THE NARROW GATE AND WAY THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE

The Wide Gate and the Broad Way:

The **wide gate and broad way** represent an easy and unrestricted life governed by self-will, worldly desires, and the ways of the world rather than obedience to God. Jesus warns that although many choose this path, it ultimately leads to destruction.

The Narrow Gate and the Narrow Way:

The **narrow gate and narrow way** represent a life of obedience, self-denial, and wholehearted commitment to following Jesus Christ. Though this path may require sacrifice and perseverance, it leads to eternal life.

Entering through the **narrow gate** begins with turning to Jesus Christ, receiving Him as Lord and Saviour, repenting of sin, and choosing to follow Him.

Walking the **narrow way** is the daily journey of discipleship. It means surrendering our self-will to God, denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and allowing Christ to increasingly govern our thoughts, choices, desires, and actions. It is no longer simply, *"What do I want?"* but, *"Lord, what would You have me do?"*

Jesus said:

"Enter through the narrow gate... small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
— Matthew 7:13–14

And:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."
— Luke 9:23

Beginning Your Walk with Jesus Christ:

Jesus said:

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." — John 14:6

If you have decided to follow Jesus Christ, welcome to a new life in Him. Through Jesus, we receive forgiveness of sins, reconciliation and peace with God, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and the hope of eternal life.

The following eleven (11) questions and answers provide a simple biblical guide to help you understand the foundations of your new faith and begin your daily journey of knowing, obeying, and following Jesus Christ.

A. What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Answer:

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour. Repent of your sins, place your faith in His death and resurrection, surrender your life to Him, and choose to follow Him.

The Bible says:

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." — Acts 16:31

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." — Romans 10:9

Salvation is personal. No one can make this decision on your behalf. You must personally turn to Jesus in repentance and faith, receive His gift of salvation, and begin a new life of following Him.

B. Why Do I Need Salvation?

Answer:

Every human being has sinned and needs to be reconciled to God. Sin separates us from God, brings spiritual death, and can lead us away from God's will and purpose for our lives. Through sin and disobedience, we also give the enemy opportunities to tempt, deceive, accuse, and bring destruction into our lives.

The Bible says:

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

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

Jesus Christ came to save us from our sins, reconcile us to God, and give us a new life in Him. Through Christ, we receive forgiveness, freedom from the dominion of sin, and the gift of eternal life.

C. What Is Repentance?

Answer:

Repentance means recognising and turning away from sin and turning wholeheartedly towards God. It is more than feeling sorry or regretting what we have done; it involves a genuine change of heart, mind, and direction that produces a changed life.

True repentance leads us to forsake sinful ways and choose obedience to God. As we continue walking with Christ, the Holy Spirit reveals areas of our lives that need to change and gives us grace to become increasingly like Jesus.

The call to repentance remains central to Jesus' message to His churches in the book of Revelation. He repeatedly calls His people to recognise where they have departed from His ways, repent, and return to faithful obedience (Revelation 2–3).

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent." — Revelation 3:19

Repentance, therefore, is not merely the beginning of the Christian journey; it remains an important part of our daily walk with God.

D. What Is Sin?

Answer:

Sin is anything in our thoughts, words, attitudes, desires, or actions that goes against the will and commandments of God. At the root of much sin is self-centredness—placing our own desires, ambitions, pleasures, or will above God's will.

Jesus also warned about the danger of allowing money and material possessions to become our master:

"You cannot serve God and mammon." — Matthew 6:24

The Bible does not teach that money itself is evil, but that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). When money, possessions, status, or personal ambition take God's rightful place in our hearts, they become idols.

To overcome sin, we need the grace of God. Scripture teaches that God gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). Therefore, the Christian life involves continually surrendering our self-will to Christ. Rather than living primarily for ourselves, we learn to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus.

As John the Baptist said:

"He must increase, but I must decrease." — John 3:30

The Bible gives many examples of sin, including:

Idolatry, Sexual immorality, Adultery, Lying and deception, Hatred, Jealousy, Pride, Greed, Gossip, Drunkenness, Envy, Unrighteous anger, Selfish ambition, Covetousness, Slander

Bible passages for further study:
Galatians 5:19–21; Romans 1:29–31; Exodus 20:1–17; Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:10; James 4:6; Luke 9:23.

