

Chapter 6: He guides me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

As a good Shepherd, God guides us along paths of righteousness throughout our lives. Keller tells us in Chapter 6 of his book that for sheep not to get stuck in ruts and destructive land the shepherd must keep them on the move. They must not be left on the same ground too long. Therefore, a good shepherd will rotate his sheep from pasture to pasture periodically.

God desires to lead us into greater and greater righteousness in our lives as well. We should be aware of this at all time because of God's call to us to be holy.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

What does Paul urge the Thessalonians to do in verse 1?

What does Paul state is God's will in verse 3?

What did God call us to do? (verse 4)

Four times in the book of Leviticus the Lord calls for His people to be holy as He is holy. (Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7)

Peter refers back to this in his first epistle. According to 1 Peter 1:16, how do we go about being holy?

The Lord desires for us to constantly be moving forward in our walk with Him. We are still growing even during the times that He calls us to be still and patiently wait on Him. During these moments He is guiding us by molding our hearts to be more Christ like. However, even though we would like to think we are following God's lead we, like sheep, are stubborn, self-willed, proud, self-sufficient and persist in pursuing our own way. Even to the extent sometimes to convince ourselves that our way is God's way.

Read Proverbs 14:12 and write it below.

Starting at the bottom of page 90, Keller states seven fresh attitudes that one should acquire to progress forward in their movement onto new ground with God. These seven attitudes are listed below. Evaluate your Christian walk as it is right now. How would you rate your attitude in comparison to each attitude that Keller lists?

1 means “I *really* need to work on this.”

5 means “I take on this attitude regularly and I am following God’s lead in this way.”

(Special Note: If you choose 5, then most likely you will have an example or incident that comes to mind in which you had this attitude.)

1. Instead of loving myself most, I am willing to love Christ best and others more than myself.

1 2 3 4 5

2. Instead of being one of the crowd, I am willing to be singled out, set apart from the gang.

1 2 3 4 5

3. Instead of insisting on my rights, I am willing to forego them in favor of others.

1 2 3 4 5

4. Instead of being “boss,” I am willing to be at the bottom of the heap.

1 2 3 4 5

5. Instead of finding fault with life and always asking “Why?” I am willing to accept every circumstance of life in an attitude of gratitude.

1 2 3 4 5

6. Instead of exercising and asserting my will, I am willing to learn to cooperate with His wishes and comply with His will.

1 2 3 4 5

7. Instead of choosing my own way, I am willing to choose to follow in Christ’s way: simply to do what He asks me to do.

1 2 3 4 5

For each of the attitudes above think of ways that you can begin to cultivate this attitude in your own life. Especially those that you rated yourself low on.