

THE JOURNEY

DISCOVERING *the* INVISIBLE PATH

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FOREWORD BY FRANCIS ANFUSO

Workbook

The Journey Workbook

Teacher's Manual

Part I

Lesson One – The Invisible Path	Page 1
Lesson Two – Getting an Identity Makeover	Page 11
Lesson Three – Navigational Tools – Word and Spirit	Page 19
Lesson Four – Discipleship and Ministry	Page 31
Lesson Five – Purpose and Destiny – Your Future	Page 37

Part II

Lesson Six – Seven Essentials Needed for the Journey	Page 47
Lesson Seven – Breaking Free From Your Past	Page 55
Lesson Eight – The Need for Guardrails	Page 67
Lesson Nine – Immersed Into the Body of Christ	Page 77
Lesson Ten – Spiritual Gifts	Page 85

About the Class

The goal of the class is to give you a glimpse into the path God has purposed for your life and to help you seize your destiny and purpose. In doing so, you will be able to live the role created for you.

Whether you're just starting out on your journey, anywhere in the middle, or have become detoured and lost your way, this practical seminar will help shine the light on the invisible path that not only leads to God's goodness and experiencing His kingdom within, but also to the greatest adventure of your life!

Are you ready to enter the path that is unseen with your carnal eyes to the excitement there? If so, fasten your seatbelt for you are about to be launched into the ride of your life on a path that will lead you into great adventures of faith—a path filled with joy and anticipation of what God is going to do next.

Comment from Pastor Francis Anfuso – The Rock of Roseville

“I believe *The Journey* is your GPS for the Bible. The problem is solved. The riddle is deciphered. Like a trusted guide, Ken makes complex concepts simple and masterfully unpacks the Bible's greatest mysteries. He provides a sure foundation upon which to build a lifetime of insight.” — *Francis Anfuso*“

The Invisible Path

Journey Seminar – Pt. 1

I. Introductory Remarks

It's important for us to understand that our Christian experience is a walk of faith into the invisible realms of the kingdom of God. We have an invisible path that has been set before us that can only be entered by faith as we accept the fact that we are mere pilgrims in search of a city whose builder and maker is God.

***Psalm 84:5** Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage.*

- As Christians, our calling is that of a **pilgrimage** or journey.
- Peter, one of the disciples of Jesus, refers to us as pilgrims in his first epistle.
- We have been called to be like our father Abraham, who traveled through this world by faith, not knowing where he was going.
- He was a pilgrim looking for a city unknown to his natural eyes—a city whose builder and maker was God and only be seen through his spiritual eyes.¹
- If we are to be like Abraham, we must focus on those things that are above and not seen.
- By focusing on that which is **above**—the invisible realm of God's kingdom, we become true and faithful sojourners or pilgrims.

***2Corinthians 4:18** while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

The Christian life is a journey into this **invisible** kingdom realm that has the potential of either being the most exciting and adventurous journey you will ever experience or the most boring and miserable experience.

My Father's Testimony.

When my father received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he told my mother, *"All these years I've had just enough religion to make me miserable."* Once his eyes were opened to the power of the Holy Spirit within him, his life became a great adventure.

¹ Hebrews 11:8-10

- **Many of God's People Default to a Dry Spiritual Experience.**

Unfortunately, many of God's people default to a dry spiritual experience—not because they want or desire to, but lacked the faith and vision to enter a path that is invisible to their natural eyes.

Jesus said, *"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and few find it."*²

When we default to an experience that is dry and void of true faith and adventure, we do not gain a compelling experience of authentic Christianity.

We must ask ourselves, *"Which path has my journey taken me on?"*

It may be that you come to the conclusion that you have been pushing the default button rather than walking in true faith. If so, don't lose heart because God is with you and delights in revealing what authentic faith is!

Our goal as pilgrims, who are on a journey to the same city Abraham was looking for, should be to discover the invisible path that will lead us there.

