

A stone staircase with many steps, leading upwards from the bottom of the frame towards a bright, cloudy sky. The sky is filled with soft, white and yellowish clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall tone is hopeful and spiritual.

THE
ROAD
— TO —
ETERNAL
LIFE

Eternal Walk Ministry

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Contents

Introduction	1
Finding the Narrow Road	2
Traveling the Narrow Road	10
Life on the Narrow Road	14
The Broad Road.....	20
Summary.....	37
Notes.....	39

Introduction

The title is taken from Matthew 7:13-14. “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” From scripture we will find the narrow road, and describe the fulfilling life travelling the narrow road to heaven. We will look at how Satan’s lies point us to the broad road that leads to destruction. We will discuss seven lies the world uses to justify their belief in the broad road.

Finding the Narrow Road

We will first look at God's view of sin and the effect sin has on our relationship with God. This is the first step in finding the narrow road to life.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

From this verse we see that God has "no darkness (sin) at all" If God sinned he would not be God and if sin was allowed in heaven, it would not be heaven.

And they were calling to one another:
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;

the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6:3)

God is described as holy, holy, holy. There is no other attribute of God that is described in triplet. What does it mean that God is holy? The word holy means to be separate, and God is separate from sin meaning there is no sin in his character.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

There is no one good enough to stand before our perfect God, because we have inherited a sinful nature from Adam, and the sinful nature has led everyone to sinful behavior. What does God define as sin?

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. (Genesis 6:5)

Our thoughts reflect the attitude of our heart and we live out of our heart. Thoughts of lust, revenge, coveting, stealing, or anything that is displeasing to God is considered sin. If we have a sinful heart we will have sinful words and sinful actions. If we have a heart filled with God's love we will reflect that love in our words and actions.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

Our sins have separated us from our holy, holy, holy God. Can we cure ourselves of our sinful state of existence? Can we do enough good works to outweigh our bad works?

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

All have sinned and our righteous acts are like filthy rags to God. Sin is a disease of the soul. From our very first sin, whether in thought, word, or deed, our soul became diseased with sin, and we cannot cure our soul.

If you are counting on your good works outweighing your bad works, think again, all your works are like filthy rags to God. All mankind exists in a sinful world and we all have sinned. Even if our works are good by the world's view, God cannot have a relationship with us and accept our works because of our sins.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

So how do we become right with God if everything we do is seen by God as filthy rags, and we can do nothing that pleases God without Christ?

God is holy, holy, holy and in him there is no darkness and there is no darkness in heaven.

Nothing impure will ever enter it (heaven), nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelations 21: 27)

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

If we think we can save ourselves, cleansing our sinful diseased soul, then we are travelling the broad road to destruction. God is perfectly sinless, Christ is perfectly sinless, and in heaven there is no sin, so how do we get to heaven with our sinful nature?

The wages of sin is death, therefore we have all sinned deserving death and eternal separation from God.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)

God created us in his image to live with him for all eternity. God revealed in his Word his plan to forgive our sins and redeem us.

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:12)

We are saved through Christ the Son of God. God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the Son came to earth in the form of man and the Holy Spirit lives in the believer. This is one reason God has always existed as three, because it is the perfect design to redeem mankind.

In fact, the law requires that nearly

everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

In the Old Testament sin was temporarily forgiven by sacrificing an animal as a sin offering. When God sent his Son to earth, his task was to reveal the heart of God, show us how to live the Christian life, and he became the perfect sacrifice for our sins, the “lamb of God.” Since Christ was God in the flesh, he is the sinless sacrifice for our sins.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

Because of our sins, God placed his wrath on his Son. Christ was flogged and crucified for our sins.

He was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:4)

Christ was raised from the grave, defeated death and remained on the earth for forty days. He was seen by over five hundred people and appeared to his twelve apostles to encourage them. After forty

days he arose into heaven, witnessed by his apostles.

And when he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)

Christ told his apostles he was going to the Father and he would send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

Set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:22)

The Holy Spirit guides us in God's truth and is our deposit on eternal life. Without the Spirit we have no forgiveness of sins and no relationship with God.

The Apostles and many others who believed in

Christ, received the Holy Spirit and there life was changed. The apostles preached Christ fearlessly in an environment that was hostile to the Christian faith. All of the apostles served the Lord with fire in their spirit even though it cost them their life. All of the apostles were martyred except John who was sent into isolation on the island of Patmos. They saw the risen Christ and had no fear of death because they new eternal life was waiting for them. It is the same for us because Christ sends the Holy Spirit to live in us, who is our deposit on eternal life.

If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
(John 14:15-17)

When we receive the Holy Spirit we are sinless before God, because his Spirit is in us. Our diseased soul is cleansed through the blood of Christ and we are redeemed to God. We live by the Spirit and not by the sinful fleshly nature. We are now traveling the narrow road to eternal life.

