

everybody. How's everyone tonight? Before we get started, I want to just make an announcement. If you want to put in your phone, two things for May 7th, we have the Down East Boys coming at 7 o'clock.

But it's also the national day of prayer. So downtown at the courthouse we meet at the fountain across the way at 430 across from the courthouse. And then And we walked to five corners at five o'clock. And that finishes up about 6.15 or 6.30, and then hopefully we can get some people from down there to come up here and also listen to the down east boys.

So put that in your calendar. Another thing too, when we had that storm the other night, I just wanted to share this with you. I heard the birds all singing and chirping out in the, out in the, about a feeders and so forth after the storm. And it reminded me, you know, Matthew 6, when God talks about the birds and how he feeds each one, what do we have to worry about in clothing, but how the birds cheer and sing after a storm.

That's how our life should be and what we do. If the birds can be cheering and singing, when we go through storms in life and troubles and so forth, that's what the Lord wants us to do, and we turn to Him and focus on Him on that. So let's bow our heads and pray real fast before I get into this. Dear Heavenly Father, thank You, Lord, for everything You provide, Lord, and just it's been amazing lately with everything we've seen on TV, the spaceship and the Artemis, the pictures, Lord, of how small Earth is and the scheme of things of what You created, Lord.

But yet You provide breath for us every morning. You watch over each and every one of us, Lord, We're so thankful for a Savior like you, Lord, and just thank you for everything you've provided for us, Lord, and just allow us to be more thankful and more receptive to you, Lord, and allow us to be closer to Christ and Jesus and what we do, Lord, and allow us to have our hearts toward Him, Lord, and all that we do, in Jesus' name, amen. So tonight, you saw the title, The Two Pathways of Life. So it's a lifelong blessing of trusting in the Lord.

From cover to cover in God's Word is constantly contrast the two pathways of life. You can look through the New Testament and also the Old Testament. You'll see hopefully I'll be able to show you some that we contrast the two ways. There's two paths today.

We want to reaffirm our commitment to God's path. So in the New Testament, Jesus talked about the broad road if you can put Matthew up. enter the Matthew 13, enter the narrow gate, for the gate is wide, and the way is easy. That leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

For the gate is narrow, and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few. When you read that, when it says about life being hard, once we're in Christ and we're following Christ, it's easy if we're following Christ. So the broadway to destruction and the narrow path leads to life. And the Old Testament, the description of the two pathways is no less visually graphic.

In Proverbs 4, 14 through 19, you will see, do not enter the path of the wicked and do not walk in the way of evil. 15, devoid it, do not travel on a turn away from it and pass on 16. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil, and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of the wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

But the path of the just is like the shining sun that shines even brighter onto a perfect day. The wicked, the way of the wicked is like the darkness. They do not know what makes them stumble. So there again is God's summary of life.

Each day people walk His path of light, the light that is shining brighter and brighter, headed to the perfect day of being like Him, and at home it lasts, or they walk the other path. It's evil and wicked, dark

and makes them stumble, and we see that so much today and what we see in the world going on. And us as Christians and try to lead believers, we try to stay on that narrow road, and We stumble also, but our trajectory is to stay on that narrow path and make our way into heaven. That doesn't mean we run the race of endurance, but it's talking about finishing the race.

We want to just continue on that path step by step, whether we take two steps and we stumble one, but we continue on that path. We don't want to be lead on the path of destruction, staying on God's path. For us as followers of God, the shining pathway began at salvation. So when we accepted Christ, we're started on that narrow path.

And Proverbs, that pathway is most beautifully laid out and one of the most simplest and most beloved verses in the Bible. And you guys all know this verse, it's Proverbs 3, verse 5, trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your straight your past. I'm sure all of us have said that one and quoted that one.

I mean, it's one of my favorite verses, and the verse summarizes Godward's life as believers that were to have. Each phrase of that, those two verses describe one element of the walk with God. Trust is the first word. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

doesn't say part of your heart says with all your heart. So we want to make sure we're trusting in the Lord with all our heart. This life starts with the clinging, trusting, believing faith that leads to a personal relationship with God. Trust is first.

