

THE YOKE OF JESUS

The kingdom of God is within us, it is the area where God rules. Jesus is the door into the Kingdom, and that door is within our spirit. We enter into that door by surrendering our spirit, for Jesus to rule over it. This door is the gateway of first love, where our spirit communes with God, through worship. It is the obedience of love, where our spirit is participating in the fruit of the Spirit

When our spirit is active, the life of God is flowing into it, so that we are experiencing the divine nature. We are aware of the love, joy and peace of God, and all the qualities of the life flow of His presence in us.

A walk with God is a flow of the Spirit, and there are good works for us to walk in, prepared for us from the foundation of the world, it is walking out our destiny. It is Jesus living His life through us. It is the narrow path of discipleship.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Discipleship is being yoked to Jesus, Yoked to His person, and to His teachings, as a lifestyle. We are following Him, being like Him. We cannot truly follow Him unless we are actually yoked to Him .He is always with us, but we need to learn how to walk with Him. We know that God is in us, but He also wants to guide us, and direct us, so we have to learn how to sense Him with our spirit.

Farmers used to yoke a young ox with a more experienced older ox to train it. So the younger ox, that would naturally like to do its own thing, to wander off and eat some grass, actually couldn't when they were yoked to a larger ox.

Oxen are large animals, they are heavy animals. When a younger ox is yoked to large ox then it's very difficult to pull it off course. The farmer would actually yoke the oxen together, So that the younger ox would be in training. The older ox would take the major load and younger ox would be walking alongside learning the ropes.

Now the older ox knows the master's voice, and the directions that the farmer would give it. So it is very familiar with where to go, and what to do. It doesn't need much direction.

Jesus is like the older ox, on the earth He had an intimate relationship with the father, so He only did what He saw the father doing, and He wants to help us do the same thing. So the older ox would keep the younger ox on the right path.

If we are not yoked to Jesus, then we can end up on the wrong path. When we start out we are yoked to a pathway which does not lead to life. So it is really important that we take the yoke of Jesus upon us. And that yoke is taking on discipleship with Jesus.

Jesus asked us to take His yoke upon us, So that we could be joined to Him. Where He goes, we go. Jesus sets the field, the path and direction for our lives. And this makes it very easy. We don't have to try and work out where to go and what to do. We just have to follow. He just wants us to follow Him.

If there is a yoke, Jesus will carry the weight when we are yoked to Him, because His yoke is easy. Jesus will teach us and train us in discipleship. We can learn from Him, we can learn to be gentle of heart, our strength surrendered to Him. We can learn to be humble in heart, our identity surrendered to Him.

When the early church first formed, before they were called

Christians, they were called followers of the way. That was the way of discipleship. Jesus basically said that He would be with them and would equip them to make disciples and He would guide them in that process.

When Jesus actually said to people, come follow me. He didn't give them a whole list of things in the instruction. It was just basically a come follow me.

The disciples had a very good understanding of what it meant to follow Him. Because there were rabbis in Jesus' day and people were following them. So when Jesus started to call people they knew what it meant to come and follow him.

Jeremiah 6:16 says thus saith the Lord stand by the way, see and ask for the ancient path, where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. This is the Old Testament passage which Jesus is referring to when He says if you are weary and heavy Laden come to me, you will find rest. But the reality is that they said we will not walk in it. And the first people to say that were Adam and Eve we will not walk in it. Who were given the choice to follow the right path, the eternal pathway, and they chose another path.

The path of the tree of life or the path of the knowledge of good and evil was their choice. We actually get to make that choice every day. Which path are we going to follow? Are we can to do our own way or are we going to do it God's way. We can choose our way, which is humanistic, materialistic, and in own strength, with the sweat of our brow, its hard work and actually never produces any real life. Or we can choose God's way, which is the supernatural way. In which we can be yoked to Him and He can guide us and lead us in paths which are beyond our imagination and thinking right now. Because God is unveiling where these paths lead, and where they go.

Proverbs 14:12 there is a way which seems right to a man but its end is the way of death. You see there is always a way, the choice is whether we want death or life. If we want to keep on doing things our own way, it will always produce death.

Romans 8:29 – those who He foreknew He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His son. This has always been the path. This has always been the desire that God has for us that we would be like Him. The destiny, the way that we have been assigned in our life that was ordained and predestined is to be like God. It is not a physical thing to do; it is a person we become like. And we become who God created us to be.

We are to be conformed to that eternal image. Adam and Eve were sinless, but not perfected. They had done nothing wrong but they still would have had to be conformed to the image of Jesus. That was not immediately, there was a process to follow. They would've had to follow the same ancient path to fulfill their governmental authority as conformed sons of God, in the full image of God.