

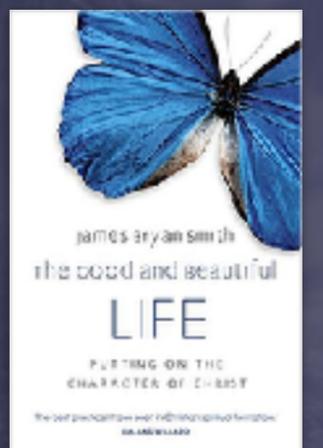
An aerial photograph of a city, showing a dense residential area with many houses and trees. A multi-lane highway runs through the city, curving towards the right. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall color palette is muted, with a blueish-grey tint.

THE GOOD LIFE

- LOSING MY RELIGION -

We have arrived at the final section of the Sermon on the Mount, the greatest sermon ever given to the world by the most brilliant person who ever lived. In his clarion call to live as his apprentices, Jesus uses four illustrations that essentially make the same point: arranging your life around Jesus and his teaching is the only way to a good life.

James Bryan Smith, The Good and Beautiful Life





THE GOOD LIFE GRAND FINALE

- LOSING MY RELIGION -

**YOU CAN'T
JUST PRETEND!**

**DO WHAT
I'VE SAID**

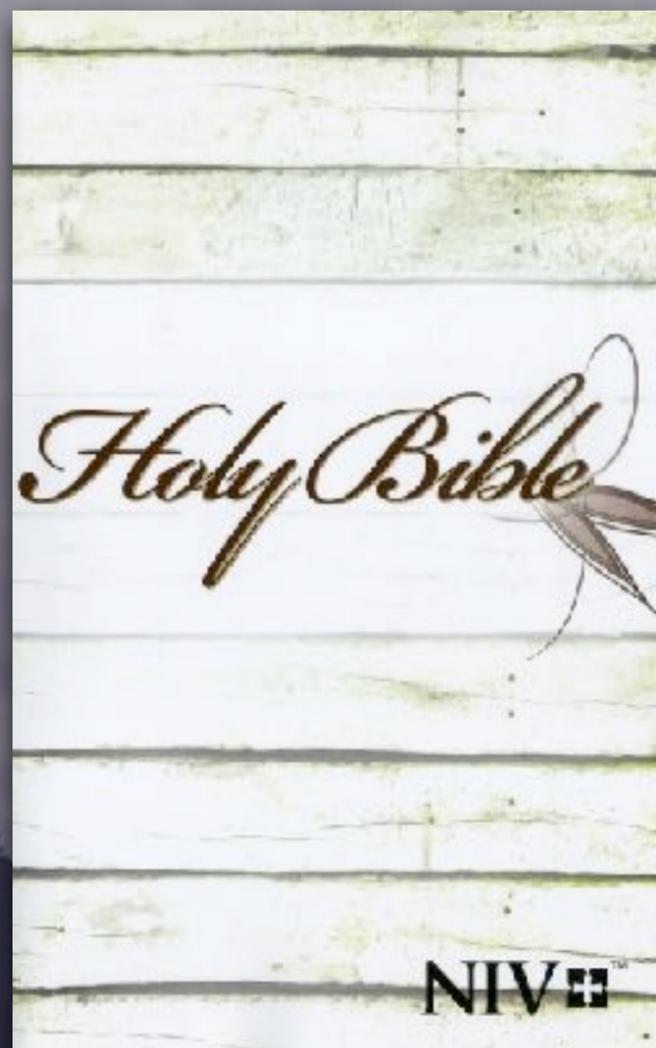
THE GOOD LIFE

- LOSING MY RELIGION -

DON'T WAIT

**DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS
STUFF!**

*Arranging your life around Jesus and his teaching
is the **only** way to a good life.*



Matthew 7:13-29

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I. Two Ways: Good People -Or- Bad People

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Matthew 7:21-23



I. Two Ways: Good People -Or- Bad People

- *These “evildoers” think they’re Christians, Followers of Jesus*
- *These “evildoers” have great doctrine, theology*
- *These “evildoers” had emotional engagement, experiences*
- *These “evildoers” have done kingdom work, activities*

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I. Two Ways: Religious People -Or- Real Followers Of Jesus

- A. Religion is a way to get myself to my “god” and
“the good life”
- B. Religion is bad



¹⁰As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

¹²All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.”

Romans 3:10-12



I. Two Ways: Religious People -Or- Real Followers Of Jesus

- A. Religion is a way to get myself to my God and the Good Life
- B. Religion is bad
- C. Loosing my religion



II. Who Am I? Which Path Am I On?

¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)



Strait /strāt/ noun

1. A narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two large areas of water. ("the Strait of Gibraltar")
2. Used in reference to a situation characterized by a specified degree of trouble or difficulty ("the economy is in dire straits")



II. Who Am I? Which Path Am I On?

A. **Path to Life Test:** It's hard, real surrender;
Followed by joy, real life

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II. Who Am I? Which Path Am I On?

