

# **PATHWAYS TO GLORY**

*Relational Devotional*



## **APPLICATION GUIDE**

**Pathways to Glory Relational Devotional Application Guide**

Copyright ©2011 Harvey L. Diamond

All rights reserved. No part of this material may be used or reproduced by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system without the written permission of the authors except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Access PDF copies at [www.ariseinglory.org](http://www.ariseinglory.org)

*Fostering spiritual growth  
and strengthening your  
relationship with the Lord;  
producing good fruit  
bearing witness to  
a confused world*

## ***Contents***

<b>Seeking first the kingdom way</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A framework for spiritual growth</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Identifying paths to spiritual growth</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Growing along the spiritual continuum</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Navigating the Lord's "paths of righteousness"</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Pathways to Glory</i> Intro</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Using <i>Pathways to Glory</i> as a spiritual development resource</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>An exercise to see God's pattern and process</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Being blessed by relating Messiah to Jewish people in the simple way God designed to relate with them</b>	<b>12</b>

## Seeking first the Kingdom way

God is *spirit*. He is *relational*. He created mankind to engage in relationship with Him and one another. He defines the relationship with His creation in covenant terms.

Jesus affirmed the two greatest commandments, which likewise are relational in nature.

‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”  
(Matthew 22:37-40 NKJV)

He made another point:

“*seek first the kingdom of God* and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33-34 NKJV).

Eugene H. Peterson, in *The Message*, put it in simple terms:

Steep your life in *God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions...*  
You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

The truth and reality is, how we relate to God affects how we relate to our world—life all around us. Growing in relationship with God enables us to be all God created us to be, and be a witness of God's presence in a confused and unbelieving world.

## A framework for spiritual growth

God designed a series of ways to relate and engage with Him,  
and with the world around us.

They are the *appointed times* of the LORD.

They reveal the fullness of God's purposes.

Imbedded in them are *measures of grace concealed*  
but dynamically revealed as *amazing grace* in Christ.

Jesus revealed *He is the way, the truth and the life*; the ultimate  
representative and image of God. He revealed the Father's heart  
and released the power of the Holy Spirit to give us the *capacity*  
*to walk* in God's ways and *experience His life*.

He also came as the *Light* to illuminate God's truths and reveal how to  
*apply* those truths in relevant and practical ways. Seen through His  
light—spiritual eyes—we can see how these appointed ways serve as  
visual aids illustrating God's relational plan of engagement; ways  
revealing aspects of how God seeks to engage and relate with us so  
we can know Him better and enjoy a more dynamic and fruitful  
relationship with Him.

These appointed ways, likewise, reflect a blueprint or framework revealing  
a path of spiritual growth.

They represent patterns and cycles of life, specifically God's  
pattern of Creation, Revelation and Redemption.

They reveal the Values, Vision and Virtue of God.

They serve as ways God designed to bring alignment and unity between  
man and God.

Pathways to Glory is a tool that serves as a multidimensional way  
of engaging with God in a very real and relevant manner.

It's a devotional in a flexible format that provides a framework that  
can be used to catalyze spiritual growth and strengthen your  
relationship with God and relationships with others.

## Identifying paths to spiritual growth

In an effort to understand how people grow spiritually, Willow Creek Association engaged in a major REVEAL research study. Through their findings, they identified three phases of spiritual growth.

While the Pathways to Glory Relational Devotional is not based on the REVEAL research their identified stages of growth can be seen to closely align with the seven horizontal Relational tracks that are part of the Pathways to Glory framework. The aspects of growth related to these seven tracks or categories are identified on the right hand side of the table on the next page.

