

The Real Christian Life

Christians are in an intense struggle against *sin* (Heb. 12:4). Evil is trying to overcome us but we can overcome it by *good* (Rom. 12:21). We must be an overcomer in the end to inherit God's kingdom and escape the **lake of fire** (Rev. 21:1-8). We might have to shed our blood (Heb. 12:4) and die a **martyr** to *overcome* (Rev. 12:11). If we disown Jesus, **he will disown us** (Mt. 10:33; 2 Tim 2:12). If we look back after putting our hand to the plow, we are not fit for God's kingdom (Lk. 9:62). It is possible to *again* get entangled in sin and be overcome by it (2 Pet. 2:20; 1 Tim. 5:11). **Our current spiritual battle is for spiritual life or death itself** (Rom. 8:13; Jam. 5:19,20; Lk. 15:24; etc.). We are told to put forth *every effort* to enter the narrow door, for *many* will try to enter but will not be able to (Lk. 13:24), and put forth *every effort* to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with God (2 Pet. 3:14).

There will be many *deceived* by false prophets (Mt. 24:11). Many will *turn away* from the truth (2 Tim. 4:3,4). Many will be *deceived* by false teachers declaring heresies (2 Pet. 2:1,2). People will be deceived by satanic miracles (Rev. 19:20; 2 Thess. 2:9-12). We are to *add to our faith* various virtues to make our *calling and election sure* (2 Pet 1:5-10). We must continue in God's kindness or we will be *cut off* from spiritual life (Rom. 11:20-22). We must *continue* in the teaching of Jesus to have God (2 Jn. 9). We must *persevere* under trial to receive the crown of life (Jam 1:12). We must bring forth good fruit or we'll be cut down and thrown **in the fire** (Jn. 15:1-6; Lk. 13:6-9). The *lukewarm* will be spued out of Jesus' body (Rev. 3:15,16). Only a *few* (the minority) at Sardis didn't soil their spiritual clothes and were still *worthy* to walk with Jesus (Rev. 3:4, 5). It is **our personal responsibility**—not God's—to *keep* our lamps burning (Lk. 12:35), *keep* ourselves pure (1 Tim.

5:22), *keep* ourselves from idols (1 Jn. 5:21) and *keep* ourselves from the spiritual pollutants of this world (Jam. 1:26, 27). It is possible to *quickly* turn away from God (1 Tim. 5: 15; Gal. 1:6), *return* to sin and *go back* as a dog to his vomit or a washed sow to the mud again (2 Pet. 2:22). We must *keep God's word* not to die spiritually (Jn. 8:51).

Jesus is the source of eternal salvation, but only for those who *obey* him (Heb. 5:9). Only

those who do God's will shall enter God's kingdom (Mt. 7:21). We have to put God's word into practice to be the Lord's spiritual family (Lk. 8:21). If we forsake God, he will forsake us (2 Chron. 15:2). After initial salvation we are to be afraid of God, who can destroy both our body and soul in hell (Mt 10:28; Lk 12:4,5). It is **hard** for the righteous to be saved (1 Pet. 4:18; Mt. 7:14). Even the apostle Judas Iscariot lost his *salvation* (Mt. 10:1-4 cf. Mk. 14:21; Jn. 17:12) and the Lord's original disciples, who were trying to be the greatest in the kingdom, would have to *change* to enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 18:1-3).

To think you are standing firm is to be set up for a spiritual *fall* (1 Cor. 10:12) and to be *arrogant* (Rom. 11: 20). God opposes the arrogant (1 Pet. 5:5). Without *holiness and a pure heart* at death, no one will see God (Heb. 12:14; Mt. 5:8; Rev. 20:6). We have to persist in **doing good** to get eternal life (Rom. 2:6-8) and sow to please the Spirit of God to reap **eternal life** (Gal. 6:8,9).

Bad company *corrupts* good character (1 Cor. 15:33), so we must be careful with our friends and who teaches us. We need to *avoid* every kind of evil (1 Thess. 5:22) and that includes certain people, places and things. It is possible to believe in

“Difficult is the way that leads to life” (Mt 7:14, NKJV)

