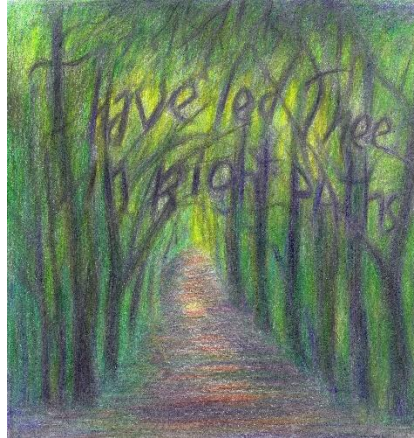


THE PATH OF LIGHT



By Stephen Hanson

It's not what we claim to believe.
It's not what we claim to know.
It's not what we have experienced.

It's a daily walk on the Path of Light.

The early believers called it ***the Way***.

Jesus puts it bluntly:

***"For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life,
and those who find it are few."***

Matthew 7

Eternal life begins when we start walking on that path.

Our steps are illumined by the light of God's Spirit.

The glory of the world to come envelops and comforts us, as we follow Jesus to whatever cross he has for us.

Jesus tells us all we need to know, when he says,

"I AM the way."



Take Up Your Cross

Stephen Hanson

Faith in Jesus is not a static "belief system".

Faith in Jesus is *what we do*.

"Whoever hears these words of mine and does them....."

"Whoever hears these words of mine and does not do them....."

"Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

We get all the help we need.

Like the cloud of glory by day and the pillar of fire by night, guiding the Israelites through the wilderness...

We are guided by the light of heaven.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name sake.

The minute we start to wander off the path the Spirit convicts us, shows us what we need to do, and helps us to do it.

***"I am the light of the world;
he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."***

John 8

We are never alone as we walk this path.

As they made their way toward Emmaus those men felt abandoned. The one they hoped would redeem Israel allowed himself to be executed.

What was left for them?

A stranger draws up beside them and asks,

"What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleophas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see."



The Road to Emmaus

Stephen Hanson

And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24

In one form or another, the risen Lord is beside us as we walk the Path of Light.

Lifting us up, when we're down.

Bringing us down, when vanity has inflated us.

Giving us hope.

Imparting his strength.

***"I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
No one comes to the Father, but by me."***

Jesus promises in John 12:32 that sooner or later every human soul will be given a chance to follow the Way.



Two Roads Stephen Hanson

Our chance is now.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep us walking on your path of light. We want to be people of your way. We want to follow you, wherever you take us. Lead us, restore us, convict us so we may remain walking in your light. And yes, protect us from our own vanity, lift us up, give us strength, give us hope... Hope that we are not alone and you are walking with us on this path leading us to the light of life.

Marantha Mirror

Message: REB November 2021

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