So we trust first. Lean not on your own understanding, turning away from yourself and toward God in all that we do. We surrender to Him and self to now. We turn His next.

So we have trust, we trust in the Lord with all our heart, and we turn away. We turn from, we have eyes, we have ears. We can turn away from sin and we know what sin is. And all your ways acknowledge Him, focusing every dimension of my life toward walking in the Spirit by praying without ceasing.

Focus is a choice. So we focus. We continue to pray. We stay in the Word of God, and we're going to get a little bit more into that.

you shall direct your path. We're waiting for Him and following God throughout our life. Follow is a goal. So we want to trust, turn, focus and follow Christ in all that we do.

And we want to turn away from our sin. We want to focus and we want to follow. Just like Ninoch did. He walked every morning with the Lord and Lord took him up.

He kept going, and the Lord finally said, walk with me to my house. And he kept walking and walking. And he was a righteous guy. He continued.

He did all of these. He turned away. He followed the Lord. He continued to trust in the Lord.

What does it mean to trust in the Lord? Proverbs 3-5, trust. The Hebrew word, batac, might not be stated correctly, but means my elders are silent in English. So in Hebrew or Greek, it's really tough.

But anyways, That means cling to the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. So trust means to cling to and it's just not, you know, a lightly cling. You want to cling to it so you can stand in weather and storms and so forth. You want to be able to cling on, you hold tight, and I can picture that as all you can do.

Say a hurricane is coming in, you're holding onto that person or that flagpole, you're holding tight, you're clinging into something, you don't want the storm to blow you away. in life. You want to cling, you want to trust in the Lord. So you're clinging to the Lord.

The Word has the sense of casting one's total future upon God as a little child and trusting in Him for everything. The Word is most often translated to trust or to have confidence in God. This word translated trust occurs over 100 times in the Old Testament. So you know it's important.

It's over 100 times in the Old Testament. And it's actually the Old Testament word for the New Testament word believed. So we can use this in bringing it up in the New Testament terminology makes it the same as what Paul said to the Philippine jailer when Lonnie was here he talked about the jailer and when they were in jail. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ which means trust on the Lord in Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved that's Acts 16:31.

It is the same saying as the Old Testament same thing. Salvation is when we just believe in God. Salvation is when we just believe God. It simply means that when we lean on God, we can do nothing else but lock our arms around God and hold on.

We trust in the Lord with all our heart, our total personality, and every fiber of our being. We're wrapped around, if you guys can picture that, just picture holding on to the Lord and all that we do and all the storms that come about, from phone calls from bit to everything if we would wrap our arms around the Lord and all that we do and trust in Him. That is what He is saying. But now, listen, Paul links together that moment of salvation with all the rest of our spiritual lives.

Colossians 2-6. Therefore, as you receive Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. Therefore, as you receive Christ Jesus the Lord, so you walk in Him. Ballstone is right there in Colossians. Once we receive Christ we walk in Him.

We cling to Christ and we walk in Him. So what keeps us on the pathway of God? How do we go through life on the brighter and brighter pathway that leads us to the perfect day? By making some affirmations in our heart and clinging to them as they represent the truths about God that saved us.

Our God is a God of truth. He does not lie. He does not miscommunicate to us, but we need to learn how to listen to Him and that's in the Word of God and what we do. Just as we cling to the truths of God's Word and met the Lord by faith, so we continue to cling to the truths about God and continue to follow the Lord by faith.

Here are four truths that come when we trust in the Lord with all our heart. God owns my life and he is good. Unbelievers cannot rest in that same promise of Proverbs 3, 5, and 6. So trusting in the Lord with all your heart and understanding, that's for us believers.

We need to do that and we need to, by doing that we're shining the light for our non-believers. The non-believers need to see what's different in our lives. And we do that by trusting in the Lord and not in our own way. They want to see us be the light out there.

