that is “large” or “powerful” or even “effective.” When your intentions are selfless, the “smallest” of actions have the most power-full results (“This poor widow has put in more than all of them, for they have contributed from their abundance, while she out of her poverty has Given all she had.” ~ Jesus in Luke 21:3-4). Living in a society that encourages us to fear one another and in bodies that are constantly worrying whether a stranger is “friend or foe”, it is power-full Right Action to simply be generous of your Self (“There is no fear in Love, but rather perfect Love casts out fear ...” ~ 1 John 4:18). It is helpful to remember (and then re-member) that we are all brothers and sisters of one another; that all man-made nationalities, creeds and titles (including “enemy” and “friend”) are not of God (“There is one body and one Spirit ... one God and one Father of all; Who is above all and through all and within all.” ~ Ephesians 4:4-6) ...

Synopsis: Generous Actions are Kind to others ...

They are selflessly giving, intimate in completion & self-sacrificial in intention.

Determining Factor: During Decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option a self-centered or a selfless One? Am I engaging this Choice to obtain a benefit therefrom or rather to Serve another?”

Additional Scripture:

“Store up Treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves cannot break in to steal. For where your Treasure is, there your Heart will Be also.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 6:20-21)

“If any of you put a stumbling block before [another], it would be better for you if ... you were drowned in the sea.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 18:6)

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and *servant of all.*”
~ Jesus (Mark 9:35)

“Whoever wishes to be great among you must be a Servant, and whoever

wishes to be first among you must *become as a slave for all*. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to Serve, and to **Give his entire Life** as a ransom for many.” ~ Jesus (Mark 10:43-45)

“Do not work for the food that perishes, but rather for the food that endures for eternal Life ...” ~ Jesus (John 6:27)

“Those who love their own life will lose that Life, and those who disregard their own Life in this world will have Life for Eternity.” ~ Jesus (John 12:25)

“**Do not give as the world gives.**” ~ Jesus, paraphrased in John 14:27

“**It is more Blessed to Give than to Receive.**” ~ Jesus (quoted in Acts 20:35)

“**Extend hospitality to strangers.**” ~ Romans 12:13

“Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor with their own hands, so as to have something to **share with the needy.**” ~ Ephesians 4:28

“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it *as if Doing it for the Lord* and not your masters.” ~ Colossians 3:23

“They are to Do Good, to **be rich in Good Works**; generous and ready to share ... so that they may take hold of the Life that really is Life.” ~ 1 Timothy 6:18-19

“They profess to Know God, but they deny Him by their actions ... They are unfit *for any Good Work.*” ~ Titus 1:16

“Ground that drinks up the rain falling on it and that then produces a crop *useful to those for whom it was cultivated*, Receives a Blessing from the Lord.”
~ Hebrews 6:7

“Every generous Act of Giving, with **every perfect Gift, is from Above**, coming down from the Father of Lights, *with* whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” ~ James 1:17

“Religion that is pure, and undefiled before God the Father, is this: to Care for orphans and widows ... and to **keep oneself unstained by the world.**”
~ James 1:27

“Do not Love the world or the things of the world. *The Love of the Father is not in those who Love the world*; for all that is in the world - the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches - comes not from the Father but from the world.” ~ 1 John 2:15-16

The 4th Characteristic: God’ s Will is Kind

0 **God's Will is allWays Kind** (column #4 in the example-charts below). Kindness cannot exist without *choosing* to be kind. Truth does not only serve to free your life from the prison of ignorance. It also liberates you from behaviors that shackle the free will necessary to choose that Kindness (remember: "The Truth will make You Free." ~ Jesus in John 8:32). Any act done out of obligation cannot be simultaneously done out of Love, and thus cannot reflect God's Will for your life. This is not to say that you should ignore all current promises and obligations. Indeed, always strive to honor the commitments you make. And yet, any action that is *based in* duty, obligation, responsibility, commitment and/or a conforming to societal expectations (i.e. what is "normal") cannot simultaneously be in harmony with your Life Mission ("I preferred to do nothing without your consent, that your Good Deed might be voluntary and not something forced." ~ Philemon 1:14 & "Though I am Free with respect to everyone, I have made myself a servant of all ..." ~ 1 Corinthians 9:19) ...

In addition, when we are free, we inherently open ourSelves to being grateful for our lives as they allReady are ("Rejoice always and pray without ceasing; Give thanks in all circumstances - for this is the Will of God." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). The miracle that is our conscious, human life is more than enough for anyone to be thankful. For the kind person, the man or woman who is free to choose this gratitude, the critical question in any moment becomes not "How is Life treating me?", but rather "How am I treating Life?" ("I had heard of [God] by the hearing of my ear, but now my eye Sees [Him] ..." ~ Job 42:5). Awaken to the truths that life is allWays treating us well, and that contentment becomes real when we begin to actualize our innate abundance via a professed thankfulness for what we already have -- as opposed to wishing for what we do not ("Already you have all you desire. Already you are Wealthy." ~ 1 Corinthians 4:8) ...

The following are some "express lanes to Salvation" - actions that efficiently allow anyone engaging them to experience God's Will via kindness: Be Kind to "strangers" you encounter (by making eye contact, smiling and offering them assistance -- "Remember to show hospitality to all strangers, for some have thereby entertained angels unawares" ~ Hebrews 13:2);

Be Kind to the elderly in your neighborhood (by visiting retirement homes and listening to those who live there -- "Let your gentleness be known to everyone." ~ Philippians 4:5);

Be Kind to the downtrodden i.e. the poor, the homeless, the ill and the imprisoned) in your community (by visiting shelters, hospitals and/or prisons to listen and to care -- "For I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was ill and you Cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me ... Just as you Do these things for the least of my brothers, so also you Do them for me." ~ Jesus in Matthew 25:35-36+40);

Be Kind to all children in your life (by gettin involved with local youth leagues, volunteering for a Big Brother/Big Sister program, or spending regular Quality-Time with your own kids -- "Whosoever welcomes one child in my name welcomes me." ~ Jesus in Matthew 18:5);

Be Kind to the animals around you (by going to your local animal shelter and being loving to those animals next in line for euthanasia - "Holy is the Lord of Hosts. Everything on the earth is full of His Glory." ~ Isaiah 6:3 & "In His hand is the Life of every living thing ..." ~ Job 12:10 & "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's Sight." ~ Jesus in Luke 12:6) ...

