

THE NARROW ROAD

Volume 10

Purpose Your Heart



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The Narrow Road Series

Salvation
Hear and Obey
The Power in the Word
Becoming Useful Vessels
The Pillars of Cloud and Fire
The Weapons of Our Warfare
Faith
Bearing Fruit
Questions and Answers
Purpose Your Heart
Fasting

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Fore-Word

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

“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.**

John 15:7,8

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Revelation 12:10

For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down – he who accuses them day and night before our God. They have conquered them by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

I would like to thank my wife and children for their support in the living out of these testimonies, and to my dear sisters in Christ Pauline and Caitlin for collating and editing these testimonies into book form.

I have decided to bring these to print as a legacy for my children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters in the Lord as a map of God's principles and testimonies of our journey here on earth.

I believe that in years to come as my relatives hear of our exploits in the Holy Spirit, and their hunger in God is sparked, they will want to know what secrets of God we discovered.

I believe that these testimonies will cause them to search for the truth.

- Raf

PURPOSE YOUR HEART

When we pray why don't people get healed?

A lot of it is because we really need to prepare our hearts so that God can pour His Spirit into us. He needs to get us fashioning our character so that He can pour His Spirit in.

That's something that we have to do on a voluntary basis. It's not something He will take from us. It comes back to that scripture in John 15 that says if we bear fruit He prunes us. If we don't, we get cut off. There is no fence-sitting situation.

Even though we have a choice, we really haven't. We can live our lives and be comfortable but at the end we wonder what haven't we done and regret will fill us. There really isn't much choice.

If we're moving on with God there is a moving on and the fruit will show. When we pray for someone they get healed – that's part of the fruit of our lives and it will be to our credit in heaven.

So we need to set our hearts that we are going to be people who will bear fruit. If we live outside of this it isn't much of a life. That's why we see so many Christians not living successfully because it's outside the abiding with God.

He saved us to abide with Him. We think we have options but we really haven't. Our options are that He saved us to take us on. The clean-cut reality of it is that if we don't bear fruit we get cut off.

That's sobering. But when we keep on going on – asking God to touch us, heal us, show us – we're bearing fruit just by doing that. Our hunger is bearing fruit.

But we must stay hungry. We sometimes get into a place where we become very blasé and staid.

I got to a point once where I was sick of people. I'd been inundated with them and I found I was spending more time with people than I was with the Lord. It was robbing me of my time with Jesus.

It really got to me. I wasn't prepared for the people so I was ministering out of my soul rather than out of my spirit. We're sociable and that's why the soul area has to be dealt with.

We need to start looking at the things of God. Our soul has to be turned around. We can't ignore it. If we bury it we will have worse problems. We

have to face up to what our soul is trying to do and say, "Lord, I bring this to You. I want to turn it around. You show me how. Or if You're pleased with it, show me that I'm doing well with it."

But our soul is an integral part of our character and needs saving. It's being developed by Jesus. Our spirit is saved, our soul is being developed.

As Christians we can walk weakly as we have the Spirit of Jesus Christ in us but we walk around with the mind of the devil. Our soul realm is not submitted to Him but submitted to what we want to do. We can live like that but it's a fence-sitting situation and we'll never be satisfied as it's a lukewarm situation. There's also the fear that He'll spew us out of His mouth if we stay in that position and don't keep moving.

All of these scriptures are there for a reason. We love grace. I believe grace covers many, many mistakes but it doesn't cover us for not walking in the direction that He wants us walking in.

Grace is good but the Word is the cattle prod that will keep us going. When we want to get a cow into the yard sometimes they are a bit stubborn and we have to use the prod.

The Word is our electric prod. It just keeps jaggng our conscience. That's why it's important that our soul gets restored.

Practical demonstration: finding someone who had hidden by asking the Lord where they were.

God wants us to develop a lifestyle of getting up and spending time with Him.

The first time that He spoke to me, I was getting up early to spend time with Him but He didn't speak to me for eight or nine days. I was the most disappointed person you've ever seen.

