

How Close To The Edge Of The Narrow Way Are You?

I. Introduction:

- A. How lasting is your goodness (**Hosea 6:4** and **Galatians 1:6; 4:9-11**)?
1. Israel had a history of soon forgetting (**Psalms 106:12-13**).
 2. Christians have a long history of falling away (**I John 2:18-19**) and a present/future of such (**I Timothy 4:1** and **II Timothy 4:1-5**).
- B. Are you a big talker or a person of action (**Deuteronomy 5:28-29** and **Isaiah 29:13**)?
1. It's easy to talk big (**Matthew 26:30-35**).
 2. It's easier to fail big (**Matthew 26:69-75**).
 3. What ACTIONS are you taking to prevent falling (**II John 1:8**)?

II. Body: Have You Seriously Considered What It Means To Be On The "Narrow Way" (**Matthew 7:13-14**)?

- A. We need to pay close attention to our spiritual pathway (**Proverbs 4:14-27**).
1. Am I on the right path (**Psalms 1:1-6** and **Proverbs 9:6**)?
 2. Are my eyes set in the right way (**Psalms 101:3**)?
 3. Am I heading in the right direction (**Deuteronomy 5:32**, **Philippians 3:12-14**, and **Hebrews 3:12**)?
- B. There are many obstacles on that narrow way (**Acts 15:36-41** [cf. **Acts 13:13**] and **Galatians 2:11-21**).
1. By ON that narrow way, I am meaning [at times] amongst our brethren (**Acts 20:30** and **Jude 1:3-4**).
 2. Amongst our brethren, it doesn't take much for us to be influenced for the bad rather than the good (**I Corinthians 5:1-8** and **Galatians 5:7-9**; cf. **I Corinthians 15:33**).
 3. If you're trying to strengthen weaker brethren, but the opposite is happening, back off (**I Corinthians 9:19-27**). *Principle - **Romans 14:1**
 4. Even some of the right works (i.e. **I Peter 4:8-9**) can become a distraction from the greater works (**Luke 10:38-42**).
- C. There are many distractions in view from the narrow way (**I Corinthians 5:9-10**).
1. Jobs are necessary (**I Timothy 5:8** and **II Thessalonians 3:10**), but that is not supposed to be your life (**Colossians 3:1-4**).
 2. Physical health is important, BUT... (**I Timothy 4:8-9**).
 3. The world around us is a very dangerous distraction (**Mark 4:19**).
 4. You cannot focus on being a light to the darkness (**Philippians 2:15-16**) so much that the darkness overtakes you (**Romans 13:12-14**).
 - a. Think about the word "overtaken" (**Galatians 6:1**).
 - b. Your primary goal is for YOU to be saved (**Acts 2:40**).

c. Even evangelists are charged with saving self (**I Timothy 4:16**).

D. Consider a few self-examination questions you can ask yourself...

1. Are you growing spiritually (**Hebrews 5:12-14**)?
2. Are you around the right brethren, for your spiritual state (**Romans 15:1-3**), enough for spiritual and social benefits (**I Thessalonians 5:11-14** and **Hebrews 3:13**)?
3. What does your time management say (**Ephesians 4:15-17**)?
4. What does your choice in friends say about your spiritual direction (**Psalms 139:21-22**, **Proverbs 8:13**, and **Romans 12:9**)?
5. Whose ways are you learning (**Psalms 106:34-36** and **Proverbs 22:24-25**)? Has your spiritual i.q. dropped because of who you are around/in communication with (**Proverbs 13:20**)?

III. Conclusion: If You're On The Brink Of Spiritual Death, Wake Up (**Revelation 3:1-3**)!