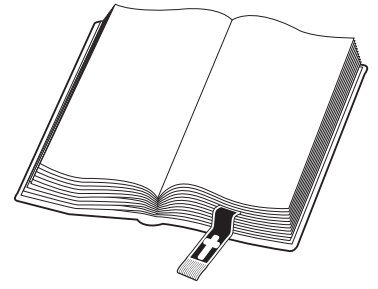


# Walking In God's Paths

*"Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it."*  
Psalms 119:35



## Number 19 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

Beloved, if you and I want to be honest, we would have to admit there is enough evidence to convict us of being proud, stubborn, and rebellious. If we really want to be honest and stop blame-shifting, making excuses, and feeling sorry for ourselves, we will admit that trying to control our lives and the lives of others only brings sorrow, pain, and destruction. The writer of this Psalm was honest. He knew the weakness of his flesh and the stubbornness of his heart, so he asked the Lord to make him walk in the path of His commandments.

As a new believer in 1976 with a life in ruins, I remember crying out to the Lord to help me. Years of trying to be in control of my life only caused it to be more and more out of control. I knew God gave me a free will, but I remember asking Him to make me go His way, to make me miserable when I got off His path, and to give me no peace until I repented and went His way. I have prayed that prayer many times in my Christian life, and the Lord has been faithful to answer it.

As a baby Christian I quickly learned that each time I obeyed the Lord, I received a peace, joy, and freedom I had never known! The more I experienced the changes that obedience brought in my life, the more I came to delight to spend time with Jesus, building a closer relationship with Him. He became the lover of my soul. Psalm 119:59-60 reads, *"I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments."*

My life was full of pain, anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, and sinful habits. The Lord kept giving me

choices—His paths or mine. I would obey this scripture. I would think on my ways. Where had choosing my way, making my own decisions led me? Living with the painful consequences was enough to cause me to turn my feet and quickly go God's way. Walking my path of unforgiveness, bitterness, and anger was destroying me physically, mentally, and emotionally. It had brought my marriage to the brink of divorce. Choosing to walk the Lord's path of forgiving as He forgave me set me free, healed me, and restored my marriage. Walking the path of indulging the lust of my flesh and trying to fill the emptiness of my life with sinful relationships and the materialism of this world brought bondage and destruction into my life.

By GOD'S AMAZING GRACE, choosing to walk in the Lord's path has filled me with peace, joy, and hope, and it has set me free. He fills my every need. Till I see Jesus face to face I will daily be making choices—God's path or my path. There have been times I have chosen my path, but God has faithfully convicted me, brought me to repentance, and set my feet on His path again. Beloved, I hope you are daily choosing to walk in God's path. It is the only way to true and lasting peace. Check your life. What path are you on? Is it leading you closer to Christ or away from Him? I hope it is leading you closer.

— Janice McBride

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*All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.*

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