As Abraham journeyed towards the city that was unknown to his natural eyes, his destiny and purpose opened up before Him. God began to reveal the invisible path He had chosen for him to walk in. This is why Paul said, *"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."* – *Colossians 3:2*.

II. Keys to Having Our Eyes Opened to the Invisible Path.

One of the great challenges of our faith is the ability to see into this invisible kingdom realm that gives us the capacity to be led by the Spirit with the eyes of our understanding fully opened as His Spirit reveals all that God has prepared for us.

1Corinthians 2:9-10 *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

Key #1 – We Must Know God as He Knows Himself.

² Matthew 7:13-14

One of life's greatest pursuits is that of discovering God in all of His glory and majesties, a discovery that enables you to come to a deeper understanding and revelation of who God is.

Psalm 145:3 (NLT) Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! His greatness is beyond discovery.

It will allow you to experience His wonderful attributes coming alive in your heart, resulting in a greater level of intimacy with Him.

- Many of us have grown up with misconceptions of who God is. As a result, we have been afraid of getting too close to Him.
- Many of our false **perceptions** of God have been based on how we may have viewed authority figures in our lives, including our fathers or mothers.
- We have a tendency to project onto God the unloving characteristics of the people who have influenced our lives to some degree.
- We must also consider that the world in which we live is under the **sway** and the influence of the enemy of our faith—Satan.³

Satan's goal is to give us an immensely distorted view of who God is so that we will have no affection or desire towards Him. No wonder so many people have a distaste for God.

The world needs to see the true characteristics of God through His Church, which is the pillar and ground of all truth.

- **The truth is, how you perceive God will affect how you relate to Him.**

It is important to see and perceive God in the way in which He has revealed Himself through His Word because every aspect of His Word is pure and equips us to be complete in Him.⁴

As we give ourselves to the study of God's word and His divine attributes, we begin to see God as He is and how His attitude towards us is always favorable.

A correct Biblical view allows us to see and perceive God as a person who likes us and loves us no matter what we have done.

The bottom line of how God genuinely thinks about each of us as individuals is that He has nothing but thoughts of peace with a desire to give us a future and hope.

³ 1John 5:19

⁴ Psalm 119:140, Proverbs 30:5, 2 Timothy 3:16

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

When we begin to perceive God in the same way in which He perceives us, there is an agreement in the Spirit that brings us to a deeper level of intimacy and understanding with Him.

This new level of intimacy causes us to seek Him with a **full** heart of assurance, coming boldly into His presence rather than shrinking back in fear and intimidation. The next two verses from Jeremiah reveal this:

Jeremiah 29:12-13 *Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Key #2 – It's God's Desire is to Open Your Eyes to Your Personal Path.

Ephesians 1:17-19 *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, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*

Testimony of what my Bible School Teacher said to me, "It's not in God's best interest to keep it a secret from you."

That simple statement changed my outlook.

- Each one of us has been created to play a particular **role** that has been uniquely designed according to our personality, gifting, innate abilities and talents we possess as well as the many experiences, whether good or bad, we've picked up along the way.
- It is only as we **willingly** enter into the role God has designed for us that we are fully able to enter into the discovery of all He has created us to be. The more in-sync we are with the person God created us to be, the smoother our life will be.

Everything God creates is with a purpose. When He created you, He had a definite purpose in mind that is related to His purposes in the earth as we see in the following Scripture.

Jeremiah 1:5 *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*

We may not be called to be prophets to the nations, but just as God knew Jeremiah before He formed him in the womb, He knew you and me as well. He had a role already ordained for Jeremiah just as He does for you and me.

The question is, are we living the role that God designed for us in particular or are we lost and wandering souls who are still looking and searching for what life is all about and coming up empty?

Quote: It has been said, *“The real test of man is not when he plays the role he wants for himself, but when he plays the role destiny has for him.”* – Vaclav Havel, President, Czech Republic.

Key #3 – Must Have a Genuine Born Again Experience.