# Growing along the Spiritual Growth Continuum

Willow Creek Association REVEAL\*

PATHWAYS TO GLORY

<p><b>Early stage</b></p> <p>Experiencing God's touch upon the heart</p> <p>Establishing a foundational knowledge of faith, principles of salvation by grace and spiritual practices</p> <p>Relate with God and one another</p> <p>Gain broad exposure of religious and spiritual aspects of life</p>	<p><b>Finding Significance in Life</b>          Being made in <i>His image</i>; accepted and included in His family          Being justified, reconciled and redeemed          Experiencing God's love          Learning how to be blessed being a blessing to others</p> <p><b>Discovering God's Purposes</b>          Being fulfilled, making a difference          Distinguishing and discerning grace, mercy and truth          Walking in alignment with God's ways          Resting in God; relating with others</p> <p><b>Receiving God's Amazing Grace</b>          Learning to trust God by responding to choices          Experiencing God's love and faithfulness          Experiencing grace through active engagement          Being an instrument of grace</p>
<p><b>Intermediate stage</b></p> <p>Responsiveness to God</p> <p>Moving forward in developing a more intimate relationship with God</p> <p>Cultivating deeper spiritual practices</p> <p>Growing in character</p>	<p><b>Responding in Faith to God's Initiatives and Life</b>          Engaging more in the marketplace; serving others          Experiencing the fruit of truth, wisdom and liberty          Walking in the new life in Christ          Navigating through trials; working through conflict          Passing tests of active trusting faith          Experiencing transformation          Building confidence in God and self</p>
<p><b>Advanced stage</b></p> <p>Increasing sensitivity to Holy Spirit</p> <p>Deliberate shifting of priorities</p> <p>Redefining one's world view and identity in God</p> <p>Increasing interest and involvement in serving others</p> <p>Increasing involvement in missions and other faith-based activities</p>	<p><b>Walking in Spiritual Reality</b>          Experiencing God's faithfulness, presence and power          Deeper and wider vision and understanding          Breaking free of fears, barriers and constraints          Taking authority; being an influencer</p> <p><b>Living in Truth and Balance through God's Values</b>          Valuing what God values          Maintaining a world view of justice, mercy and faith          Balancing social, political, religious norms and influences          Resisting worldly and carnal influences and temptations</p> <p><b>Living the New Life in the Lord</b>          Strong identification with God's character and causes          Relating congruently with Father, Son, Holy Spirit          Discerning wisdom and following the Lord's direction          Walking in open vision to challenges and new opportunities          Bearing new fruit of the life of God          Functioning in God's strength in new and expanded capacities</p>

\* Follow Me, Willow Creek Association, 2008

# Navigating the Lord's "paths of righteousness"

This is a tool that serves as a framework or *road map*, capturing the *spiritual values* of the appointed ways God originally designed for the Hebrew people to engage with Him.

The Pathways to Glory grid is designed in a multidimensional way to help you grow along the natural phases of the *spiritual growth continuum*. It identifies key aspects of our covenant relationship with God. It will illuminate refreshing and personal ways to relate to God and engage with Him. You will more clearly see *the big picture* and gain fresh insights into God's *process and pattern*, and your *knowledge of God and relationship with God* will be greatly enhanced.

You will also more fully understand *God's grace, way of redemption and restoration and discern the wisdom and will of God as your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is sharpened and your focus is centered on God's greater purposes*. Overall, your life will come into greater alignment and union with God as you relate with how God works in all aspects of your life; your relationships and vocational life.

Pathways to Glory Relational Devotional							
FEAST SEASONS	UNLEAVENED BREAD			HARVEST/WEEKS PENTECOST	TABERNACLES		
APPOINTED TIMES WITH GOD: THE FEASTS OF THE LORD	 PASSOVER	 UNLEAVENED BREAD	 FIRST-FRUITS	 PENTECOST	 TRUMPETS	 ATONEMENT	 TABERNACLES

