

THE FOLLOW UP TO "DOUBLE-MINDED DILEMMA"

I WANT YOU TO THINK OF YOUR CHRISTIAN WALK ON THE NARROW PATH AS WALKING ACROSS A SUSPENSION BRIDGE OVER A 500 FOOT DROP. IT HAS GUARD RAILS UP HIGH AND AS LONG AS YOU HOLD ON TO THOSE GUARD RAILS, YOU CAN BALANCE YOURSELF AND MAKE IT ACROSS ON THE NARROW PASSAGEWAY SAFELY. YET, IF YOU LET YOUR FOCUS FADE AND LET GO OF YOUR SAFETY POINTS, YOU CAN VERY WELL STUMBLE AND MAYBE EVEN FALL TO YOUR OWN DEATH. THIS PATH IS HARD TO FIND, AND EVEN HARDER TO STAY ON. AS WE ARE LEAVING BABYLON AND APPLYING THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS SERIES, LET US NOT FAINT ON THE JOURNEY. NONE OF WHAT WE HAVE COVERED IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND. IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE AND DIFFICULT TO ABIDE BY, YET IT IS NOT SO COMPLEX THAT WE CANNOT HARNESS ITS POWER AND USE IT AS THE MAP IT WAS INTENDED TO BE. IN THIS STUDY, WE WILL COVER WALKING THE NARROW PATH, NOW THAT WE HAVE MADE UP OUR MINDS WITH A SINGULAR FOCUS. FIRST, LET US RECEIVE ENCOURAGEMENT ALONG OUR WAY. OUR LORD SOON APPROACHES, SO KEEP GOING WEARY TRAVELERS.

~Do Not Lose Heart~

2 Peter 3:3-13 "knowing this first, that in the last days mockers will come, walking after their own lusts, (4) and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (5) For this they willfully forget that there were heavens from of old, and an earth formed out of water and amid water by the word of God; (6) by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. (7) But the heavens that now exist, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (8) But don't forget this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and godliness, (12) looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."

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The Narrow Path

WE ARE WARNED BY JESUS CONCERNING THE SITUATION WE FIND OURSELVES IN. HE EXPRESSES HOW DIFFICULT THE PATH OF SALVATION AND FAITHFULNESS REALLY IS.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Go in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there are who go in through it. (14) Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The CEV, I believe, translates the intention of this statement very well.

<u>Matthew 7:13-14</u> "Go in through the narrow gate. The gate to destruction is wide, and the road that leads there is easy to follow. A lot of people go through that gate. (14) But the gate to life is very narrow. <u>The road that leads there is so hard to follow that only a few</u> <u>people find it."</u>

Get Out Of There!

THIS ENTIRE SERIES IS A GUIDE TO "ESCAPE FROM BABYLON" SO, LET US REVISIT THE CALL TO FLEE FROM THE SPIRITUAL DEATH TRAP CALLED BABYLON-THE LAND OF SPIRITUAL CONFUSIONS AND LIES!

Revelation 18:4-5 "And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you may not be partakers of her sins, and that you may not receive of her plagues. (5) For her sins joined together, even up to Heaven, and God has remembered her unjust deeds."

We Find That These Verses From Revelation Are A Reference To Jeremiah

Jeremich 51:G-7 "Flee out of the middle of Babylon! Everyone save his own life! Don't be cut off in her iniquity; for it is the time of Yahweh's vengeance. He will render to her a recompense. (7) Babylon has been a golden cup in Yahweh's hand, who made all the earth drunk. The nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations have gone mad."

Jeremial 51:45-46 "My people, go away from the middle of her, and each of you save yourselves from Yahweh's fierce anger. (46) Don't let your heart faint. Don't fear for the news that will be heard in the land. For news will come one year, and after that in another year news will come, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler."

SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THE BABYLON SYSTEM AND ITS FOLLOWERS.

Romans 12:2 "Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God."

2 Corinthians **G**:**14-18** "Don't be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) What agreement has Christ with Belial? Or what portion has a believer with an unbeliever? (16) What agreement has a temple of God with idols? For you are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, "I will dwell in them, and <u>walk in them</u>; and I will be their God, and they will be my people." (17) Therefore "'Come out from among them, and be separate,' says the Lord. 'Touch no unclean thing. I will receive you. (18) I will be to you a Father. You will be to me sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty."

