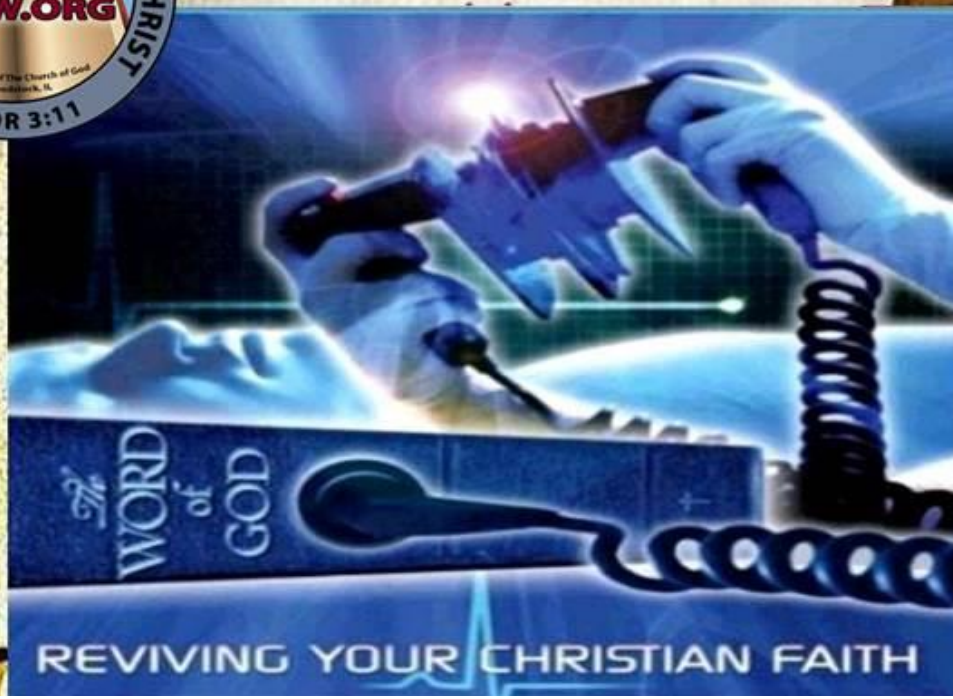
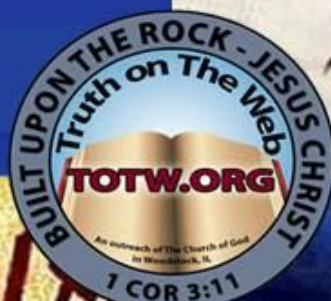


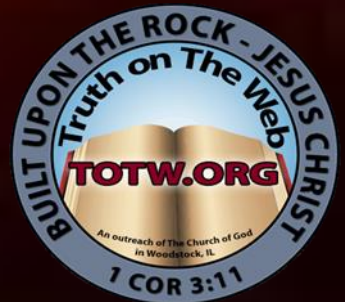
Think BIBLICALLY



REVIVING YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

DENIED:

Self or Christ?



John 13:34-35 A new
commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I
have loved you, that ye also love
one another. **By this shall all
men know that ye are My
disciples, if ye have love one
to another.**

*Are you a
disciple of
Jesus?*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

_____ is patient
_____ is kind
_____ does not envy
_____ does not boast
_____ is not proud
_____ does not dishonor others
_____ is not self-seeking
_____ is not easily angered
_____ keeps no record of wrongs.
_____ does not delight in evil
_____ rejoices with the truth
_____ always protects
_____ always trusts
_____ always hopes
_____ always perseveres

What does it mean to be a disciple?

What does it mean to be a disciple?

- Follow His teaching
- Being a guide to others
- Being an example
- Mimics someone else (actions, character, in every way)
- Promoting what you believe
- Desires to learn and act upon that knowledge

*Can you be a
Christian and not
be a Disciple?*

“The spiritually complacent Christian is smug and overconfident before God. He does not repent, he does not actively seek God, he does not strive, through His grace, to serve Him more faithfully and follow Him more closely. The complacent Christian has no great love for God and no real consciousness of his own sin. He avoids dwelling on spiritual thoughts because he knows the truth will interfere with his comfortable way of life. The complacent Christian tells himself that he’s already completed the one single task required of Christians: that is, at some individual point in time, he verbally or mentally announced a belief in Him and an acceptance of all that stuff in the Bible — although he doesn’t really know what’s in the Bible, and in fact does not accept most of it.”