GOD'S WORK	CREATION			REVELATION	REDEMPTION		
	OUTWORKING OF GOD'S CREATIVE & REDEPTIVE WORKS			GOD'S WORD & SPIRIT	RECONCILIATION · RESTORATION · RELATIONSHIP · REVIVAL		
FINDING SIGNIFICANCE	Justification	Sanctification	Dedication	Jubilation	Reconciliation	Redemption	Restoration
DISCOVERING GOD'S PURPOSES	Sacrifice	Cleansing	Gratefulness	Fullness Revelation of Truth Covenant Grace	Proclamation	Affliction Confession Discipline	Rehearse Rest Relate
RECEIVING THE LORD'S GRACE	Crucifixion	Burial	Resurrection	Glorification	Triumph	Substitution	Peace
RESPONDING IN FAITH	New Birth	Immersion	Advance	Indwelling and Infilling of the Holy Spirit	Preparation	Law of the Spirit vs. Law of Sin & Death	Fellowship
WALKING IN SPIRITUAL REALITY	Release	Refreshment	Refocus	Independence in God Dependence on God	Reclamation	Reformation	Fruitfulness Recovery Transformation
EMBRACING HIS KINGDOM VALUES	Connection	Communion	Consecration	Consolation Communication Confirmation Conformation	Conquest Congruence	Conviction Compassion	Contentment Community Completion
LIVING LIFE IN THE LORD	I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE	I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD	I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP	I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD	I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE	I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH THE LIFE	I AM THE TRUE VINE

See interactive devotional at [www.ariseinglory.org](http://www.ariseinglory.org) Download free PDF

# Pathways to Glory Intro

## Catch the Broad Vision

See the Overview and how the *appointed times* of the LORD align with God's process of Creation, Revelation and Redemption. See the LORD in the feasts. Catch the revelation of the 7 "I AM" declarations in John!

## Follow the Path that Suits You Best

PATHWAYS TO GLORY provides flexibility in approaches, study and engagement with God.

## Horizontal-Relational Approach

Choose from any of the 7 horizontal Relational tracks moving across the grid at your own pace.

## Vertical-Study Approach

Do an in-depth study across the 7 vertical feast tracks.

## Spirit-led Approach

Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your study and devotion as He leads you along your journey of life, and as specific topics become of particular interest and relevance to you.

## Maximizing Fruitfulness

While each horizontal Relational track moves according to God's rhythm and process, deeper thoughts and insights are found as you move downward towards the "roots" of the LORD—for He is the hope of glory and the anchor of our soul. (See Isaiah 11)

## Seasons and Cycles

Truly, everything God does happens within the "the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). God used the agricultural seasons to *illustrate a story—or process—of ways He interacts with us*; ways in which the Spirit of God flows to accomplish His purposes. He, therefore, would have us be more sensitive to His rhythm. Solomon had something to say about this.

To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, because for every matter there is a time and judgment (Ecclesiastes 8:5-6)

## Keeping a Journal

Keeping a journal helps you retain insights gained plus enables you to spiritual growth. A sample journal page from which you can print copies is included in the Pathways devotional to make it easy to organize a journal by dates or topic.

## Spiritual Growth Assessment

The Pathways to Glory Spiritual Growth Assessment is a simple tool that works in conjunction with the Pathways to Glory Relational Devotional. *It is not an assessment of doctrinal knowledge or religious practices*, but can help you evaluate your spiritual life as it relates to your relationship with God and identify opportunities for growth and nurturing your faith.

## Using *Pathways to Glory* as a spiritual development resource

<p><b>Individual or Group Study</b></p>	<p>You can choose to study along the 7 horizontal Relational tracks, 7 vertical feast tracks or allow the Holy Spirit to guide you by topic</p> <p>Each section includes Scripture references to reflect upon</p> <p>You will find deeper thoughts and insights as you move downward on the grid towards the “roots” of the LORD—our hope of glory and anchor of our soul</p>
<p><b>The Lord’s Way of Discipleship, Mentoring and Coaching</b></p>	<p>The early communities of believers related to the <i>inherent value</i> and <i>purposes</i> of these appointed times and ways as they found their way in the new life of the Lord</p> <p>They gained a <i>broad perspective</i> through the teachings, parables and demonstrations of the Lord, examples of the apostles and revelation of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>They engaged in active discussions; asking questions to one another to unravel and explain the mysteries of the scriptures and understand the new way God sought to relate with them</p> <p>Check out the <i>Pathways to Glory Spiritual Growth Assessment</i> to see the kind of relational questions they would have asked one another as they sought to grow in “the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9). It can be found on <a href="http://www.ariseinglory.org">www.ariseinglory.org</a></p>
<p><b>Relational Devotional and Spiritual Road Map</b></p>	<p>The Lord leads us through “paths of righteousness” He gives us the opportunity to follow Him:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; keeping His Word in perspective, maintaining a biblical world view</li> <li>&gt; welcoming His presence by waiting upon and yielding to the Holy Spirit</li> <li>&gt; Applying active trusting faith and wisdom</li> </ul> <p>God is <i>relational</i> and acts as we engage with Him from the heart and respond to His promptings: the inner beckoning and impressions of His Holy Spirit. If you allow the Holy Spirit to direct your path He will guide you into truth, provide enlightenment of His word, comfort and peace (SEE John 14:15-27 and 16:5-15)</p> <p>God acts in patterns consistent with His covenant way As you seek Him and yield to His work, He will cause specific topics to become of particular interest and relevance to you Each page includes capsule insights on TRUTH and GOD’S PURPOSES as well as RELEVANCE to life. In addition, questions are provided for REFLECTION on REALITY so you can RELATE with God and RESPOND. Scripture REFERENCES are also provided for additional study and reflection to make your devotion time with God more meaningful and fruitful. Allow the Holy Spirit to enlighten you on the path and help you see His road map pointing the way Keep fellowship with people who value God’s word and are sensitive to His Holy Spirit; God will use them to provide affirmation, confirmation, and wisdom along the way</p>

