

THE NARROW WAY

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Walking With God

What in the World is this “Speaking in Tongues?”

Overcoming Fear

The Bridge to Eternity (fiction soon to be published)

THE NARROW WAY

(2nd Edition)

John Bennett

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THE NARROW WAY

Wide is the gate
And broad is the way
That leads to destruction
And many go in that gate

Narrow is the gate
And strait is the path
That leads to life
And there are few who find it

—*Jesus Christ*

THE NARROW WAY

THE REVELATION AND CONCEPT

1 The Beginning Premise	11
2 The Life System	15
3 Creating My Blueprint	19
4 Some Shortcuts to Reverse the Flow Faster	37

PRACTICAL MATTERS AND INSTRUCTIONS

5 All About Ships	47
6 Of Media and Mediums	53
7 About Going To Church	59
8 Some Thoughts About Spiritual Warfare	65
9. The Element of Truth	71
10. Slaves, Prisoners, and the Chains that Bind	77
11. Synopsis Of The Plan	91
A Last Thought	95
About the Author	99

**THE
REVELATION
AND
CONCEPT**

CHAPTER I

The Beginning Premise

I can't imagine how a book could be written about Godly principles and not speak about God, Himself. I'll admit that it's a little difficult to speak about Him because He's such a "big God," and there is a lot of area to cover. However, over the years, as I have studied about Him and walked with Him, some basic concepts of His nature and character have emerged and those must be discussed so that I (as the writer) and you (as the reader) can start at the same point.

You see, this book is going to change your life. You will not be the same after you read it, and the principles discussed herein will apply to your good or to your detriment. I would certainly want that good and abundance of good would come to you, but if you don't start from the right place, these principles will work to your harm. Actually, what we are going to discuss has already been working in your life: it has been working, is working and will continue to work, as long as you live.

However, before we discuss the principles, let's settle some basic facts that I believe about God.

First, I am talking about the one creator of the universe, Jehovah God, also known as Yahweh, Elohim (in Hebrew-Chaldee), Theos (in Greek), I Am (when describing Himself) and Heavenly Father (to worldwide Christianity). I must point that out first, because there certainly are a lot of other “gods” across the spectrum of humanity. Some are fashioned into images by human hands and all (other than the Creator) are fashioned in the imagination of mankind. A god can very simply then, be designated as “what ever one worships.”

Second, several characteristics separate Jehovah God from all other gods. He created everything in the universe and any animal or planet or fishing boat or metaphysical concept is just that which was created—not the creator Jehovah.

Another major characteristic is that He is a good God. He is immeasurably good *to* us who worship Him and He is inevitably good *for* us to worship. He, therefore, reacts toward us with goodness (blessings, honesty, integrity, benevolence, mercy, kindness, justice and love).

Very possibly, the most important characteristic is that He is alive and willing to talk to any human who wants to communicate. His most fervent desire is to be *one with us*; and to effect that oneness, He doesn't demand intimacy with us, but, instead, woos us to Himself with kindness and mercy. He allows us to wander away, chasing our own

satisfaction and, when we are miserably mired in some muck we have created, never refuses to take us back and clean up our mess.

As a Christian minister for many years, I've had occasion to meet others claiming to be Christian, who worshipped a God far different than the one I worship. To some of them, their god is angry, vengeful, harmful, and impersonal—better left alone than trifled with—almost like a sleeping dog. He is the author of calamitous events in their lives, most of which are designed to teach them something.

I have found that their confusion usually centers around one thing—a lack of truthful information. This information is diligently laid out in a book of instructions entitled, *The Bible*. However, the vast majority of Christians refuse to read it, preferring instead to obtain their instructions from well-meaning (usually) teachers. Mostly they are hoping, subconsciously, to not get so much information that it interferes with the conduct of their daily lives. If asked, they would insist that “God” is a major part of their life and that they believe they must fend for themselves with wisdom that He has given them. This might be likened to some sort of magical endowment implanted at the time of conversion to a church affiliation. However, there is never any understanding of how that happens and most bungle

through life with circumstances and situations seemingly out of control.

So, then, here is the God we will discuss. He is a good God; He wants good things to come to us; He is easy to communicate with; and lastly, He has created a life system for us, that allows us to live long, healthy, prosperous years.

CHAPTER 2

THE LIFE SYSTEM

One might expect that such a good, gracious, God would create a methodology for His children (those who follow Him) to live a great life. He is so good to us that I would actually expect Him to give us ample, easy opportunity to live on this Earth until we are completely satisfied in every area of our life.

And, so He has! Look at these examples of what He has said about this in the Bible:

“I call heaven and Earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you, life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.” (Deut. 30:19-20)

“With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.” (Psalm 91:16)

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit...that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” (1 Cor. 2:9,12)

The Instruction Book (The Bible), then, clearly, portrays to us that God has designed for us to live long fruitful lives and clearly states that *we* are the ones who choose the good or the bad. It also indicates that His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is intimately involved in the process and, for His part, uses a sort of supernatural method, called revelation.

So, the brunt of the force of accomplishment is entrusted to our own hands. We are given the authority to choose, although God has reserved, to Himself, the right to extend His mercy or His grace (His power and authority) into situations that we create.

I also believe that He has created a divine path for each of us to walk that will cause the very best to be produced in our lives. We're not made to follow that path, but, if we choose to, His guidance will produce what is best for us...invariably!

What follows, then, is that our own individual universe is *not* out of control. Contrarily, it is well within our control and we have been controlling it for years. The problem is that most of us have not been living in the super abundance that God intended. We have been, instead, "destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

Most of us haven't had a clue that our days on Earth could be any better than they always have been. We mostly thought that our existence was being played out based upon "the cards we were dealt." We thought that if we worked hard,

we might be able to keep our heads above water; that is, if too many calamities didn't come along. We seemed to never have enough money to get out of the "rat race"...and if we, by some chance, did get a little extra money, some sickness would inevitably attack us and take all of that and more! Every year, it seemed, certain diseases and viruses and other assorted ailments would descend upon us. We have, invariably, been constantly in debt and have lived lives riddled with fears generated from long-term experience.

Most of us have basically allowed circumstances and situations to control us and we have constantly been playing catch-up, in our responding to those circumstances and situations. The problem is that we have consistently been controlling our lives and choosing based on our meditation on previous erroneous information. Erroneous information is nothing more than that which is opposite of what God says. For instance, if God says you are wealthy and your checkbook says zero, that's erroneous information! I like to call it "stinking thinking," "poverty pondering," "sickness speculating," "Default deliberation," or mostly, just "worrying."

However, the Bible says plainly that we are responsible for choosing, which therefore, indicates that we can and should live **intentionally**. Just to emphasize that word, it also means: deliberately, on purpose, designedly, willfully! **STOP NOW!!**

I don't want you to just read over this paragraph—it's one of the most important things you will ever learn! Reread that phrase—God has given us the right to live a premeditated life!!

Think about that! We have been given the right, by God, as His children, to create our own circumstances and situations—to demand that they conform to our desires.

It's absolutely stunning to consider that I can create a plan for my life, based on my most intense desires, designed to bring me absolute fullness of joy—a plan that will cause me to never lack anything—to live in health all of my days—a plan that will allow me to create and live out my best considered blueprint for my life.