
of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

Romans 7:25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

Headwind #5: Satan

*1 Peter 5:8 Be **alert** and of **sober mind**. Your **enemy** the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to **devour**.⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*Micah 4:2 Come, let us go up to **the mountain of the Lord** to the house of the God of Jacob; that we may teach us His ways and we may walk in His paths.*

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.

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Climbing Mountains

The Narrow Road – part 4

January 26, 2025

The Narrow Road, review

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter it.¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.

Week 1: Beginning steps. Metaphor: **Narrow road**

Week 2: Honeymoon Christianity. Metaphor: **beach**.

Week 3: A purposeful adventure. Metaphor: **forest**.

Today: The long climb. Metaphor: **mountain** climbing.

*Micah 4:2 Come, let us go up to **the mountain of the Lord** to the house of the God of Jacob; that we may teach us His ways and we may walk in His paths.*

Building relationships and responsibilities

Relationships

Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as

it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Responsibilities

Galatians 6:5 ...for each one must bear his own load.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, **work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord**, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.** ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Matthew 25:21 Well done, good and **faithful** servant! You have been **faithful** with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

Luke 16:10 Whoever can be **trusted** with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

Climbing mountains with 5 headwinds

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble.**

Headwinds are normative!

Headwind #1: a fallen natural world

Genesis 3:23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Headwind #2: a fallen spiritual world

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world.

Headwind #3: fallen people

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, hold unfailing your love for another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. **But take heart! I have overcome the world.**"

Headwind #4: our fallen nature

Romans 7:14-25 I can anticipate the response that is coming: "I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience?" Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end
