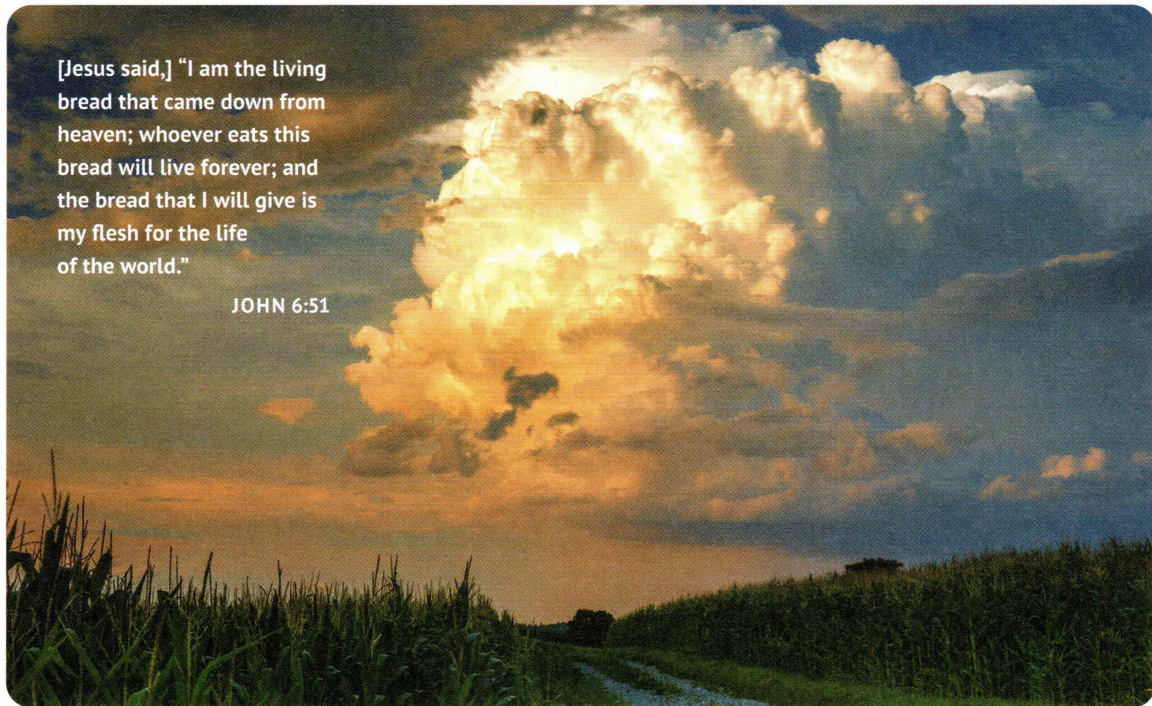




[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

JOHN 6:51



The Wisdom Journey

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

On the journey of life, how does one know when to keep struggling to make the dream come true, to continue pushing and refusing to surrender, or when to pull back, to recognize it was not meant to be and accept that? One thinks, perhaps one more effort will bring success. But our insistence may be our ego striving for something which, in the end, would be to our detriment. How does one know?

Though one can never be sure, there may be a moment when life calls us to surrender. When Elijah found himself rushing to escape the fearsome revenge of Queen Jezebel, whose 450 prophets of Baal he had bested and consigned to the netherworld, he fled into the desert, sat down beneath a broom tree, and prayed for death (1 Kings 18:22–19:4). Life as a

prophet of God had become too much to bear. He had surrendered, yet it was at this point that he was fed by God to continue the journey.

The Gospel's message is that we shall all be taught by God. There comes a time to recognize that God's wisdom is greater than our own and we must be open to a different path of life than what we had anticipated. It is one of God's ways of teaching us, of feeding us with wisdom to seek another course. ●

Reflect

Do you find it difficult to change your mind, to accept that someone else may be correct, to believe and apply the challenging message of the Gospel?