We must be courageous and ask ourselves with honesty, “Are our steps ordered by the heavenly realm or our natural understanding?”

Just as each of us has been born of a natural birth that brought us into this world, there is a spiritual birth God desires for us, a birth that is designed to bring us into the unseen beauty and wonder of the eternal realm where God resides—the kingdom of heaven.

- Once we are spiritually born or born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us to reveal to our natural senses the great mystery of the eternal Godhead in all of the glory of the Father.
- We are given the mind of Christ, or the divine nature of God, to see into this invisible realm, and thus, our journey into the unforeseen begins.⁵

John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

Luke 17:20-21 *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation;²¹ nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”*

- **A genuine born again experience includes being fully converted.**

Matthew 18:2-3 *Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no*

⁵ 1Corinthians 2:16, 2Peter 1:4

As wonderful and adventurous as this path may be, many never find it because they are unwilling to forsake all and become like little children.

- **To be fully converted, we must embrace the cross.**

At the entrance is the cross, which we must now pick up. As we do, we're enlightened to all that exists on the path.

Matthew 10:38-39 *And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worth of Me. ³⁹He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

- **A genuine born again experience demands repentance.**

There are many paths to spirituality, but there is only one path that leads to eternity in heaven with our Heavenly Father. It is the path less traveled. The only way to discover it is through Jesus Christ and adhering to the words that came from Him as He began His ministry in Galilee. He came preaching, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven, is at hand.*"

Repentance is to change the way we think about everything. When we adjust our thoughts to God's thinking, it will produce a change in the way we act.

Just as Philip the Evangelist told the Ethiopian eunuch concerning believing with our whole heart, the same applies to us.

Acts 8:37 *Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

- **What is true repentance?**

2 Timothy 2:19 *Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord **must turn away from wickedness.**"*

True repentance causes us to turn towards God wholeheartedly. God is not interested in just a piece of our heart. He wants the whole thing. When we turn to God with our whole heart, it will change the way we think. We must always bear in mind, God's thoughts and ways are much higher than ours.⁶