- A. **Path to Life Test:** It's hard, real surrender;
Followed by joy, real life
- B. **Path to Life Test:** Developing Good Character
- C. **Path to Life Test:** Standing Firm in the Storm

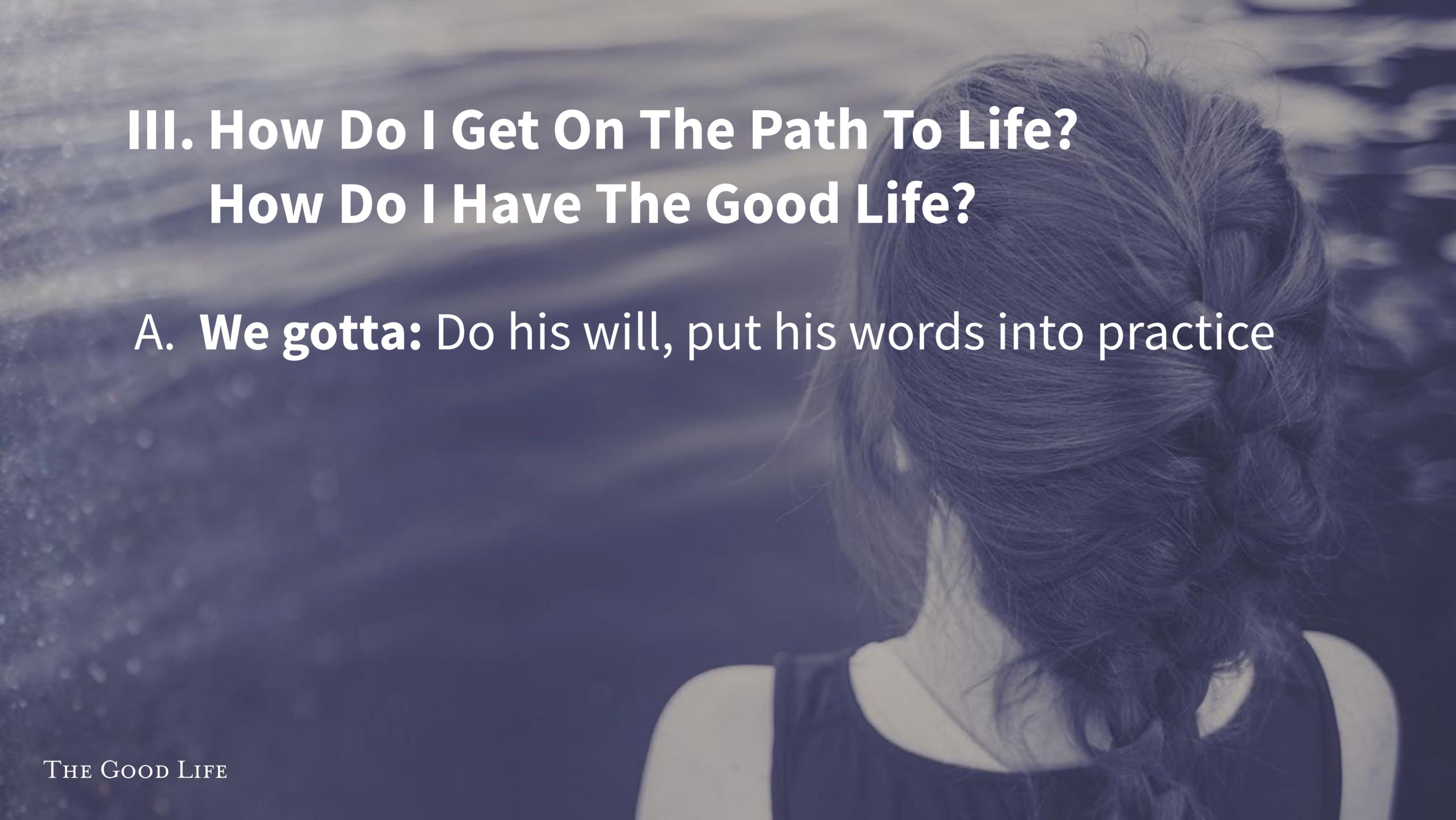
A woman with long, dark hair styled in a braid is seen from behind, looking out over a beach and the ocean. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly desaturated light, creating a contemplative and serene atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

III. How Do I Get On The Path To Life? How Do I Have The Good Life?

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ²⁴“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:21-24





