



## PRAYER GUIDE "RETURN TO ME"

**Making the Most of Wednesday, July 29**

**The narrow way from the perspective of the ones already on it.**

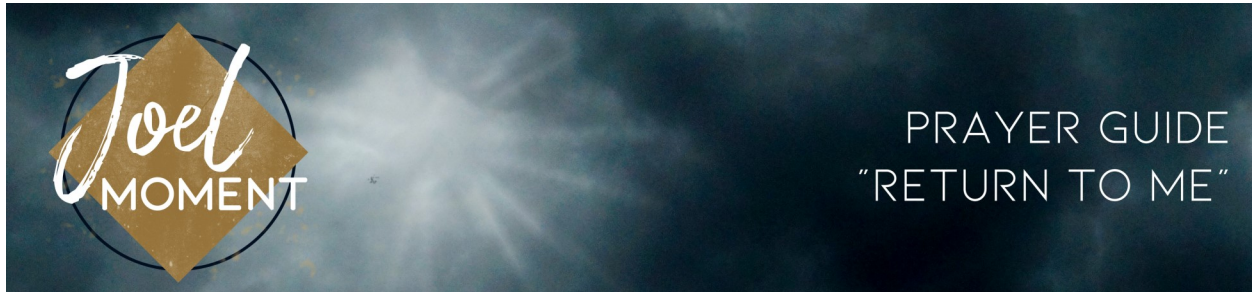


Two paths. One wide and one narrow. The first picture is Leon Trotsky who took the path of a revolutionary against Tsarist Russia. He was near the top of authority after the successful overthrow of the government. The cartoon by a Polish cartoonist in 1920 depicts him as a bloodthirsty devil, following a Bolshevik attempt to take over Poland. Trotsky was later assassinated in Mexico by fellow Bolsheviks.

The second picture is of Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Benjamin. In 1922 he was put on a show trial for his faith and placed in prison. He wrote to a friend in 1922, "My suffering have reached a peak, but my consolations have increased as well. I am joyful and serene as always. Christ is our life, our light and our peace". He was executed by a firing squad soon after.

Both truly believed they served a righteous cause, both ended tragically. One did more harm than the previous government, the other sought to lead people to the right gate.

Two paths, two destinies. Why does Jesus call one easy and one difficult?



BETWEEN 3:00—4:00 PM: Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID 315 346 841 and Password "lament".

3 PM - Louise Winsor will share about the recently concluded VBS on line.

Jaime Burnett to share about the narrow and wide ways from a believer's perspective.

1. Why is one way described as easy and the other as difficult by Jesus?
2. What makes the narrow way hard to enter?
3. What makes the broad path easy?
4. Why do only a few find the path that leads to life?
5. What difficulties have you faced taking the difficult path?

"Broad is the road that leads to death,  
And thousands walk together there;  
But wisdom shows a narrower path,  
With here and there a traveler."

Isaac Watts



Luke 13:24 Strive to enter in at the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

See concerning the way of sin and sinners, that the gate is wide, and stands open. You may go in at this gate with all your lusts about you; it gives no check to appetites or passions. It is a broad way; there are many paths in it; there is choice of sinful ways. There is a large company in this way. But what profit is there in being willing to go to hell with others, because they will not go to heaven with us? The way to eternal life is narrow. We are not in heaven as soon as we are got through the strait gate. Self must be denied, the body kept under, and corruptions mortified. Daily temptations must be resisted; duties must be done. We must watch in all things, and walk with care; and we must go through much tribulation. And yet this way should invite us all; it leads to life: to present comfort in the favor of God, which is the life of the soul; to eternal bliss, the hope of which at the end of our way, should make all the difficulties of the road easy to us. This plain declaration of Christ has been disregarded by many who have taken pains to explain it away; but in all ages the real disciple of Christ has been looked on as a singular, unfashionable character; and all that have sided with the greater number, have gone on in the broad road to destruction. If we would serve God, we must be firm in our religion. Can we often hear of the strait gate and the narrow way, and how few there are that find it, without being in pain for ourselves, or considering whether we are entered on the narrow way, and what progress we are making in it?



**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): Strength to be faithful on the narrow way no matter how hard we are squeezed.**

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): Boldness to share the way to the gate and the path no matter how unpopular it seems.**

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): For like faith of Metropolitan Benjamin who was joyful and peaceful even when facing death for his belief.**

**Record what God shows you in Joel Moment, Part 2 — that is, the time after 4:00 PM — when we share Scripture, intercede and support each other as the Holy Spirit leads us.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---