❖ **It causes us to change the way we think** – *Isaiah 55:8-9.*

❖ **It's a long obedience in the same direction** – *Eugene Peterson.*

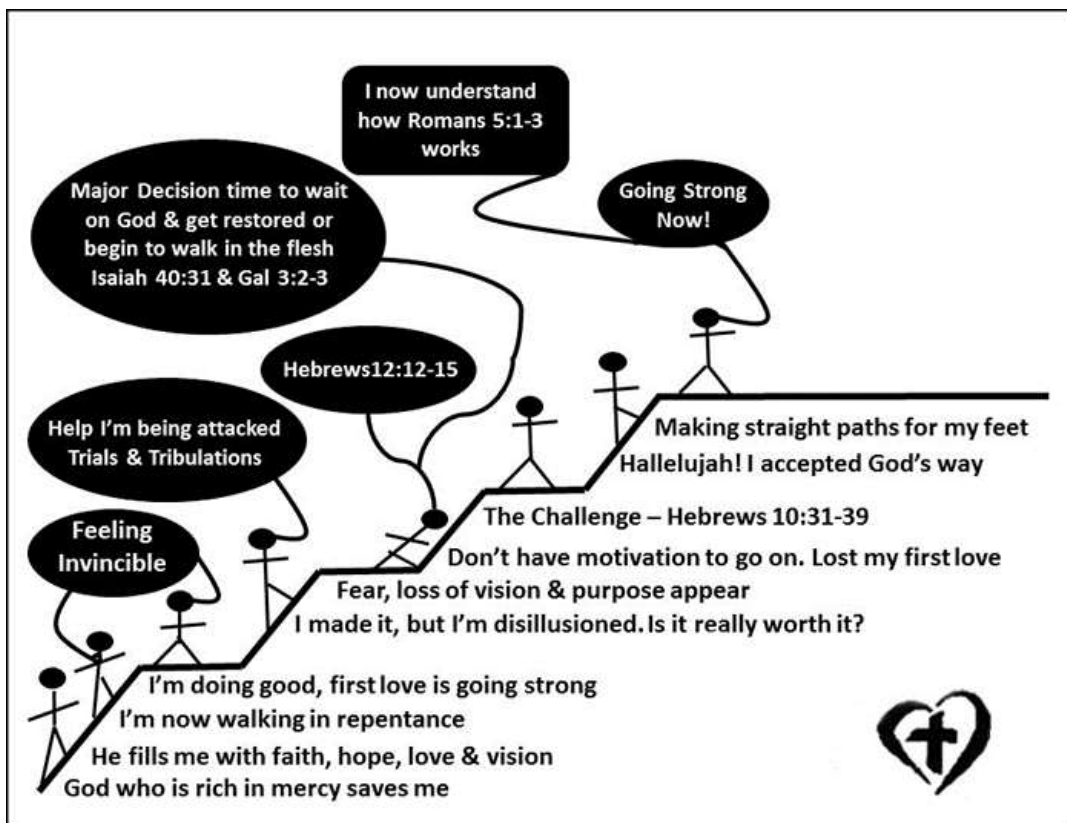
⁶ Isaiah 55:8-9

- ❖ It is separation from all that is ungodly – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
- ❖ It's a lifestyle of practicing righteousness – 1 John 3:7-10.
- ❖ It's having a godly sorrow for our sin. – 2 Corinthians 7:10.

True repentance will continually open the eyes of your understanding to this adventurous path that is hidden to so many. The eyes of your understanding will be opened to the invisible path that lies before you.

The following diagram illustrates the process as we journey towards our final destination in God. Bear in mind; it is simply a general synopsis of our pilgrimage. We are all individuals before God and experience His dealings in various ways and times throughout our walk with the Lord.

III. The Journey Process.



- God saves us and fills us with an inexpressible joy that results in His rich mercy and grace flowing freely into our lives.
- We begin to walk in faith, hope, and love as new-found vision and purpose take root in our lives.

- Our hearts are filled with repentance as we surrender to kingdom authority, which produces a sense of invincibility as the strength of God pours into us.
- Our first love is going strong.
- As the newness wears off Satan steps up his attack as we are hit with trials and hardships. He knows those opportune moments in our lives.
- Some fall away at this point; others get wounded and disillusioned and wonder, “Is it really worth it?”
- Fear and loss of vision appear and we have very little motivation to move forward.
- Major decision time is next. We must now decide to wait on God and get restored or walk in the carnality of our mind rather than pursuing the invisible path by faith – *Isaiah 40:31 and Galatians 3:2-3*.
- We are challenged to lift up the hands that hang down and make straight paths for our feet so that which has been wounded doesn’t get further wounded and cause a spirit of bitterness to take over – *Hebrews 12:12-115*.
- Those who have prepared themselves by staying in fellowship and the Word go through this process much easier.
- Those who submit to the process by accepting God’s way receive healing as they make straight paths for their feet and are going strong once again.

Keep in mind this is all a general synopsis of how this process works. We are all individuals before God who works with us as individuals.

IV. Concluding Remarks.

We must continually resist the devil and his influences while submitting our souls to God if we are to be kingdom-minded people who live and reign on this invisible path. Because God yearns jealously towards us, He gives us more grace or supernatural ability for the journey when we humble ourselves by submitting to Him.⁷

May God bless you as you journey forward and discover the wonders and the blessings He has prepared for you along the way.

⁷ James 4:5-7

Questions to Consider

Breakout: Divide up into groups of four *and have each person in the group answer one of the following questions and share with the group.*

Do you see yourself as a pilgrim traveling through this life? If so, how does your life reflect it or how should it be reflected?

1Peter 1:1,11 To the pilgrims of the Dispersion Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.. Beloved, I beg you a sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

What were some of the false perceptions of God you had prior to salvation?

Where do you see yourself on the diagram of the Journey Process? Why?
