

# THE Gospel Part 08 – What Is Striving To Enter Through The Narrow Door? Part One – Study Guide

This study guide examines the rigorous scriptural requirement to "strive" for entrance into the coming Kingdom. It clarifies the distinction between our current natural state and the future spiritual resurrection, while defining the practical nature of striving as a life of servitude and righteousness.

## Definitions of Key Words

- **Strive** (*Agonizomai*): A Greek word meaning to labour fervently or to "agonize" to enter. It implies a difficult, strenuous effort rather than an easy path.
- **Anothan**: An adverb of **place** meaning "**from above**"; incorrectly translated as "again" (an adverb of time).
- **Narrow Door/Gate**: The difficult, restrictive path that leads to life, found by only a few.
- **Servant** (*Dulos*): A bond-slave; scripturally, the position one must adopt to achieve greatness in the Kingdom.
- **Unrighteousness**: Conduct that is contrary to God's commands; those who "name the name of the Lord" must turn away from it to inherit the Kingdom.
- **Sown**: A metaphorical term referring to the **death and burial** of the natural body.
- **Destruction**: In the context of the wide gate, this refers to **loss of inheritance** or being cast out of the Kingdom.

## Expansion of Key Points

### 1. The Future Event of Being "Born from Above"

The sources reiterate that being "born from above" (**John 3:5–7**) is not a present-day spiritual experience but a **future event occurring at the resurrection**. Jesus's use of the word *anothan* was an adverb of place, pointing Nicodemus to the location of the coming Kingdom rather than a current change in status. This event is "sandwiched" between verses discussing the Kingdom, confirming that the transformation from flesh to spirit is required specifically for

**entry into that future reign.**

## **2. Our Current State: Flesh and Blood**

Contrary to modern teachings that claim believers are currently "spiritual powerhouses," the sources argue that we are presently **flesh and blood**. According to **1 Corinthians 15:42–44**, our current body is "sown" in **perishability, dishonour, and weakness**; it is a "natural body". We only become "spiritual bodies" in the resurrection. As stated in **1 Corinthians 15:50**, "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God".

## **3. The Nature of Striving (*Agonizomai*)**

Jesus commands the redeemed to "strive to enter through the narrow door" (**Luke 13:24**). This striving is described as a **"hard" and "narrow" way** that leads to life, contrasted with the "easy" and "wide" gate that leads to destruction/loss (**Matthew 7:13–14**). The sources suggest that many in Christendom are on the wide path because it requires no "agony" or change.

## **4. Servitude as the Key to the Kingdom**

Part of the "striving" involves a fundamental shift toward **servitude**. In **Matthew 20:25–28**, Jesus teaches that greatness in His Kingdom is not like worldly leadership; instead, whoever would be great must be a **"servant"** and whoever would be first must be a **"slave"**. Jesus Himself is the model, as He "came not to be served but to serve". Those who avoid serving their brethren in love are warned they will not rule and reign with Christ.

## **5. The "Shut Door" and the Excluded Redeemed**

The sources highlight a terrifying future event where the Master **shuts the door** to the Kingdom (**Luke 13:25**). Those standing outside knocking and crying **"Lord, Lord"** are identified as **redeemed people** who ate, drank, and heard Jesus teach in their streets but failed to obey. Because they did not "turn away from unrighteousness" (**2 Timothy 2:19**), Jesus categorizes them as **"workers of evil/unrighteousness"** and casts them out.

## **6. Sovereignty and the Opening of Eyes**

Ultimately, the ability to understand these truths depends on divine revelation. As noted in **Matthew 11:27**, no one knows the Father except the Son and "anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him". It is not through technology, music, or "exquisite delivery" that people understand, but through **God opening eyes**.

## Biblical References within the Source

- **Ezekiel 36 & 37:** The context for being born of water and spirit.
- **Daniel 12:2:** The confrontation of the redeemed at resurrection.
- **Matthew 7:13–14:** The narrow gate vs. the wide gate.
- **Matthew 11:27:** Revelation according to the Son's choice.
- **Matthew 20:20–28:** The request of the sons of Zebedee; greatness through service [18–24].
- **Luke 13:22–30:** Striving to enter; the shut door; workers of unrighteousness [43–53].
- **John 3:5–7:** Born of water and spirit; born from above.
- **John 15:** (Referenced as a favorite chapter alongside 1 Cor 15).
- **Acts 1:** (Contextual reference to the 40 days).
- **Romans 10:9–10:** (Contextual reference to verses pulled out of context).
- **1 Corinthians 15:23–50:** The order of resurrection; the natural vs. the spiritual body; flesh and blood [16, 30–41].
- **2 Timothy 2:10:** Paul enduring all for the elect.
- **2 Timothy 2:19:** Turning away from unrighteousness.
- **Hebrews 6:** Resurrection as the "milk" of the word.

## Study Questions

- **Translation and Time:** Why does the speaker insist that *anothan* refers to a future event rather than a present spiritual birth?
- **The Comparison of Bodies:** According to **1 Corinthians 15**, what are the four characteristics of the body when it is "sown" compared to when it is "raised"?
- **Defining the Audience:** How do we know the "you" being cast out in **Luke 13** refers to the redeemed rather than the ungodly world?
- **The Nature of Greatness:** What is the paradoxical requirement for being "first" or "great" in Christ's Kingdom?
- **The "Workers of Unrighteousness":** What was the primary reason those who called Jesus "Lord" were excluded from the Kingdom?

## Answer Key

- Because the word is an **adverb of place** ("from above") and the context is **entering the future Kingdom**, which requires a spiritual body only obtained at the resurrection.
- It is sown **perishable, in dishonour, in weakness, and a natural body**; it is raised **imperishable, in glory, in power, and a spiritual body**.
- Because they call Him "**Lord**," they were **raised in the resurrection** to be judged, and they claim to have **eaten and drank in His presence** and heard His teaching.
- One must become a **servant** (to be great) or a **slave** (to be first) to the brethren.
- They **did not change their lives** or turn from unrighteousness; they heard the teaching but remained "workers of unrighteousness".

## Exhortations

- **Abandon the "Easy" Path:** If your walk with Christ is easy and requires no change or "agony," be warned—Jesus says that path leads to **destruction and loss**.
- **Become a Servant Today:** Do not wait for the Kingdom to start serving. Greatness is earned now by **becoming a slave to your brothers and sisters**; look for ways to help the person sitting next to you.
- **Turn from Unrighteousness:** Naming the name of "Lord" is not enough. You must **actively turn from unrighteousness** to ensure you are not standing on the wrong side of the door when it is shut.
- **Embrace Your Natural Weakness:** Recognize that you are currently **flesh and blood** and subject to weakness. Stop condemning yourself for not being a "spiritual powerhouse" now, and set your hope fully on the **power of the resurrection**.