Traveling the Narrow Road

On the narrow road we are guided by God through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8:5-6)

The Holy Spirit changes our heart to be like the heart of God, by renewing our mind.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

God changes our heart as he renews our mind to the mind of Christ. Our heart changes as we read the Word, pray, fellowship with other Christians, and obey his commands. Our mind renews to a mind of love and hope.

We cannot be perfect and God knows we cannot be perfect. Our heart may desire to be perfect but our fleshly desires lead us toward sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)

We fight sin and become spiritual warriors, however we still sin, hopefully less as God renews our mind to the mind of Christ.

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Philippians 2:13)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Christ walked this world and knows what it is like to be tempted, and understands everything we are going through in life. He helps us overcome sin and forgives us when we ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart, a heart that fights sin through the

power of God.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

We are not to condemn ourselves but we are convicted by the Holy Spirit when we sin. Conviction helps us to overcome sin and live according to God's will. We cannot have life to the full if we condemn ourselves for our sins. We overcome sin through the power and forgiveness of God.

The Word states that we are saved by faith in Christ, which means we trust the Lord to guide us through life by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the life God has planned is the best life we could ever live, and this life will lead us to our eternal home.

If we let the Lord guide us through life, obeying his will, our heart changes and our mind is renewed to the mind of Christ. It's God who changes us as we trust and obey his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and

follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

These two verses define faith, we trust God’s will over our will and we deny our sinful nature and follow Christ. We follow Christ by obeying his commands, guided by the Holy Spirit.

We are saved through the blood of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, who guides us down the narrow road to eternal life, living life to the full.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Life on the Narrow Road

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

How does the world define life to the full? Most people seek a life of peace, joy, and comfort. To live a secure life, ability to pay their bills, take vacations, have a fulfilling job, and to enjoy life with a minimum of problems. This is perfectly normal because our souls was created by God to live with God for all eternity. Therefore our souls seek eternal peace, joy, and comfort because we will have infinite peace, joy, and comfort in our eternal life.

Can the world give our souls eternal peace, joy, and comfort? Our security can be threatened by fear, such as economic collapse, and the violence we

hear about every day.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe. (John 6:63-64)

The Holy Spirit gives life to our soul, and flesh represents things from the world, which count for nothing in bringing life to our soul. Only the Holy Spirit brings life to our soul.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The fruit of the Spirit is eternal and feeds our eternal soul, giving life to our soul. Life to the full is a heart of love, contentment, satisfaction, security, and divine purpose. Life to the full only occurs through God's grace and forgiveness through Christ. We cannot live a fulfilling life unless we know our sins are forgiven, and we have the promise of eternal life. God's grace gives life to our souls and fills our heart with his love, enabling us to truly enjoy life in this world by overcoming the fear that comes from Satan. Satan's desire is for the whole world to live in fear because fear drives us inward and away from God.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. (1 John 4:8)

God's perfect love drives out fear, and without fear we live life to the fullest, trusting the Lord to guide and protect us along the narrow road to our eternal home.

The apostle Paul lived a fearful difficult life, but he learned to be content in all situations as he lived for Christ.

Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led

into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? (2 Corinthians 11:24-29)

What was Paul's attitude toward these trials and tribulations?

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (Philippians 4:12)

Paul learned the secret of "being content in any and every situation." If the Lord enabled Paul to be content in every situation then the Lord will do the same for us.

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism. (Acts 10:34)

Paul lived as an ambassador for Christ knowing that heaven was his home. He was filled with peace and joy from the Holy Spirit as he walked in total submission to serving the Lord, ministering to the early churches, primarily to the gentiles. He was supported by the members of the churches who visited him in prison, and they carried his letters (epistles) with them back to the churches.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. (Philippians 1:18-26)

Paul was secure in the Lord and lived to serve the Lord in full obedience. Nothing was more important for Paul than to complete his life serving the Lord. The love, peace, and joy from the Spirit was so powerful in his soul, it would override the suffering he was going through.

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Paul new his ambassadorship was about finished and he was ready to go home. Heaven was his home and it was a source of peace and joy for him. Paul lived for Christ and saw death as gain; he new life began in heaven with Christ after he took his last breath. You might say Paul was living with his heart and soul in heaven.

Paul was content in every situation because God gave him peace and joy through the Holy Spirit. When we walk the narrow road to life we continually grow closer to God, having more love, peace, joy, confidence, security, and the comfort that comes from our faith in God. As we travel the narrow road, life continues to be more fulfilling, and life reaches perfection when we enter our eternal home with God.

The Broad Road

How does Satan lead people to the broad road? Satan is always trying to take away our belief in the truth and get us to believe his lies. Everything Satan does is the opposite of what God planned for good. Satan knows Christ is God and he knows the Word is true, and will use the Word against us just as he tried when he tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11).

