



Part Two

Teaching Wisdom To Our Children

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Lead Students On The Path Of Wisdom

The third step to *Teaching Wisdom To Our Children* is to lead them along the path of wisdom. Let me share some insights from the world of martial arts. Martial artists speak often about following the path or way (Dao or Do). The ancient pursuit of martial arts was to learn the way and walk in it. Martial Arts was a “way” of life. It is the same today. Students search out teachers who can show them the way to live as a martial artist. Christian teachers have the unique opportunity to teach students about Christ as the True Way even as they demonstrate the proper way to block, punch, kick and escape from holds.

“Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:5-6

Martial Arts is about becoming a better person; about controlling one’s passions and desires. It’s about becoming a better citizen of the world and protecting those who are weak and in danger. Christian Martial Arts is about becoming a child of God, serving Him with passion and obeying the desires God has for His children. Worldly Martial Arts is about “me” and “bettering” others. Christian Martial Arts is about “God” and helping others become “better.” It’s about becoming a Citizen of Heaven and leading the weak to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ so more people will glorify Christ as King

of Kings, Lord of Lords, God of the Ages!

The word “way” is used more than a thousand times in the Bible; the word “path” more than 80.

The first mention of the “way” in the Bible is Genesis 3:24. God steps in to protect the human race.

“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

Eternal life is our “way,” but it would have been disastrous if Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit of the Tree of Life in their sinful condition.

“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.”
Genesis 3:22

That’s why God moved the first humans outside the Garden of Eden and placed angels and a flaming sword to keep the way of the Tree of Life. It was a constant reminder to Adam, Eve and their children about what they lost and what they could someday receive. It was both protection and hope.

God has His Way in Heaven and on earth. That's an important part of how Jesus taught His disciples to pray ("Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.") Christ is the Great and Almighty Teacher. He is the Way. He created the way for His followers to travel. The foundation of our Faith is His. He traveled on the Way and showed us how to live and how to give. He sacrificed His Life for us and shows us how to sacrifice ourselves for His Sake.

God taught the Way to Adam and Eve and their children and their children's children. Doing what was right in God's Eyes was not a mystery to the human race. They knew what God had done and what He demanded of them. The people of earth chose to disobey God's Way because their sinful hearts liked their way better.

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them." Genesis 6:5-7

Notice what the human race had done to the Way of God.

"And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." Genesis 6:12

Humans had “corrupted” God’s Way upon the earth. That’s what people still do today. The “way” of humanity is corruptive and destructive. God’s Way is creative and life building.

God was deadly serious. He was ready to destroy everyone and every living thing He had created. Fortunately, for all of us, God is a God of Love and Grace.

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Genesis 6:8

God had Grace on Noah and thus on all of us. The human race owes its existence to God’s Grace and to Noah. The Bible says Noah was a special man during his generation.

“Noah was a just man and perfect in his generation, and Noah walked with God.” Genesis 6:9

Noah walked in the “way” God wanted him to walk and that pleased God. Because of God’s Grace, Noah and his family and representative members of living species were saved from the destruction of the Flood.

It seems from what we read in Genesis 6 that Noah was the only human to find favor with God, but we see that Noah’s family was also blessed. The Bible doesn’t say Noah’s wife, sons and their wives were the reason God did not destroy humanity from the face of the earth, but it does say they received the blessing of God’s salvation because of Noah.

“And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee.” Genesis 6:1-18

God established a covenant, a Grace-Agreement, with Noah and his family received the benefits of the agreement. The covenant God made with Noah had nothing to do with Noah’s abilities or skills or obedience. It was strictly a Grace Covenant because Noah found favor with God.

That’s just how it is with the Way Christ deals with us. We are saved by Grace through Faith and none of that is of, from or through ourselves. It is the Gracious Gift of Almighty God. It’s not of human works, so no one can boast of themselves. Our boast is only in Christ and His Great Sacrifice for our sins.

The concept of the “way” and the “path” is presented clearly for all to see in Scripture. John the Baptist went ahead of Christ and preached to everyone who would listen: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Our spiritual journey is both a “way” and a “path.” As people who teach children, it’s important to remember that we’ve been on the way and the path longer than our students. They look to us to show them the way and lead them on the path. Our job is to tell our students to prepare the Way of the Lord and make His Paths

straight. The Message of God's Grace is ageless and timeless. It is an eternal Message of Hope!