But He kept saying to me, "Purpose your heart." He wants purposed hearts to be able to pour His Spirit into. He wants purposed hearts. It will cost us a lifestyle of spending time with Him. It's a continual thing, not a one-off.

From the practical demonstration: it doesn't matter that you didn't all find the lady who had hidden or hear accurately where she was. Not getting it right is not a major problem. You all started to tap into the Lord.

We all have to sharpen our hearing. Not finding the hiding place just shows that there's work to be done. God needs to do a purging work in us and clean our hearing out. And He will.

He promises that if we are diligent, He is diligent to do it. His promise to us is that He wants us to hear more than we want to hear. When we open that realm up we're going to find that God is a chatterbox. In the end, He's going to say things that we don't want to hear.

Even though we might be in a hurry to hear there might need to be a work done so we can cope with the hearing. We're going to be struggling with some of the things He's going to ask us to do. Every time He stretches me I struggle with it. I have a wrestle in my heart.

Sometimes I just don't want to do this stuff. The first time He asked me to fast – I was a young Christian, I had two pieces of toast popping up from the toaster and His voice audibly came and said, "Raf, I want you to fast." Straight away I ate the toast. I was disobedient. I struggled with what He said.

When we hear accurately it brings a joy into our spirits. I want to know where I am with God. Most people don't know how to move on with God. They don't know where they are with Him.

But when we know, we think we're lacking in this area. We can pray, "Lord, you said if I ask You will give it to me, You'll pour it out."

And He will do it. He doesn't say how quickly He'll do it but He says He will do it.

I remember the first time that He asked me to do something, to purpose my heart. Nine days later I heard His voice again after the first "purpose your heart."

That's all I would hear – "purpose your heart." But I wanted to know what we were doing that day and I wanted to know other things but all I heard was "purpose your heart."

I would sit in my back room waiting and waiting and waiting. I knew the Lord was there but He wouldn't speak to me. He knew what He was doing – He was getting me hungry. He was getting me so determined that I wasn't going to let go. Don't give up on hearing God. Keep listening. God will give very specific directions.

We had a harpist and a guitarist from Singapore coming to do some concerts. He was going to minister in our church.

I had to drop some pamphlets off to a lawyer on the other side of town. I had never been to his house before. A young Thai lad, the son of a pastor was with me. He was helping me do the organisation. He was a music student at the Conservatorium.

We were going to arrange a public concert for this man from Singapore as an outreach. This young lad wanted to spend some time with me and he was forever hearing from us, "You have to hear God."

I phoned the lawyer where I had to drop these brochures. He asked me to drop them off at his house and he gave me the address. It was a brand new subdivision out on the north side of town. I never go on the north side of town. I come from the south.

So when I had to drive in the north side I was really lost so I told the lad who had the street directory to direct and I would drive. He opened up the directory but this suburb was too new to be in it.

He asked how we were going to find the place so I said, "We'll ask the Holy Spirit. We know that the subdivision is here in this area. We need to get into the subdivision."

So I drove into the subdivision and said, "Lord, please show me where he is."

I was turning left and the Holy Spirit said, "Turn the other way then turn left, left and left and you'll come right to his house."

So I said, "It's ok. I know where to go." He asked how I knew and I told him that the Lord had told me to go left, left, left and we'd be there. We drove straight onto this man's driveway.

In Gisborne, NZ we had to find that school – "Two kilometres down the road you'll find the school."

Hearing God's voice isn't always lined up with the Bible. He wants to tell us names, show us people's faces, tell us what their problems are so we need to tune in to what God is wanting to speak to us.

There are specific things. We need to keep tuned to God. Don't stop listening. Once we hear, keep listening as there will be something to go with it.

Some people don't believe that God will reveal the desires of our hearts. God reveals anything we need to do the job. He will reveal the desires of our hearts to someone if it's what we need.

This will train us and tune us up. This will bring us into the place because if someone changes their minds (e.g. about where they're going to hide or be) that's what is on their heart. The Holy Spirit knows where people are but we need to be tuned up to hear.

One time I had a pastor's wife who challenged me to find her when she hid. She was up all night praying, "Lord, hide me from him." And He did. I got nothing from the Lord but she had been praying all night.

