



The Narrow Way

THE NARROW WAY PART 2 - THE POSITION OF FIRST

Last week we discussed how Jesus Himself is the Narrow Way. If we are to live the lives, we are called for it is essential that His life is being formed and completed within us.

Launching from this truth, let's look at, "the position of first", which is the next critical aspect of the narrow way. Unless we are living from this "position of first" or in other words, oneness in Him, we will never know and experience the fullness of who we were designed to be.

It's important to note that it's possible to be in a relationship with Jesus but not be in the fullness of life in Christ. We may achieve works in His name, but are not found searching for, and coming into, all that the Father has for us as His chosen people.

We will only enter into this "position of first" in Christ if we are willing to journey with Him into the depths of the unknown, otherwise known as the eternal dimension.

Only when we have had...

1. Our will, which exists in our soul, crucified by His divine power (grace), putting it to death.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

And...

2. We have entered into God's Sabbath rest, which is the promise of Christ for us all.

Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."



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Hebrews 4:9-10 "So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His."

Can we truly come into this first placed position in the depths of our inner most being, which will define and empower the way we live? It is this place that David said was hidden, and that he desired God's truth and wisdom to inhabit.

Psalms 51:6 "Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom."

It is for this reason we see Jesus teach His disciples to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Seek God's Lordship within you and through you, which empowers you to live a life of righteousness, as your first placed priority and pursuit.

As Christ takes His rightful position as first in our hearts, we are then positioned in the spirit to start living in absolute alignment to the eternal dimension. We have truly entered into the "in the beginning" position within us and it is from this position we now live.

This is the spiritual position we started in, before the foundations of the earth, but fell out of due to the fall of mankind.

Ephesians 1:4 "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love"

Jeremiah 1:4-5 "Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you;"

It is the role of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us back into this original position of life. The very first question the Spirit will ask us is whether we have lost our very lives for His sake to gain the brand new life in Christ. Not given our lives to Jesus, but have we in fact lost our lives for His sake, enabling us to gain our brand new life.

Although this is absolutely for us all, we can find ourselves in direct opposition to this



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reality, denying and rejecting it, due to our "will" still being alive and kicking.

Without even realising, we can be justifying, denying, rejecting, ignoring, hiding from, and even attacking this truth which the Spirit brings, setting and establishing ourselves up in direct opposition to Him, sabotaging the very life in the spirit we have been created for.

Of course, very few actually believe this is what they are doing. However, if we are unable to give witness and testify to the incredible new life being formed within us, we have to acknowledge that we are falling short of all that Christ promised to those who have lost their lives for His sake.

This "position of first" is not based on anything external but on everything internal. Peter testified from his own perspective that he had left everything to follow Jesus, when in fact he had not left his will behind. Peter's will followed along with Jesus because it was still highly active within him, even though he left his family and livelihood.

This is why Peter couldn't deny himself even though he professed he could, and as a result denied Christ three times. This position in Peter also found him being rebuked by Jesus for setting his mind on man's interests and not God's.

Here are all the things which can sit in the position of first which ultimately keeps us out of this complete life in Christ.

1. Self
2. Spouse
3. Children
4. Relationships
5. Our Purpose (as opposed to His purpose)
6. Possessions
7. Passions
8. Priorities
9. Scriptures
10. Works



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11. Ministry
12. Careers
13. Money
14. Spiritual Giftings
15. Mission

Jesus desires to free us from all things which take first place in our hearts, so He and He alone can take this position of first. This is way more than a mental or verbal agreement. It is only by a work of divine grace or power within us that we are released from these strongholds and brought into this beginning position of the spirit.

This is the narrow way!

QUESTIONS

1. Why is the "position of first" as described above so critical to becoming complete in Christ?
2. How would you describe what it is to have your will crucified and put to death?
3. How would you describe what it is to live from being in Sabbath Rest?
4. How many items on the list above could you identify with as being your first and why?
5. Why is it the role of the Spirit and not self to do this deep inner work of the heart?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/CgFnFDgJ4Zk>