E. Is There Life After Death?

Answer:

Yes. The Bible teaches that our existence does not end with physical death. Our life on earth is temporary, but eternity is forever. Every person will one day stand before God and give an account of their life.

The Bible says:

"It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." — Hebrews 9:27

This earthly life is therefore a preparation for eternity. Our possessions, achievements, status, and earthly pursuits will eventually pass away, but our relationship with God has eternal significance.

Jesus came so that through faith in Him we may receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16

Our earthly life is brief, but eternity has no end. Therefore, the most important decision we can make in this life is to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and faithfully follow Him

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F. Do Heaven and Hell Really Exist?

Answer:

Yes. The Bible teaches that heaven and hell are realities, and Jesus Himself spoke about eternal life, judgment, heaven, and hell.

God does not desire that anyone should perish. In His great love for humanity, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that everyone who believes in Him may receive forgiveness and eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

Heaven is described as the eternal dwelling place of God with His redeemed people—a place where sorrow, pain, and death will be no more. Hell represents eternal separation from God and the final judgment of those who reject Him.

Our life on earth is temporary, but eternity is forever. This is why the decision to receive Jesus Christ, repent of sin, and follow Him is of eternal significance.

Bible passages for further study:

- John 14:2–3
- Luke 16:19–31
- Matthew 25:46
- Revelation 21:1–4
- Revelation 20:11–15
- Daniel 12:2
- 2 Peter 3:9

G. How Do I Follow Jesus Every Day?

Answer:

Following Jesus is a daily walk and personal relationship with Him. It means learning from Him, obeying His teachings, surrendering your will to Him, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you increasingly into His likeness.

Some practical ways to follow Jesus every day include:

- **Read and meditate on the Bible daily**. God's Word teaches you His will and helps you recognise truth from error.
- **Begin with the Gospels**—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Study the life, words, character, and teachings of Jesus so that you can learn how He wants His disciples to live.
- **Pray every day.** Speak with God about everything, thank Him, seek His guidance, confess your sins, and listen for His direction through His Word and the Holy Spirit.
- **Obey what God teaches you.** Do not merely read the Bible; put God's Word into practice.
- **Depend on the Holy Spirit.** You cannot live the Christian life by your own strength. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, convict, strengthen, and help you overcome temptation.
- **Choose humility over pride**. Be willing to surrender your opinions, ambitions, desires, and self-will when they conflict with God's will.
- **Love God and love others.** Jesus taught that these are the greatest commandments.
- **Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do**?" Before making decisions, speaking, reacting, or responding to difficult situations, consider whether your actions reflect the character and teachings of Christ.
- **Repent quickly when you fall.** Do not run away from God because you have sinned. Confess your sin, receive His forgiveness, turn away from it, and continue following Jesus.
- **Fellowship with other believers.** Surround yourself with Christians who encourage you to obey Christ, study God's Word, pray, and grow spiritually.

Following Jesus is not simply attending church or identifying yourself as a Christian. **It is a life of daily discipleship—denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Him.**

"If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me." — Luke 9:23

As you remain in God's Word and continue walking with Christ, the Holy Spirit transforms your character and teaches you to live according to God's will.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

The goal of the Christian journey is simple: to know Jesus, become increasingly like Him, and faithfully follow Him every day.

H. How Do I Know I Am Growing as a Christian?

Answer:

As you continue to follow Jesus, your life should gradually begin to change. Christian growth is not simply about how much of the Bible you know, how often you attend church, or how many Christian activities you participate in. It is about becoming increasingly like Jesus Christ in your character, desires, attitudes, words, and actions.

As you grow in Christ, you should increasingly:

- Love God more and desire a closer relationship with Him.
- Hate sin and become increasingly uncomfortable with things that displease God.
- Desire to obey God's Word, even when obedience requires sacrifice.
- Develop a deeper prayer life and learn to depend on God in every area of your life.
- Love others more genuinely, including those who may be difficult to love.
- Become more humble, seeking God's glory rather than your own recognition.
- Forgive more readily, refusing to hold on to bitterness, resentment, or revenge.
- Desire holiness and become more careful about what you think, say, watch, listen to, and do.
- Repent more quickly when the Holy Spirit reveals something in your life that is contrary to God's will.
- Become less controlled by self-will and increasingly willing to surrender your desires to Christ.

