

"In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was  
with God, and the  
Word was God."  
~John 1:1

The Lord's Flock  
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PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



## **“The Road To Brokenness”**

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**In the Holy Bible, Matthew 7:13-14, there are two gates and roads:**

- 1) **The wide gate and the broad road.** This wide and broad road leads to destruction; many enter through this road (verse 13); and
- 2) **The narrow gate and the constricted road.** This narrow and constricted road leads to eternal life in heaven; few are those who find it (verse 14).

**As individuals, our choice is between taking the wide road and taking the narrow road.** We should know how to make the right choice.

**As Christians, we have been taught that the right choice is the narrow road that may be long and winding.** We have actually nothing to fear because we are not alone and we have a companion during our journey. *Jesus is the way and the truth and the life.* (John 14:6). He is also our teacher and master whom we should always obey.

**St. Paul wrote that during our journey along the narrow road, we should *live by the Spirit and we will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.*** *For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh....*Galatians (5:16-17). Let us *not grieve the Holy Spirit of God* with our disobedience. (Ephesians 4:30).

**“Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.’”** (Matthew 16:24). He is also telling us that as we travel along the road to eternal life, we should be carrying our own cross (suffering, affliction, persecution, and other things that are not beautiful). The journey is never easy; but we should not despair. Our Lord Jesus has promised: *“....I will give you rest....For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30)

**The long and narrow road is like a road to brokenness.** We walk suffering with an uneasy feeling of brokenness. We realize that the road is not easy to tread, the views along the way are not attractive, and the journey is costly. We begin to ask the reasons for these sufferings and brokenness. We feel the need to understand God's purpose for us

travelling the road to brokenness.

Let us thank God for His faithfulness and thoughtfulness towards all of us. He has a good purpose for everything that He is doing. His purposes and promises include the following:

**1. God breaks and disciplines us because He loves us. He wants to mold us for His divine purpose.**

*“My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges.*

*“. For what ‘son’ is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are without discipline, in which all have shared, you are not sons but bastards. Besides this, we have had our earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not [then] submit all the more to the Father of spirits and live? They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share his holiness.*

*“At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.*

*“So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be dislocated but healed.” (Hebrews 12:5-13)*

**Let us pay attention when God is correcting us.** There is a purpose why He is allowing corrections and trials for all of us.

**2. God sets limitations during our period of brokenness.**

*“They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share his holiness.*

*At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:10-11)*

**God destroys our distorted will.**

- 3. God will deepen our compassion for others and our passion for Him. He will give us a new perspective in life.**

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

**God is a God of compassion who will encourage us to keep on going.** He is a faithful God (1 Corinthians 10:13). Whatever we are going through during our journey along the narrow road to brokenness is tailored fit by God for us.

- 4. God never deserts us during brokenness.**

*“But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.*

*When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you.*

*For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in return for you. Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you, I give men in return for you and peoples in exchange for your life.”* (Isaiah 43:1-4)

**The Lord will never forsake or abandon us.** (Hebrews 13:5). Let us remember that whenever we experience difficulties on the road to brokenness, we must continue to trust God and His words and to glorify Him.

- 5. God is always patient. He will wait as long as it will take for us to come to repentance and to the point that He wants us to be.**

*“But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay’, but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:8-9)*

**The Lord wants our impurities to be removed. We have to be purified and refined like gold (Job 23:10). The duration of our purification and brokenness depend on our willingness to be broken.**

**God will make *everything appropriate (beautiful) to its time* (Ecclesiastes 3:11).**

#### **6. Victory will result despite times of brokenness.**

*“And this I know with confidence, that I shall remain and continue in the service of all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound on account of me when I come to you again.” (Philippians 1:25)*

*“I am confident of this that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)*

**The journey and the work on the road to brokenness will begin when we ask the Holy Spirit to be our travelling partner.** He will conform us to the image of Jesus, the person that He wants us to imitate.

**Let us trust in God that we will be victorious on the narrow road to brokenness.**

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