10 Steps to Wisdom

An expert in the “path” of life was King David. He was a man after God’s Heart and desired deeply to walk with God every day of his life. In Psalms 16:11, David wrote: “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” Walking on the path of God gives us three great treasures: “life,” “fulness of joy,” and “pleasures for evermore.” If we walked up to ten people today and offered them life, fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore, how many do you think would say they weren’t interested? My guess is most would say they would like to know more about how to have those things in their life.

How does a person get to the point where they know they’re walking with God and will receive life, joy and pleasure for evermore? Here are the first three of **ten steps** in the process as David explained in Psalms 16. They are the same steps we can use to Teach Wisdom to Our Children.

1. “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.”

We begin with salvation. No child can become spiritually wise until they place their faith and trust in God. We must be clear with our students that the path begins by acknowledging our need for God because of our sin and separation from God (“Preserve me, O God”) and need to stop trusting in ourselves and trust God for His Gift of Salvation (“for in thee do I put my trust”).

Jesus told His disciples: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) Jesus Christ is the only Way to God. I tried many religious paths before coming to Christ and can speak personally of the absolute truth of Christ’s claim. He is the “only” Way to the Father.

The problem every human being faces is the same: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) It’s not a situation where “some” or “several” people have sinned and come short of the glory of God. “All” have sinned and come short of God’s glory. That means our ministry is to every person we know and every person we meet. Everyone begins life at the same place – lost in trespasses and sins.

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts

of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Fortunately for all of us, God is a God of Love, Mercy and Grace.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:4-10)

2. “O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord.”

Our relationship with God is based on the Lordship of His Son in our lives. God is not something we add to our life; God is our Life through Jesus Christ (“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”). We have access to God by faith in Christ, and not only do we gain access, we stand in it and rejoice in hope. We must teach our students to look to Christ and say, “Thou art my Lord.”

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement ... That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:1,11,21

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved ... For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:9,12,13

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Romans 13:14

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's ... For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living ... For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Romans 14:8,9,11

"Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people."
Romans 15:11

3. “My goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.”

God delights in all His children. He loves us and our relationship with Him is one of joy. Do we do things that displease God? Yes, all children cause their parents problems at times. But we need to know that God delights in us as a Perfect Father. He delights in all who are on His Path. Our students need to enjoy God and others who are members of the Body of Christ. There is no place in God’s Family for egos and petty jealousy. Christian Martial Artists should be best friends and closer than human family. We are part of a Heavenly Family that will continue to enjoy each other through eternity.

“For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.” Mark 3:35

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:34-35

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you ... These things I command you, that ye love one another.” John 15:12,17

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another ... Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another ...

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” Romans 12:5,10,16

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” Romans 14:19

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus ... Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God ... And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.” Romans 15:5,7,14

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ ... But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him ... But now are they many members, yet but one body ... Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary ... And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant

comeliness ... That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another ... And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it ... Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” 1 Corinthians 12:12,18,20,22,23,25-27

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love ... Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another ... And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:2,25,32

“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds ... Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye ... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:9

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you”

1 Thessalonians 3:12

“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.” 1

Thessalonians 4:9

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” 1 Peter 1:22

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” 1 Peter 3:8

4. “Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.”

Our students must understand how foolish it is for them to start on the Path of God and then take other paths that lead them after earthly gods. Walking with God is a lifelong path that does not veer to the right or left. It is a straight path, a narrow path, a path that constantly follows Christ. Children have always had things come into their lives at different ages that tempted them from the straight and narrow, but it's even worse today. Christian parents are struggling to direct their children on a path that pleases God.

As Christian Martial Arts teachers, we can be a tremendous help to parents by walking on God's Path and continually inviting children to follow us even as we follow Christ. David knew from personal experience that earthly sorrows would be multiplied for anyone who runs after other gods, gets involved with their offerings to those gods and speaks their names. Today, we have children deeply involved in practices that are occult-like in addition to the continuation of the “self” generations that preceeded them.

The children in your Martial Arts classes are there for a reason. God has led them to you because you have something they need. You know the “way” on the “path” of the Christian life. You can be there for them every week as they learn and train. You can listen to their hopes, their dreams, their struggles and sorrow. You can answer their questions about life and give them hope for a life that is pleasing to

God, a life where sorrows will not be multiplied because they hastened after another god. You can show them the foolishness of running after other gods and the wisdom of following the One True God the rest of their life.

Children become teenagers who become adults, and one day some of them will thank you for your ministry to them to help them when they were young stay on the straight path of God's Will for their lives. Christian Martial Arts can be one of the best investments parents make for their children.

5. “The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.”

