



**PURSUIING  
FRESH  
TRACKS**

Spiritual Discovery for  
Christian Sportsmen

Edgar Pierce

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Cover Photo, *The Appalachian Trail* courteous of Jim Rice- (flickr jsrice00). This section is the "Stony Man Trail", located in Skyland, Virginia.

Edition 2

# Launch

Welcome to the journey, or should we say to the rest of your life. As a Christian, whether a new believer or one seasoned in the faith, you may have a multitude of questions. **PURSuing FRESH TRACKS** purpose is to get on the right foot with a firm foundation in the faith. As you journey along through the material you will discover a lot about your faith and ultimately where the journey will end.

The format of the material will be a total of 13 **FRESH TRACKS** that make up **PURSuing FRESH TRACKS**. These are designed so they can be done over a thirteen week period if used in a class or Bible study group.

Each **FRESH TRACKS** has a total of five **TREKS**. Each **FRESH TRACK** will begin with a **TRAIL FORECAST** to give an overview of the next five **TREKS**. You will also find **TRAIL TACKS** to guide you on the trail and give time for reflecting. Look for the **TRAIL TACKS** symbol  that represent the reflective dots that we put on trees to guide us.

It is best if you can do these once a day during the week. We realize this is not always possible for various reasons so we have attempted to structure the material to be used by individuals at their own pace.

The desire is to make each **TREK** as condensed and to the point as possible. This will allow you to maximize your time each day in this study. So take the journey and launch into the adventure of **PURSuing FRESH TRACKS**.

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# FRESH TRACK 1

## Your New Trail

### TRAIL FORECAST!

**FRESH TRACK 1** will explore "Your New Trail" the beginning of faith and understanding of the changes that take place when we place our trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. We will see the light we have for the trail and explore the crossroads, detours and dead ends that are certain to come. We will learn that we are not alone in the journey anymore but have a trail Master who guides us. We will also begin to understand that the pursuit of our lifetime will be to discover the will of God along the way.

## TREK 1

### Finding Fresh Tracks



The hunter moved along the game trail with his senses on alert. He paused often to listen and take in the sounds of his surroundings in an attempt not to miss anything. He did not want to miss something that could make a difference in success or failure.

He moved with all the stealth that he could command from his muscles. He came to an intersection of trails. As he studied the ground, his heart raced faster when he spotted the huge track of a mature buck. The huge track was so large it almost seemed out of place.

There is nothing like finding fresh tracks when pursuing a hunting adventure. It gives us hope for future success in the hunt.

Finding a fresh track can also be at times a concern, as well. If you are in grizzly country and come across a track of a big brown, it can give rise to concern. Or perhaps, in mountain lion country, you see fresh tracks in the snow left by a big cat. They are in the trail you are back tracking on from a few hours before. This should get your attention.

Fresh Tracks spiritually are exciting, as well. They are exciting to pursue. However, there may be things that cause us concern. As we pursue our relationship into deeper territory with God, it can be an adventure at times.

⚙ Is there a spiritual concern or question that you have as you enter this study? \_\_\_\_\_

⚙ What would be the one desire you would have for an outcome of this study? \_\_\_\_\_

**Getting on Track**

One important thing in the outdoors is that you need to know where you came from to know where you are. I recall when I was young going into a backwoods camp area in the dark and losing my orientation so bad that the next morning the sun came up in the wrong place. Yes, it still came up in the east, but I expected it to come over one ridge and it rose over another one. I did not know where I came from and it led to my confusion.

So how do we get on the right track? How do we get orientated for the journey of life ahead? Let's explore the Bible to find the answer. The first, and the most critical question we need to ask is, "Am I 100% certain that I know Jesus Christ as Savior?"

The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 13:5** **Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you not recognize for yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless you fail the test.**

Read the following Scriptures and write what they say about man's need.

Romans 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is very clear that all men have sinned. One way that sin is often described is missing the mark, or the target. Simply put we all have been off target at times. The penalty for this is death and hell without someone who can and will save us.

Read the following Scriptures and see the remedy that God offers all men. Write it in your own words.