Clarifications: "Free" is not to be confused with "selfish" or "inconsiderate" ("All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but rather that of the other." ~ 1 Corinthians 10:23-24). Freedom is not the right to do whatever we wish, but rather the right to serve others, in any and all ways that harmonize with Who we truly Are ("For you were Called to Freedom, only do not use your Freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through Love become servants of one another." ~ Galatians 5:13). It means nothing to be "free" if that liberty is used

callously (“Take care that your Liberty does not become a stumbling block to the weak.” ~ 1 Corinthians 8:9) ...

Similarly, being Kind does not exempt us from the benefits of being Self-disciplined. It merely encourages us to be *voluntarily* disciplined as opposed to “doing right” because we “should” do so (“God’s Kindness is meant to lead [us] to repentance ... When [those] who do not possess the Law [still] Do instinctively what the Law requires, they ... show that what the Law requires is written on their Hearts ...” ~ Romans 2:4+14-15) ...

Finally, The gratitude of Self-discipline is not “masochistic.” Choosing to be thank-full for life’s challenges does not mandate that you wish for *more* pain in your life; merely that you choose to appreciate the opportunities present in the difficulties you happen to encounter (“Nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.” ~ Romans 14:14). Regardless of what you do, pain will come into your life - you need not yearn for its arrival. The question, then, is not whether pain is on its way or not, but rather what we will choose to do with our discomforts when they do arrive. It is possible (indeed, preferable) to choose to See all difficulties, discomforts and pains as challenges as opposed to “catastrophes” or “tragedies” (“Endure everything with patience, while Joy-fully Giving Thanks to the Father.” ~ Colossians 1:11-12). In short, instead of selfishly complaining about life’s pain-full times, choose to use those moments to be power-fully kind to others (“To the pure, all things are pure.” ~ Titus 1:15) ...

Synopsis: Kind Actions are unfettered by external influences or personal desires ...
They are free, thank-full and completely voluntary.

Determining Factor: During Decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option duty-based or can it be freely made? Is it motivated by gratitude for my life or does it tempt me to yearn for “something better”?”

Additional Scripture:

“Do not judge by appearances, but evaluate with sound discernment.”
~ Jesus (John 7:24)

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are Children of God. For we did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **we have Received a Spirit of Adoption.**” ~ Romans 8:14-15

“Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. **Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.**” ... ~ Romans 14:5

“If I **partake with thankfulness**, how can I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks?” ~ 1 Corinthians 10:30

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.**” ~ 2 Corinthians 3:17

“For I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities ... for whenever [my flesh is] weak, then I [can choose to be] Strong.”
~ 2 Corinthians 12:10

“But now that Faith has come, **we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.**”

~ Galatians 3:25

“Just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born of the Spirit, so it is Now also ... **For Freedom Christ has set us Free.** Stand firm, therefore, and *submit never again* to a yoke of slavery.”

~ Galatians 4:29+5:1

“Whatever is True, whatever is honorable, whatever is Just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable; if there is any excellence and **if there is anything [in your lives] worthy of praise, think about these things.**”

~ Philippians 4:8

“There is great gain in godliness combined with Contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will **be Content** with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless desires ...” ~ 1 Timothy 6:6-8

“God disciplines us for our benefit, that we may then share in his holiness.”

~ Hebrews 12:10

“**Pursue Peace with everyone ...**” ~ Hebrews 12:14

“Since we have received a Kingdom that cannot be shaken [see Luke 17:20-21], let us **Give Thanks.**” ~ Hebrews 12:28

“As Servants of God, **live as Free people,** yet do not use your Freedom as a pretext for evil. **Honor everyone.**” ~ 1 Peter 2:16-17

The 5th Characteristic: God's Will is Loving

① **God's Will is allWays Loving** (column #5 in the example-charts below). Actions in harmony with The Way further Love by being caring - always intending to cause no harm to others while simultaneously desiring the lessening of their burdens (“For the whole Law is summed up in one Commandment: You shall Love your neighbor as yourself.” ~ Galatians 5:14). Fear-based actions, on the other hand, are self-centered; intending to further one's own survival, and often both producing pain and enhancing fear (“But even if you do suffer from Doing what is Right, you are Blessed. Do not fear what others fear, and do not be intimidated” ~ 1 Peter 3:14). We have not been called to a life of ease and comfort, but rather to a life of forgiveness and service (“Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also ... Love your enemies ... so that you may Become Children of your Father in Heaven.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 5:39+44-45) ...

Clarifications: Being loving is not to be confused with “pacifism.” Kindness is not effectuated by “giving in” to another’s wishes, but rather by actively giving to them (often *regardless* of what their wishes might be). Capitulation to another’s desires often entrenches their dysfunctional behaviors, and this is not caring, nor is it compassionate (“*Love does no wrong to another; therefore, Love is the fulfillment of the Law.*” ~ Romans 13:10). To be truly loving to another, we must often be strong enough to so the *Right* act, as opposed to the action that is wished for – and we must often do so even when our own friends might be unintentionally angered by those choices (“*For those who want to save their own life will lose it, and those who Give their Life for the Way will Find Life.*” ~ Jesus (Matthew 16:25)). Have faith in others’ strength of character. Avoid attempting to “help” them, and simply be kind to them instead (“*Endure when you Do Right and suffer for it ... For to this you have been Called.*” ~ 1 Peter 2:20-21) ...

Additionally, “care-full” cannot be accurately labeled as “weak.” Indeed, choosing to be kind to one’s “enemies” requires the greatest strength (“*What good is it to Love only those who Love you?*” ~ Jesus in Matthew 5:46). It is often uncomfortable - even frightening - to Do so. Every unkind behavior inherently seeks a fear-full response. Divine Kindness (i.e. caring for another completely without fear - see 1 John 4:18) is allWays a power-full response to any unkindness - and therefore not “weak” at all (“*See that no on repays evil for evil, but rather always seek to Do Good to one another and to all ...*” ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:15) ...

Finally, loving acts need not be received, or even appreciated, to be power-full. The effectiveness of any action rests in its giving, not its reception (“*This is my Commandment, that you Love one another as I have Loved you.*” ~ Jesus in John 15:12). Even if an intended receiver rejects a kindness, others will witness that compassion and be moved accordingly (“*Show by your Good Life that your Works are Done with gentleness born of Wisdom.*” ~ James 3:13). And, the moment that your kindness is given again after its initial rejection, that recipient will feel your compassion on a very deep, power-full level (“*Let us consider how to encourage one another towards Love and Good Deeds ...*” ~ Hebrews 10:24) ...

