

**God's Word**  
**The Two Edged Sword**

## **The Guided becomes a Guide**

**John 14:6** [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus called Himself the way, “*the*” way **not** “*a*” way.

Before ever Christians were called Christians, they were called followers of the way. The way was the way of the cross.

Followers of the way through the cross to share in the glory.

**Mark 15:21** [NIV] *“A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.”*

Simon of Cyrene is remembered as the Christian way of life, carrying the cross alongside Jesus to share in His crucifixion and resurrected glory.

**Romans 16:13** [NIV] *“Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.”*

Rufus the son of Simon of Cyrene and his mother who helped Paul.

It seems the whole family was influenced by this chance encounter of Simon and Christ on the way to the cross.

**John 6:44** [NIV] *“No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

**The initiative of our being called to follow Christ, the Way, is always with the Father.**

Before our calling by the Father we could relate to the person who was travelling on a journey and their way of life brought them into real trouble.

**Luke 10:30-32** [NIV] *“In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”*

No-one really cared about our condition.

**Luke 10:33-34** [NIV] *“But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.”*

The Samaritan is symbolic of the Father's and Christ's mercy and love towards us.

We find ourselves a lost and hurting traveller in life, who allows themselves to be cared for and mended by Jesus Christ.

Already because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ [the Samaritan in the parable], the traveller is well.

**Luke 10:35** [NIV] *“The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”*

Once rescued the traveller is not left to fend for themselves but given into the care of those who will show him love [the church].

Jesus Christ will not leave this lost person but will return to continue to look after them.

**John 14:15-18** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Christ returns to us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:1, 4-6** [NIV] *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” ... “You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we receive an invitation to follow Jesus along the way the Holy Spirit will show us.

**John 16:13** [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

**The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth and the future path we are to walk.**

This is the first side of the two edged sword initiated by God.

This invitation to travel with Jesus Christ along the way to eternal life is done with the mutual understanding that if we meet any other lost and wounded travellers on the way we will not walk by unconcerned.

**Luke 10:36-37** [NIV] *“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, **“Go and do likewise.”***

If we continue to walk on we will continue only in our own strength and possibly get lost and hurt again.

Why?

Because Christ has paused on our journey together to save and heal other people lost and hurting.

**Philippians 2:1-5** [NIV] *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”*

**The invitation to follow Christ on the way to eternal life is going to mean a complete change of mind from selfish to compassionate.**

This brings us to the second side of the two edged sword, God's Word as found in "**The Handbook For Life**", the Holy Bible.

**Romans 12:2** [NIV] *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

This change of mind is the change from selfishness to compassionate love for other human beings.

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship."*

This change will be costly, a total sacrifice of our lives, following the example of Jesus Christ who is a living sacrifice Himself.

**Matthew 16:24-26** [NIV] *"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

This does **NOT** say in order to be saved we have to take up the cross. Jesus took up His cross to save us.

What we are invited to do is to take up our cross [a sacrificing life style] and join Him as disciples, to share in the saving of others as we journey through life with Him.

Those shown salvation, through the cross sacrifice of Jesus, will be invited by us to become disciples of Christ and to show others the salvation that comes through accepting the cross sacrifice of Jesus.

We are all called to become disciples of Jesus Christ then to invite others to also become disciples.

This is how the Kingdom of God grows and multiplies.

**Matthew 28:18-20** [NIV] *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

This is the commission we have been given by our Saviour.

This is the way of life that Jesus Christ walked and we are to walk as His disciples.

**The guided to become guides to others.**

An invitation that demands a sacrifice on our part as our new life demanded a sacrifice by Jesus Christ.