

# Way of Wisdom and Mercy

Long Beach Alliance Church • June 5, 2016 • Elder Keith Bowers

**“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”  
-Matthew 7:13-14**

God created the universe in His wisdom and He is the source of life.

[Proverbs 3:19-20](#)

Following God’s Son, the gateway to eternal life, involves persecution.

[Acts 14:22](#)

[Matthew 5:10-11](#)

[Proverbs 14:12](#)

Being perfected through suffering

[1 Peter 4:1-2](#)

[James 1:2-4](#)

[Hebrews 2:10](#)

[Hebrews 5:8-9](#)

In the same wisdom that God created our universe, He created a way for us to everlasting life.

[Colossians 1:16](#)

[John 1:3-4](#)

[1 John 5:11](#)

The world and its teachers tempt us with a different way.

[Jeremiah 23:32](#)

[2 Corinthians 11:3-4](#)

[2 Peter 2:1-2](#)

[2 Peter 2:10](#)

Be aware, be steadfast; grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

[2 Peter 3:17-18](#)

The God of mercy came for the unworthy.

[Matthew 9:9-13](#)

# GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK 9 • MATTHEW 7:13-20

1. Do you have any questions or comments about Sunday's sermon? How did it speak to your heart?
2. We've talked a lot about self-righteousness in this series; how do you think people get tempted to be self-righteous?
3. We are each tempted to put our trust in false idols or gods (money, health marriage, family, work, education, etc), so we are told to beware of those that whisper those temptations into our ears. We need community to come alongside us, and protect us from those temptations. If you could have a group of people standing with you and protecting you from temptation, what would temptations would you want them to guard you against and remind you of the gospel truth? Can your Growth Group help protect you against these false teachings, and lead you into the Way of Wisdom and Mercy?

## GOD'S ABILITY TO TRUST

### GOD TAKES RESPONSIBILITY

[Romans 8:28-30](#)

God is capable of both saving you and sanctifying you.

[Galatians 3:1-6](#)

Sanctification (being transformed) is by faith!

### GOD DESIRES TO EARN OUR TRUST

Being sanctified (becoming more like Jesus) enables us to be more trusting in both God and others, because the Trinity perfectly trusts each other. Christians are adopted into that family.

[1 Corinthians 13:7](#)

How is God earning your trust in this season of life?

### FURTHER DISCUSSION

How does Jesus' example of pursuing Peter to earn his trust help you earn others' trust in your life?

"God knows that we can do all things by His grace, so He's trusting in us to trust in Him. Yet He knows our fears as well, otherwise He wouldn't assure us so often of His purposes and His presence." -Chuck Swindoll, *Perfect Trust*

### HELPING OTHERS TRUST GOD

[Galatians 3:1-6](#)

As you grow closer in your relationship with God, you can be entrusted to minister to others the way Jesus would minister to them.

Who have you helped trust God more?