

A Wide Gate: described as the way for lots of people. ESV: "easy" broad, lots of room, leads to destruction, the way many go.

A Narrow Gate: go single file, one by one. ESV: "hard way," distressing way, leads to life, few enter through it. **The Command: Enter by the narrow gate.**

What is the wide gate? **Matt. 7:15-20** warns against false prophets. **V21-23** is a warning to false Christians. This wide gate is a pseudo form of and a false Gospel. There is not a costless cost to following Christ. Easy-believism says that believing Jesus is the sacrifice for sins but lacking of grief for sin and obedience towards Jesus. Salvation is demonstrated by turning from sin toward worship to Christ. Worship is obedience.

>>**Does salvation require repentance, a life of faith, cost, and suffering for faith?** See Luke 14:33.

1st Witness: Jesus Taught Faith in Christ is Costly: **Matt. 4:17:** "Repent," means to know after, change your mind, see disgust in, remorse, being converted. The word was used in this way 500 years before Christ. **Matt. 8:18-22**, one doesn't respond to Jesus' question (V20), the other held back from following Christ (V21). **Matt. 10:38-39**, "take up your cross," would mean in that day a one-way trip to your own death (Also **Mk. 8:34-38**, **Lu. 14:25-27**). **Matt. 11:20-24**, what is the flavor of repentance? Sackcloth and ashes, a public display of grief over sin. **Matt. 19:21-22**, count the cost of discipleship (See also **Lu. 18:18-23**). **Mk. 4:1-20**, **V16-17**, the believer endures tribulation and persecution, the false believer doesn't. **Mk. 6:12**, Jesus sent out the 12 telling them to preach that people should repent. **Luke 5:31-32**, Jesus came to call sinners to repentance not the (self) righteous. **Luke 9:61-62**, don't look back, follow Christ. **Luke 19:8-10**, Zaccheus showed the result of salvation by his actions. **John 12:25-26**, need to hate life to keep it -where was Jesus headed that His servants would follow Him to? **To His death.** **John 15:20**, if they persecuted Jesus, they will persecute His followers.

2nd Witness: Luke Taught Faith in Christ was Costly: **Acts 2:37-38**, repent and be baptized. **Acts 3:19**, repent. **Acts 8:22**, repent of wickedness. **Acts 11:18**, "granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." **Acts 14:22**, through much tribulation (affliction) enter the kingdom of God. **Acts 20:21**, repentance toward God **and** faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is not devoid of repentance.

3rd Witness: Paul Taught Faith in Christ was Costly: **Rom. 2:4-5**, God's kindness leads us to repentance, the impenitent heart is storing up the wrath of God. **Rom. 8:17**, heirs with Christ if we indeed suffer with Him, we are also glorified together through our sufferings. **1 Cor. 5:11**, the church is to remove one called a brother walking in unrepentance sin. **1 Cor. 6:9-11**, our lives before Christ and after are much different. **2 Cor. 1:5, 7**, we partake of His sufferings, we also partake of His comfort. **2 Cor. 5:15**, those Jesus died for are new creations, V17. **2 Cor. 6:8-10**, the Christian life is seen by being without by the world, but actually they possess eternal life and all things. **Gal. 2:20**, crucified with Christ, live because of Him and for Him. **Gal. 5:24**, desires and passions of the flesh are crucified with the flesh. **Eph. 2:10**, good works follow the believer. **Eph. 4:1**, walk worthy of the calling of God. **Phil. 1:27**, conduct worthy of the Gospel. **Phil. 1:29**, granted to believe and suffer for His sake. **Phil. 3:10-11**, any means necessary to obtain the resurrection from the dead, V12-16, press on to obtain the prize. **Col. 1:24**, rejoice in suffering, fill up the afflictions for the sake of the body. **1 Thess. 4:1-8**, followers of Christ in much affliction. **2 Thess. 1:4**, patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure. V5, God's righteous judgement to save us is shown in suffering for Christ.

1 Tim. 3:14-15, Scripture tells us how to conduct ourselves in the church. 1 Tim. 4:7, exercise yourself towards godliness which is profitable for now and the life to come, V8. V10, Paul labored and suffered reproach for proclaiming the Gospel. 1 Tim. 6:3-4, if someone doesn't submit to the teachings of Scripture (which accord with godliness), they are proud and know nothing. 2 Tim. 3:12, the godly will suffer persecution. Titus 2:11-12, we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Titus 3:5, 1-4, the regeneration of the Holy Spirit leads us away from evils, lusts, pleasures, hate, V1-4. Philemon 8-9, Paul could command Philemon to forgive, but instead appeals to Philemon's salvation and changed heart to forgive, V21.

4th Witness: The Anonymous Writer of Hebrews Taught Faith in Christ was Costly: Heb. 12:1, laying aside every weight and sin so we can run with endurance. V4, Jesus endured the cross, we endure and resist sin as well. V6, suffering comes from the Lord to discipline and demonstrate His love for us.

5th Witness: James Taught that Faith in Christ was Costly: Jam. 1:22, be doers of the word, not hearers only. Don't deceive yourself. James 2:14, 17, faith without works is dead. James 4:4, fellowship with the world is enmity (hostility to) with God.

6th Witness: Peter Taught that Faith in Christ was Costly: 1 Pet. 2:13, 18, be submissive to government & masters. 1 Pet. 3:1, wives to husbands. 1 Pet. 2:21, we are called to suffer for Christ. 1 Pet. 4:1, suffering takes away sin, V2-3 lists those sins left behind. 1 Pet. 4:13, 19, suffering leads to joy & faith in God our Creator. 2 Pet. 1:5-7, lists qualities of believers the result of diligently adding them is never stumbling, V10. 2 Pet. 2:1, heresies come from false teachers who deny that the "Master" (despot, Lord, dictator) has bought them and owns them. 2 Pet. 3:14, a command to be diligent to be found in peace, without spot and blameless. This is a call to holiness as God is holy (Read also: 1 Pet. 1:13-19).

7th Witness: John Taught that Faith in Christ was Costly: 1 Jn. 2:15-17, do not love the world. 1 Jn. 3:9, a believer in Christ does not sin (not perfection but overcoming sin in their lives). 2 Jn. 6, 9, a believer walks in obedience of Jesus' commandments. 3 Jn. 3-4, walking in the truth, not imitating evil, doing good, not doing evil, V11.

8th Witness: Jude Taught that Faith in Christ was Costly: Jude 4, the ungodly deny their "Master" (despot, Lord, dictator) and turn the grace of God (the new creation, freedom from sin) into lewdness, those are condemned and deny Christ's teachings.

Jesus is the final witness in Revelation: Rev. 1:11, Jesus tells the churches what lacks or needs to be changed. Sin and apathy have entered into many of the churches. Jesus is knocking on the door of Laodiceans for them to open the door and let Him back in the church, Rev. 3:20. Paul tells us the sufferings of this world are not to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us when Christ returns, Rom. 8:18.

Further Discussion and Application

What has coming to Christ cost you? What are the blessings of suffering? What does suffering produce in us? What are the joys of suffering? What are the joys of God's discipline?

What costs does Jesus teach and preach to those who believe in Him?