



Pursuing  
New  
Trails



Spiritual Discovery for  
Christian  
Cowboys and Cowgirls

Edgar Pierce

© 2012 by Edgar Pierce

All right reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any electronic means, mechanical, photocopy, or any other without the prior permission of the author. The exception is for brief quotations in reviews

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible® Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publisher

All Scripture marked KJV is from the King James Version, public domain.

Cover Design and Photo, © *Edgar Pierce*

ISBN 978-0-9720992-8-8

Printed in the USA

the

## Send Off

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 New Trails** purpose is to get you on Solid Ground in the faith. As you ride along through the material you will discover a lot about your new faith and ultimately where the journey will end.

The format of the material will be a total of 13 **New Trails** that make up **Pursuing New Trails**. These are designed so they can be done over a 13 or 26, or 65 week period, depending on the Guide plan you follow, when used in a class or Bible study group.

Each **New Trail** has a total of five *Rides*. Each **New Trail** begins with a **TRAIL FORECAST** to give an overview of the next five *Rides*. You will also find **TRAIL MARKERS** to guide you on the trail and give time for reflecting. Look for the **TRAIL MARKERS** symbol ⚙ to guide you.

We have attempted to structure the material to be used by individuals at their pace but would suggest if used for individual study you attempt to do a ride each day.

The desire is to make each *Ride* as condensed and to the point as possible. This will maximize your time in this study.

So take the journey and launch into the adventure of **Pursuing New Trails**.

# Riding Ahead

New Trail 1-Your New Trail ..... 5-16

## Getting on Solid Ground

New Trail 2- The Beginning of the Trail .....17-28

New Trail 3- Exploring the Evidence Seen .....29-40

New Trail 4- Back Trails, Spike Camp and Horizons .....41-52

New Trail 5- Inside the Bunk House ..... 53-64

New Trail 6- Horse Whisperer ..... 65-76

New Trail 7- After the Final Ride..... 77-88

## Saddle Up and Ride

New Trail 8- Talking With the Creator..... 89-100

New Trail 9- Consulting the Guide Book..... 101-112

New Trail 10- Off the Range and Into Camp..... 113-124

New Trail 11- Moving from the Camp to the Field .....125-136

New Trail 12- Becoming a Guide ..... 137-148

New Trail 13- Reading the Map and Compass ..... 149-160

Finding the Right Trail (witness tract) .....161

About the Author ..... 162

# NEW TRAIL 1

## Your New Trail

### TRAIL FORECAST

NEW TRAIL 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.

Ride 1



### Finding New Trails

The riders had met at the ranch to get their maps, layout of the ranch and instructions. They had been told of the dangers in the area and what wildlife to expect to see. Now they moved along the trail with their senses on alert. They paused often to listen and take in the sounds of their surroundings in an attempt to not miss anything. They did not want to miss something that could make a difference in finding the way.

The horses moved with command of their powerful muscles. At an intersection of trail the rider stopped and studied the trails and considered which way to turn. Which way was best for the adventure.

There is nothing like finding new trails when pursuing an outdoor adventure. It gives us hope for a great quest.

When we come across certain fresh animal track they can also be a concern at times 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. When they are in the trail you are back tracking on from a few hours before. This should get our attention.

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

⚙ 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 the Right Trail

One important thing in horseback riding 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 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 Trail? 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.**

**NEW TRAILS** Tract  
**Finding the Right Trail**

---

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 that we are on the right Trail we are ready to move forward and start pursuing New Trails in Christ.

## Ride 2

### Finding Light for the Trail



Darkness was coming sooner than it was welcome. The detours along the trail from the blow downs had caused the ride to be longer than expected. What had been an anticipated late afternoon arrival at camp now would be well after dark. His hope lay in his sure footed mount to make his way in the moonless overcast night.

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

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

Instruction for assembling life in Christ is found in the Word of God. Read the following verse and record what it says 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 that 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** **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.*

## Ride 3



### Crossroad, Detours and Dead Ends

Following the trail of a cow's calf can be a challenge at times. It is not easy to stay on the trail when they cross hard rocks and sun baked ground; when tracking it is easy to get off course. One thing that many men do is leave some type of trail markers along the trail so they can return to the last known right trail if needed.

Today we look at the crossroad, forks in the path and detours that always come in our lives as believers. One thing that 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 trailing a wayward cow we often come to places where 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 that 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 at the old sinful nature within us to do wrong. Detours often led us to dead ends or a direction we know is wrong.

**NEW TRAILS** Tract  
**Finding the Right Trail**

---

⊗ 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 that 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 Ride 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 that I can get back on the right Trail.*

# Ride 4



## Trail Guide

A lot of men had the good fortune of having a father, uncle or an older friend who was horse wise to teach them the things they needed to become a proficient cowboy. Often these men would give stern rebukes when they saw dangerous or wrong activity. They were trail guides for growing a boy into 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NEW TRAILS** Tract  
**Finding the Right Trail**

---

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 that the Holy Spirit helps us. What did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

There are two more important truths that we need to see on this Ride. 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.” \_\_\_\_\_

---

Last ride 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? \_\_\_\_\_

---

***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.*

## Ride 5



### The Aim

In horse camp when your feet hit the dirt, at the hour when only obsessed creature roam about, you usually know the purpose is to pursue another adventure. You know the aim of the day or the point 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. I find that most cowboys and cowgirls 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 is two things.

**NEW TRAILS Tract**  
**Finding the Right Trail**

---

We are told to renew our mind also in **Romans 12:2**. Renewing the mind is replacing the old thoughts with the new. 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 *New Trails* 8-13.

As part of this study you will probably have an opportunity to meet with others who are Pursuing *New Trails* 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 *New Trail*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

⚙️ 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 aiming at. Help me each day to find Your will.*



Thanks for  
Previewing  
Pursuing New  
Trails