I have listed seven reasons people walk the broad road instead of believing in Christ. Satan can harden their hearts so they will refuse to believe the truth and instead believe a lie, even if they know it is a lie.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:21)

1.

I believe I am a good person and will go to heaven. My good works outweigh my bad works.

This has already been discussed in this paper, showing that we cannot cleanse our sinful soul, only Christ and his sacrifice can cleanse our sins. Without Christ and the Holy Spirit, the Bible says our works are like “filthy rags.” Only when we receive the Holy Spirit, do we have forgiveness of our sins. We have no good works in the eyes of God, to out-weigh our bad works.

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. (Romans 8:9)

2.

I believe in heaven but I don't believe in hell. How can a loving God send someone to eternal hell?

We are created as body, soul, and spirit. Our soul and spirit are created to live for eternity with a new spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). Those who know God and obey his Word have the promise to live with him eternally in heaven. But for those who do not know God, do not know his Word and do not

walk in obedience to his will; where will they spend eternity?

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

The ungodly will be punished and live forever shut out from the presence of the Lord.

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:28-29)

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)

The Bible clearly states that the Godly will be separated from the ungodly on judgment day.

So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked

from among the righteous. (Matthew 13:49)

Heaven or hell is our choice, God wishes all to be saved. If we choose the narrow road we have the promise of eternal life, and if we choose the broad road we have the promise of eternal death.

Hell is intended for Satan and his demonic angels and not for man. If we spend this life with no desire to know God and his truth, then God will honor that choice in our eternal life. We will spend eternity away from God, and spend eternity with Satan and his demonic angels. Choose wisely.

3.

I believe in Christ, therefore I am saved.

God looks at our heart which is revealed by our thoughts. How can we tell if someone has a heart for God?

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4)

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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5)

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)

From these scriptures we see that a heart for God puts God first, seeking his kingdom and righteousness, doing everything with all your heart

for Christ, knowing we are disciples of Christ. Pray without ceasing implies communing with the Lord throughout day, thanking and praising him, seeking his guidance and help, and praying for others.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

We associate and worship with other Christians, and not just on Sunday. We need Christians in our daily life for accountability, encouragement, help in difficult times, and guidance. God often speaks to us through other Christians.

Nor will people say, “Here it is,” or “There it is,” because the kingdom of God is in your midst. (Luke 17:21)

Luke states that the Kingdom of God is within us and the more our thoughts are about God, the more we are in the kingdom. In the kingdom we find love, peace, joy, and comfort from God.

If we go through our week with little or no thought of the Lord or following his will, how will the Lord see our heart? If we pray in the morning and read the Word in the evening, but virtually no thoughts

about God during the day, are our thoughts revealing a heart for God? From the scriptures we see Christ is our life, not just part of our life. How can we follow Christ if we are not communing with him, inviting him into the moment for his help and guidance?

I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve. (Jeremiah 17:10)

4.

The Bible has discrepancies, therefore I do not believe it is correct due to the many translations.

Forty authors with varying cultural and educational backgrounds wrote the Bible over a period of approximately fifteen hundred years. These authors came from three different continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe—and the Bible was written in three different languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Yet the sixty-six books of the Bible fit together perfectly, with the constant theme of God’s relationship to mankind and God’s plan for mankind’s salvation through Christ. Historical and architectural discoveries have constantly supported the accuracy of the Bible.¹

The Bible contains approximately 2,500 prophecies,

and approximately 2,000 are already fulfilled.² These prophecies include God foretelling about the Israelite nation, prophecies concerning Jesus, and prophecies concerning the future. These prophecies are described in detail, and they were fulfilled in every detail. This can only happen by the divine knowledge of God. This also shows the accuracy of the Bible.

The Bible today is 99.5% accurate when compared to many historical documents found over the years. Most of these errors are spelling and word order. There are two reasons why the Bible is accurate today, 1) the scribes were meticulous in making perfect copies and 2) God wanted his Word to be accurate, so it is accurate.

The belief that the Bible contains contradictions is a common excuse for not believing. If we read and investigate what we consider a contradiction, the issue can be resolved. If we study the Word with an open mind we understand the truth of the Bible, but if we study the Word with a closed mind we justify inaccuracies. Satan is the father of lies and he does not want us to believe the Word, because Satan knows the Word is accurate and true.

For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same

way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:11)

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Word, the truth of the Word, and understand what the world claims to be discrepancies. The Spirit helps to understand the deep things of God.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2: 10-11)

5.

All religions lead to God and to eternal life.

Jesus (God in the flesh) said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John14:6). When we except

Christ as our Lord and Savior we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit which cleanses our sinful soul so we can now have a restored relationship with God.