One of the clearest signs of spiritual growth is the fruit of the Holy Spirit becoming increasingly visible in your life:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." — Galatians 5:22–23

Spiritual growth does not mean that you will never struggle, face temptation, or make mistakes. Rather, it means that you are continually turning towards God, responding to His correction, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you.

Christian growth is a lifelong journey. The goal is not merely to become a "better person," but to become increasingly like Jesus Christ.

"He must increase, but I must decrease." — John 3:30

I. What Does Redemption Mean?

Answer:

Redemption means being rescued, set free, and restored to God through Jesus Christ. Because humanity was under the bondage and consequences of sin, we needed a Saviour. Jesus Christ paid the price for our redemption through His death on the cross.

He gave His life and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Through His sacrifice, those who repent and put their faith in Him are forgiven, reconciled to God, and delivered from the dominion of sin into a new life in Christ.

The Bible says:

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." — Ephesians 1:7

Redemption therefore means that your past does not have to determine your future. In Christ, you are called to leave your former sinful ways behind and begin a new life of obedience to God.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come." — 2 Corinthians 5:17

Our redemption is not something we earn through good works. It is God's gift of grace, made possible through Jesus Christ. We receive it through faith and respond by surrendering our lives to Him.

"In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." — Colossians 1:14

Because you have been redeemed, you now belong to Christ. Therefore, seek to live each day in gratitude, holiness, and obedience to the One who gave His life for you.

J. What Does Holiness Mean?

Answer:

Holiness means being set apart for God and living a life that belongs wholly to Him. God is holy, and He calls everyone who follows Jesus Christ to pursue holiness and become increasingly like Christ in character, conduct, and desires.

The Bible says:

"Be holy, because I am holy." — 1 Peter 1:15–16

Holiness begins in the heart and should increasingly become visible in the way we live. As followers of Jesus, we seek to honour God in:

- our thoughts — what we allow our minds to dwell upon;
- our words — how we speak about and to others;
- our actions — what we do privately and publicly;
- our relationships — how we love, forgive, serve, and relate to others;
- our choices — choosing what pleases God rather than simply what pleases ourselves;
- our entertainment — guarding what we watch, read, and listen to;

- our use of money — refusing greed and materialism and becoming faithful stewards of what God provides;
- our appearance — dressing and presenting ourselves with modesty, humility, and a desire to honour God rather than glorify ourselves;
- our conduct — allowing our everyday lives to reflect the character of Jesus.

Holiness is not merely outward behaviour, nor is it something we accomplish through human effort alone. True holiness flows from a heart surrendered to God. The Holy Spirit works within us, revealing sin, changing our desires, and giving us grace to obey God's Word.

Jesus taught that cleansing must begin from within:

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." — Matthew 5:8

Therefore, continually ask God to search your heart and reveal anything that does not please Him. When the Holy Spirit convicts you, repent and surrender that area to Christ.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart... and lead me in the way everlasting." — Psalm 139:23–24

The Bible also tells us:

"Pursue... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." — Hebrews 12:14

Holiness is therefore not about appearing religious before people. It is about belonging completely to God—allowing Him to purify our hearts and increasingly conform every area of our lives to the character of Jesus Christ.

K. What Should I Do After I Become a Christian?

Answer:

Receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour is the beginning of a new life and a lifelong journey of discipleship. As a new believer, you need to grow in your knowledge of Christ, deepen your relationship with God, and learn to live according to His Word.

1. **Be Baptized**

Water baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus and a public declaration of your faith in Him. It represents your identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and your decision to live a new life in Him.

"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." — Matthew 28:19

2. **Join a Bible-Believing Church**

Christianity is not meant to be lived in isolation. Find a local church where Jesus Christ is honoured, the Bible is faithfully taught, prayer is practised, and believers are encouraged to live in obedience to God's Word.