# An exercise to see God’s pattern and process

Everything God does happens within the “the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23). God used the agricultural seasons of Israel to *illustrate a story—or process—of ways He interacts with us; ways in which the Spirit of God flows over cycles and seasons to accomplish His purposes.* He, therefore, would have us be more sensitive to His rhythm. Solomon had something to say about this.

To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, because for every matter there is a time and judgment (Ecclesiastes 8:5-6)

Through a series of special times that God appointed to engage with Him, we see this pattern of cycles and seasons working God’s overall process of Creation, Revelation and Redemption. It is a pattern He continuously works through. It is the pattern of His rhythm. *It works the way rhythm and cadence work in music-- a flowing pattern bringing you to rest and peace.* It is the way He designed for our lives to be in sync with Him!

The table below illustrates this process and pattern. Can you identify with ways this process has flowed in your life? Use the next few pages to reflect and record ways you have experienced God working in your life. It should give you hope for the future!

GOD'S WORK	CREATION OUTWORKING OF GOD'S CREATIVE & REDEPTIVE WORKS			REVELATION GOD'S WORD & SPIRIT	REDEMPTION RECONCILIATION · RESTORATION · RELATIONSHIP · REVIVAL		
	I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE	I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD	I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP	I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD	I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE	I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH THE LIFE	I AM THE TRUE VINE
GOD'S WORK	RELEASE	REFRESHMENT	REFOCUS	REVELATION	RECLAMATION	REFORMATION	REDEMPTION
THE OUTWORKING OF GOD'S CREATIVE AND REDEPTIVE PROCESS	God causes new things to spring forth; does new and/or creative works; sets us free from bondages and sins such as: anger, anxiety, despair, fears, dependencies, disgrace, lack, disqualification, depression, falsehoods, vanity, uselessness, etc...	We experience times of great grace and God's favor, relief, cleansing, healing, renewal, refreshing, regeneration and strengthening to bring changes resulting in new attitudes, direction, sense of purpose and hope	We experience favor and advance forward with greater strength, walking with enlightened vision and greater faith; moving forward, being involved in new opportunities; serving and giving back to God and forward to others	We experience a new sense of God's love and gain new insights and truth from God's Word and empowerment from the Holy Spirit evidenced in new measures of understanding, vitality, freedom and joy; causing us to testify of God's amazing grace	We experience conflict and trials, fighting spiritual battles to resist fear, falsehoods and temptation; walk in the LORD's victory, reconciling truth; seeing and experiencing changes and shifts towards transition and transformation	We are strengthened in character and faith by the LORD's grace and mercy; grateful for His triumph over sin and death, being aware of total discharge from the guilt and penalties thereof, embracing His truths and new life in the Spirit	We reflect upon God's favor and works of redemption and grace; enjoy times of fellowship and rest with others; testify of what God has done; celebrate truth and transitions, looking forward in anticipation of new things ahead

Think about a situation or process in the past God brought you through relating to your personal or vocational life.  
 Can you see yourself in the middle of another cycle? Do you see the pattern?  
 Record your thoughts relating to the process God brought you through in the respective spaces.  
 Can you see how God works through a process to achieve His purposes?

