

## The Way of Life is Narrow

**Matthew 7:14** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Christianity includes healing and deliverance, freely given from the onset of belief. They are not future points of discovery along a life journey. They are at the entrance to life in and with God. But, note the **2 emphases** of Matthew as **gate & way**.

The **entrance gate is to be born** of the Spirit. Then there is **the Way, new life in and with God**. The purpose of the gate is to get you on the way! They are **inseparable: no gate means no way... no way means the gate has not served its purpose**.

**Before the word "Christian" was used** to define believers, they were identified as **the Way** 4X in Acts showing that they had passed **through a gate** and were **on a life journey, on the Way**.

**Acts 17:28** for in Him we live and move and have our being...

Note that you **first must Live; then you Move and become = being**.  
**Movement is always into the Light:**

**Proverbs 4:18** But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

The **Lord promises to never leave** us along the Way; indeed, to lead us on the paths of righteousness, on the Highway of Holiness... **BUT:**

**Amos 3:3** Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

We must agree with **where** He is going and **when** He is going or we **don't move with Him**. Unfortunately, our old, **Adamic nature is to disagree with God**.

**Romans 8:7** Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is **not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be**.

This is because we have come to **trust how we think and act** more than how God does.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** "For **My thoughts** *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways **My ways**," says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

**He will not and does not change** so, if we are to live and move in Him and with Him, we must **pass through the narrow gate and agree to** His thoughts and Way (**difficult way**).

**Rom 12:1-2** <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your **reasonable** service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Your NT **sacrifice is a life consumed!** It starts with **total sacrifice** of our life (a **gate**) **but it moves on by renewed thought life** leading to **new ways that prove** (show forth) God's will: **new objectives, motives and means** of living... **new focus on "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,"** as we **renounce ours**.

This is **the goal, to set objectives, motives and means by His thoughts and ways**. This is the **grace of baptism** (death to self-life and rising up to newness of life). **Independence dies; dependence is birthed, begun by and sustained by Holy Spirit.**

This is true of the **Gate...** and of the **Way**. We are **born of the Spirit to live in the Spirit**. It is referenced in scripture as our **“Walk.”** The superlative example was:

**Hebrews 11:5** By faith **Enoch** was taken away so that he did not see death, *“and was not found, because God had taken him”*; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

The walk of faith is the **mark of all on the journey**, walking in newness of life. **In Adam we follow our sensory inputs but, in Christ we follow the Lord and His word.**

**2 Corinthians 5:7** For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**In Him we live (new birth; gate). In baptism we shed the old man in death and put on the new man in resurrection. Then, in Him, we move and have our being (difficult...).**

**Abraham is our example:**

**Romans 4:11-12** <sup>11</sup> that he might be the father of all those who believe... who also **walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had...**

**Romans 4:19-20** <sup>19</sup> And **not being weak in faith, he did not consider** his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup> **He did not waver** at the promise of God through unbelief, but was **strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,**

**We are to walk** as he did. The **sensory realm loses its supremacy. God’s thoughts & ways become the foundation of our objectives, motives and means.**

**Habakkuk 2:4** “Behold **the proud, His soul is not upright** in him; But **the just shall live by his faith.**

“**The Proud**” is still **resting in his own thoughts and ways** (life is on “tilt”). **But** the one **resting in God’s thoughts and ways** has his being in God. **Humility is required.**

**Micah 6:8** He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to **walk humbly with your God?**

Can two walk together? **To do so, we must Commune two-way:**

**1A) He speaks to us** through the **written word and the Spirit**. Hearing Him **requires certain conditions to be met. Humility is foundational.**

**James 1:21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

**1 Peter 2:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, <sup>2</sup> **as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

**The Lord freely gives wisdom in our new objectives, motives and means in order to organize all of our life around seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness.**

**Secondly, it is not enough to simply hear:**

**Js. 1:22** But **be doers** of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving yourselves**.

**Do not look in the mirror and fool yourself. Obedience is the goal.** Seeking His Kingdom and will is the **assurance that I will hear** His voice:

**John 7:17** **If anyone wills to do His will**, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.

**1B) Dual conversation: We also speak to Him:**

**Song of Solomon 2:14** “O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret *places* of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice *is* sweet...”

**He wants to hear from us...yet, we sometimes don't know what to say:**

**Romans 8:26-27** <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup> Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

**Holy Spirit is needed: In Him we live (gate; new birth) and move (doer of the word) and have our being (as a “spiritual man” or mature child of God).**

**Romans 8:14** For as many as are **led by** the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Dependence = “led by.” **The Gate = born of the Spirit (narrow gate); the Way = led (difficult way).** There is **no substitute offered by any religious form for this relationship.**

**Galatians 3:3** Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

**He alone can complete the good work He has begun. Relationships are the grounds of our moving and being.** The Way is difficult = things and **people test** whether **His thoughts and ways have become yours...** **God ties** full fellowship with Him to our full fellowship with men. **(There are 2 Tablets)**

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**We cannot properly relate to God while we wrongly relate to men.** With both OK, we are cleansed and protected from defilement but, if **out of fellowship, we have lost our covering.** **We will need to repair damaged relationships and avoid wrong ones.**

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (condensed)** <sup>14</sup> Do not be **unequally yoked**...For what fellow-ship has **righteousness with lawlessness? ...light with darkness?** <sup>15</sup> ...**Christ with Belial?** Or what **part** has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement has **the temple of God with idols?** For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “*I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*” <sup>17</sup> Therefore “**Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.**” <sup>18</sup> “*I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.*”

Separation to God means separation from other things or people: **not physical but moral. If we choose our own thoughts and ways about who and how we relate, we are bound to fall. David** fell but thankfully found his way again:

**Psalm 37:23-24** <sup>23</sup> The steps **of a good man** are ordered by the LORD, And **He delights in his way**. <sup>24</sup> Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds *him* with His hand.

**Before David found his way again**, when he had stepped out of the light, out of fellowship with men and therefore out of fellowship with God, **this was his experience**:

**Ps 32:3-5** <sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**Thank God forgiveness is available:**

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

We are **not to sin, but when we do**, we have an Advocate.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Restoration of fellowship with God is founded on acknowledging what we did to break fellowship with man. Get that restored and step back into the light, be again covered by the blood, forgiven and cleansed, protected from defilement, and in full fellowship with the Father.**

**Can two walk together?** Yes, if we do justly, love mercy, And walk humbly with our God?

**Philippians 1:6** being **confident** of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

**2 Timothy 1:12** For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am **persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

**Communion:**

**Are you Born of the Spirit?**  
**Are you in full fellowship with man?**  
**Are you Led of the Spirit?**  
**Are you in full fellowship with God?**

**In Him we live**  
**In Him we move**  
**In Him we have our being**  
**Experience total confidence!**