Fellowship with other believers provides encouragement, biblical teaching, prayer, accountability, and opportunities to serve and grow.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..." — Hebrews 10:24–25

Remember also to examine every teaching you hear against Scripture. The Bible remains your ultimate standard for discerning truth.

3. **Read and Study Your Bible Daily**

God has given us His Word to teach, correct, guide, and equip us for the Christian life.

Begin with the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Study the life and teachings of Jesus carefully. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you read and show you how to apply it to your life.

You can then continue through the rest of the New Testament and gradually study the Old Testament.

Do not read merely to acquire knowledge. Read with the desire to know God, hear His Word, and obey Him.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

4**. Pray Every Day**

Prayer is communication and fellowship with God. Develop the habit of speaking with Him throughout your day.

Thank Him for His goodness. Worship Him. Confess your sins. Ask for wisdom and strength. Pray for others. Bring your worries, decisions, needs, and plans before Him.

Prayer does not always have to be long. Throughout your day, you can simply pray:

"Thank You, Jesus."

"Lord, please guide me."

"Help me to respond like Jesus."

"Lord, give me wisdom."

The Bible says:

"Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thessalonians 5:17

5. Obey God and Make Things Right Where Necessary

Christianity is not simply knowing God's Word; it is living according to it.

Jesus said:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments." — John 14:15

As the Holy Spirit reveals areas of your life that need to change, respond with repentance and obedience.

Where appropriate and wise, make restitution for past wrongs. This may include returning something you stole, correcting dishonesty, paying what you owe, apologising to someone you harmed, or seeking forgiveness.

Restitution does not earn salvation—salvation is God's gift through Christ. Rather, making things right where possible can be a fruit of genuine repentance. Seek mature biblical counsel when restitution could seriously affect another person or create safety, legal, marital, or other significant consequences.

6. Continue Growing in Christ

Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey. Do not become discouraged because you do not understand everything immediately or because God is still working on different areas of your life.

- Stay close to Jesus.
- Remain in His Word.
- Continue praying.
- Stay in fellowship with other believers.
- Become rooted in a faithful local church.
- Learn to recognise and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit in accordance with Scripture.
- When you stumble, do not run away from God. Confess your sin, repent, receive His forgiveness, learn from it, and continue following Jesus.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." — 2 Peter 3:18

The Christian life is ultimately about knowing Jesus Christ, becoming increasingly like Him, and faithfully following Him until the end.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that God raised You from the dead.

Today, I come to You in repentance. I confess that I am a sinner in need of Your mercy and forgiveness. I turn away from my sins and surrender my life to You. I receive You as my Lord and Saviour and place my faith and trust in You.

Please forgive me, cleanse me, and give me a new heart. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and teach me to know You, love You, obey You, and follow You faithfully every day.

Give me grace to overcome sin and temptation. Help me to understand Your Word and to live according to Your will. Let my thoughts, words, choices, and actions bring glory to Your name.

Lord Jesus, lead me throughout my life. Keep me faithful to You, help me to grow in holiness and in the knowledge of You, and strengthen me to follow You until the end.

Thank You for Your mercy, Your forgiveness, and the gift of eternal life.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Continue Growing in Christ

Recommended Bible Study and Discipleship Resources

1. The Holy Bible

Let the Bible remain your primary and ultimate guide. Read it prayerfully and regularly, asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's Word and apply it to your daily life.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

2. Free Christian Discipleship Resources

You may also find helpful the free books, articles, Bible studies, and sermons from Brother Zac Poonen, Sister Annie Poonen, and Christian Fellowship Church (CFC), India, available through their ministry website. https://www.cfcindia.com/ . **Christian Fellowship Church (CFC India)**

These resources have been a tremendous blessing to me and my family, and I pray that they will also bless you. Although I have never been to India, I have greatly benefited from the freely available discipleship teachings and resources of this ministry, which have helped strengthen my understanding of Scripture and my walk with Jesus Christ.

Having freely received, I gladly extend the same hand of fellowship to you, praying that the Lord will use these resources to strengthen your faith, deepen your knowledge of His Word, and draw you into a closer and more obedient walk with Jesus Christ in Jesus' name. Amen.

***"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."* — 2 Peter 3:18**