

Manual of Doctrine and Faith

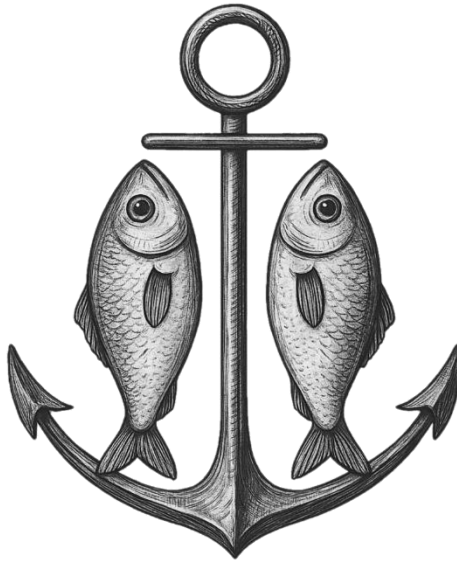
*The Way of Jesus: A Path of Love, Transformation,
and the Kingdom of God*

FIRST EDITION

2025

THE WAY OF JESUS

A Path of Love, Transformation, and
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A MANUAL OF
DOCTRINE AND FAITH

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Section I: Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Manual

This manual presents the foundational beliefs of *The Way of Jesus*, a theological framework that seeks to recover the transformative power of Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection. It is written to guide individuals and faith communities into a deeper understanding of God's nature, the meaning of discipleship, and the living reality of God's Kingdom.

Rather than offering rigid dogmas, this manual calls for a return to the spiritual heart of Jesus' message; a path of love, forgiveness, and conscious alignment with the Divine Source. It is designed to equip believers with clarity, inspire spiritual growth, and unify all who seek to walk in *The Way of Jesus*.

1.2 Who Is Jesus?

Jesus of Nazareth was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of Herod the Great (Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1). According to Scripture, his conception was miraculous; announced by the angel Gabriel to Mary, a virgin betrothed (engaged) to Joseph of the house of David (Luke 1:26–35; Matthew 1:18–23). His birth fulfilled messianic prophecy and marked the appearance of the one foretold as the Messiah, the Anointed of God (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14).

He was raised in Nazareth and lived in obedience to the Law and traditions of Israel (Luke 2:39–40). At about thirty years of age, he was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River (Luke 3:21–23),

at which time the Spirit descended upon him and a voice from heaven declared him to be the beloved Son of God (Matthew 3:16–17).

Following his baptism, Jesus began a public ministry throughout Galilee and Judea. He taught in synagogues, proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God, and called disciples to follow him (Mark 1:14–20). He performed many works of power: healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, cleansing lepers, calming storms, feeding multitudes, and raising the dead (Matthew 4:23–24; Luke 7:22; John 11:43–44). He spoke with authority, taught through parables, forgave sins, and revealed the heart of the Law as love of God and neighbor (Matthew 5–7; 22:37–40).

Jesus was opposed by religious leaders who viewed his authority as a threat to their power. After being betrayed by one of his own disciples, he was arrested, tried before the Sanhedrin and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, and condemned to death by crucifixion (Matthew 26–27; John 19). He was crucified outside Jerusalem, died, and was laid in a sealed tomb (Luke 23:33–56).

On the third day, the tomb was found empty, and he appeared to his followers, speaking with them and showing the marks of his crucifixion (Matthew 28:1–10; Luke 24:36–49; John 20:19–29). His resurrection was witnessed by many over a period of forty days, after which he ascended into heaven before his disciples (Acts 1:1–11).

These events form the foundation of the faith. Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection reveal the central figure of human history; the one through whom God's will and purpose were made manifest. His words

and actions constitute the pattern for discipleship and the basis upon which all teaching in *The Way of Jesus* is built.

1.3 What Is "The Way of Jesus"?

The Way of Jesus presents a Christ-centered model of spiritual development grounded in an understanding of God as the infinite Source of consciousness and love, rather than a distant authority demanding appeasement. It interprets the mission of Jesus as a revelation of divine order rather than the establishment of a new religion. Through his life and teachings, he demonstrated that the Kingdom of God is both a present and enduring reality; expressed wherever compassion, justice, and love are actively practiced.

Walking in *the Way of Jesus* involves practicing selfless love, extending forgiveness as an intentional moral discipline, and cultivating awareness of one's participation in a larger field of divine reality. This path functions as a process of transformation that directs individuals toward embodied ethical living and the realization of the Kingdom's principles within the context of daily human experience.

1.4 Distinctive Emphasis

The Way of Jesus emphasizes a return to the simplicity and purity of Jesus' original message, setting aside centuries of theological distortions. Its key principles include:

- **God's mercy over judgment** – God seeks restoration, not condemnation.