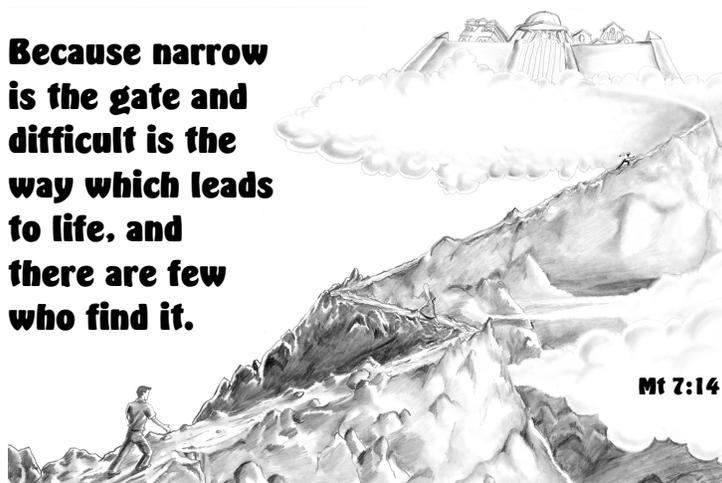


vain (1 Cor. 15:2), cease believing (Lk. 8:13) and have our faith shipwrecked (1 Tim. 1:19) and destroyed (2 Tim. 2:18; Rom. 11:19-21). We can also *fall away* (Heb. 6:6; Lk. 8:13) and no longer be *known* by Jesus after we became spiritual virgins and had a burning spiritual lamp (Mt. 25:12). If we take words away from God's book of prophecy, he will *take* our share of the holy city away from us (Rev. 22:19). *Loving God* is a salvation issue (Jam. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:9), which is the same as *obeying* God (Jn. 14:15,21,23). **Being faithful to God to the point of death (Rev. 2:10, 11) is also a salvation issue.**

God will *take* our talent back if we do not bring forth gain (Mt. 25:28) and have us cast into outer darkness where there is *weeping and gnashing of teeth* (Mt. 25:30), which is a description of the *fiery furnace* (Mt. 13:41,42; 13:49,50; 8:12) and not a place in heaven like the heretical eternal security teachers want us to believe. If we don't forgive others who sin against us, *we will not be forgiven* (Mt. 6:14,15; 18:34,35). We must follow Jesus to have the *light of life* (Jn. 8:12). If we defile our bodily temple, God will *destroy* us (1 Cor. 3:17). If we become a friend of this world we also become God's *enemy* (Jam. 4:4), and *raging fire* will consume God's enemies (Heb. 10:27). We must come out from the world and *be separate* to be received by God (2 Cor. 6:14-17). We must endure *to the end* through persecutions to be *saved* (Mt 10:22). We can have the Spirit of God leave us (1 Sam. 16:14; Heb. 3:6). We are told to *hold on* to what we have so that no one will take our crown (Rev. 3:11), and *hold to* our courage and the hope which we profess (Heb. 3:6). The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in **the fiery lake of burning sulfur** (Rev 21:8). For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God (Eph 5:5). The unrighteous will **not** inherit the kingdom of God, that is, the fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9,10). Even hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy can cause one not to inherit the kingdom of God (Gal 5:19-21).

To think we can sow to please the flesh and reap eternal life is an indirect evil attempt to *mock* God and to be deceived (Gal. 6:7-9). The devil is not in hell now, but is trying to *devour* us (1 Pet. 5:8,9), and we must *resist* him to have him *flee* (Jam. 4:7). We must put on the *whole armor* of God to stand against the devil (Eph. 6:11). **There**

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



Mt 7:14

are no secret sins, motives or thoughts before God (Heb. 4:13). It has always been impossible to sin and get away with it, even for the angels (2 Pet. 2:4-9). It is better to cut your hand or foot off and gouge your eye out than for sin to drag you into eternal hell fire (Mk. 9:43-48). It is righteousness which delivers from spiritual death (Prov. 10:2; 11:4), and **the righteous are those who do what is right (1 Jn. 3:7). Those who do what is sinful are from the devil (1 Jn. 3:8). We know that we have come to**

know him if we obey his commands (1 Jn. 2:3). The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 Jn. 2:4). The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates

his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (Jn. 12:25) We can develop a sinful and unbelieving heart which turns away from God (Heb. 3:12). To share in Christ, we must hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first (Heb. 3:14). To continue to remain in the Son, we will have to see to it that what we have heard from the beginning remains in us (1 Jn. 2:24,25). According to true grace teaching, eternal life is also a hope (Titus 3:7), yet to be reaped (Gal. 6:8,9), in the age to come (Mk. 10:30) for only those who persist in doing good (Rom. 2:7), and do not grow weary and give up (Gal. 6:9). The most righteous man on earth in his day was Job and he was blameless, upright, feared the Lord and shunned evil (Job 1:8). God esteems: him who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at his word (Isa 66:2). Are you a real Christian?

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