Our inheritance is heavenly, not earthly. The Lord is the portion of our inheritance and that of the children we teach. What we have waiting for us in Heaven is so much better than anything we could get here, even if we were able to possess all of this earth’s wealth.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.” 2 Corinthians 5:1-2

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Peter 1:3-5

We can help today’s children and youth look forward with anticipation and excitement to what God has prepared for them, even as we are excited. The Way we follow and the Path we walk lead us into the very Presence of God!

We have a goodly heritage. Children are often interested in family trees and their human heritage. We can tell them about an even greater heritage in Christ. Share stories from the Bible and Christian history about those who came before us. History is filled with wonderful and exciting stories of faith and courage.

Children and youth today see and hear so much about celebrity, which is usually nothing more than selfishness and greed. Share with them the great stories of the saints who gave of their faith and love, time and energy, to make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of people through the centuries. Share with them the great saints of the Old Testament who gave so much in obedience to God's Will. (Hebrews 11 is a wonderful place to take children to help them learn about faith.)

6. “I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.”

The Christian life is not easy and we will often need the counsel and advice of our Lord. Young people have many voices calling for their attention whether it be family members, friends, television, movies, books or other influences in their lives. Unfortunately, the world is full of bad advice. We need to help children understand the only advice that will guide them correctly throughout their life is God’s Advice.

Children can be led astray quickly and easily. That’s part of being immature. Children and young people need to look to the wise counsel of their parents, teachers and others in positions of authority over them. Christian Martial Arts instructors are among those people who have tremendous influence with children and young people. The multitude of wise counsel is a protection to them.

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” Proverbs 15:22

“For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 24:6

Another important part of teaching children about seeking and receiving wise counsel is telling them about unwise counsel.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” Psalm 1:1-2

“The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.” Proverbs 12:5

An interesting way of telling the story of wisdom and wise counsel is how King Solomon told his children about wisdom. He often spoke with them in a direct way.

“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”

“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.”

“My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and

health to all their flesh.”

“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.”

Solomon also used a storytelling technique of humanizing the object of the lesson. He usually spoke about wisdom as being a woman.

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.”

“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?”

“Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.”

Proverbs 8 is an excellent example where Solomon wrote about wisdom as being human. Look at what we can teach children about this wonderful and exciting lady named “Wisdom” in verses 12-21.

“I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.”

Think about giving children advice and counsel this way. The average child hears hundreds of words of advice every day from a wide variety of influences (e.g. family, friends, classmates, television, radio, movies, magazines, books, music, videos, social media, electronic games, etc.). That's thousands of words each week, more than a hundred thousand words every year.

CBS News reported in 2007 that advertisers spent more than \$17 billion on advertising aimed at children and teens. That's more than double what it was in 1992. In 1983, advertisers were spending "only" \$100 million a year marketing to kids.

Why would advertisers spend billions of dollars a year to reach children? Because it works. The New York Times reported that children 13 and under spend about \$40 billion of their own money each year; teenagers spend about \$160 billion. On top of that, children and teens influence their parents to spend another \$150 billion every year.

The older a child gets the more likely the counsel they receive will be bad advice because parents and authority figures have less influence on older children and teens while friends and media have more influence.

How often do you get the opportunity to advise children each week? Once? Twice? Use every opportunity you have with the children God leads into your sphere of influence to help them with wise counsel and advice. Remember how powerful and influential the enemy is

with children, teens and young adults. Satan knows what's at stake and he's throwing everything he has at getting people when they're young and then trying to keep them for life.

7. “I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.”

Martial artists must learn how to stand straight and strong in order to move quickly from stance to stance and to execute powerful and effective defensive techniques. A fundamental truth in martial arts is that in all our movements we are rooted. We remain rooted to the ground and in balance as we execute and move from technique to technique. In the same way, Christian young people need to learn how to stand solidly for what’s right. Once we know how to stand in the paths of righteousness, we must not be moved. In all our movements we are rooted and grounded in Christ (at the Right Hand of God) and His Love.

Where do we start learning to stand so we won’t be moved? It begins by understanding the Power and Majesty of Almighty God.

“Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.” Job 37:14

Our faith and determination are strengthened as we consider the wondrous works of God. His creation of the world and space is truly amazing. It is a major theme of the praise songs of Israel.

