

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Essence of God - -***

**1 Samuel 15:29** “The Preeminent One of Israel does not go back on His word or change His mind, for He is not a human being who changes his mind.” *NET Bible*

**Matthew 7:14** [Corrected translation] **How** narrow is the gate and confined is the **path** that leads to **eternal** life, and there are few who find it.

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

1. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, therefore one must be born-again. **John 3:1-7 cf. 1 Cor. 15:50**
2. The term “born-again” refers to a spiritual birth at which point a person is spiritually regenerated. **John 3:3,5 cf. Titus 3:5**
3. Spiritual regeneration is a work of God the Holy Spirit at salvation. **Titus 3:5**
4. The Holy Spirit’s salvation ministries also include efficacious grace, baptizing, indwelling, sealing, gifting, and filling.

**Eph. 2:8-9** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 3:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 12:7-13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eph. 1:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eph. 5:18** \_\_\_\_\_

5. The believer also receives eternal life and the perfect righteousness of God when he passes through the gate by faith. **John 3:16; Romans 3:22**

→ “Narrow gate and confined path” are figurative and collectively refer to Jesus Christ.

*Coming to Jesus Christ is a process, just as the camel passing through the narrow gate is a process.*

*Note the similarities between the camel passing through the narrow gate and the process of the sinner coming to the point of salvation!*

**John 10:9** “I am the door [or gate]; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

**Luke 13:24** “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

- He is the narrow gate and door, the confined path that one must pass through to enter the kingdom.
- Unless one enters by faith alone he cannot pass through.

**Acts 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

-- Personal evangelism --

**1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. . .

- Set Him apart as having authority over every aspect of your life; recognizing Him as your Lord.
- The believer who is fulfilling this seeks to find out what his Savior's opinion is regarding the discernable will of God – he cares what his Lord thinks!



- Fulfilled by following the protocol of prayer - asking the Father.

*What do you think about this?      What do you want me to do here?      What's your opinion?*

**He will reveal that to you!**

In personal evangelism it is critical to talk to the Lord about people before talking to people about the Lord!

... always *being* ready to make a defense.

In personal evangelism your trust should be in the Lord and not in your argument or wit.

**POD - Trusting in self, armed with biblical knowledge, results in a debate fueled by arrogance.**

This often becomes a challenge for the biblically literate Christian.

*He is doing the work.*

*He is trusting in his biblical knowledge.*

*He is doing the convincing.*

Personal evangelism is not a debate of who is right and who is wrong.

**Matthew 7:6** "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

Knowledge puffs up but love edifies **1 Corinthians 8:1**

*Motivation, in personal evangelism, is the love of Christ – His compassion manifested in you for a soul that will perish in an eternal lake of fire.*

POD - The believer must precede personal evangelism with prayer.

POD - The believer must rely on God to open the door to every ambassadorship opportunity.

**Ask**

**Seek**

**Knock**

- If God does not open the door, the door is shut even if you are willing.
- He knows where that soul is and that soul must be ready.
- Believers do more damage by getting ahead of God.

POD - Ambassadorship opportunities fall into two categories.

---

*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*