Synopsis: Loving actions are gentle; always intending to relieve others' burdens ...
They are caring, healing and compassionate.

Determining Factor: During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Does this particular option cause the least harm to others? Is it intended to quench or avoid my personal fears or is it designed to relieve another’s burdens?”

Additional Scripture:

“Should you not have had Mercy on your fellow slave, as I had Mercy on you?” ~ Matthew 18:33

“You shall Love the Lord your God with all your Heart ... You shall Love your neighbor as your Self. There is no other Commandment greater than these.”
~ Jesus in Mark 12:30-31

“No one has greater Love than this: to lay down one’s Life for another.”
~ Jesus (John 15:13)

“**Let Love be genuine** ... Love one another with mutual affection ...”

~ Romans 12:9-10

“Whoever Loves another has fulfilled the Law.” ~ Romans 13:8

“Let all that you Do be Done in Love.” ~ 1 Corinthians 16:14

“Be imitators of God, as beloved Children, and **Live in Love**, as Christ Loved us and gave himself up for us ...” ~ Ephesians 5:1-2

“I want their Hearts to **be encouraged and united in Love**, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and the Knowledge of God’s Mystery ...” ~ Colossians 2:2-3

“Above all, **clothe yourselves in Love**, which unites everything in perfect Harmony.” ~ Colossians 3:14

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” ~ Colossians 4:6

“Have unity of Spirit and Love for one another; a tender Heart and a humble mind.” ~ 1 Peter 3:8

“Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; on the contrary, repay them with a Blessing. *It is for this that You were Called.*” ~ 1 Peter 3:9

“We know Love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our Lives for one another.” ~ 1 John 3:16

“The Commandment we have from Him is this: **those who Love God must Love their brothers and sisters** also.” ~ 1 John 4:21

“And this is Love ... You must Walk in It.” ~ 2 John 1:6

The 6th Characteristic: God’s Will is Self-Disciplined

① **God’s Will is allWays Self-Disciplined** (column #6 in the example-charts below). To be truly disciplined, the True Path shows bravery in the face of fear (“Do not fear, only Believe ...” ~ Jesus in Mark 5:36). It can be said that the option most feared is the option most in need of actualization; both to allow for the most personal growth back to God (via the freeing of one’s Soul from its ego-mind’s fears), as well as to serve others more power-fully (“Rekindle the Gift of God that is within you ... For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a Spirit of Power and of Love ...” ~ 2 Timothy 1:6-7). Remember that most of the major revelations of the Bible begin with the words “Be not afraid” (“Take heart ... Do not be afraid.” ~ Jesus in Mark 6:50). Self-discipline has us behaving courageously with others (“We have such a Hope, we act with great boldness.” ~ 2 Corinthians 3:12) and worshipping God with courage as well (“Present yourself to God as one approved by Him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed ...” ~ 2 Timothy 2:15 & “Let us therefore approach the Throne with boldness, so that we may receive Mercy and find Grace to Help in time of need.” ~ Hebrews 4:16) ...Indeed, Jesus displayed immense discipline during his ministry; a courage exhibited in the hopes that we too would adopt the Way of Love by releasing the primal fears that tempt us to behave selfishly (“He himself shared the same things, so that through death he might ... free those who all their lives have been held in slavery by the fear of death.” ~ Hebrews 2:14-15 & “There is no

fear in Love, but **perfect Love casts out fear**; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in Love.” ~ 1 John 4:18) ...

One off-shoot of this characteristic is that Self-disciplined actions, due to the courage required to effectuate them in the face of so many temptations not to, tend to actively “test” your Life Path. These courageous “tests” often take the form of actions that are unconventional; choices that fly in the face of social expectations and/or societal norms (“When there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law.” ~ Hebrews 7:12). Society wants us to be “safe”, to find comfort, to engage in activities that are pleasurable, and to run from pain. In short, it encourages us to live selfishly (“We must obey God rather than any human authority.” ~ Acts 5:29). Therefore, because God’s Will encourages us to openly give to others, often with little or no personal benefit, loving actions are often seen by many as the “least respected”, “least honored” and/or “least powerful” options available (“Do not sit at the place of Honor ... Go [instead] and sit at the lowest place ... For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” ~ Jesus in Luke 14:8-11). As a consequence, these choices often require us to persevere into regions that conventional wisdom deems to be “detrimental”, “hopeless” or “dangerous” (“By your endurance you will gain your Souls.” ~ Jesus in Luke 21:19) ...

Self-disciplined actions therefore dismiss all fears of “failure”, all yearnings for external acceptance, and all cravings for “power”; replacing these with alternatives that bravely engage options that are less popular or less externally applauded (“For rules are not a terror to Good conduct, but only to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of human authority? Then Do what is Good ...” ~ Romans 13:3-4). It means nothing to be Self-disciplined if we use that resolve to merely conform to societal norms (“Do not become slaves of human masters. In whatever condition you were Called, there remain with God.” ~ 1 Corinthians 7:23-24) ...

Clarifications: The stalwart courage of Self-discipline is not to be confused with recklessness -- sometimes referred to as “bravery” (“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 4:7). It is not necessary to behave with a lack of caution to exhibit courage. True bravery exists in relation to *what kind* of action is taken, and not necessarily *how* that action is effectuated (“Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only those who **Do the Will of the Father** in Heaven.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 7:21 & “Whoever **Does the Will of God** is my brother and sister and Mother.” ~ Jesus in Mark 3:34-35). We must *do* the Will of the Father, and that Will is not related to specific acts, but rather a specific intention - the intention of selfless Love ...

Similarly, Self-discipline is not to be confused with “stubbornness.” Just because the most courageous action is identified, in no way “locks one in” to that course of action (“For who knows what is truly Human except the Human Spirit within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God” ~ 1 Corinthians 2:11). When new evidence presents itself (e.g. when an option proves to be either too “easy” or too pain-inducing), we are all Ways free to choose anew ...

Finally, the unconventionality of divine Self-discipline in no way requires us to be “rebellious” (“Give to the Emperor what is the Emperor’s, and to God what is God’s.” ~ Jesus in Mark 12:17). What is resisted, persists, and what is fought, defends itself and grows stronger. Thus, as Christians we are not to discipline others, but rather to Love them with *Self-discipline* (“We are treated as imposters, and yet are true; ... as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as

poor, yet making many Rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.” ~ 2 Corinthians 6:8-10) ...

Synopsis: Self-disciplined actions display courage during life’s fear-filled moments ...
They are fear-challenging, unconventional and Respect-full.