All of us have that. We're so blessed to have the congregation that we have here. I'm so blessed to have all you guys here at our church. I feel we are a church up on the hill and we are a beacon here in town.

I see Judy smile all time and all you guys you know talking to Jerry about it stuff it just we're all one big family and that's what we should do and we need to shine that out and it's in in the society that we do and we do do that when we're all out together and we're doing stuff we do shine that light but God's own God's own God owns my life and he is good unbelievers cannot rest in that promise of Proverbs 3,

5, and 6, because it starts with believing in the Lord and they don't. God is His sovereign rules over all and can overrule in any human life. Lost people are empowered by the God of this world, which is Satan with the devil. He's the God of this world and they focus on Him.

They don't focus on the Lord that we have. But God never violates any human freedom. He just works His purpose through the lives of even those who won't obey Him, as we see in many biblical examples, Romans 9, 14 through 18, only believers can desire, understand and obey God's will. So only us believers can desire, understand and obey God's will, trusting in His goodness.

Psalms frequently affirm that the Lord is good at Psalm 100 or exclaim oh give thanks to the Lord he is good that's in the Psalms. David encourages us oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Scripture tells us that God does only good things for his children. We read no good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk up rightly at Psalms 84-11.

And in the same context in which Paul assures us, assures us that in everything God works for good for those who love him. He also says, he who did not spare his own son but gave up for us all, will he not give up to all, give us all the little all things for him. Much more than much more than an earthly father. Our Heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask Him.

And even His discipline is out of love and for our good. We get all good things, but a lot of times we look at the stuff. It could be a discipline. We're hedged with God and the Holy Spirit and we have God's hedge of protection.

But that doesn't mean we have a perfect life or anything. We're going to stumble. But God's doing that to sharpen us, to make us to look what he did for David. He put David out of not being a king.

David was the king sworn in from the Lord. He had the Holy Spirit in him, but he never took the throne until after Saul was gone. God used that to sharpen David all those years. Same concept with us and what we do.

We're in Christ, but that doesn't mean we're not going to have hurdles, but this is where it goes back to trusting the Lord and clinging to His Word. We need to continue to, as we go through life and we have hurdles, it's so calming to the heart. And I know all of you know this. When we get in the Word of God, no matter what we're doing, it's calming.

It's a calming effect. One passage and it's calming. I don't want to use the word magical, but it's the Holy Spirit in us. It loves to hear the Word of God and read the Word of God.

But when When we have something, whether it's work, our wives, our friends, whatever is going on in your life, filter it through the Bible. It answers all of God's questions, and we need more of that in our families these days and in society. Every day of our lives, we may make quite our discouragement with the comfort that comes from the knowledge of God's incident wisdom. As we are His children, we can know that He is working wisely in our lives.

Even today to bring us into a greater conformity into the image of Christ, God's plans are best and He is powerful. How could a holy God will be for His children anything less than the best? And how could a loving God plan anything that would harm us? He wouldn't.

the best for us. He had a plan for each and every one of us. He had a plan for us in the womb. He knew each hair on our head when he was in the womb, when we were in the womb.

We have no reason to fear the will of God because His plans come from His heart. The Consul of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Unless we see the will of God as the

expression of the love of God, we resist it stubbornly or do it grudgingly instead of enjoying it. We need just like the birds singing in the storm.

They were out there in the rain, thunder, lightning, wind blowing, and the way our weather's been lately, we get some summer spring birds up here early and they're out there in the snow. But they sing, they're happy, they're in the storm. God has them out there singing for us to please Him and so forth. We need to do the same thing.

We need to do the same thing, but how many times do we grudgingly do it or stubbornly do something and We're not we don't do it with a smile and that thing and that's what we need to do And we need to see the non-believers then they'll say what's what's Wayne on today when he's going down the rear You know when he when his can you know, whatever is going on in his life If he if he's a Dwayne's always smiling anyway, so you know something good's going on in his life But faith is God's love and wisdom faith in God's love and wisdom will transform our attitude and make the will of God nourishment instead of punishment. That's John 4.34. I'm going to read that again. Faith in God's love and wisdom will transform our attitude and make the will of God nourishment instead of punishment.

