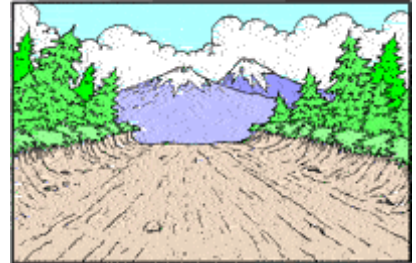


## *The Easy Road*

Life is tough!

And for most Christians it seems just , as tough as for others. In fact, sometimes it seems even tougher. We Travel the Hard Way. Yes, there really is an easier way. But we only know the hard way. It goes something like this: We're not up and about long most mornings before something happens we don't like. We react negatively, resentfully, fearfully, or angrily.



Oh, it may not seem to show on the outside, but we're already torn up on the inside. We're discontent, frustrated, and unhappy.

As the day goes on, the discontent and frustration build up until sooner or later someone gets in our way and we let them know they're out of line.

Oh, you don't do that, don't you? Perhaps not on the outside, you don't, but on the inside... And this only makes the hurt and frustration worse. Deep inside you know you shouldn't. Then there are all the demands and deadlines that put us under so much pressure. All the have-tos. We rush to get it all done. And this only makes us more pressed, and hurt, and angry, and resentful, and frustrated. Anxiety builds.

We can feel the tightness in the chest and the band around the head. Some of us get ulcers. All of us suffer, and so does everyone around us.

We Have Another Environment We are *in Christ* according to the Word. See especially the book of Ephesians which uses this and similar expressions repeatedly.

Paul said also, "*In Him we live, and move, and have our being*" (Acts 17:28).

However unpleasant our temporal environment may be, if we have received the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we are *in Him*. He is our primary environment to the extent we'll let Him be.

In our physical, temporal environment there is nothing really safe. There is nothing really secure. There is nothing really certain.

In our physical, temporal environment there is trouble, and hurt, and pain, and agony. In Him is love, and safety, and security, and certainty. He never changes. He's always the same. In His absolute love I have the perfect environment for which He created me. Why, then, don't we actually live pleasantly at peace in this perfect environment? Why do we live instead in a state of almost constant strife?

Why? Because we think we have to. We honestly believe that it's our responsibility to take care of everything. We've been taught that to do otherwise is irresponsible.

And that's a burden too heavy for us to bear. It's a burden we were never intended to bear. It's a burden we can't bear. It's a burden we needn't bear.

God wants to take care of all my cares and concerns. There's absolutely no need of turning anywhere else for safety, security, or supply. *In Him* I can rest secure. There's no need to hurry. God's timing is perfect. There's no need to be anxious. He has everything under control. Being *in Him* is enough. We need nothing else, nothing more. We can be entirely content *in Him*. We can relax *in Him*.

**STOP!** That's right, **STOP!** Stop right where you are. When you're mistreated, stop. When they expect too much of you, stop. When nobody cares, stop. When you're imposed upon, stop. When you hurt, stop .. When you're pressed with too much to do, stop. When time is running out, stop. When everything goes wrong, stop. When you're anxious and worried, stop.

When you're sick, stop. When you're tired, stop. When you're frustrated, stop. When you're angry, stop. Whenever you realize you're rushing, hurt, unhappy, or burdened down, stop! When you stop, He's there for you. You're *in Him*. Right then, you're *in Him*.

There's no need to go anyplace else. You're already where you want to be, where you need to be. You're *in Him*.

### Stay Where You Are

Being *in Him* is enough. That's all you need. *In Him* is light, and life, and joy, and peace, and freedom. *In Him* is might and power. *"I preach the unsearchable riches of Christ ... In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.*

*... I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. - From Ephesians 3:8-21*

What more could we ask? Why look elsewhere? Above all, why look to ourselves? What folly! What arrogant stupidity to try to care for all our multitudinous concerns when He Who is infinitely capable wants to take care of all of them for us? Why run around all uptight about things being out of our control, when they're never out of His control Who wants to work all of them together for our benefit?

### This is Victory

Christians are forever looking for the elusive spiritual victory promised them.

**JUST STOP!** When you stop, He starts. Our God is a gentleman. He will not elbow his way in where He isn't wanted. If you insist on taking care of everything yourself, He lets you try. Even though it causes Him such pain that you choose to slight Him and hurt yourself. *When you stop,*

**He starts.** This is victory. He is our victory as He is our life, our light, our love, our joy, our wisdom, our freedom and all else we'll let Him be. Why not?

When we try to care for things ourselves, when we won't stop to let Him take care of them for us, we show our mistrust of Him. We grieve His tender, loving heart. And we suffer untold pain and distress. And it's all so unnecessary.

Is there anything in the entire world so important you have to rush it through, so important you can't stop, so important you'd rather grieve Him and live in personal torment than stop and let Him take control?

Is there anything in all the world you can handle better than can your God?

If there isn't, then begin now to stop on every reminder and just be there, *in Him*, for Him to take control. He'll do it the moment you stop *in Him* and stay *in Him* in expectant trust, knowing He is in charge so you needn't be.

There *in Him* you can continue in relaxed restfulness, even while doing whatever there is for you to do, as He accomplishes His good purposes in your circumstances under His control. There *in Him* you can rest in easy thankfulness whatever your circumstances.

*"Filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. "*  
*-Ephesians 5:18-21*

**What a life this!**

There's no other way to be truly happy in a world where there's so much pain. What about you? Will you go the easy way? Or will you go kicking and screaming to heaven? Will others want to go with you, your way?

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