Determining Factor: During decision-making, ask your Self -- “When I imagine my current alternatives, which one do I fear the most? Is this particular option motivated by personal fear or is it intended to courageously Love others despite my fears?”

Additional Scripture:

“Who are our adversaries? Let them confront us. It is the Holy Spirit who Guides us; who will declare us unworthy? *All* of our persecutors and tempters wear out like a garment ...” ~ Isaiah 50:8-10

“Blessed are those who are persecuted *for righteousness’ sake*, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 5:10)

“Do not let your Hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”
~ Jesus (John 14:27)

“In the world you will face persecution. But **take Courage**, I have conquered the world.” ~ Jesus (John 16:33)

“It is *through* many persecutions that we must enter The Kingdom of Heaven.” ~ Acts 14:22

“...**endurance produces Character**, and Character produces Faith, and Faith does not disappoint us ...” ~ Romans 3:4-5

“Note then both the Kindness and the severity of God: severity towards those who have fallen, but Kindness towards you, *provided you continue in his Kindness* ...” ~ Romans 11:22

“Keep alert, stand firm in your Faith, **be Courageous**, be Strong.”
~ 1 Corinthians 16:13

“So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away ...”
~ 2 Corinthians 4:16

“If you are led by the Spirit, you are no longer subject to the Law.”
~ Galatians 5:18

“Let us **run with perseverance** the race that is set before us ...”
~ Hebrews 12:1

“Blessed is anyone who *endures* temptation.” ~ James 1:12

“Be not surprised at the fiery ordeal taking place among you to test you.”
~ 1 Peter 4:12

“Let those suffering in accordance with God’s Will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, *while continuing to Do Good.*” ~ 1 Peter 4:19

“Cast all your anxieties on [God], because He cares for You. **Discipline yourselves.**” ~ 1 Peter 5:7

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all Grace ... will restore, support, strengthen and establish You.” ~ 1 Peter 5:10

The 7th Characteristic: God’ s Will is Gentle

① **God’s Will is allWays Gentle** (column #7 in the example-charts below). To be gentle with others, humility is required. The Child of God remembers that, with regards to “reality”, perception is allWays malleable. Therefore, keep an open mind with regards to fresh opinions -- including another’s advice and/or criticism (“Morning by morning we waken - waken our ears to Listen as those who are Taught ... We gave our back to those who strike us ... We do not hide our faces from insult.” ~ Isaiah 50:5-6). This doesn’t mean that the humble believer allWays follows those adverse opinions (“If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater ...” ~ 1 John 5:9). Rather, he or she is simply humble enough to Respect them ...

In this way, gentle actions are flexible “ahead of time.” When engaging a choice, instead of “knowing” that you are “right”, simply choose to re-mind yourself that, “though I cannot be certain my choice is the best one, I stride boldly forth; *intending* to harmonize with the Highest Good of God’s Will -- and yet all the while I am ready to alter my course of action if it becomes clear that my original choice is not the most power-full one.” (“We have this Treasure [our Soul’s Light] in clay jars so that it might be made clear that this amazing Power [i.e. The Word: selfless Love] comes from God and does not belong to us.” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:7) ...

We should also, as Christians, be gentle with God. When in doubt, it is allWays effective to openly ask for divine guidance (“When one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.” ~ 2 Corinthians 3:16). This can be accomplished by paying attention to your “gut feelings” when confiding in friends, when evaluating your dreams, and especially when praying (“Devote yourselves to prayer; keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” ~ Colossians 4:2). Purpose-fully make your choices “irrationally” (i.e. intuitively) by following these hunches, instead of your ego’s “more rational” alternatives (“The one who is Within is greater than the one who is in the world.” ~ 1 John 4:4) ...

Clarifications: The humility of divine Gentleness is not to be confused with humiliation.

Right Actions all Ways humbly attempt to relieve another's burdens. Thus, they cannot cause you embarrassment or shame, regardless of their outcomes ("Let your adornment be the inner Self, with the lasting Beauty of a gentle and quiet Spirit." ~ 1 Peter 3:4). Likewise, gentleness is not characterized by self-degradation. Humility has nothing to do with "obedience" to or subservience to another ("Very truly, the one who believes in me will also Do the Works I Do and, in fact, will Do even greater Works than these ..." ~ Jesus in John 14:12). On the other hand, gentle actions have everything to do with being courageously true to your True Self ("Clothe yourself with the new Self, created accorded to the likeness of God." ~ Ephesians 4:24) ...

Finally, though openly flexible, humble actions are not at all "wishy-washy" or "inconsequential." When another asks you for help, your ego may tempt you to believe that you have "more important things to do", or that the request for assistance is "unworthy" or "counterproductive." And yet, the humility of divine Gentleness encourages us to choose to help them anyway ("Each of us must please our neighbor solely for the good purpose of building up that neighbor." ~ Romans 15:2). As long as we can honestly have faith that our assistance neither causes future pain nor entrenches current discomfort, we engage that opportunity to serve. Service isn't a burden – Service is a privilege. Release your concerns related to an option's probability of "success", its practicality of implementation or its "irrationality" ("Like good stewards of the manifold Grace of God, Serve one another with whatever Gift each of you has Received." ~ 1 Peter 4:8). Choose instead to simply say "Yes" to every request that has the probability of aiding another -- especially if that request is not in your own "best interest" ("Give to everyone who begs of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you." ~ Jesus in Matthew 5:42). remember that Christians do not do Good for another in order to get a reward; even the reward of changing them "for the better" ("But when you Give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be Blessed, **because** they cannot repay you ..." ~ Jesus in Luke 14:13-14) ...

Also, as Christians, we are called to bear witness to the Good News. Still, our witnessing must also be gentle. "The Great Commission" is not a process of converting others to our own views ("This is the Covenant that I [God] will make [via Jesus] ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their Hearts ... And they shall not teach one another or say to each other 'Know the Lord' ..." ~ Hebrews 8:10-11 & "You have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others, for in passing judgment on others you condemn yourself ..." ~ Romans 2:1). Rather, it is a life of showing The Way to others with your actions ("Let your Light shine before others, so that they may see your Good Works ..." ~ Jesus in Matthew 5:16 & Mark 4:21-22). Mother Teresa, quoting St. Francis of Assisi, noted that we should "Testify to the Word of God; *using words only when necessary*." Thus, we are to verbally share our faith **only with those who ask us** to do so ("Always be Ready to support your Way to anyone who demands from you an accounting ... and Do so with gentleness and humility" ~ 1 Peter 3:15) ... Therefore, show others The Way with your actions much more than your words. Show them that Peace and Happiness are internal choices. Show them that neither internal temptations nor external pressures can keep us all from choosing to be true to our True Selves by loving others ("My Grace is sufficient for you, for my Power is made perfect through temptations of weakness." ~ 2 Corinthians 12:8-9) ...

