

The Messenger

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Life's Manual

When you play a video game you must know what buttons to use in order to play with any success. Have you ever started playing a game where you didn't know the functions of the buttons? For some reason you did not have the manual that came with the game; starting out its all trial and error. After a while you learn a few button uses and can start to make ground in the game. Still you are having errors occur and have to resort back to trial and error again. So you get through some more tough lessons with the buttons and things are really getting going. Then, you get to a point where none of the buttons will get the job done. Now what? Trial and error is just getting more and more *frustrating*. Maybe you even throw the joystick down in an angry fit. Ever done this?

To get any further you must regroup pick up the joystick and try again. In doing so you practice different things over and over to try and make it work... then suddenly something different happens! You've finally done what you were attempting for so long, had so many struggles with, and gotten all bent out of shape over... but how? How did you do it? You go back and try it again and you can't do it. As a matter of fact *you fail over and over again*. Now it has you so curious that you must duplicate the action or you will never be satisfied. Ah ha! Finally you did it again. This time being more alert you realize what you have done. You can easily do the action again and again by using two buttons at the same time.

This type of learning takes place over and over again as the game progresses. Sometimes the answer is two buttons at the same time, three buttons, or combinations of buttons all in the right rhythm and timing. While learning about proper button usage for each situation; you also struggle with the lack of knowledge of your purpose; often finding yourself wondering what to do next or if you have done past things in the right order or not. You could start all over trying different things or trying things in a different order to see if the game will turn out different for you; better somehow.

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The game changes dramatically when a friend lets you see his game manual. It has all the technical uses for each button, pairs of buttons, and combination variations. This could have saved you a tremendous amount of time, frustration, a joystick, and gotten you to a much further level in the game. Not to mention, the manual is full of purpose. It explains the storyline that took place before the setting of the game was created. It explains all the events leading up to the beginning of the game and what all the internal and external motives are. It explains why the game is the way it is. *You get the idea.*

Now, with the manual in your possession you start over and your competence and confidence are so high that you play cocky and have a good time doing so with no worries. The game has become easier... you have become more efficient! You still have a time or two where you get stuck, except now you reference the manual and easily get right back where you should be. With the manual you are able to walk a straight line with only minor corrections to remain on the right path of the game. Isn't this how it should be?

Now what about your real life? Do you stumble through life daily having trial and error situations while suffering from frustration, angry fits, and only brief periods of success and peace? Are you only familiar with a few of *life's* buttons, pairs of buttons or combinations thereof? Wouldn't it be nice to have the manual? "Life's manual!" Now that would be *something* wouldn't it?

We do have a manual! It's called the Bible. The Old and New Testament, together, make up the ultimate gaming (life) manual. They set up the storyline that took place before the setting of your life came to be. They explain all the events leading up to the beginning of this day and age and what all the internal and external motives are for life. They explain why the game (your life) is the way it is. They explain how you can overcome all that has held you up in the past.