So faith in God's love, knowing that He loves us, the wisdom that God provides with us in the Holy Spirit directing us. Jeremiah 29:11, for I know the plans that I have for you, declares Lord. Plans for welfare and not for command of the, to give you a future and a hope. So he trusts us.

He has a plan for us. He has a welfare. He knows our future and our hopes that we have. Trusting in him is omnipotence.

God's means that God is able to do to do all his holy will. The word omnipotence is derived from two Latin words, omnipotence and powerful. So he's all powerful. The power is frequently mentioned in Scripture.

God is the Lord strong and mighty. The Lord is mighty and mighty in battle. Jeremiah says to God, nothing is too hard for you. Paul says Paul says that God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think as in Ephesians.

Paul says that God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. That's because we have finite minds. We will never know all of God's knowledge and so forth. It's infinite ours is finite.

We have very limited. And we're trying to think how God will never be able to. And God is called Almighty. That suggests the possession of all power and authority.

Furthermore, the angel Gabriel says to Mary, with God nothing will be impossible. Luke 1. And Jesus says, with God all things are possible. And that's so true if we listen to the will of God.

And And that's, again, clinging to God and trusting Him, following Him, turning away from the world and the people of the world. God wants me to wait for His plans, and He is right here. It's through faith and patience that we receive that God's promise that's in Hebrews. And again, faith and patience.

And I struggle with patience for it, and I think all of us Americans probably to a certain degree, we're in a society that everything's fast, from fast food to we want everything now, we want our answers now, we want everything now, but faith and patience that we receive God's promises, and we do continue to pray through that too. When we're waiting for God to answer, he didn't say just ask one time or pray or thank, continue praying. He will answer you. You may not agree with the answer or so forth, but he will answer you.

Just be patient. And it is dangerous to run ahead of the Lord as it is to stubbornly and lag behind. We did that with our dogs. We ran ahead of the Lord.

We arrived. Well, I got to tell the story. So she going like this to me. Some stranger in the congregation.

So we had six dogs before, which I know that's absurd to start with, but we inherited some. But But anyways, the house was empty and quiet. And so we said, oh, we'll wait for the Lord to pray, keep praying about it, praying about it. In the meantime, we keep looking online at the puppies.

Well, we didn't. So we went and got the long story short. We went to go get one puppy, came back with two puppies. Then as soon as we got back, the Lord blessed us with two wonderful adopted dogs.

And the two that we got are crazy and jumping around. But that's again, we didn't wait on the Lord and we knew better and so forth. But, you know, we need to wait, you know, not jump out in front of the Lord either. It's, you know, wait on the Lord.

It's dangerous to run ahead of Him as it is to be stubborn and lag behind. It's not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and missed away. That's Proverbs 19-2. Be not like the horse or the mule.

The horse rushes ahead and the mule won't budge. And both attitudes are wrong. Even the great apostle Paul didn't always know exactly the way God was guiding. And he had to pause in his work and wait for divine direction at the next sixteen.

Our times are in his hand and the Father is always on schedule. So he has a plan. His time is always the perfect time. The Apostle Paul always waited for the Lord.

He had to pause what he's doing. Sometimes we have to take a step back and just sit there, wait patiently for him. And also trusting in his omnipresent. God is present in every part of space with his whole being.

When the Bible speaks of God's present, it usually means his presence to bless. And it is only normal for our own speech to conform to this biblical usage. And I'm going to use this in an old Dutch philosopher. It's the doctrine of God quote.

It's written in a little bit different language, so. But it sums up, I always use the example that we've all have a past on things we would, when we were not in walking with the Lord and some of us have different things that we talk about. But I'll use someone's smoking cigarettes, for example. You're not supposed to be smoking cigarettes, but you'd go high.