Synopsis: Gentle choices are humbly made and performed with Humility ...
They are open-minded, intuitive and bold.

Determining Factor: During decision-making, ask your Self -- "Am I 'certain' that this particular option's is right, or am I only certain that it is Right with God? Does this particular option require that I inflexibly commit to its completion, or does it allow me to adjust while I

implementing it?"

Additional Scripture:

"God opposes the proud and Gives Grace to the Humble." ~ Proverbs 3:34

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:1)

"I thank you, Father ... because you have hidden these things from the 'wise' and the 'intelligent' and revealed them instead to infants ..."

~ Jesus (Matthew 11:25)

"Unless you change and **become like children,** you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever becomes Humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom." ~ Jesus (Matthew 18:3-4)

"All who humble themselves will be exalted."

~ Jesus (Matthew 23:12 -- see also Luke 14:8-11 & 18:14)

"My Soul magnifies the Lord ... He has shown His Strength ... He has scattered the proud ... He has brought down the powerful ... and lifted up the lowly." ~ Luke 1:46-47+51-52

"How can you [truly] Believe when you accept glory from one another and do not Seek the Glory that comes from the one who alone is God?" ~ Jesus (John 5:44)

"God has made of one blood **all nations** of men ... **In God we Live and Love and have our Being.**" ~ Acts 17:26-28

"I do not count my Life of any value to myself; only if I may finish my course and the ministry I have Received ..." ~ Acts 20:24

"A person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the Heart - it is Spiritual and literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God ... Although everyone lies, **let God be proven True.**"

~ Romans 2:29+3:4

"How beautiful are the feet of those who **bring the Good News.**"

~ Romans 10:15

"Do not think more highly of yourselves than you should, but **think rather with sober judgment,** each according to the measure of Faith that God has assigned ... **Live in harmony with one another;** do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly."

~ Romans 12:3+16

"God chose what is low and despised in the world ... to reduce to nothing the things that are, **so that no one might boast** in the presence of God ... So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything; only God who Gives the Growth" ~ 1 Corinthians 1:28-29+3:7

"Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should **become humble so that you might become truly Wise.**"

~ 1 Corinthians 3:18

“All of us possess knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up, but only Love builds up.** Anyone who claims to know does not yet have the necessary Knowledge; but anyone who Loves is Known.” ~ 1 Corinthians 8:1-2

“The members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater Respect.”
~ 1 Corinthians 12:22-23

“**You are the Temple of the Living God.**” ~ 2 Corinthians 6:16

“It is not those who commend themselves that are approved, but rather those whom the Lord commends.” ~ 2 Corinthians 10:18

“For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.” ~ Galatians 6:3

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but **in Humility regard others as better** than yourselves.” ~ Philippians 2:3

“And the Peace of God, *which surpasses all [human] understanding*, will guard your Hearts and your Minds ...” ~ Philippians 4:7

“**Humble yourselves before the Lord**, and He will exalt You.” ~ James 4:10

“And all of you must **clothe yourselves in Humility** in your dealings with one another, for God opposes the proud, but Gives Grace to the humble.” ~ 1 Peter 5:5

The 8th Characteristic: God’s Will is Joyful

① **God’s Will is allWays Joyful** (column #8 in the example-charts below). It is crucial to realize that divine Joy resides only in the Here&Now (“Now is the acceptable time; See, Now is the Moment of Salvation!” ~ 2 Corinthians 6:2). Thus, to be truly Joy-full “in Christ”, we must detach from our worldly concerns about the future and flow with what IS instead (“Be on guard so that your Hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of your life ...” ~ Jesus in Luke 21:34). Similarly, the joyful Christian must also release all regrets related to the past (“No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” ~ Jesus in Luke 9:62). As a consequence, to actualize our most power-full path, it is counterproductive to worry about an action’s potential consequences (“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:34). Hope for “success” must be removed from any decision-making process in order for that choice to be truly effective (“You Received without payment; Give without payment ...” ~ Jesus in Matthew 10:8). Thus, all joyful actions release striving for the attainment of personal ambitions, goals and/or dreams. Instead, use what you allReady have to serve where you allReady Are (“Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will but *thy will be Done.*” ~ Jesus in Matthew 26:39) ...

Clarifications: Divine Joy’s detachment from all future-based hope is not to be confused with “callousness.” Even though a Right Action is fundamentally unconcerned with its consequences at the time of decision-making, it still accepts complete responsibility for any consequences that do ensue (“Do not neglect to Do Good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices

are pleasing to God.” ~ Hebrews 13:16). This selfless intention allows our actions to be unhindered by potential guilt ...Of course, if an action does happen to unintentionally cause another pain, the Child of God has compassion for that person and apologizes; all the while remaining grounded in the knowledge that his or her choice was Right regardless at the time of its making (“God’s foolishness is wiser than human knowledge, and God’s weakness is stronger than human might.” ~ 1 Corinthians 1:25). Divine Joy can only exist when shame, embarrassment and guilt are completely extinguished, and this can only take place when we choose to act lovingly in the moment, for that moment ...

Similarly, while Joyful Actions do tend to focus one’s attention in the more minute wonders of the present moment, they are not oblivious to life’s “bigger picture” (“Look at what is before your eyes.” ~ 2 Corinthians 10:7). Seeing the specialness of the moment in no way requires you to neglect life in general, much less forget the bigger vision that inspired such a choice in the first place (“Unless you See signs and Wonders, you will not Believe ... If you Believe, you will See the Glory of God.” ~ Jesus in John 4:48 & 11:46). There is a marked difference between awareness and “tunnel-vision.” The former is focused on wonders that reside within the interconnected Whole, while the latter is oblivious to that Interconnection and focuses instead solely on the object at hand (“The darkness is passing away ... *The True Light is already shining.*” ~ 1 John 2:8) ...

Synopsis: Joyful actions are completely oriented in the Here&Now ...

They are detached from expectation, even while grounded in the Moment.

Determining Factor: During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option founded in a future-based hope or memory-based fear, or is it grounded in this present moment?”