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE	I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD	I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP
<b>RELEASE</b>	<b>REFRESHMENT</b>	<b>REFOCUS</b>
<p>God causes new things to spring forth; does new and/or creative works; sets us free from bondages and and sins such as: anger, anxiety, despair, fears, dependencies, disgrace, lack, disqualification, depression, falsehoods, vanity, uselessness, etc...</p>	<p>We experience times of great grace and God's favor, relief, healing, cleansing, refreshing, renewal, regeneration and strengthening to bring changes resulting in new attitudes, direction, sense of purpose and hope</p>	<p>We experience favor and advance forward with greater strength, walking with enlightened vision and greater faith; moving forward, being involved in new opportunities; serving and giving back to God and forward to others</p>
<p>WHAT PARTICULAR SITUATION WAS I INVOLVED IN, OR WHAT SIGNIFICANT ISSUE DID I HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHERE I EXPERIENCED GREAT RELEASE?</p>	<p>WHAT KIND OF REFRESHING DID I EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT OF BEING SET FREE, HEALED OR RELEASED FROM THAT FORM OF BONDAGE?</p>	<p>HOW DID THE OUTWORKING OF THIS SITUATION HELP ME REFOCUS AND ADVANCE FORWARD?</p>

<p>I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD</p>	<p>I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE</p>	<p>I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH THE LIFE</p>
<p><b>REVELATION</b></p>	<p><b>RECLAMATION</b></p>	<p><b>REFORMATION</b></p>
<p>We experience a new sense of God's love and gain new insights and truth from God's Word and empowerment from the Holy Spirit evidenced in new measures of understanding, vitality, freedom and joy; causing us to testify of God's amazing grace</p>	<p>We experience conflict and trials, fighting spiritual battles to resist fear, falsehoods and temptation; walk in the LORD's victory, reconciling truth; seeing and experiencing changes and shifts towards transition and transformation</p>	<p>We are strengthened in character and faith by the LORD's grace and mercy; grateful for His triumph over sin and death, being aware of total discharge from the guilt and penalties thereof, embracing His truths and new life in the Spirit</p>
<p>WHAT NEW INSIGHTS AND UNDERSTANDING DID I GAIN, AND HOW DID IT MAKE ME FEEL?</p>	<p>WHAT OPPOSITION, CONFLICT OR TRIAL DID I FACE, AND HOW DID THE LORD SUSTAIN ME AND HELP ME WALK IN THE VICTORY?</p>	<p>HOW WAS MY CHARACTER AND FAITH STRENGTHENED THROUGH THIS TRIAL?</p>

**I AM  
THE TRUE  
VINE**

**REDEMPTION**

**We reflect upon  
God's favor  
and works of  
redemption and grace;  
enjoy times of fellowship  
and rest with others;  
testify of what  
God has done;  
celebrate truth  
and transitions,  
looking forward  
in anticipation of  
new things ahead**

**WHAT DID I LEARN FROM  
THIS EPISODE OF MY  
LIFE, AND HOW DID IT  
HELP ME PREPARE FOR  
WHAT WAS AHEAD?**

# Being blessed by relating Messiah to Jewish people in the simple way in which God designed to relate with them

## Romans 9:1-5

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, *to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;* 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

## Romans 11:11-32

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! *But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.* 12 *Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!*

...16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,* 18 *do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.* 24 *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

25 **For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The Deliverer will come out of Zion,  
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;  
27 For this is My covenant with them,  
When I take away their sins."

28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 *For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.*

## Provoking Jews to jealousy—the Lord's mandate—is accomplished through:

- Uncommon, unconditional Christ-like love and hospitality
- Having more spiritual insight into THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES and APPOINTED TIMES and HOLIDAYS than they typically do
- Encouragement to DISPROVE Jesus as the Messiah: you really can't if you know truth!
- Demonstrating the reality of God's presence and power through sensitivity to the Holy Spirit: they are predisposed to the supernatural and miraculous, finding validity therein