

# THE NARROW WAY AND THE NARROW GATE

Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

HELL  
&  
LAKE  
OF FIRE

JUDGMENT AND DESTRUCTION  
"I am in agony  
in this flame" (Luke 16:24).

MANY ENTER  
THE WIDE GATE

This ILLUSTRATION shows why the narrow way is difficult: the road just keeps getting narrower and more difficult as you travel along. Living by faith is not easy. Obstacles such as testing, doubts, and persecution must be overcome. Spiritual battles must be fought and won. Sidetracks are numerous and must be avoided. And testing gets harder as you become more mature (depicted by progressively smaller caves to crawl through on the narrow road). The cost of living the Christian life is high, but the cost of failure is even higher (divine discipline, few blessings, and loss of eternal rewards). Traveling the wide road, however, is the costliest of all: "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels... And these will go away into eternal punishment" (Matthew 25:41, 46).



**WIDE ROAD**  
THE EASY WAY

Your Plan for Your Life, Worldliness, Common Sense, Human Viewpoint, Religion, Atheism, Philosophy, Immorality, Do What's Right in Your Own Eyes

FEW ENTER  
THE NARROW GATE  
(Salvation)

GOAL: to overcome all spiritual enemies along the way

SIDETRACK

count the COST daily  
(Luke 14:28-30)

be HOLY  
(1 Pet 1:15-16)

SIDETRACK

**NARROW ROAD**  
THE HARD WAY

gets PROGRESSIVELY NARROWER because of the angelic conflict (Dan 10:13, 20), spiritual warfare (2 Cor 10:4; Eph 6:12), battle with the world, the flesh, and the Devil (1 Jn 5:19; Rom 7:15; 1 Pet 5:8), living by faith (Heb 10:38), hard commands (Matt 5:44), testing (1 Pet 1:7), and spiritual sacrifices (Rom 12:1)

have FELLOWSHIP with God (1 John 1:6-9)

walk in the SPIRIT  
(Gal 5:16, 25)

TESTING  
(1 Cor 10:13)

beware of SIDETRACKS that lead to dead ends (Dt 5:32; 28:14; Josh 1:7; 2 Kgs 22:2; Isa 30:20-21); dead ends are apathy, carnality, disobedience, apostasy, idolatry, and rejection of God's plan for your life, resulting in divine discipline, loss of eternal rewards, and a smaller future inheritance; *i.e.*, to be least instead of greatest in the Kingdom

expect BLESSINGS (Mark 10:29-30)  
grow in FAITH (Rom 10:17) and in the WORD (Heb 5:12-14; 1 Pet 2:2):  
get knowledge, understanding, and, wisdom (Prov 2:6; Col 1:9), claim promises (2 Pet 1:4), and become spiritually mature (Eph 4:13)

SIDETRACK

SEVERE TESTING  
(*e.g.*, Gen 22:1-18)

expect PERSECUTION (Matt 5:11-12; John 15:20; 1 Pet 4:12-13; Rev 2:10)

seek APPROVAL (1 Cor 11:19; 2 Cor 10:18; James 1:12)

REWARDS

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..." (2 Tim 4:7-8a).

POSITIONAL OVERCOMERS

Eternal LIFE in the Kingdom (Matt 25:34, 46; 1 Jn 5:4-5; Rev 2:7, 11; 3:5)

EXPERIENTIAL OVERCOMERS

REIGN with Christ (2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:4)



Very FEW overcome all enemies in spiritual warfare to become first or greatest in the Kingdom; *e.g.*, only three (Moses, Joshua, and Caleb) of an estimated two to four million Israelites who left Egypt were overcomers; the rest died in the wilderness because of unbelief (Num 14:20-38; 32:12). Most on the narrow road are positional overcomers (overcome the opposition of the world to get saved but usually defeated in spiritual warfare); experiential overcomers, however, win most of their spiritual battles.

**INHERITANCE**  
"He who overcomes shall inherit these things [new heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem, God's presence, no tears, no death, no mourning, crying, or pain, all things new, water of life], and I will be his God and he will be My son" (Rev 21:7).

**ABRAHAM'S BOSOM, HEAVEN, & THE NEW JERUSALEM**