Matthew 16:24-26 Then said Jesus unto His disciples, **If any *man* will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:34-38 ...Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.**

Luke 9:23-26 And He said to *them* all, **If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it.** For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? **For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed,** when He shall come in His own glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels.

Matthew 10:37-39 He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.

Luke 14:26-33 **If any *man* come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. **So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple.**

Mark 10:17-22 ...Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? *there is none good but One, that is, God.* Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: **go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.** And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

The Process of Discipleship

If anyone would come after me, he must...

- *Deny himself*
- *Take up his cross*
- *Follow me*

Deny Yourself

What does it mean to deny yourself?

Denying Our....

- Self-trust
- Self-sufficiency
- Right to run our own lives
- Love of ourselves

*“People will be lovers of themselves”
2 Timothy 3:2*

To deny yourself means to....

- Not getting what you want, but what you can do for God
- Giving up control
- Sacrifice
- Getting rid of your pride and arrogance
- Putting others before yourself

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love**; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

A painting depicting three sirens on a rocky shore. One sirens is seated on the left, another stands in the center with arms raised, and a third is on the right with her back to the viewer. They are all dressed in flowing, classical-style garments. In the background, a large sailing ship with a single mast and a large sail is visible on the water. The scene is set against a hazy, yellowish sky. The text "Seducing Sirens" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Seducing Sirens




Odysseus & The Sirens



In order to stop his men from being seduced by the sirens' singing, Odysseus had his men block their ears with wax. As Odysseus wanted to hear the sirens singing, he ordered his men to tie him tightly to the mast of the ship.



As they sail by, he
loves the Sirens'
songs and desperately
wants to go in closer.
But he's restrained.

A painting depicting a scene from Greek mythology. In the foreground, a man with a red cape and a golden breastplate stands on the prow of a dark wooden boat, holding a lyre. The boat is decorated with a large, stylized white and blue scrollwork design on its side. In the background, several other figures are visible on the boat, including one man in a green tunic who appears to be pulling a rope. The boat is on a choppy sea under a cloudy sky. The text "Jason & Orpheus" is overlaid in white on the lower part of the image.

Jason & Orpheus



Instead of resisting the Sirens' allure by restraint, Jason introduced a better song. He hired Orpheus, the skilled musician, to play his most beautiful piece just as the ship floated in earshot of the island.