Additional Scripture:

“In [God’s] Presence is the fullness of Joy.” ~ Psalm 16:11

“The eye is the Lamp of the body. So, **if your eye is Healthy, your whole body will be full of Light.**” ~ Jesus (Matthew 6:22)

“**Blessed are your eyes, for they See,** and your ears, for they Hear. Many prophets and righteous people longed to See what you See, but could not See it; and to Hear what you Hear, but could not Hear it.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 13:16-17)

“The Time is fulfilled, and **the Kingdom of God is at hand** ...” ~ Jesus in Mark 1:15

“Do not be afraid, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to [continually] Give you the Kingdom ... Be dressed for action and **have your Lamps lit.**”
~ Jesus (Luke 12:32+35)

“**But the hour is coming, and is Now Here,** when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and Truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him.” ~ Jesus (John 4:23-24)

“My time has not yet come, but **your Time is always Here.**” ~ Jesus (John 7:6)

“**Now is the judgment of this world;** the ruler of this world will be driven out.” ~ Jesus in John 12:31

“Your Heart will rejoice, and no one will be able to take your Joy from You.”
~ Jesus (John 16:22)

“For what can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world, His eternal Power and Divine Nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and Seen through the things He has made.” ~ Romans 1:19-20

“So do not become proud, but **stand in Awe.**” ~ Romans 11:20

“You know what time it is, how **it is Now the Moment for you to wake** from sleep.” ~ Romans 13:11

“The appointed time has grown short. From now on ... let those who deal with the world [do so] as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.” ~ 1 Corinthians 7:29+31

“**Our inner nature is being renewed *Moment by Moment.***”
~ 2 Corinthians 4:16

“Everything exposed by the Light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible **IS** Light.” ~ Ephesians 5:13-14 [note: “God **is** Light ...”
~ 1 John 1:5]

“Be careful then, how you Live; not as unwise people but as Wise -- *making the most of the Time ...*” ~ Ephesians 5:15-16

“So let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us **keep Awake ...**”
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:6

“But exhort one another every day, *as long as it is called ‘today’ ...*”
~ Hebrews 3:13

“You do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your Life? For you are a mist that appears for but a little while and then vanishes.” ~ James 4:14

The 9th Characteristic: God’ s Will is Faithful

God’s Will is allWays Faith-full (column #9 in the example-charts below). Both societal and man-made judgments of morality are always in some way fear-based -- and therefore inaccurate. Spiritual men and women, on the other hand, measure their actions instead using the divine standard of a morality that is based in Faith (“*Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner Nature is being renewed day by day, because we look not to that which can be seen but rather that which cannot be seen.*” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18). To Do so consistently, we must follow the internal guidance of the Advocate Within by focusing primarily on others’ well-being instead of our own personal “gains” ...

The Child of God chooses to see the Highest Good that resides in everything making up every moment. What IS, is right and Good (“*Whenever you face trials of any kind, consider them nothing but Joy ...*” ~ James 1:2). Our Mission is to see life as such, and our Faith is that which allows us to do so. This mentality allows us to more readily harmonize with our **Reality**. Thus, Faith-full actions encourage us to see the “Golden Cores of Goodness” residing within all

conscious beings we encounter - regardless of what these beings do or don't do ("Who are you to pass judgment on the servants of another? It is before their own Lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for God is able to help them stand." ~ Romans 14:4) ...

Clarifications: "Faith-fullness" is not to be confused with narrow-mindedness or zealotry. Faith does not require an assimilation into a particular religious group ("Beware the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." ~ Jesus in Matthew 16:6). It also doesn't require an adherence to any particular creed. In fact, Faith requires a **Believer** to remain independent from all man-made dogma ("For we cannot do anything against the Truth." ~ 2 Corinthians 13:8). This freedom allows us to remain consciously interdependent with all of life ("God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who Respects Him and Does what is Right is acceptable to Him." ~ Acts 10:34-35) ...

Being Faith-full also does not mean that we are "passive." To the contrary, to actualize God's Will, we must *actively* apply our Faith in divine guidance, and we must often do so irrationally ("Show me your Faith apart from your Works, and I by my Works will show you my Faith ... [Abraham's'] Faith was active along with his Works, and his Faith was brought to completion by those Works." ~ James 2:18+22) ...

Synopsis: Faith-full actions encourage selflessness ...
They are interconnected, intuitive and virtuous (a.k.a. "moral").

Determining Factor: During decision-making, ask your Self -- "Is this particular option a selfish one or a selfless (i.e. virtuous) One? Is it 'certain' or is it open-minded?"

Additional Scripture:

"According to *your* Faith, let it be done for you ..." ~ Jesus (Matthew 9:29)

"Ye of little Faith, why do you doubt?" ~ Jesus (Matthew 14:31)

"If you **have Faith** the size of a mustard seed, ... nothing will be impossible for You." ~ Jesus (Matthew 17:20)

"Blessed is she who Believed, for there will be a fulfillment of what was spoken *to her* by the Lord." ~ Luke 1:45

"**Your Faith has Saved you; Go in Peace.**" ~ Jesus (Luke 7:50)

"Receive your Sight; **your Faith has Saved you.**" ~ Jesus (Luke 18:42)

"Do not doubt, but Believe ... Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to Believe." ~ Jesus (John 20:27+29)

"**Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord [see Exodus 3:14 & Matthew 1:23] shall be Saved." ~ Acts 2:21

"The Righteousness of God is revealed through Faith *for Faith* ... **The one who is Righteous will Live by Faith** ... For it is not the hearers of the Law who are Righteous in God's Sight, but **the Doers of the Law who are justified** ... For we hold that a person is justified by Faith apart from those works *that are prescribed by the law.*" ~ Romans 1:17+2:13+3:28

“We walk by Faith, not by sight.” ~ 2 Corinthians 5:7

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God via the law; for the one that is Righteous via Faith will Live ... **The only thing that counts is Faith working through Love.**” ~ Galatians 3:11+5:6

“What good is it if you say you have Faith but do not have Works? ... **Faith by itself, if it has no Works, is dead** ... You may believe that God is One and do well, but even the demons believe and shudder ... Know, therefore, that a person is justified by Works and never by Faith alone.” ~ James 2:14+17+19+24

More Biblical evidence of the Spirit’ s 9 Fruits

There are four other instances in the New Testament where Paul points out that we are to actively fulfill these nine characteristics of God’s Will. To aid your Christian journey, I have cited them here and referenced Paul’s Galatians 5:22-23 terminology where relevant ...