Romans 10:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—

⚙ Has there been a time in your life when you have prayed and asked Jesus to forgive your sin and be your Savior? When and where? \_\_\_\_\_

⚙ If you cannot answer the first question "yes", is there any reason right now you cannot accept Christ as Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

*A Prayer for Salvation: Jesus, I know that I have done wrong and sinned. I know that I cannot escape the penalty of sin without you. I am asking you to forgive me of my sins and become my Savior. I want you to guide my life from this time forward.*

Now that we are sure we are on the right track, we are ready to move forward and start pursuing fresh tracks in Christ.

# TREK Z



## Finding Light for the Path

The other day I went to assist a friend with a ladder stand placement. There are all types of these stands on the market. This one did not come with any instructions to guide in installing it safely. We finally got it up, even though it took two evenings after work to accomplish it. It got dark on us the first evening. We needed light of instruction as well as physical light to see what we were doing. If there had been instructions it would have made it easier.

☼ Today our focus is on Finding Light for the Path. Where do we find light to guide us and give instructions to live by? \_\_\_\_\_

☼ Did you answer line up with or conflict with **Psalms 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? **By keeping Your word.**

Instructions for assembling life in Christ are found in the Word of God. Read the following verse and record what it is saying about finding light for the path of life. **Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.** \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions and light can be thought of as equal in this application. The Bible addresses the issues of life in a relevant way for our time today. The world system is in opposition many times to the light God wants to guide us by in His Word.

☼ What are some things the world will claim are valid or equally suitable for giving light for life? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some things that we must do when we find ourselves out doors and night falls? One is prepare for the occasion when this will happen. What are some things that we need to do to be

prepared? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did your thoughts include making sure that you have batteries with power in them? Dead batteries are of no use. A man who does not spend time in the Word of God will soon find his batteries low. To have our course of life illuminated, we must spend time in the Word of God that gives us light for the path.

One benefit of spending time in the Word of God is we will be sensitive to the truth. Read the following Scriptures and answer the questions that follow.

Jesus was speaking concerning those who claimed to have the light to guide men. They were the Pharisees who had bound up men in tradition and legalism. He told the disciples in **Matthew 15:14 HCSB Leave them alone! They are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.**"

✿What is the danger in following blind guides? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

✿How do we know when someone is leading us the wrong way? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Remember that the Word of God is the lamp to guide us on our path of life. In the Bible, there is a record of a group of men from a city called Berea. Paul the Apostle came to town preaching. Notice what they did recorded in **Acts 17:11 ...they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

✿How can you apply this to your walk with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Prayer: Lord, help me to use your Word to give me light for my path in life. Help me to know the truth so I will not be misled.*

# TREK 3



## Crossroad, Detours and Dead Ends

Trailing game can be a challenge many times. It is not easy to stay on the track of that buck that you have shot that is not leaving much of a blood trail. It is easy to get off course. One thing that many men do is they place some type of marker at each blood drop they find so they can return to the last known spot they knew for certain was right.

Today we look at the crossroads, forks in the path and detours that always come in our lives as believers. One thing we all must realize is even after we are saved we will still do things wrong.

✿Read **Romans 7:14-23**. What did you see about the conflict that lives within us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When we are scouting a new area, we often come to places in the woods where game trails intersect. We are faced with a decision of which trail we are going to follow. Life presents us a lot of crossroads where decisions have to be made. Daily we find we must make decisions to do what is right or wrong.

✿What is one decision that comes to mind that must be made many times in life? \_\_\_\_\_

Desires are things that God has placed within us as humans that often cause us to make wrong turns. Notice **James 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires**. Desire is not wrong in itself. It is wrong when the desire is evil or outside of God's will. We could call these detours, straying from the best path God would have for us. Detours are temptations that come our way, that pull the old sinful nature within us to do wrong. Detours often led us to dead ends or a direction we know is wrong.

✿What are some detours and dead ends that we must not turn toward when we face a crossroad?

✿What can we do if we find we have taken a wrong turn detoured from the right trail? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you think about the trail markers that we lay down so we can return to the last known right trail? God's Word gives us some markers that we can return to when we find we are off track.

