

“Ministering God’s Way vs Man’s Way”

By Pastor Glenn Wright

I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1986, “The Most Excellent Way” has been providing Christian solutions for chemical dependency and life-controlling problems. We acknowledge the problem, but our focus is on Jesus ... the problem solver and healer! We believe a person can become totally freed only by the power of the indwelling Spirit of Christ Jesus.

- A. Love — Acceptance — Forgiveness
- B. Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living
- C. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount
- D. Win — Disciple — Mend — Send

II. THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD

From the beginning of this ministry we knew that the Word of God is sacred, that it is infallible and inerrant, that it brings new life — therefore, we have used only the Word, Jesus, with His Holy Spirit, as the foundation for His ministry.

- A. How Important is God’s Word to Him?
 - 1. PSALM 138:2d NKJV — *For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*
 - 2. PSALMS 119 shows us how important the Word is to the Lord and to us.
(With exception of two or three verses, His word is referred to in 152 verses — the longest chapter in the Bible.)
 - 3. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NKJV — All Scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, **for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - a) **Doctrine** — What basic truth that God wants me to know does this passage teach?
 - b) **Reproof** — What error in judgment, understanding, or behavior might this passage be reproofing in my life?
 - c) **Correction** — How might this passage correct, balance, or direct me?

d) **Instruction** — What does this passage present to prepare me for some future spiritual challenge?

ALL Scripture is what we need to teach.

B. **The Word of God, the Bible, describes itself and its work in many ways:**

1. **God's Word is living:** Hebrews 4:12 — **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
2. **God's Word will not return to Him empty, but will do what God desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it:** ISAIAH 55:11 — **So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**
3. **God's Word is like fire and a hammer:** JEREMIAH 23:29 — **"Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"**
4. **God's Word is Spirit and life:** JOHN 6:63 — **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.**
5. **God's Word is part of the Believer's armor — the sword of the Spirit:** EPHESIANS 6:17 — **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ...**
6. **God's word is living and enduring, through which people are born again:** 1 PETER 1:23-25 — **... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.**
7. **Jesus used the Word to defeat Satan and so can we — MATTHEW 4:3-11:**
 - a) ⁴But He answered and said, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*
 - b) ⁷Jesus said to him, *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"*
 - c) ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

III. GOD'S WORD vs MAN'S WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption —

31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

IV. BIBLICAL HAPPINESS AND JOY

1. We should distinguish between happiness and joy. God wants you to be filled with His joy, peace, and hope in every situation, but often such qualities shine the most in the midst of trials and pain:

- **JOHN 16:20, 22** — Jesus said: "Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy." ... "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

- **JOHN 16:33** — Jesus said: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- **2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-11** — Cast Down but Unconquered
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed —
10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
- **2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-10** — We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.
4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God:
in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,
5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;
6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit,
by sincere love,
7 by the word of truth, by the power of God,
by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report;
as deceivers,
and yet true;
9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live;
as chastened, and yet not killed;
10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2. God's goal for us is not primarily that we be happy, but that we be holy:

- **ROMANS 8:28-29** — And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- **HEBREWS 12:3-11** — For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.
4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,

Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens,

And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons;

for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers,
then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us,
and we paid them respect.

Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them,

but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful;

nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those
who have been trained by it.

3. **Even Jesus learned obedience through the things He suffered — much more so must we!**
 - **HEBREWS 5:8 — ... though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**
4. **When we learn to submit to God's sovereign hand through the trials we experience, to trust Him and look to Him as our strength and hope in those trials, we grow in holiness and abound in His joy, peace, and hope:**
 - **1 PETER 5:6-11 — Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,
7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.
11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**
 - **ROMANS 15:13 — Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