“Let Love be genuine ... Love one another with mutual affection (**Love**); outdo one another in showing honor (**Generosity**). Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in Spirit (**Joy**), Serve the Lord. Rejoice in Hope (**Faithfulness**), be patient in suffering (**Patience**) ... Extend hospitality to strangers (**Self-Discipline**). Bless those who persecute you (**Peace**) ... Live in Harmony with one another (**Kindness**), do not be haughty ... do not claim to be wiser than you are (**Gentleness**).” ~ Romans 12:9-16

“Love is Patient (**Patience**), Love is Kind (**Kindness**); Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant (**Gentleness**)... It is not irritable or resentful (**Peace**); It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in Truth (**Love**). It bears all things (**Generosity**), believes all things (**Joy**), hopes all things (**Faithfulness**), and endures all things (**Self-Discipline**). Love never ends.” ~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“As servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way ... by purity (**Joy**), Knowledge (**Gentleness**), patience (**Patience**), kindness (**Kindness**), Holiness of Spirit (**Faithfulness**), genuine Love (**Love**), truthful speech (**Self-Discipline**), and the Power of God (**Generosity**); with the Weapons of Righteousness (**Peace**) for the right hand and the left ...” ~ 2 Corinthians 6:4+6-7

“As God’s chosen ones, clothe yourselves with Compassion (**Love**), Kindness (**Kindness**), Humility (**Gentleness**), Meekness (**Self-Discipline**) and Patience (**Patience**) ... Forgive (**Peace**) each other ... Above all, clothe yourselves with Love (**Joy**), which binds everything together in perfect Harmony. Let the Peace of Christ (**Faithfulness**) rule in your Hearts ... And be thankful (**Generosity**).” ~ Colossians 3:12-15

Even though the key terms of these passages may differ from Paul’s original message, and even though these four passages are not specifically speaking of the “Fruit of the Spirit”, it is interesting - and somewhat poignant - that each passage advocates the actualization of nine different Virtues; nine Virtues that reflect the same nine “Fruits of the Spirit” that Paul mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 ...

Practicing the Preaching

It is one thing to comprehend these characteristics, and another thing to apply them into

your everyday life. Thus, the following recommendations have been provided to make it easier for you to do so ...

Example A: Everyday Decisions ... The nine characteristics of Right Action can be utilized during everyday decision-making. To Do so, simply chart any choice’s alternatives on a piece of paper in any two (or more) ways . My two most effective methods of doing so are demonstrated as follows:

Example A - Chart 1: “Counting Crosses” ... Analyze each alternative comparatively with regards to each individual characteristic; giving the alternative that most purely embodies the particular characteristic a “cross” (representing the selflessness of God’s perfect Love). When Analyzing 5 or more alternatives, you may give your second-most power-full alternative a “cross” as well (but only if it purely embodies that characteristic). Do this for all nine characteristics and then add up each alternative's “crosses.” The option with the most “crosses” is then your most power-full choice; the course of action most likely to bring you Peace, enLighten your True Path, and give others the Love that could emPower them to make similarly courageous decisions ...

Below is a sample chart with five alternatives that were options from a time in my “previous Life.” It may easier for someone to stay late at the office, go to the gym or write in a diary. And yet, the easier courses of action are often the least power-full -- thus bringing lesser amounts of Joy and Peace into our lives. Investing in others’ well-being, on the other hand, allWays require more effort and therefore allWays brings more Peace ...

The 9 Fruits	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals
<u>Alternatives</u>										
Write in Diary	+			+						2
Work Late										0
Go to the Gym										0
Dinner with wife		+	+		+	+	+			5
Play with kid(s)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	8

Example A - Chart 2: “Cumulative Rating” ... The “cumulative rating” method also charts alternatives in relation to the individual characteristics of each particular option. This method is a bit different, however, in that it assigns each alternative a numerical value per characteristic - a “1” for the alternative that most purely embodies that characteristic of God’s Will, a “2” for the “next-best” alternative, and so on. After all nine characteristics have been so evaluated, the nine characteristic-scores for each alternative are added together, with the lowest score being the choice most in alignment with God’s Will ...

The 9 Fruits	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals
<u>Alternatives</u>										
Write in Diary	1	3	5	2	3	5	5	1	3	28

Work Late	2	5	3	5	5	4	4	4	5	37
Go to the Gym	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	36
Dinner with wife	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	21
Play with kid(s)	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	13

Note: Use these charts *only when in doubt* as to your Right course of action. The scores in these examples do not indicate that you should abandon all activities that are self-oriented (be they the gym, the diary or the job). The chart-method does not identify “wrong” choices; merely those that are more (or less) Power-full in relation to God’s Will ... Thus, the previous results indicate that playing with my child was my most power-full option at that time; the alternative most in harmony with God’s Will. Therefore, whenever in doubt as to what “to do”, I should engage this choice over other, more self-centered ones. It is Right Action to care for your body, examine your Self in a diary and work hard for your company. It is not Right, however, to do so at the expense of loving others in your life ...

.....

Example B: “Bigger” Decisions ... The “chart-method” is equally effective when analyzing your life as a whole. We often wonder things like “What is my Vocation?”, “What is my Purpose in life?” or “What life path should I be following?” It has been my experience that we each innately **Know** the answer(s) to such questions - even though we often cleverly convince ourselves that these solutions are “beyond knowing” or “mysteries.” Fortunately, when we have the Courage to engage this chart-method honestly, it is allWays possible to identify our moment's true “Life Mission” ...

Example B - Chart 1: “Counting Crosses” ... The sample chart that follows contains the five major “Life Avenue alternatives” that I was *willing* to undertake just before commencing with my still-ongoing Peace Pilgrimage ...

Even though it is not necessary to include options that you “know” to be feasible, it is crucial that you only include alternatives that you are *completely willing* to engage. Thus, this method only functions powerfully when we are truly ready to become aware of our calling and follow God’s Will thereafter. Otherwise, our egos will prevent us from even including the choices that best reflect that calling at all. For this exercise to be effective, it is necessary to dismiss all your concerns related to “practicality” and/or “probability of success.” You are free to dream -- and you are free to actualize those dreams!

The 9 Fruits	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals
Alternatives										
Politician										0
K-6 Teacher's Aid		+	+		+			+	+	5
Civil Rights Attorney						+				1
Writer/Author	+			+						2
Peace Pilgrim	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	9

Example B - Chart 2: "Cumulative Rating" ... In principle, this chart functions similarly to Example A's second chart (above) ...