But no matter where you hide, the Lord's watching you. You're out behind that car or in the back room, but you feel it inside you. You feel that you were doing something that wasn't right. And especially once you're in Christ, that speaks louder to you.

So when you wish to do something evil, you retire from public. You go and hide from the public into your house where no enemy may see you. We're talking about other Christians. No one can see you what you're doing.

From those places of your house which are open and visible to the eyes of men, then you remove yourself into your own room. Even in your own room, you fear. You feel it. As a Christian, you feel that you're doing something wrong.

Some witnesses, some witness from another quarter. You retire into your heart. There you meditate, but God is more inward than your heart. We have the Holy Spirit in us.

It's more inward than our heart. Wherever, wherever, therefore you shall flee. There's God. God is.

He's omnipresent. He's everywhere. From yourself, whether will you flee? Will you not follow yourself wherever you shall flee?

But since there is one more inward than yourself, there is no place where you may flee from God. There is no place at, oh, you may flee. Will you flee from Him or will you flee to Him? And that's what we have to ask ourselves when we're on that broad path.

We need to ask ourselves, are we fleeing from Him or to Him? Arlen spoke about this when Jesus, on the crucifixion of Christ, when the apostles, the disciples were walking away from Jerusalem. They're fleeing from Him. They need to be walking to Him until Christ showed to Him, they need to be walking to Him.

We need to do that same thing, trusting, following, keeping our focus on the Lord. Yet at other times, in other places, God is present to bless. David says, in your presence there is fullness of joy. In your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Here David is speaking not of God's presence to punish or mercy to stain but God's presence to bless. I want to just talk about one more thing here. How can I know when God is telling me to do something? That's, and Arlen touched on this the other day, this is our ultimate authority on what we do, the Word of God.

And I'm going to go through this here just real quickly and I'm gonna get you out of here soon tonight. So anyways, how can I know when God is telling me to do something? We pray, especially when we're unsure of God's will for our life. We pray.

We get on our knees and we pray to God. We can pray anytime. We can pray while we're driving. We can pray no matter what we're doing.

We can pray to the Lord. He likes us, you know, we can always get down on our knees and submit to Him, just like we will be in heaven when we fall at His feet. We can get down and pray like that. We can pray anytime in our life, any store, any time.

If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. That's in James 1. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him. If you don't know how to pray, you can always personalize and pray verses such as, Show me the way I should go.

To you I lift up my soul or guide me in your truth and teach me. We can say, we can give passages back. Get in the Word of the Psalms and the Proverbs. to them, give praises of wisdom to lift up the Lord if we don't know what to say.

The primary way God commands us is through His Word. All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. Second Timothy as you guys probably already know, but that's a wonderful verse now in this day and age when we're battling speaking biblical truth to people because the world does not speak truth. They take, as the Bible tells you, what is false is true, what is true is false.

That's what our TV's are teaching us and what we're doing. They're throwing stuff out there. If something's said long enough, people start to believe it. What they're doing with, I mean, we have a

walk coming up for the abortion, the ninth?

May 9th. Make sure you put that on your calendar too. Tiffany is a very nice lady. I think it's Tiffany.

But what we believe is true, what they believe is true is false, is what they teach us. And we have to do that. And we have the right, we have a biblical obligation to correct, train in righteousness to these people. And then we just teach them, tell them the word, let the God do the work.

scripture commands something of us, there is no need to hesitate and to wonder if it's really God's will for us. He cares so much about us that He's already given a plan and clear guidebook of life, the Bible. Your word is our lamp to my feet and light to my path. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. How can a young man keep his ways pure by living according to your word? Those are all scriptures that are in the Bible, each one of those that I just quoted. The Bible's full of ways to show his word and show his wisdom.

Likewise, God never contradicts himself, so he'll never ask you to do something contradictory to Scripture. He will never ask you to sin. He will never ask you to do something Jesus Christ wouldn't do. We need to immerse ourselves in the Bible so that we know which action meets God's standards.

Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything that is written in it. That's Joshua 1.8. So we meditate on it day and night so that we are careful to do everything.

I know we all are busy during the day and we have stuff to do when we put up it. We need to be in the Word. We trust Him and it's calming, it's the wisdom that we need. Christians also have the Holy Spirit in us to discern what is or is not God's will for our lives.

The Spirit of Truth will guide you into truth. That's in John. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will either agitate our conscience or it will make it wrong. Conscious if we're making the wrong decision.

We know, like I just talked about, we know if we're doing some sin, if we're doing something wrong, it tells us, the Holy Spirit will tell you. But we need to listen to it, or He will pacify or encourage us when we're learning to the right decision. Even if He doesn't intervene in such a noticeable way, we can have confidence that He's always in charge. Sometimes God will alter a situation without us even realizing He has acted.

The Lord will guide you always, Isaiah. If God is calling you to take a leap of faith, be encouraged by His presence. Have I not commanded you, be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified.

Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. He's always with us. And remember, cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you. First Peter, cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.

Again, when we have that storm in our life, again, sing out, cast your anxieties on him, sing to him, praise him, cast those anxieties out. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, and always acknowledge him, and he will direct your path. That's what we were just talking about, the path, the narrow path. We want to stay on that path and continue.

We do not want to be in a world where it's broad and leads to destruction because it's not a good place where we would end up. It's already getting warm out here. I can't imagine how warm hell is. I imagine it's pretty warm down there.

And again, it's a narrow path that leads to it. But once we're in Christ and we follow Christ's Word and we're in the Word of God, It's not it's an easy it's it's it's it's hard. It's the first says it's hard but It's hard because we have to make ourselves stay in the word and in the calming of the word What we are not to do is expect to hear what we are not to do is expect to hear voices from God That's the dangerous trend today. We see people that You see it on TV all the time.

I've heard God said this God said that the word of God is You know send me some seed money, and I'll be okay, or whatever it they call it But uh, you know Lord said get you know \$1,000 from a hundred people I don't I doubt very much as the Lord said that to them There's a dangerous trend today where people seek to hear the word of the Lord He has already given us his word in the Bible the Lord told me has become a mantra of experience driven Christianity unfortunately What he tells one person offer contradicts what he tells another and they're and and these are extra biblical revelations Have proven to be very divisive Teetering tearing apart church after church as one person's experience seeks to take precedence over another That's why it's so nice here at I anchored fellowship in Calvary Chapel. We teach verse by verse Bible by Bible book by book. I'm not Bible by Bible book by book, chapter by chapter. We don't use different Bibles.

But we can't go wrong. And if everyone taught like that, we'd all be spot on what we do. These results equal chaos when they're doing this. Benefiting no one except Satan who loves to sow discord among believers.

We should make the Apostle Peter our example in these matters. In spite of the miraculous experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, where he beheld the glorified Christ speaking to Moses and Elijah. Peter refused to rely on that experience, declaring instead that we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart. That's 2 Peter 1.

He didn't rely on that. He wrote, we have a prophetic word confirmed, which you will do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart. So as we went through that, I just wanted to say, you know, we can go down the road of the wise or we can go down the road of the folly but continue on the path guys of the narrow road that leads to life it's just a beautiful way and we're only here for such a short period of time there's no reason to get off and and as we go out in the community we need to just be that light and that beacon you know the salt for the people in the light that we shine and we can do that here with pastor our labs telling him today that you know So when we all leave here, when we leave after services, I think we all leave with a little more understanding of the Lord, you know, and to say that as a church, as a body of Christ, that's a wonderful thing for all of us. A lot of us have been in Christ for a long time, but he continues as we go, continues to reveal to us more and more stuff, and he will continue to reveal until the day Today we're in front of Him, down on our knees and glorified, and we're singing praises to Him.

But let's rise and I'll just pray us out.