

# THE NARROW WAY TO LIFE

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Mt 7:13-14 says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it."

Compare. Luk. 13:22-30 especially verse 28. Entering into life means entering into eternal life or the Kingdom of God.

The Greek word for life here is zoe (# 2222 in Strongs - pronounced dzo-ay) I wanted to find what this "narrow gate" consists of. So I looked up all the scriptures in the New Testament that use this word for life and show things we must do to enter into it. I found as I progressed that the gate does indeed become more and more narrow.

1.

Mat 18:8-9 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

*Note: The word offend here is scandalizo which means to entrap, trip up, stumble, entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure. This verse shows that to enter into eternal life we must be willing to leave, get rid of, or give up occasions or other things which cause us to sin.*

2.

Mat. 19:16-22 What shall I do to have eternal life? Jesus said, "If you will enter into life, keep the commandments ... which? Thou shalt not murder, steal etc. ... then, if you will be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor and come, follow me.

*Note: We must keep God's commandments in order to enter into eternal life.*

3.

Mat 25:31-46 When the son of man shall come in his glory, he shall separate the nations saying to them, "I was hungry, thirsty, sick, and in prison and you ministered unto me... These shall go into eternal life."

*Note: We must be ministering to the needs of others in order to have eternal life.*

4.

Luk. 10:25-37 A lawyer came and asked Jesus, "What may I do to have eternal life? Jesus quoted the first and second great commandments and then gave the example of the good Samaritan.

*Note: We must love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves in order to have eternal life.*

5.

Luk 12:13-21 Beware of covetousness, for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses. Two examples of covetousness are then given. 1. fighting over things (their inheritance) and 2. spending time and/or money on own interests and not rich toward God.

*Note: We must not focus life on gain and possessions but on being rich toward God.*

6.

Jhn. 1:4 In him was life and the life was the light of men. Also 1Jo 5:11 God has given us eternal life and this life is in his son.

*Note: Our eternal life is in Jesus Christ.*

7.

Jhn. 3:15-16 Whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

*Note: We must believe in Jesus Christ in order to have eternal life.*

8.

Jhn 4:14 Whosoever drinks the water that I shall give him shall never thirst ... but shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Jo 7:38 says that this water is the holy spirit.

*Note: We must have the holy spirit in order to have everlasting life. The instructions for receiving the holy spirit are: Acts 2:38, Mat. 28:19, Acts 8:14-18, Gal 3:2, Acts 5:32.*

9.

Jhn 4:36 He that is reaping is receiving wages and is gathering fruit unto eternal life.

*Note: Compare Gal 6:7-8 God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man is sowing, that shall he also reap. He that is sowing to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that is sowing to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. Also compare Gal 5:22 - fruits of the spirit*

10.

Jhn 5:24 He that hears my word and believes in him that sent me has everlasting life.

*Note: We must believe in God the Father in order to have everlasting life.*

11.

Jhn 5:29 They that are in the graves shall come forth, they that have done good (agathos - see Eph 2:10,4:28) to the resurrection of life...

*Note: We must have done good in our life to attain to the resurrection of life.*

12.

Jhn 5:40 Search the scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me that you might have life.

*Note: The scriptures are nothing without Christ because they testify of him. You must come to Jesus to have eternal life, and when you do come to him and ask, he might set you straight before giving it to you as he did with the woman at the well who asked him for the 'living water' but he said, "you have had five husbands and the one whom you have now is not your husband".*

13.

Jhn 6:54 Whosoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. (Compare Mat 26-28, Mrk 14:22, Luk 22:19-20)

*Note: These are the symbols Jesus instituted for the New Testament Passover. (Compare Mat 26:26-28, Mrk 14:22-24, Luk 22:19-20) We must be keeping the New Testament Passover in order to have eternal life - also Jhn 6:57 shows that he that is eating Jesus Christ shall live by him.*

14.

Jhn 12:25 He that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.

*Note: We must hate our life in this world and be willing to lose it for Christ's sake. (Compare Mat 16:25)*

15.

Jhn 6:27 Labor not for the meat which perishes but for the meat which endures to everlasting life which Jesus shall give you.

*Note: We must be laboring for spiritual food.*

16.

Acts 11:18 Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life?

*Note: Repentance of our sins shall lead to eternal life.*

17.

Rom 2:7 By patient continuance in well doing seek for eternal life.

*Note: We must patiently continue in well doing through the adversities of life.*

18.

Rom 5:17-21 ...much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life...that as sin hath reigned unto death even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ.

*Note: We must receive the gift of grace and of righteousness which reigns in us and leads to eternal life.*

19.

Rom 6:22 ...having been made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life.

*Note: Read all of Rom 6 We must not allow sin (the transgression of the law 1Jhn 3:4) to reign, but serve God.*

20.

2Co 2:14-17 We are unto God a sweet savor (the savor of his knowledge - vs 14) of Christ in them that perish and in them that are saved ... of death unto death and of life unto life. ... because we do not corrupt the word of God as many but speak as of God.

*Note: We must not be corrupting the word of God*

21.

2Cor 3:6 We are able ministers of the New Testament, not of the letter but of the spirit, for the letter kills but the spirit gives life.

*Note: We must be ministers of the New Testament and the spirit of the law, because only adhering to the letter of the law will lead to death.*

22.

1Tim 4:8 For bodily exercise profits little, but godliness is profitable unto all things having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

*Note: We must be practicing godliness which is being like God, for example - Mat 5:48*

23.

1Tim 6:17-19 Fight the good fight of faith, not trust in riches but in God, do good, be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, to lay hold on eternal life.

*Note: Having faith in God, not trusting in riches, doing good, being rich in good works; all these things lead to eternal life.*

24.

Jam 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love him.

*Note: We must endure trials and love the Lord.*

25.

1Pet 3:7 Wives, be subject to husbands; husbands, give honor to wives ... as being heirs together of the grace of life.

*Note: We must fulfill our marriage obligations in the Lord.*

26.

1Pet 3:10 For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil; and his lips that they speak no guile; let him seek peace and ensue it.

*Note: We must control our mouth and seek peace*

27.

1Jhn 2:24-25 Let that (truth) therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning - If that shall remain in you, you shall also continue in the Son and in the Father, and this is the promise - eternal life.

*Note: We must remain in the truth until the end.*

28.

1Jhn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren.

*Note: We must love the brethren.*

29.

Rev 2:7 To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life.

*Note: We must be overcoming.*

30.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which you shall suffer, but be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life.

*Note: We must not be fearful of suffering, but faithful.*

Here are scriptures which show what eternal life is - besides the obvious definition of the ability to live forever. An idea for meditating on the 30 scriptures is to think about each one in the light of these definitions.

Jhn 6:63 The words I speak to you are life.

Jhn 12:50 God the Father's commandment is everlasting life.

Jhn 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life

Jhn 17:2 This is eternal life, that they might know God the Father and Jesus

Rom 8:2 To be spiritually minded is life