Ephesians 4:17-27 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that **you no longer walk** as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, (18) being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their hearts; (19) who having become callous gave themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) But you didn't learn Christ that way; (21) if indeed you heard him, and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: (22) that you put away, as concerning your former way of life, the old man, that grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit; (23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. (25) Therefore putting away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor. For we are members of one another. (26) "Be angry, and don't sin." Don't let the sun go down on your wrath, (27) and don't give place to the devil."

Let Us Be Peculiar

GOD HAS CALLED US OUT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD, UNLIKE THE REST OF HUMANKIND. WE ARE TO BE SPECIAL, UNIQUE, RARE, AND PRECIOUS. WE CANNOT DO THAT BY BEING LIKE THE WORLD, FOLLOWING AND SERVING THE FLESH. WE MUST FOLLOW THE SPIRITS LEAD AND WALK THE NARROW PATH.

Deuteronomy 2G:17-19 "You have declared today that Yahweh is your God, and that you would walk in his ways, and keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his ordinances, and listen to his voice. (18) Yahweh has declared today that you are a people for his own possession, as he has promised you, and that you should keep all his commandments. (19) He will make you high above all nations that he has made, in praise, in name, and in honor; and that you may be a holy people to Yahweh your God, as he has spoken."

Exodus 19:5-6 "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice, and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession from among all peoples; for all the earth is mine; (6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

[Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: (10) who in time past were no people, but now are God's people, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

Titus 2:14 "who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works."

The Fleshly Fight

As we walk this path, we must get a firm grasp of the situation we are in. We must know the options and the choices we need to make. If we want to follow the narrow path to the gate of salvation, we must make our flesh submit to God's influence.

Romans 6:1-14 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also **might walk** in newness of life. (5) For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; (6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. (7) For he who has died has been freed from sin. (8) But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him; (9) knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no more has dominion over him! (10) For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. (11) Thus consider yourselves also to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (12) Therefore don't let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. (13) Also, do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (14) For sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace."

Ephesians 2:1-10 "You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins, (2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience; (3) among whom we also all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of

his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; (8) for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, that no one would boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we <u>would walk</u> in them."

Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. (2) Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God."

<u>Spirit Vs Flesh</u>

WE HAVE 2 OPTIONS:

1) SUBMIT TO OUR FLESH AND ALL OF ITS DESIRES.

2) SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD AND FOLLOW ITS LEAD.

WE MUST TRULY BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE AN ENEMY IN THE FLESH THAT WE BATTLE EVERY DAY. IF WE OVERLOOK THIS KEY ASPECT WE WILL BE DERAILED BY THE FLESH AT EVERY TURN.

Corinthians 3:1-3 "Brothers, I couldn't speak to you as to spiritual, but as to fleshly, as to babies in Christ. (2) I fed you with milk, not with meat; for you weren't yet ready. Indeed, not even now are you ready, (3) for you are still fleshly. For insofar as there is jealousy, strife, and factions among you, aren't you fleshly, and <u>don't you walk</u> in the ways of men?"

Romans 8:1-11 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. (3) For what the law couldn't do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh; (4) that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. (6) For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace; (7) because the mind of the flesh is hostile towards God; for it is not subject to God's law, neither indeed can it be. (8) Those who are in the flesh can't please God. (9) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his. (10) If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

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Galatians 5:13-25 "For you, brothers, were called for freedom. Only don't use your freedom for gain to the flesh, but through love be servants to one another. (14) For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (15) But if you bite and devour one another, be careful that you don't consume one another. (16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, that you may not do the things that you desire. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (19) Now the deeds of the flesh are obvious, which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, (21) envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (24) Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let's also walk by the Spirit."

Romans 8:12-17 "So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. (13) For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. (15) For you didn't receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (16) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; (17) and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him."

Corinthians 5:1-8 "For we know that if the earthly house of our tent is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. (2) For most certainly in this we groan, longing to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven; (3) if so be that being clothed we will not be found naked. (4) For indeed we who are in this tent do groan, being burdened; not that we desire to be unclothed, but that we desire to be clothed, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. (5) Now he who made us for this very thing is God, who also gave to us the down payment of the Spirit. (6) Therefore we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; (7) for we <u>walk by faith</u>, not by sight. (8) We are courageous, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord."

Liberty And Power In The Spirit

<u>Corinthians 3:17-18</u> "Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (18) But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit."

