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*“That the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory,  
may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge  
of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened”*

*- Ephesians 1:17-18a*

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### **Breaking Out of Religion**

Religion has been best defined as “a way of life”, signifying a known and regularly taken way, method, observance or routine intended to “please God”. Religion therefore has given people of diverse beliefs the opportunity to hinge their respective routine practices on a move to “please God”.

Indeed Jesus says that “I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the father except by me” [John 14:6](#). This statement has generated a lot of controversies as many other faiths claim that theirs also lead to God and so Jesus couldn’t possibly be the “Only Way”. This controversy has always been and will always be. However, as should be expected I am neither the least concerned nor interested in this debate or any other such debates for that matter.

You may then wonder what my concern is. My concern is for the “religious believer”!! I am not concerned about the different faiths struggling to establish themselves as “a way to God” because all they are struggling about is “the way” with no destination in view. This is why I am concerned about the believer who does not know what he has been given by Christ as described in the above scripture (John 14:6).

While religion can best be defined as a “way of life”, what Jesus offers in Himself is a destination explicitly defined to be “LIFE”. The scripture does not say that “I am the way and also the truth and also the life”, signifying that all three are independent destinations, but rather it says, “I am the way (giving access to) the truth and (which also leads to) the life... Also remember that Jesus says, “...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life...” [Mathew 7:14](#). This is what I am talking about! The beginning point is the WAY and the destination is the LIFE; to ensure a smooth and consistent transition from the WAY to the LIFE is the TRUTH.

Routines and regular observance of known activities and religious duties etc are common characteristics of someone going round and round on the WAY and never arriving anywhere. Many believers have unfortunately consistently remained on the WAY and have therefore never laid hold of the TRUTH nor are they living the ever increasing measure of the LIFE. The fact is that the believer is expected to, having come to Christ - the WAY, stop relishing the WAY, remaining on it, but rather to go on and know Him as the TRUTH. Now as Christ Himself has said, “You shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall set you free” [John 8:32](#). What is the truth setting us free from and what is it setting us free into? Oh yes, the “truth” is setting us free from the power of the flesh; that nature that creates around us the tendency to prefer to go contrary to God’s holy lead. The “truth” is setting us free from a struggle, in vain, to attain God’s standard by the strength of the soul. And of course, the TRUTH is setting us free to live THE LIFE – ETERNAL LIFE.

Now, “This is life eternal, that they may know you...” [John 17:3](#). From this passage of the scripture, Eternal LIFE is simply “Knowing God”, and of course, this should never be mistaken for knowing ABOUT God which is the best thing a religion - observing believer can achieve.

Now the tool that effectively produces this life in a believer is called the TRUTH. And since as Christ Himself has declared, “THY WORD is TRUTH”, therefore, if a believer will just

consistently seek to receive the TRUTH of God's Word, he is bound to see the birth of this LIFE in himself. But then again what is the WORD? Is it the Bible (the letters) or something deeper? Also to this Jesus Himself has the answer when he said, "The words that I speak to you they are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE" [John 6:63](#) and also that "... for the letter (WRITTEN) kills but the Spirit (WORD) gives LIFE" [2 Corinthians 3:6](#). The Spirit word is "Every word that proceeds (And not that which had PROCEEDED) out of the mouth of God" [Mathew 4:4](#), proceeds being the defining word. We are not required to live by any previous Word from God or commands or any word declared to someone else at sometime in the bible or out of it. We are required rather to live by that which God speaks for the NOW into our spirit man (and this can be from the Bible) as we remain consistently in fellowship with him; this is the TRUTH that ALONE can take us into living the LIFE. And this LIFE, this ETERNAL LIFE, is never and can NEVER be attained in any religion, whether the religion of the believer or that of the unbeliever.

"So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ... Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion... but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh." [Colossians 2:16-23](#).