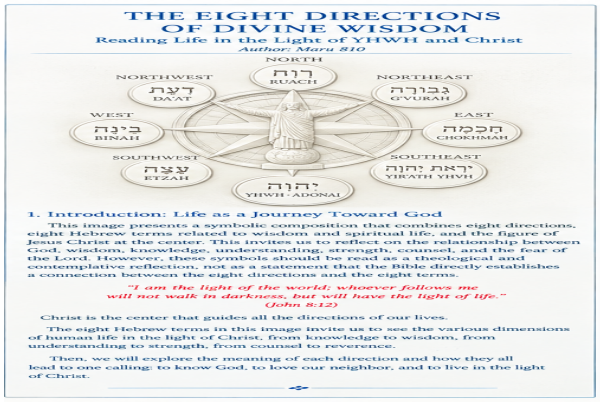
THE EIGHT DIRECTIONS OF DIVINE WISDOM

Reading Life in the Light of YHWH (Adonai) and Christ

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1. Introduction: Life as a Journey Toward God

This image brings together eight compass directions, eight Hebrew terms associated with wisdom and spiritual life, the divine Name YHWH—traditionally read as Adonai—and Jesus Christ at the center of a golden star. It can serve as a contemplative reflection on God and the many dimensions of human life. Assigning each term to a particular direction is an artistic and symbolic choice, not a system directly prescribed by the Bible.

2. Christ at the Center: The Light That Unites Every Direction

Christ at the center invites us to view knowledge, understanding, strength, counsel, and wisdom in the light of the Gospel. The center is more than a geometric point: it symbolizes the orientation of life. In Christian faith, Christ guides us to understand our whole existence in relationship with the Father and in the call to love our neighbor.

Scripture quotation

"I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12)

3. Eight Hebrew Terms as a Mirror of Spiritual Life

■■■■■ (Ruach) means spirit, wind, or breath, depending on context, and recalls the Spirit of God in Genesis 1:2. ■■■■■■■■■ (G'vurah) refers to strength or courage; in the light of the Gospel, strength is also shown in self-control, forgiveness, and service. ■■■■■■■ (Chokhmah) means wisdom: not merely collecting information, but choosing what is right. ■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ (Yir'at YHWH) means fear of the Lord—a reverent, humble attitude that allows God's truth to correct our lives.

The remaining terms

■■■■■ (Etzah) means counsel, advice, or plan; ■■■■■■■ (Binah) means understanding; and ■■■■■■ (Da'at) means knowledge or knowing. In a faith context, knowing God can involve relationship and experience, not information alone. These terms form a framework for reflection, not a fixed sequence or an eight-direction doctrine established by Scripture.

4. YHWH and Adonai: The Divine Name and Its Reading Tradition

■■■■ *(YHWH) is the Tetragrammaton, the divine Name written with four Hebrew letters.*
■■■■■■■ *(Adonai) means "my Lord" or "Lord" and is traditionally spoken in Jewish Scripture reading where the text contains YHWH. The two are related but are not the same word. The original pronunciation of YHWH cannot be established with absolute certainty; in Jewish liturgical reading, the*

Name is generally not pronounced directly. Exodus 3:14–15 provides an important context for reflecting on God's self-revelation to Moses.

5. From Knowledge to Wisdom

Knowledge helps us recognize reality; understanding helps us grasp meaning; wisdom guides our choices; counsel helps us discern a course of action; and strength helps us carry out what is good. Yet all of these can lose direction when separated from humility and love. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." (Proverbs 1:7). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10).

6. The Golden Star: A Symbol of Orientation

The golden star can remind us of a light that helps travelers find their way in darkness. In Matthew 2:1–12, the Magi follow a sign on their journey, but their destination is an encounter with the Child. Likewise, symbols, languages, philosophy, and art can open paths to contemplation, but they do not replace God, whom we seek to know. For Christians, our deepest orientation is found in relationship with Christ.

7. John 17: Knowing God

Jesus prays: "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3). This places knowledge within a relationship: knowing God is more than possessing information; it means responding to God's call. In John 17:11, Jesus prays that his disciples may be kept in the Father's name. This reflection does not mean that every Hebrew term in the image is a name or attribute exclusively referring to Jesus.

8. The Existential Dimension: Human Beings Seeking Direction

Søren Kierkegaard highlights the personal response made before God; Gabriel Marcel helps us reflect on relationship, fidelity, and hope; Karl Rahner draws attention to the human person's openness to the mystery of God. Their thought can accompany our dialogue, but does not replace Scripture. Human beings are called to choose responsibly, listen, and walk in hope.

9. Reading Symbols Responsibly

The Bible does not prescribe Ruach in the north, G'vurah in the northeast, Chokhmah in the east, or YHWH in the south. This arrangement is an artistic and contemplative choice. Recognizing this does not diminish the image's value; it helps us use symbols honestly. Symbols may open a door to reflection, but interpretations should be tested against the biblical context and the faith of the Church.

10. Conclusion: Returning to the Source of Light

The eight directions can mirror the human journey: knowledge, understanding, wisdom, counsel, strength, reverence for the Lord, and openness to the Spirit. These should bear concrete fruit—honesty, forgiveness, service, care for those who suffer, and peace. Christ at the center invites us to walk in the light of the Gospel. The goal is not to master God's mystery, but to know God more deeply, entrust ourselves to God, and respond to divine love.

Closing reflection

"Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD." (Hosea 6:3)

El-Emeth — God of truth. · Yeshua haMashiach — Jesus Christ, the Messiah. · Ruach HaQodesh — the Holy Spirit.
Oremus pro invicem — Let us pray for one another.