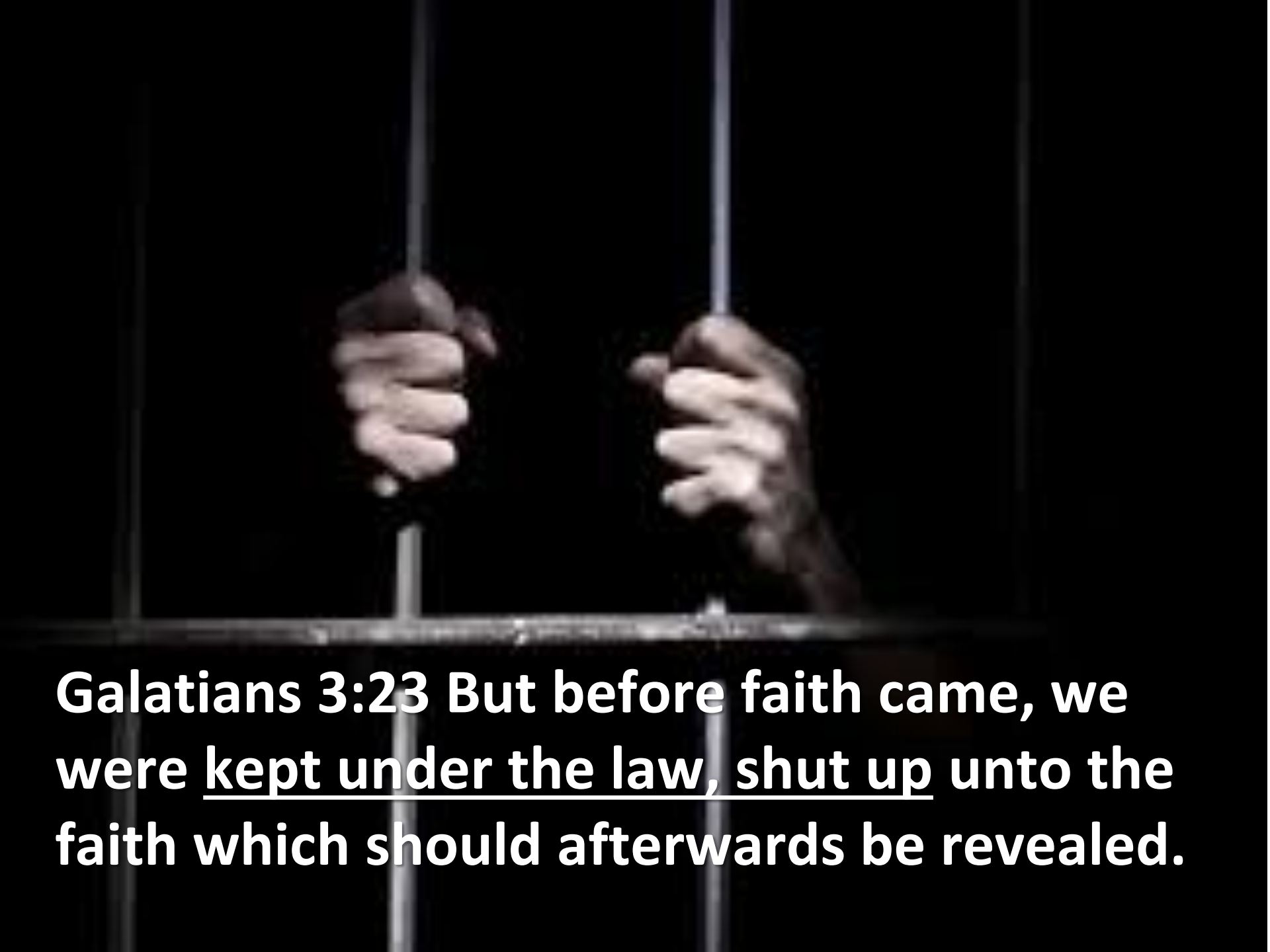
The boat sailed by with both captain and crew pleased, not by the Sirens, but by Orpheus's better music.



Odysseus couldn't follow his urge — his overwhelming appetite because he was restrained.

In his battle against temptation, he had “won,” but he wasn't free.

Galatians 3:23-25 But before faith came, **we were kept under the law, shut up** unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.



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Matthew 5:28-30 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.



...if thy right eye
offend thee,
pluck it out, and
cast *it* from
thee...And if thy
right hand
offend thee, cut
it off...

“There is no fleeing *from* one pleasure without also fleeing *to* a greater pleasure. When we find ourselves before something more desirable than whatever we’re currently chasing, we’ll let go of our former love, finding it repulsive by comparison. We’d be insane not to trade crumbs for a banquet.”

Jimmy Needham

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Colossians 3:1-3 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your* reasonable service. And **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 4:22-32 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Cure For Sin?



1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Bear The Cross

The Process of Discipleship

If anyone would come after me, he must.....

- *Deny himself*
- ***Take up his cross***
- *Follow me*

To “take up his cross” means to...

- To die to yourself – doing God’s will rather than your own – putting action to words
- Not an easy task – going against the current
- Doing something out of devotion rather than duty
- To become like Jesus – bring others like Christ

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

2 Timothy 3:10-14 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

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Follow Me

The Process of Discipleship

If anyone would come after me, he must.....

- *Deny himself*
- *Take up his cross*
- ***Follow me***

“Follow me” means to...

- Living every day as he lived
- A daily commitment
- Be willing to leave everything you have
- Being willing to be led
- A call to action – so others in turn will follow also

“Follow me” means to...