<u>Corinthians 10:3-5</u> "For though we <u>walk in the flesh</u>, we don't wage war according to the flesh; (4) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds, (5) throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;"

Darkness vs Light

ANOTHER WAY THE BIBLE FRAMES THIS PARADIGM IS DARKNESS AND LIGHT. THE FLESH IS IN DARKNESS AND DOES THE WORKS OF DARKNESS. THE SPIRIT IS THE LIGHT AND DOES THE WORKS OF GOD. AS FOLLOWERS OF THE PATH, WE MUST STAY IN THE LIGHT BY THE SPIRIT TO SEE CLEARLY THE PATH BEFORE US. IT DOES NOT LIGHT THE ENTIRE JOURNEY. IT GIVES THE PROMISE OF THE DESTINATION AND THEN LIGHTENS OUR NEXT FEW STEPS.

Isaich 5:20-21 "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"

1 John 1:5-7 "This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and don't tell the truth. (7) But if <u>we walk</u> 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."

<u>I Peter 2:9</u> "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

Romans 13:12-14 "The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let's therefore throw off the deeds of darkness, and let's put on the armor of light. (13) Let's walk properly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and lustful acts, and not in strife and jealousy. (14) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, for its lusts."

Ephesians 5:3-21 "But sexual immorality, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be mentioned among you, as becomes saints; (4) nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not appropriate; but rather giving of thanks. (5) Know this for sure,

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that no sexually immoral person, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God. (6) Let no one deceive you with empty words. For because of these things, the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience. (7) Therefore don't be partakers with them. (8) For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, (9) for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, (10) proving what is well pleasing to the Lord. (11) Have no fellowship with the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather even reprove them. (12) For the things which are done by them in secret, it is a shame even to speak of. (13) But all things, when they are reproved, are revealed by the light, for everything that reveals is light. (14) Therefore he says, "Awake, you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (15) Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise; (16) redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore don't be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) Don't be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) giving thanks always concerning all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God, even the Father; (21) subjecting yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ."

Conduct

How we are walking is just as important as that we are walking. Think of a military march. The unit must walk in lock step to keep pace and rhythm. If everyone just walked to their own cadence, it would be a mess. By the time they reached their destination, some would be early, some late, and some lost along the way.

Corinthians 4:1-2 "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we don't faint. (2) But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, <u>not walking</u> in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

Acts 9:31 "So the assemblies throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, and were built up. They were multiplied, <u>walking in the fear</u> of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit."

<u>I</u>Timothy 4:11-12 "Command and teach these things. (12) Let no man despise your youth; but be an example to those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity."

3 John 1:2-4 "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers. (3) For I rejoiced greatly, when brothers came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth. (4) I have no greater joy than this, to hear about my children walking in truth."

2 John 1:4-6 "I rejoice greatly that I have found some of your children <u>walking in truth</u>, even as we have been commanded by the Father. (5) Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. (6) This is love, that we should walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it."

Jude 1:17-23 "But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. (18) They said to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts." (19) These are they who cause divisions, and are sensual, not having the Spirit. (20) But you, beloved, keep building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. (21) Keep yourselves in God's love, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. (22) On some have compassion, making a distinction, (23) and some save, snatching them out of the fire with fear, hating even the clothing stained by the flesh."

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 "But concerning brotherly love, you have no need that one write to you. For you yourselves are taught by God to love one another, (10) for indeed you do it toward all the brothers who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brothers, that you abound more and more;"

Philippians 3:13-21 "Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do. Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (15) Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, think this way. If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you. (16) Nevertheless, to the extent that we have already attained, <u>let's walk</u> by the same rule. Let's be of the same mind. (17) Brothers, be imitators together of me, and note <u>those who walk this way</u>, even as you have us for an example. (18) For <u>many walk</u>, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, as the enemies of the cross of Christ, (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who think about earthly things. (20) For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working by which he is able even to subject all things to himself."

Colossians 4:2-6 "Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; (3) praying together for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds; (4) that I may reveal it as I ought to speak. (5) <u>Walk in wisdom</u> toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. (6) Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

Colossions 3:12-17 "Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do. (14) Above all these things, <u>walk in love</u>, which is the bond of perfection. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord. (17) Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, through him."

Walk Worthy

It is easy to listen to the siren calls of the dead and dying telling us to let our guards down, telling us that we are striving for no good reason. Much like the book "Pilgrim's Progress", many nay-sayers try to convince us to leave the path to the Celestial City. Listen not to their lies. We must continue to walk in a worthy manner to the God who called us, and the Lord who died for us.

I Thessalonians 5:22 "Abstain from every appearance of evil."

<u>I Thessalonians 2:11-12</u> "As you know, we exhorted, comforted, and implored every one of you, as a father does his own children, (12) to the end that you should <u>walk worthily</u> of God, who calls you into his own Kingdom and glory."