“I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.” Psalms 9:1

“That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.” Psalms 26:7

“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” Psalms 40:5

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.” Psalms 71:17

“Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.” Psalms 75:1

“We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.” Psalms 78:4

“Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.” Psalms 86:8

“For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.” Psalms 92:4-5

“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.” Psalms 104:24

“Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth.” Psalms 105:2,5

“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!” Psalms 107:8

“The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.” Psalms 111:2,4,6,7

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” Psalms 139:14

“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.” Psalms 145:4,5,9,10,17

Christians of all ages will be strengthened to stand for God when they know the God they serve. Our God is not a weak god made of wood or metal. He is the Almighty God Who created the heavens and the earth! In that Truth we stand. Even as the earth God created cannot be moved from its position in the heavens by the will of man, so we cannot be moved in our commitment to Him.

Standing in the knowledge of God is also the Christian's song. The Apostles tell us of the importance of trusting God and standing in His Grace, Power and Faith.

“By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:2

“Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.” Romans 14:4

“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:5

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand.” 1 Corinthians 15:1

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”
1 Corinthians 16:13

“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.” 2 Corinthians 1:24

Standing is something Christians must do every day. We cannot let up for a moment because all of us are in spiritual battles. The enemy wants to defeat our minds, hearts and bodies. The enemy wants to pull us back into slavery. God wants us to enjoy the freedom we have in Christ and to stand boldly in it as we wage war with the enemy.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness,” Ephesians 6:11,13,14

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

“Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.”

Philippians 4:1

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.” Colossians 4:12

“For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 3:8

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” 2 Thessalonians 2:15

“By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.” 1 Peter 5:12

The lesson of standing properly (proper stance) is one we will repeat in every class. It is also a spiritual message we should mention at every opportunity for the spiritual sake of our students.

8. “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.”

Christian wisdom makes our hearts glad and gives rest and hope to our bodies and minds. Wisdom adds health to our bones and years to our lives. Wisdom brings joy to the heart and hope to the mind.

“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.” Psalms 51:6

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Psalms 90:12

“When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul.” Psalms 2:10

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.” Proverbs 3:13

“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.” ... ” Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.” Proverbs 8:11,14

“The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.” Proverbs 10:21

“Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.” Proverbs

14:33

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.” Proverbs 3:5-8

“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.” Proverbs 15:28-30

“The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly. The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.” Proverbs 16:21-24

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” Proverbs 17:22

Wisdom is an entrance into a world of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. Sharing sound physical movement exercises along with words of truth, encouragement and support will help the

young people we teach gain so much more from their lives and service to their Lord.

9. “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”

Christians will not die in vain. Our lives and our deaths have deep meaning to God. We have an exciting future beyond what our eyes see now because Jesus rose from the dead. Because of His Resurrection, we will also rise from physical death to live with Him forever!

What we do now has a tremendous significance to what we will do through eternity. To spend our time serving God in this life is a wise choice: a choice we can lead our students to choose.

“And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or

lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first." Mark 10:23-31

"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth." John 4:34-37

"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:67-69

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." John 10:27-30

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.” John 12:24-26

“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” John 17:2-4

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:22-23

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this

mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?' The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Corinthians 5:1

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall

shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” 1 Timothy 6:12-19

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.” Hebrews 5:8-10

“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the

eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.” Hebrews 9:11-15

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” 1 Peter 5:8-10

“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.” 1 John 2:25

What a marvelous promise we have! Eternal life with Christ. It is a promise that strengthens and emboldens us for the work of the Lord. It is a promise we should remind our students so they will also remember God’s purpose for their lives.

10. “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

Following Jesus Christ is the “path of life.” As we practice the Presence of Christ, we will experience great joy and pleasures for evermore.

“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” Psalm 16:11

“In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” Proverbs 12:28

“He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths: To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from

the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life. That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous. For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.” Proverbs 2:7-22

“I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life. Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and

perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.” Proverbs 4:11-27

“In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” Proverbs 12:28

What a wonderful message we have to share with children, young people and adults each week in our classes. I pray you will find many ways to to point your students toward the Wisdom of God in every lesson. Our churches, communities and countries will be better and stronger for your efforts.

Summary of the Ten Fold Path To Wisdom

- **Salvation** – Receive Christ as Savior
- **Lordship** – Respond to Christ as Lord in every area of life
- **Fellowship** – Enjoy daily fellowship with God and other Christians
- **Follow** – Follow Christ and the Path He Walks
- **Family** – We enjoy a great and heavenly heritage
- **Counsel** – Listen and obey God’s Wise Counsel and Advice
- **Stand** – Do not be moved from the Path and direction God set us on
- **Health** – Wise choices in life bring health to the heart and strength to the bones
- **Serve** – Spend your life serving God and others
- **Presence** – Practice the Presence of Christ every day

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