- **Transformation over transaction** – Salvation is not a legal exchange for the price of sin, but a renewal of the soul.
- **Present Kingdom living, not just future hope** – The Kingdom of God begins within us and is expressed through love and service.
- **Compassion and justice as essential disciplines** – The gospel calls for active love of neighbor and the pursuit of justice.

1.5 The Need for a Theological Shift

In the first century, many Jewish people lived under the heavy hand of Roman rule. They longed for deliverance from foreign occupation and for the restoration of Israel's former glory. According to the prophets and traditions, the Messiah (a divinely anointed king from the line of David) was expected to overthrow oppressors, reunite the scattered tribes, and usher in an era of justice, peace, and divine favor.

For the early followers of Jesus of Nazareth, he appeared to be that long-awaited figure. His teachings, healings, and bold defiance of the religious elite captured the imagination and hope of many.

But then came the cross.

Jesus was executed by the Romans on a charge of treason, crucified like any other failed rebel. To the people of the time, this must have seemed like the tragic end of yet another misguided movement. If the Messiah was meant to lead Israel to freedom, how could he die such a shameful death? And worse, how could God allow it?

This was the crisis at the heart of early Christianity. It forced a dramatic theological shift. Rather than abandon their belief in Jesus as the Messiah, his followers reinterpreted his mission. His death was changed from being a defeat, to a sacrificial offering for sin; an unexpected yet necessary part of a divine plan. The hope of earthly liberation gave way to the promise of spiritual salvation and the escape from a damnation in hell. The Kingdom Jesus spoke of was relocated from prophetic expectation to the divine atonement for sin; the enemy was no longer Rome, but Satan and hell.

1.6 Recovering the Lost Truth

The narrative that portrays God as requiring a blood sacrifice for forgiveness misrepresents the very nature of God revealed by Jesus. God is the Divine Source of love, mercy, and restoration; not a vengeful being demanding punishment. Jesus' mission was to reveal that forgiveness flows freely from God's love and to invite humanity to be transformed from within; not to "pay" for sin. The key to cleansing is the purification of the heart (Matthew 23:26); learning to love God and neighbor, forgiving as we are forgiven, and living in alignment with divine truth.

Jesus was fully human and fully divine; as the Son uniquely attuned to the will of the Father, not in the sense of being one part of a Trinity. While we are all children of God, Jesus stands apart as the one who perfectly embodied divine consciousness. He lived in full awareness of both heaven and earth, manifesting the wisdom, authority, and power of the Kingdom of God. His miracles were demonstrations of what is possible when the human spirit is fully united with the Divine Source.

The Holy Spirit, in this understanding, is the active power and presence of divine love, not a "third person" of God. It is God's breath, God's force of truth, moving through creation and inspiring all who open themselves to its guidance.

1.7 The Resurrection and the Victory of Life

The resurrection of Jesus represents the central affirmation of this message. It signifies a transformative event through which human existence is shown to continue beyond biological death. In this

framework, resurrection exemplifies the continuity of life as an expression of divine reality that extends beyond material limitation. It affirms Jesus' unique role as the embodiment of this transcendent life and establishes a paradigm through which the human soul, when attuned to divine consciousness, participates in the enduring dimension of existence.

1.8 A Shift Toward True Discipleship

The essential change needed today is a shift from belief systems that focus on rules and doctrines to a way of life that follows the example of Jesus. His teaching was practical. He showed people how to live with compassion, forgiveness, humility, and integrity. When these qualities are practiced, the values of God's Kingdom become visible in everyday life; within families, friendships, workplaces, and communities.

This change unfolds through three deliberate steps:

1. **Accept responsibility for one's own actions.** Begin by addressing guilt through honesty and repair. Acknowledge where harm has been done, make amends where possible, and commit to truthful and responsible conduct in daily life.
2. **Adopt Jesus as a model of mature human development.** Study the qualities he demonstrated—coherence between thought, motive, and behavior—and practice expressing love and integrity in practical situations.
3. **Engage salvation as a continuing process of growth.** Live in a way that brings healing to relationships, fosters compassion,

and strengthens the will to act with goodness and integrity.

Each choice toward these ends participates in the redeeming work that Jesus described as the Kingdom of God made present among people.

When Jesus said, “**Follow me,**” he was inviting people to walk the same path he walked—to live with awareness, responsibility, and love so that the presence of God becomes real and active in human life.

SECTION II

Theological Doctrine

CORE BELIEF

KEY TENETS

1. God's Love and Mercy
2. The Kingdom of God
3. Resurrection as Divine Vindication
4. Forgiveness and Reconciliation
5. Discipleship and Transformation
6. A Consciousness-Based Understanding