Colossions 1:9-14 "For this cause, we also, since the day we heard this, don't cease praying and making requests for you, that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (10) that you may walk worthily of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (11) strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy; (12) giving thanks to the Father, who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; (13) who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love; (14) in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins;"

Ephesians 4:1-6 "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to <u>walk worthily</u> of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; (3) being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling; (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all."

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 "Finally then, brothers, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, that you abound more and more. (2) For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. (3) For this is the will of God: your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality, (4) that each one of you know how to control his own body in sanctification and honor, (5) not in the passion of lust, even as the Gentiles who don't know God; (6) that no one should take advantage of and wrong a brother or sister in this matter; because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as also we forewarned you and testified. (7) For God called us not for uncleanness, but in sanctification. (8) Therefore he who rejects this doesn't reject man, but God, who has also given his Holy Spirit to you."

Follow Jesus' Example

WE CANNOT GO WRONG IN FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS LEFT TO US BY OUR LORD. LIKE FOOTPRINTS ON A SANDY BEACH, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THEM. THEN WE CAN BE FOUND WHERE OUR LORD HAS GONE TO PREPARE US ALL A FOREVER HOME.

I Peter 2:21-22 "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving** you an example, that you should follow his steps, (22) who didn't sin, "neither was deceit found in his mouth."

John 2:3-6 "This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. (4) One who says, "I know him," and doesn't keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn't in him. (5) But whoever keeps his word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: (6) he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked."

Ephesians 5:1-2 "Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. (2) Walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling fragrance."

Proverbs 4:23-27 "Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the sources of life.

(24) Remove perverse speech from your mouth; keep devious talk far from your lips.

(25) Let your eyes look directly in front of you and let your gaze look straight before you.

(26) Make the path for your feet level, so that all your ways may be established. (27) Do not turn to the right or to the left; turn yourself away from evil."

Walking With God

Now, to the end of the destination, as we followed the narrow path all the way to the gate of salvation. Let us step beyond the veil of time and enter fully into the kingdom of God. The journey has been long. The sacrifice has been great. As we learned in "double-minded dilemma", we have been following Jesus. Now we see He has been trustworthy and true. Praise God! Praise Jesus!

Revelation 3:4-5 "Nevertheless you have a few names in Sardis that didn't defile their garments. <u>They will walk with me in white</u>, for they are worthy. (5) He who overcomes will be arrayed in white garments, and I will in no way blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Revelation 21:22-27 "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. (23) The city has no need for the sun, neither of the moon, to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. (24) <u>The nations will walk in its light.</u> The kings of the earth bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. (25) Its gates will in no way be shut by day (for there will be no night there), (26) and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it so that they may enter. (27) There will in no way enter into it anything profane, or one who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."

CLOSING

GOD AND JESUS HAVE NOT ASKED US TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE BY WALKING THE NARROW PATH. NOR DID HE ASK US TO DO IT UNDER OUR OWN STRENGTH. WE MUST TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOW HIS LEADING. THE BIBLE HAS GIVEN MANY WAYS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. WE CAN EXAMINE OURSELVES AS WE READ HERE IN 1 CORINTHIANS 11:31 "BUT IF WE EXAMINED OURSELVES, WE WOULD NOT BE JUDGED." WITH THE SPIRITS GUIDANCE, WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE AREAS THAT WE NEED TO SHORE UP. PINPOINT THOSE THINGS TRYING TO PULL US OFF THE PATH, AND BREATHE LIFE AGAIN INTO THOSE AREAS THAT HAVE SPIRITUALLY DECAYED. ESCAPING BABYLON AND FOLLOWING THE NARROW PATH TO THE GATE OF SALVATION IS A LONG, HARD ROAD. IT IS FILLED WITH TEMPTATION, STRUGGLE, PERSECUTION, AND TRIBULATION. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT LOSE HEART AND GIVE UP, IT WILL BE THE BEST THING THEY EVER HAVE DONE. THE MOST REWARDING AND JOYOUS PAYOFF AWAITS THE WEARY TRAVELER. STAY THE PATH, PRESS ON, AND REMIND YOURSELVES WHY YOU ARE DOING IT. FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE. THEN, ON THAT GLORIOUS DAY, YOU WILL BE WITH YOUR FATHER GOD FOREVER, FREE OF PAIN, SUFFERING, HURT, AND BURDEN. BEING ABLE TO LIVE FOREVER IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS LOVE. IT WILL BE WORTH IT BROTHERS AND SISTERS. DON'T LOSE HEART. LISTEN ... I CAN HEAR THE CALL OF OUR FATHER THIS VERY MOMENT.