



Two Ways: What Will You Choose?

1. The "Anything But God" Way (Isaiah 30:8-14)

- **Choosing Our Own Path:** Often prefer self-reliance over God's path.
- **Characteristics of This Path:**
 - Embracing lies (living a life of deception, not just telling lies).
 - Unwillingness to hear God's instruction (Torah).
 - Rejecting divine revelation (preferring smooth sayings, illusions).
 - Pressure on religious leaders to compromise truth for popularity or political gain (e.g., contrast with Jesus' rejection of worldly power).

2. The Could Have Been Way That Wasn't (Isaiah 30:15-17)

- **God's Definition of Strength (v. 15):** Found in returning, rest, quietness, and trust – often seen as passive, but results from active faith.
- **Our Tendency to Act vs. Trust (v. 16):** We often feel compelled to act and "fix" things (action bias), rather than trusting God.
 - Example: Soccer goalies jumping when staying put is more effective.

3. The Way We Can Still Choose: Restoration (Isaiah 30:18-22)

- **God's Patient Waiting (v. 18):** He waits to be gracious, even during our waywardness.
- **Guidance Through Adversity (v. 20-21):** God provides the "bread of adversity" and "water of affliction," but His voice guides us back to "the way."
 - "This is the way, walk in it" (v. 21).

- Connects to Proverbs 14:12 ("a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death") and Jeremiah 31:21 (setting up markers to return to "the way").

The Way: Jesus Christ

- **New Testament Context:** "The Way" is a term used to describe Jesus and the early church.
 - John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."
 - Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:26; 19:9; 19:23: The early church identified as "the Way."

Call to Response: How Do I Choose The Way?

- **Acknowledge the "Anything But God" Way:** Honestly assess self-reliance, alliances, and rejection of truth in your life.
- **Embrace the "Could Have Been" Way:** Understand strength in returning, rest, quietness, and trust. Actively surrender "action bias" to God.
- **Choose the Way of Restoration:** Recognize God's patient waiting and guiding voice, even in difficulty. Listen for His instruction to walk in His way, ultimately finding purpose in Christ and discarding idols.

Choose Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.