

Obedying the Commands of Jesus #5: Enter through the Narrow Door 8/1

“Make every effort to enter through the **narrow** door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 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.” (Luke 13:34; Matt 7: 13-14)

Q1: Does this mean salvation is difficult or hard to obtain? In one sense, the answer is no. Salvation is not based on our works, but on faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, because salvation in Jesus requires choosing Him as Lord, there is a commitment involved that requires repentance of sin and a turn toward holy living. It’s not hard to obtain, if you are a humble person.

Q2: Does this mean there will not be many people in heaven?

Not at all! In fact, the final book of the Bible makes it clear there will be many people from all parts of the world in God’s presence in eternity (Rev 7:9-10), however, more will not enter heaven than those that do! “But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Lk 13:34; Mt 7: 13-14)

Q3: Why does Jesus have to be the only way?

“Jesus said to him, I am the **way**, the **truth**, and the **life**: no man comes to the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) “

- 1) Because He said so. (Jn 3:16) The one who invents the game makes the rules.
- 2) Because He is the only Truth. He came from the place you want to end up. Heaven! Therefore, he can tell you what it is like and how to get there. “Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.” (John 13:3)
- 3) Because God confirmed it in word (and miracles), “and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Mt 3:17)

Jesus is the T.R.U.T.H. :

The conscience/unity--a universal sense of right and wrong. (Romans 2:15)
Revelation—God tells us about Himself through His amazing creation (Ro 1:20)
Unity of believers “... so that they may become completely one. Then this world’s people will know that you sent me.” (John 17:23; John 13:35)
The Bible— There are approximately 2500 prophecies in the Bible. There are over 2000 prophecies that have already been fulfilled. Over 300 for just Jesus!
History — Not one archeological artifact has ever contradicted the Bible.

Obedying the Commands of Jesus #6: Worship in Spirit and Truth 8/8

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23,24

- I. What is worship?
- II. What does it mean to worship God in spirit?
- III. What does it mean to worship God in truth?

A) The Truth about Him

B) The Truth about ourselves:

“To come honestly to God to admit our insufficiency and utter dependence on Him. When we truly empty ourselves in our pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency, confessing our sins with acts of repentance, we are then able to worship God in truth and with all of our spirit as born again believers.”

C) Overcoming temptation:

Admit that you have a weakness in this area (I John 1:10)

Confess this to the Lord—be honest with him (I John 1:9)

Take **every thought** captive to the obedience of the Lord’s commands 2Cor 10:14

	Temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:4-6)	Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)	Temptation of the Church Today
<i>Lust of the flesh</i> The desire to fulfill pleasures, physical desires.	The fruit looked delicious and would be good to eat.	Turn the stones into bread.	Take what is easier or more pleasurable rather than God’s best.
<i>Lust of the eyes</i> The constant craving for more.	The fruit was a pleasure to look at.	Gain all the kingdoms of the world, as far as the eye can see.	Respond impulsively, without restraint or self-control.
<i>The pride of life</i> The desire for power or possessions.	The fruit was desirable for gaining wisdom; Eve wanted to “be like God.”	Throw yourself down and the angels will come and rescue you for God will not allow you to be hurt.	Build a power base rather than seek to serve others.

<http://www.lialc.org/new-testament-in-a-year1/1-john-21527>

1. “Stones to become loaves of bread” – “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” **Lust of the flesh**
2. “Throw yourself down”—“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” **Pride of Life**
3. “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” – “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” **Lust of eyes**

Questions for Consideration:

1. What does it mean to worship God in the Spirit?
2. How did you come to know Christ? What made you decide to follow Him?
3. What comes to your mind when you think of God? Read Psalm 103
4. What did Jesus do in the wilderness each time he was tempted?
5. Think of other scripture you can use to resist the Satan's attack on you.
6. What is sin? What do we do if we fall into temptation? I John 1:9
7. Why is it hard to admit that you're wrong? Can it become easier? How?
8. Think of some creative ways of worshipping God in spirit and truth.
9. What changes will you make this week as a result of this passage?
10. What steps are you going to take to see these changes happen?

What does the Bible say about . . .

Self-control



God teaches us how to live right:

Titus 2:11-12: "God has shown us how kind he is by coming to save all people. He taught us to give up our wicked ways and our worldly desires and to live decent and honest lives in this world."

The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, helps us to behave:

Galatians 5:22-23: "God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways."

Sometimes it is hard to do right, but God promises to help us in those times:

1 Corinthians 10:13: "You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and he will show you how to escape from your temptations."

Obedience

God doesn't want a little of us to obey Him. He wants ALL of us to obey Him:

Leviticus 18:4: "I am the LORD your God, and you must obey my teachings."

It is never too late to turn from the wrong things we do and obey God:

Nehemiah 1:9: "But you also said that no matter how far away we were, we could turn to you and start obeying your laws. Then you would bring us back to the place where you have chosen to be worshiped."

Obedience brings many blessings, such as friendship with God:

John 14:23: "Jesus replied: If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them."

Wholesome Talk

We need to use what we say to help others feel better, not hurt them:

Ephesians 4:29: "Stop all your dirty talk. Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what you say."

Controlling what we say is hard, but if you work at it, it will be easier to behave in other areas too:

James 3:2: "All of us do many wrong things. But if you can control your tongue, you are mature and able to control your whole body."

Don't start arguments, stop them!

Proverbs 15:1: "A kind answer soothes angry feelings, but harsh words stir them up."

Treatment of Others

Put others first, before yourself, and you will please God:

Philippians 2:3: "Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves."

God showed great kindness to us by sending Jesus. We need to show this same kindness to others:

Ephesians 4:31-32: "Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ."

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