✿Read **Exodus 20:3-17**. We know these as the Ten Commandments. What areas of life did you notice they speak about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Turning around when we know we have gone the wrong direction is called repentance. Repentance is admitting you have done wrong and asking God to forgive you and going another direction. **1 John 1:9 says, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

✿How does it make you feel knowing that you can get forgiveness for the wrong decisions by repenting? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Look at repentance as returning to the trail marker where we left the trail. We will see next in Trek 4 that we are not left to our own wisdom to know when we have lost the trail.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for giving us trail markers to return to when we lose our way. Help me to be quick to see my errors and repent of them so I can get back on the right track.*

# TREK 4

## Trail Guide



A lot of men had the good fortune of having a father, uncle or an older friend who was wood wise to teach them the things they needed to become proficient hunters and fishermen. Often these men would give stern rebukes when they saw dangerous or wrong activity. They were trail guides for growing from a boy to a man.

As believers, we have a Trail Guide to help us in our walk to be like God. He is known as the Holy Spirit. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us.

Look at **John 14:16** and see the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit by Christ. Did you notice that the promise was that He would be with us. In **2 Tim 1:14** we are told "...the Holy Spirit who lives in us..." That is why I suggest that He is our Trail Guide.

✿ Find two purposes for Him in the following verses: **John 16:8**  
**When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment...13** **When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.**

Purpose 1- \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose 2- \_\_\_\_\_

Did you catch He convicts of sin and guides into truth being two purposes of the Holy Spirit?

✿ How do you think this applies to your walk as a believer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FRESH TRACKS 1  
Your New Trail

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The Holy Spirit is the one who also helps us to know the direction in life by helping us to pray to God. When we look at **Romans 8:26-27** we see this. As you read these verses look for the ways the Holy Spirit helps us. What did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

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There are two more important truths that we need to see on this Trek. One is that the Holy Spirit is the keeper of our souls and two that Jesus lives to intercede for us.

☼ Read the following verses and listen to God speak about the security along the trail.

**Ephesians 4:30** tells us the Holy Spirit has “sealed you for the day of redemption.” \_\_\_\_\_

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Last Trek we saw that we all make mistakes. One of the great truths in the Bible is that Jesus lives to intercede for us when we fail. **Hebrews 7:25** **Therefore He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.**

☼ How much does this make you want to live for Him? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Prayer: Dear Lord, I know that I am not on this journey alone. Help me to sense the leadership of the Holy Spirit as He directs my path. Help me to understand His correction of my life and what is best for me. Thank you for interceding for me.*

TREK 5  
The Aim



In deer or fish camp when your feet hit the floor at the hour when only obsessed creatures roam about, you usually know the purpose is to find the game or fish and kill or catch it. You know the aim of the day or the objective of your pursuit. We also have a clear aim in our lives now as believers. The "Aim" is to find the will of God.

✿What has been the aim of your life to this point in life? \_\_\_\_\_

Let's look together at **Romans 12:1-2** and see what our pursuit is as believers. **Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.**

Presenting ourselves as living sacrifices may be a strange thought to most of us. Simply put this is a call for us to live for Christ, to live pleasing to God.

We are also called to not be conformists. Now I find that most men who enjoy the outdoors are pretty independent. In these verses it is talking about not being like the world around us. That at times is the hard part for believers who are around unbelievers.

✿What are some things you can identify that would help you to be strong and not conform to the expectations of the world? \_\_\_\_\_

We can say that having the Holy Spirit to guide us and knowing that a failure is not the end of the pursuit are two things.

**FRESH TRACKS 1**  
**Your New Trail**

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We are told to renew our mind also in **Romans 12:2**. Renewing the mind is replacing the old thoughts with new ones. As we learn to walk in the will of God we must learn to feed our mind Godly things. A diet of the Word of God is a good starting place for this renewal.

⚙️ The aim we see here also is to know the will of God. Can you write a sentence that expresses what you feel the will of God is now in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** We will spend more time talking about the will of God and how to find it in Fresh Tracks 8-13.

As part of this study, you will probably have an opportunity to meet with other men who are Pursuing Fresh Tracks themselves. Take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen your walk.

⚙️ What is the one thought that has stood out in your mind and heart during this first Fresh Track? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

⚙️ How can you put what you have discovered into practice in your life in the coming days? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer:** *Lord, I want to make knowing your will for my life the aim I am shooting for. Help me each day to find your will.*



Thanks for  
Previewing  
Pursuing Fresh  
Tracks