

All-In

Followers of "The Way"

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All-In: Followers of "The Way"

Acts 9:2 NLT

[Paul] requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there.

John 14:6 NLT

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Hebrews 1:1–3 NLT

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

9 Keys to Following The Way with Passion

Hebrews 12:14–17 NLT

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. You know that afterward, when he wanted his father's blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears.

1. Be intentional to live a holy, separated life.

John 17:15–19 NLT

[Father,] I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from

the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

2. Embrace the strength we get from one another.

3. Guard against a root of bitterness.

Hebrews 12:18–21 NLT

You have not come to a physical mountain, to a place of flaming fire, darkness, gloom, and whirlwind, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. For they heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible that they begged God to stop speaking. They staggered back under God's command: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." Moses himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, "I am terrified and trembling."

Exodus 20:18–20 NLT

When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram's horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear.

And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!" "Don't be afraid," Moses answered them, "for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!"

Hebrews 12:22–24 NLT

No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

4. Embrace the passionate, transformative Presence of God.

Hebrews 13:1-6 NLT

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

5. Actively love one another.

6. Give honor to marriage.

7. Don't fall in love with money.

1 Timothy 6:9–10 NLT

But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Hebrews 13:10–16 NLT

We have an altar from which the priests in the Tabernacle have no right to eat. Under the old system, the high priest brought the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, and the bodies of the animals were burned outside the camp. So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy by means of his own blood. So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore. For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

8. Be willing to be different for the sake of making a difference.

9. Remember that this world is not our home.

Hebrews 13:20–21 NLT

Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood— may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

Small Group Guide: Followers of The Way

Opening Question

If someone who didn't know you watched the way you spend your time, money, and relational energy over the past month, what would they conclude you are most devoted to?

Following Jesus Is a Whole-Life Commitment

Early Christians called themselves followers of “The Way” — not followers of a religion or a set of ideas, but of a Person. And followers of The Way were so passionate and all-in for Jesus, and lived so visibly differently, that the movement was recognized from Damascus to Rome. Followers of The Way let Jesus shape every part of their lives. The author of Hebrews encouraged his ancient readers — and us alike — to renew our passion for Jesus, remembering that He first went all-in for us.

Hebrews 12 and 13 give us a picture of what that looks like. Review the nine keys to passionately following The Way from your notes. Our call is not just to believe the right things, but to live them: pursue holiness, guard against bitterness, embrace God's presence, love people well, honor marriage, hold money loosely, and be willing to step outside your comfort zone for the sake of Jesus. Following The Way is costly, but it is also beautiful. It is where life, power, and purpose are found.

And that call is still for us today. God is not inviting us into a cold religion or a checklist of rules. He is inviting us into a living relationship that changes how we see, how we love, and how we endure. When we stay close to Jesus, we do not have to rely on our own strength. His presence gives us courage to forgive, grace to stay faithful, and power to keep walking.

For Discussion

1. The nine keys in this passage describe the outward shape of a life following Jesus. Which of those are most clearly present in your life right now — and which is the one you are most tempted to treat as optional?
2. Bitterness is described as a root that grows quietly and corrupts many. Is there an unresolved offense — in a relationship, a community, or a church context — that you have been carrying rather than addressing? What has that cost you, and what would it take to deal with it directly?
3. In the message, Pastor Jimmy draws a distinction between having financial goals and trusting money rather than God to secure the future. Which side of that line are you on right now? Is there a financial anxiety underneath your goals that reveals where your actual trust is sitting?

4. Going “outside the camp” means taking the holiness of God into places that are uncomfortable, inconvenient, or socially costly. Is there a context in your life where following The Way is costing you something right now — or somewhere you have been avoiding going because of what it might cost?
5. The Israelites asked Moses to go to God in their place. We are invited to come directly — to a joyful gathering, not a terrifying mountain. Is there a way you have been keeping God at arm’s length rather than actually engaging with His presence? What would closing that distance look like this week?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for making a way and for being the Way, Yourself. Thank You that we are not standing at a distance from a terrifying mountain, trembling and asking someone else to go for us. You have opened the door. You have cleared the path. Forgive us for the ways we have called ourselves followers while keeping parts of our lives off-limits — our finances, our closest relationships, our unresolved offenses. We want to follow The Way all the way, not just in the comfortable parts. Jesus, You went outside the camp and bore the disgrace so that we could be made holy. Give us the courage to go there with You. Holy Spirit, make the nine keys in this passage not a checklist but a description of who we actually are — people so clearly marked by love, integrity, and Your presence that the world around us cannot miss it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.