But God will reveal the hearts of men and women. He wants to. We need to know what's in the heart of someone if we're going to be effective. He won't always reveal a person's heart.

My prayer is, "Father, get hold of me before anyone sees it. Deal with me and clean me up."

God does things privately, then He'll do it publicly if we don't deal with it privately. He wants to deal with things privately but if we don't deal with them then it's a public thing.

Because He cares. He doesn't want us hidden away or stifled. He wants us walking with Him.

When we hear we won't stop digging. Our ears are opening up. If we don't hear accurately, don't give up. Keep listening. God wants to take us to the next step. We can do exercises like this (finding someone who has hidden) to practise our hearing. Push ourselves to hear. Be hungry. It takes time to get to that place of hearing clearly. It's a lifestyle. We're giving our lives over to God. We can't say, "I'm Yours," and think it's going to become instant (like coffee). But if we don't start we're never going to get to the next level.

Now I'm going to give you the keys: fasting and praying. They're the things that will get us there. Fasting and praying are our keys. Praying in the spirit and purging our flesh so that the Holy Spirit has something to work with.

We need to understand that fasting is the next step. Fasting is something that we will have to go to as a normal lifestyle, not as a law or something we have to do but from time to time to get the 'old man' out of the way.

We're purging ourselves spiritually, not physically, so that He can do something. Keep short accounts before God. Deal with stuff. Let Him prune us. I have attitudes He's still dealing with.

About two years ago He showed me the condition of my heart – it stunk. I hated it when He was pruning me. He showed me what a foul heart I had.

I was getting sick of people because I was doing ministry out of the soul realm instead of out of the spirit. People were coming in droves and they were wearing me down. I wasn't getting time with the Lord so I was ministering out of what I could.

We need to get to Him and let Him do the filling; let Him change us, let Him do it. It makes evangelism the simplest thing in the world.

Things happen if we prepare. Yesterday six people came into the Kingdom of God because of what you (DTS participants) were doing here (at the Youth With A Mission Discipleship Training School).

The angels in heaven were having a party last night. They were rejoicing because of what you (DTS participants) were doing.

Purpose in our hearts that we are going to go to the next level. When He was waking me up I used to get discouraged: I would kick the floor, spew and spit, I was terrible to work with – because I wanted with a passion and a hunger what God had for me. A hunger and a passion.

That's what I wanted. And yet when He doesn't do it we get all down-hearted. But it just made me more determined. It made me purpose my heart to touch God because He is available.

He has no favourites – He's no respecter of persons. It's for every one of us. No one should miss out. Joy will come into our hearts because it's worth fighting for.

It's worth spending the time. As we set our hearts to spend time with God it builds something in us. It builds a readiness and an availability. It's a lifestyle, it's not a one-day thing.

We don't hear today and then not hear for the next fifty years. This is to train us to hear so that we stay being filled and led by the Spirit of God. He will encourage us. He knows the timing for us but keep trying, practise.

When we spend time with Him is when He can reach us. When we stop trying He can't reach us at all. We can't switch off to the voice of God. He saved us to hear Him. "My sheep hear My voice."

We are definitely His sheep so, hear His voice. Tune in to hear Him. God is waiting for us. He's like the Dad who when his kid starts to walk, he keeps walking back so the kid will walk a few extra steps to strengthen him.

The Father knows how to strengthen us. (Preparing for another 'hide and seek' exercise) If we fail just try again. Hint: go with the first thing He tells us and then stay open to His voice. He's speaking but sometimes we don't hear so we need to tune up and if we don't try we won't tune up.

Final-Word

If the testimonies in this booklet have impacted you, it's never too late to begin your own journey down the Narrow Road with Jesus.

Please feel free to read this simple prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus,

I believe that You died on the Cross for all my sin. I believe that You rose from the dead.

*Please forgive me for all my sins. Make me clean.
Please come into my heart, save me, heal me and set me free.*

*Write my name in Your Book of Life.
Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Be my personal Lord and Saviour.*

Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, welcome to the family of God and a new life walking every day with Jesus.