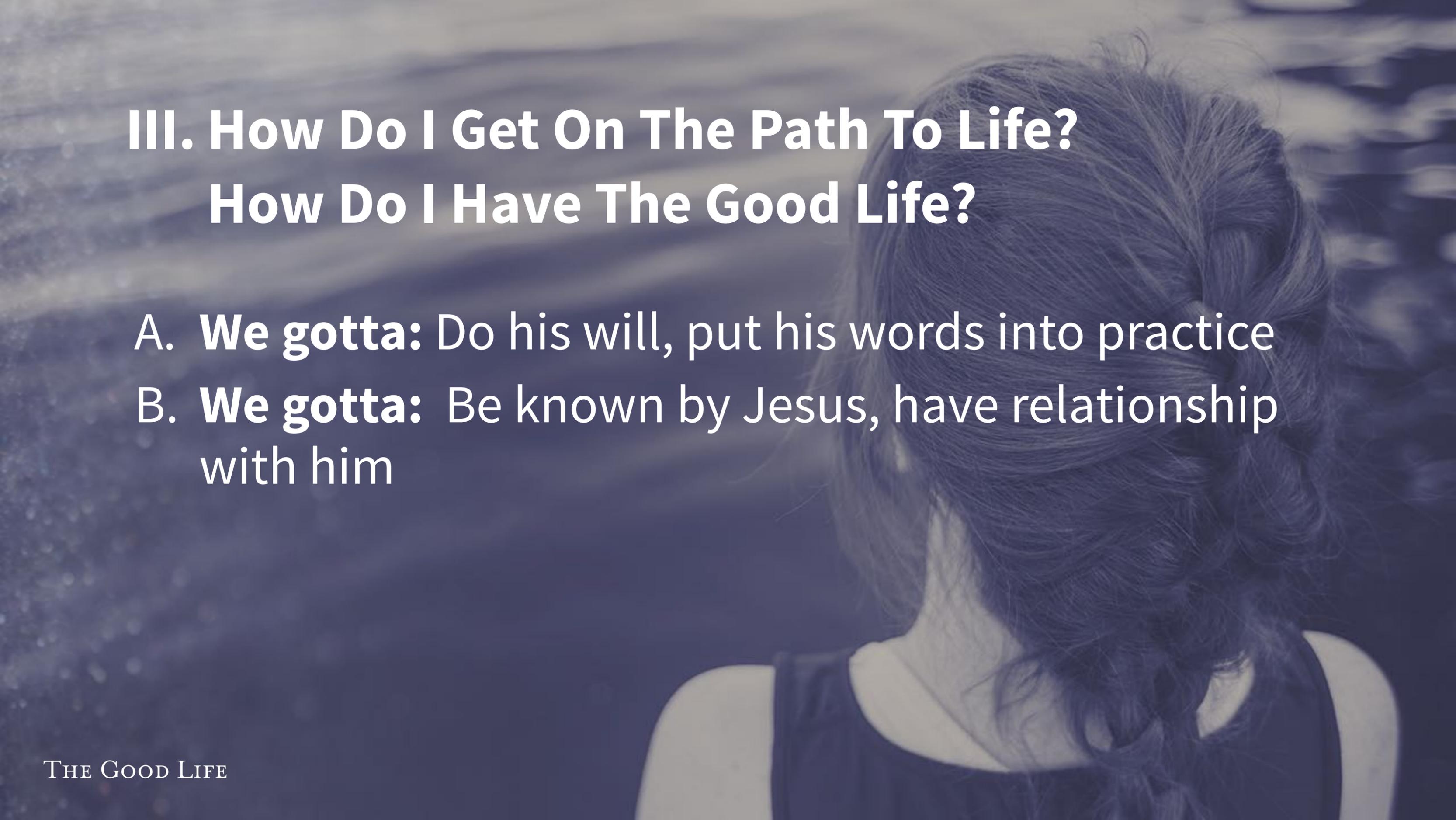
III. How Do I Get On The Path To Life? How Do I Have The Good Life?

A. **We gotta:** Do his will, put his words into practice

21“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ 24“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:21-24





III. How Do I Get On The Path To Life? How Do I Have The Good Life?

- A. **We gotta:** Do his will, put his words into practice
- B. **We gotta:** Be known by Jesus, have relationship with him

Father, I come to you empty handed. On my own, I'm spiritually bankrupt, worthless. Even when I try to do good, I'm being selfish. I give up on myself and my religion. Instead, I want a relationship with Jesus. I believe that, as the Son of God, Jesus lived a perfect life, he died on the cross to pay the price for the bad things I've done, he went to hell in my place, to give me his perfection, his righteousness, and he rose from the dead proving it's all true. I accept that amazing gift. And, I welcome the Holy Spirit (in me) helping me experience your love, your joy, and changing me from the inside out, making me more and more like Jesus. Amen.