God is the one who tells us the way to eternal life, and God will judge us. When we stand before the Lord we will know the truth and we will know if our belief was right or wrong. If we live according to his will, then we have eternal life. We are not the one to tell God how mankind should live in order to have eternal life. God created us and God tells us how to live, how to live life to the fullest, leading to our eternal life.

Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” (Psalm 118:22)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

6.

How can there be a God with so much hurt and pain in the world?

Hurt and pain have been in this world since the day

Cain killed his brother Abel. Today we have the capability to destroy the world, random shootings occurring almost daily, economic collapses, earthquakes, and we don't have to look far to see impatient angry people.

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been

groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Romans 8:20-22)

Satan is god of this world and when Adam sinned, man inherited a sinful nature. This sinful nature causes selfishness, fear, anger, and hate, which can lead to greed, disease, stealing, and killing. This causes people to hurt people, resulting in pain and suffering. The majority of people in this world want to live a life of peace, work and make a living, raise a family, and enjoy life, but it only takes a few to cause major trouble.

It's not difficult to understand why there is hurt and pain in this world. The question is why does God allow it? God cast Satan and his angels to earth and he leads the whole world astray with his lies.

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelations 12:7-9)

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of

the evil one. (1 John 5:19)

God allowed sin into the world because he created mankind with freewill. Love cannot exist without freewill, because love is a choice. We have a choice to make in this life, to follow God and his ways or to follow Satan and his ways. We show our love to God by trusting him as he leads and protects us through life, enabling us to “overcome the world” (1 John 5.4). Our faith is tested to show we trust God when this sinful world gives us hurt and pain. We experience God’s presence when he helps us to overcome the sinful world and gives us peace and joy through his Spirit in us. It’s the trials and tribulations of life that we experience God’s love through faith.

God is spiritual and lives in heaven, and he created us as spiritual beings to live with him forever. We are body, soul, and spirit. Our soul is our personality and our thoughts, our Spirit is our Godly nature, and we live in a physical body. At death our soul and spirit get a new eternal body.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. (1

Corinthians 15:42-44)

We never die, our soul lives for eternity, either with God in heaven or with Satan and his angels. Death has been conquered for the one who knows God and walks the narrow road.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

God through Christ gives us the power to overcome sin and he protects our soul from the evil one. God keeps Satan and his demons away from us, but he doesn't keep evil people and sinful places from us.

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. (1 John 5:18)

Why does God sometimes intervene with miracle healings, and sometimes he doesn't? This is a question only God can answer and we cannot fully understand all the ways of God. I pray for healings, and I have witnessed miraculous healings, and I have also prayed for healing and witnessed death or the continuation of the disease.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55: 8-9)

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. (Isaiah 40:28)

We will not fully understand God’s ways until we reach eternal life. We know in this world we will have trouble, but God is with us and guides us through to our heavenly home. This world is not our home.

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. (Corinthians 13:12)

7.

I am an atheist and do not believe there is a God.

There are many reasons why people deny the truth and chose not believe in God. Some reasons are childhood abuse, refuse to give up sinful behavior, afraid of being accountable to God, and pride.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since *the* creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:18-20)

Evidences of a creator are clearly seen by his creation. The human body consists of cells each containing DNA of approximately three billion characters that define the function of each cell. Where there is information there is intelligence.

When we surrender to Christ, he sets us free. God changes our heart and after time our will becomes the will of God, because we have learned his ways are always best. When our will is God's will, we are in control of ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are free from being a slave to the world.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves

be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
(Galatians 5:1).

Summary

The following six steps will lead us to the narrow road of life. If you continue in these six steps you will grow closer to God, and life will become more fulfilling as you travel the narrow road to your heavenly home. Through the Holy Spirit you will enjoy life the way God intended.

1. Read the Word and pray that God will help you understand the truth. Read the Word with an open mind.
2. Read and understand God's promises and realize you need a Savior. You cannot save yourself.
3. Accept Christ as your Savior and Lord of your life. Know that God's way of living brings life to the fullest.
4. Believe, repent, and follow with baptism. You are cleansed of all sins and have forgiveness of

sins, because you have the indwelling Holy Spirit. When we sin we ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart, we are forgiven, and God remembers our sin no more.

5. Let the Spirit guide you to be Light to the world reflecting God's love to others. This is what we are created to do. It gives our life a divine purpose and a heart of peace and joy from the Spirit. God gives us what the world cannot give us.
6. Live life to the fullest and know you are on the narrow road to life, your heavenly home.

Notes

1. “Why You Can Believe the Bible,” *Everystudent.com*, accessed October 5, 2014, <http://www.everystudent.com/features/bible.html>
2. Hugh Ross, “Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence for Reliability of the Bible,” *Reasons to Believe*, accessed October 5, 2014, www.reasons.org/articles/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-for-reliability-of-the-bible

