

THE WAY: Grow Your Faith!

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and ***broad is the road that leads to destruction***, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and ***narrow the road that leads to life***, and only a few find it.”

- *Matthew 7:13-14 NIV*

• SATAN WANTS TO _____ YOUR FAITH.

But I’m afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be ***led astray*** from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. - *2 Corinthians 11:3 NIV*

“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and ***snatches away*** what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a ***short time***. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly ***falls away***. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it ***unfruitful***. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” - *Matthew 13:19-23 NIV*

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not ***drift away***.

- *Hebrews 2:1 NIV*

THE WIDE PATH TOWARD DESTRUCTION

1. Neglect Your _____ With _____ !

“You, God, are my God, ***earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you***, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” - *Psalms 63:1 NIV*

“Thy word is a ***lamp*** unto my feet, and a ***light*** unto my path.” - *Psalms 119:105 KJV*

2. _____ God For Your _____ !

“In this world you will have ***trouble***.” - *John 16:33 NIV*

3. Hang Out With _____ Influences!

“Bad company ***corrupts good character***.” - *1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV*

4. Regularly Give Into _____ !

But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to ***death***. - *James 1:14-15 NIV*

5. Love This _____ More Than _____ !

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. - *1 John 2:15 NIV*

6. If You Don’t _____ It, _____ It !

The LORD says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are **far from me.**” - *Isaiah 29:13 NIV*

“I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but **you are dead.**” - *Revelation 3:1 NIV*

THE NARROW WAY

- **Do Whatever It Takes To _____ Your _____!**

“You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent** and **do the things you did at first.**” - *Revelation 2:4-5 NIV*

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Was there a time in your faith when you felt closer to God? What was different about your life?
- Read Matthew 13:19-23. Which soil are you most like currently? What could you do differently to cultivate the soil?
- Describe what your time with God looked like this past week. If you didn't seek him, be honest?
- We examined different ways to drift from God including: neglecting time with God, blaming God, hanging around bad influences, giving into temptation, loving the world more than God, and if all else fails, faking it. Which area was the easiest to identify with?
- How do you think your faith or lack of faith could impact the next generation?
- What did God speak to you during this message? Discuss it.
- How can you begin to pray this week for a growing faith?