- To submit to His authority
- To adopt His world view
 - “*Love your enemy*” - Matthew 5:44
 - “*Pray for those who hurt you*” - Matthew 5:44
 - “*Forgive those who offend you*” - Matthew 6:14-15
 - “*Be kind to the ungrateful and selfish*” - Luke 6:35
 - “*Bear one another’s burdens*” - Galatians 6:2
 - “*Freely you have received, freely give*” - Matthew 10:8
- To participate in what He did
 - ...An ongoing, daily commitment

Hebrews 11:24-27 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

1 Peter 4:1-2 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Narrow Path →

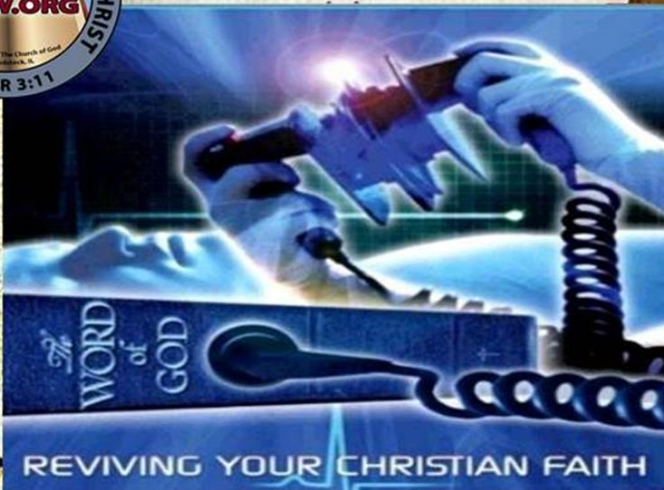
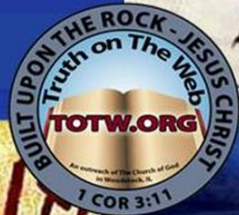
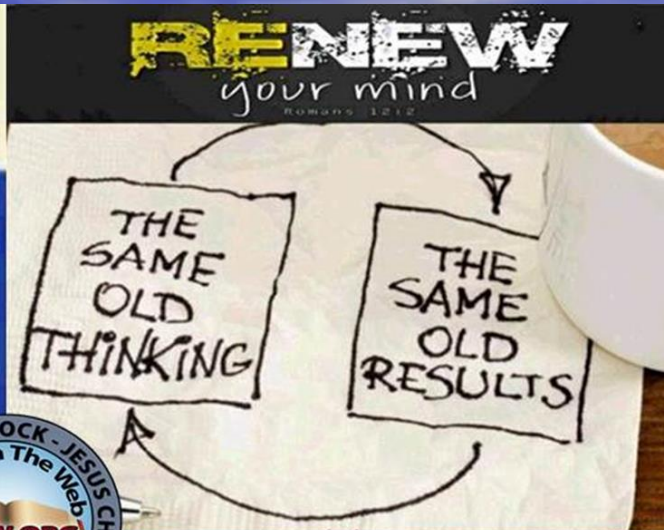
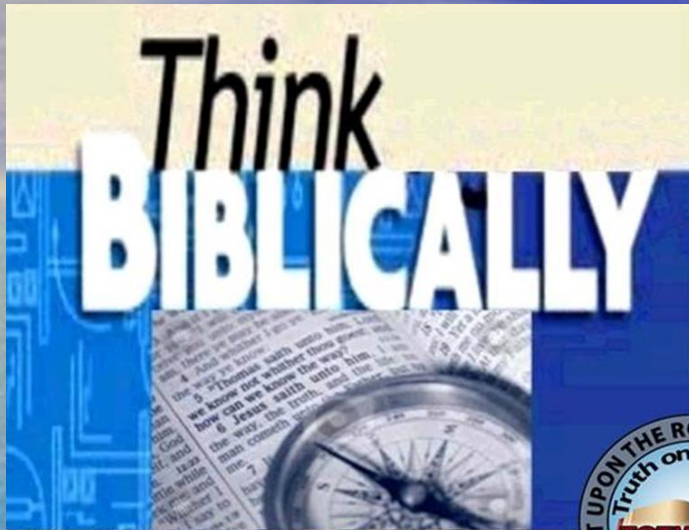


Broad Path

Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?

What in your life have you not submitted to Jesus' Lordship ?

Are you willfully carrying your cross of sanctification, or are you just bearing undesired burdens?



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