The 9 Fruits	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals
Alternatives										
Politician	5	5	4	5	5	2	4	5	5	40
K-6 Teacher's Aid	3	2	2	3	2	4	2	2	2	22
Civil Rights Attorney	4	4	3	4	3	3	5	4	3	33
Writer/Author	2	3	5	2	4	5	3	3	4	31
Peace Pilgrim	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	09

Note again that these charts do not identify "wrong" options. It is not "wrong" to be a politician, for example. In his instance, the charts simply show that, for mySelf, politician would have been the least-powerfull choice; the option least in alignment with God's Will for my life at that time...

AllWays God' s Will: Loving your Neighbor ...

We also know from the teachings of Jesus that only the believer who *actively* loves his or her neighbor attains the Kingdom of Heaven. Thus, even if we aren't certain of our Life Mission, we can know that loving others is allWays in harmony with God's Will ...

"Those who are Righteous plan Noble Acts, and by Noble Acts they stand."
~ Isaiah 32:8

"**Glory and Peace for everyone who does Good**, ... For God shows no partiality." ~ Romans 2:10-11

"**Do what is Good**, and you will receive the approval of all Just authority."
~ Romans 13:3

"**For the whole Law is summed up in one Commandment: You shall Love your neighbor as yourSelf.**" ~ Galatians 5:14

“We must no longer be adolescents, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But **speaking the Truth in Love**, we must Grow Up in every Way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped ... **promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in Love.**” ~ Ephesians 4:14-15

“Live as Children of the Light - for **the fruit of the Light is Found in all that is Good** and Right and True.” ~ Ephesians 5:8-9

“Anyone, then, who Knows the Right Thing to Do and fails to Do It, commits sin.” ~ James 4:17

“Know by this may we be sure that we Know Him: if we **Obey his Commandments.**” ~ 1 John 2:3 [see also Matthew 22:37-40]

“We pass from death to Life when we Love one another ... **Let us Love, not in thought or speech, but in Truth and Action.**” ~ 1 John 3:14+18

“**If we Love one another, God Lives in us, and His Love is perfected in us.**”
~ 1 John 4:12

“**God is Love, and those who abide in Love abide in God, and God abides in them.**” ~ 1 John 4:16

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but imitate what is Good. **Whoever does Good is from God;** whoever does evil has not yet Seen God.” ~ 3 John 1:11

Summary and Conclusion

The critical shifts in life allWays come when the desire to harmonize with our existence becomes greater than our fear of the process of that change. The outcome of this shift is allReady success-full the minute you honestly choose to believe that -- “I am completely *willing* to serve God’s Will over my own.” The more purely an action harmonizes with God’s Will, the more obvious its divine characteristics (i.e. its “Fruit”) will become, and the more power-full that choice will be once you to follow through with it ...

There is no such thing as only one “best choice” in any given moment. Many have paralyzed their selves by making no choice at all rather than risk making the “wrong choice” (or missing out on the “best alternative”). It has been my personal experience that there are 100’s of “best choices” for each of us in every moment of our Lives; 100’s of opportunities for us to love others in harmony with God’s Will . We may not ever actualize the most-powerfull of these options, and yet our challenge is merely to actualize **one** of them ...

There can never be a “failure” in your life when your actions’ intentions are based in compassion (“You have Seen the Purpose of the Lord, how He is Compassionate and Merciful.” ~ James 5:11). Your ego may try to convince you that you are “too small” or “too weak” to fulfill your Life Mission. This fear is irrelevant (“Be steadfast and immovable, always excelling in the Work of the Lord, because you Know that in the Lord your labor is never in vain.” ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58 & “And this is

the boldness we have in Him, that if we ask anything *according to His Will*, He hears us.” ~ 1 John 5:14). Contentment can be lived moment-to-moment whether we complete our calling or not (“The Works that the Father has given Me to complete, **the Works that I am Doing, testify on my behalf ...**” ~ Jesus in John 5:36). The journey truly is the destination as far as God’s Will is concerned. Life is only found in its living. The quantity of things “done”, completed, “accomplished” or even commenced matters not to God (“Like good stewards of the manifold Grace of God, Serve one another with whatever Gift each of you has Received.” ~ 1 Peter 4:10) ...

There are opportunities every day (indeed, in every moment) to become a Child of God. Every emotion felt is an opportunity to honestly express the same. Every moment of surprise is an opportunity to Love with selfless courage (as opposed to reacting with selfish fear). Every confrontation with something new is an opportunity to stand in awe without analysis, pre-conception or judgment. Every “coincidence” is a wonder-full opportunity to see God “speaking” with you. Every time you are either attacked or supported is an opportunity to look past the man-made labels of “enemy” or “friend” and simply accept what is being given to you (be that gift the challenge to lovingly forgive the “enemy” or the opportunity to be humbly thank-full for the “friend”) ...

One day of pro-active, purpose-full work is enough to bring you Peace ...
One day, every day ...

Neither I nor anyone else has the faintest idea what your “True Purpose” is. Fortunately, You Do! And the obvious fact that you are reading this article means that you are allReady in some way seeking God’s Will - and this means that you will inevitably find It (“Whoever Follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.” ~ Jesus in John 8:12). And the speed with which you will do so will be in direct proportion to the courageousness of your choices (“Know that your last Works are greater than your first.” ~ Romans 2:19) ...

So, go forth today and live courageously, my Friend!

“For the Kingdom of God depends not on talk but on Action.”
~ 1 Corinthians 4:20

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. **To everyone is given the manifestation of The Spirit for the common good.**” ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4

“For we Are what he has made us, **created in Christ Jesus for Good Works**, which God prepared beforehand to be our Way of Life.” ~ Ephesians 2:10

“All Scripture is inspired by God, and useful for teaching ... so that everyone may be proficient; **equipped for every Good Work.**” ~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Peace allows for **Patience** ...
Patience allows for **Generosity** ...
Generosity allows for **Kindness** ...
Kindness allows for **Compassion** ...
Compassion allows for **Self-Discipline** ...
Self-Discipline allows for **Gentleness** ...
Gentleness allows for **Joyfulness** ...
Joyfulness allows for **Faith** ...
Faith allows for **Peace** ...
 Peace allows for **Patience** ...
Patience allows for **Generosity** ...
Generosity allows for **Kindness** ...
Kindness allows for **Compassion** ...
Compassion allows for **Self-Discipline** ...
Self-Discipline allows for **Gentleness** ...
Gentleness allows for **Joyfulness** ...
Joyfulness allows for **Faith** ...
Faith allows for **Peace** ...
 Peace allows for **Patience** ...