

Our Goal

We think and act to Love God more each day with more heart, more mind, more soul, more strength. We improve our alignment with God's will and examine our progress to ensure we are in fact progressing.

What exactly does this goal look like, feel like, and become within us if we accept it into our being? How does it affect our choices, schedule, thoughts, attitude, and actions?

Are we Christians like the herd are Christians or like the Bible says we ought to be Christians (see info on my site)? Do we love God like the herd loves God or the way the Bible says we ought to love God?

Herd mentality affects our ability to grow in two ways. First, we ourselves play a role by conforming more with the herd, as the herd does, and less with God, as Jesus did. Are we more like Jesus or mainstream Christianity? Do we even recognize the difference, and if so, just how detailed do we see the difference?

Are we demonstrating to the herd how to grow closer with God as Jesus did? Is our love growing with others? How is our humility, patience, peace, forgiveness, mercy, generosity, service, and compassion? Is it helping the herd grow? Are we more concerned with our self-image than God's? Are we looking more to what we can get than what we can give?

If we see and know the right thing to do to help the herd, how are we doing it? Are we being bystanders, waiting for something? Are we plugging into the herd or spending most of our time away from it?

Most of us do less than we are capable with minimal efforts to trust and grow with God. We can have rationalized believable reasons for settling on more simple steps than challenging ourselves more to improve upon the Bible's clear instructions. We can have excuses as to why we do not apply ourselves more to grow with God.

Cognitive bias, rationalization, justification, excuses, and reasons.

Is God impressed with our great love, effort, and diligence? Is our family? How have we helped others grow with our great love and peace?

We ought to examine carefully to our 'why we choose what we do and how we do it.' We may be fooling ourselves. In fact, we are often fooling ourselves. Not realizing and identifying foolish thoughts and decisions that we all have may be setting us up to follow foolishness. How are we examining ourselves to realize and identify our self-deception?

We can humble ourselves, as the Bible instructs. We can increase God's will into our priorities. We can live simpler lives with more love and peace.

Our hearts are to be circumcised, because they are hard. Jesus said in Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me." A yoke is to keep an animal in line with another. The animal needs a yoke because it wants to go its own way. The yoke we are to wear is one by choice. We are to choose to go with Jesus and learn from Jesus. If we don't chose it, it won't happen.

If we go to www.inwardauthority.com, "Who is God," and then "Christian Behavior," we will be able to access Biblical information on how to live. Any questions about how to do these things ought to be answered by our own seeking and finding the answers. Usually the answers come quicker as we practice what the Bible says.

Development rarely comes from someone else's instructions. We have to practice and apply instructions. We are to open up our hearts with others while in service to God to help build love and peace. Pleasing people often occurs with this process, but it is not the goal. Sometimes, others may be displeased with sincere truth. Some may even wish to avoid love and peace. Sometimes the herd will resist it.

We can purify our hearts and clean our conscience. We can seek peace AND pursue it. We can confess our fears, anger, doubt, shame, lies, and harm done if we are willing to humble ourselves enough. If we can humble ourselves enough to make God our God, then we will do more of God's will. Our actions speak our faith. Our actions speak our choices. Faith, that leads to grace, that leads to salvation, comes from choosing God as a higher priority than anything else. Will we choose to have the faith of Abraham?

Our Daily Development Activity is to prioritize God in our hearts, minds, attitudes, and actions. When we wake up, do we seek God? Do we talk about God with others? Are we seeking peace and pursuing it each day as we interact with others? How are we helpful? Are we thinking more about what we want or how we can chose to be yoked with Jesus?

Deeply interwoven within our minds (beliefs, thoughts, perceptions, interpretations, choices), bodies, groups, culture, church, traditions, and larger systems are:

Conformity, Obedience to leaders, Cognitive Bias, Learned Helplessness, Herd Mentality, and all the other influences described in this class.

If we can gain an understanding upon how we are influenced and affect by these things we can raise our ability to choose God and choose to be Yoked with Jesus. Following the herd is not the goal. Believing we are superior to it is not the goal. Getting in the herd yoked with Jesus and helping others to choose that yoke is the goal.

Through choosing the yoke we do as Jesus did and learn from Jesus. Read John 15.