

**Live It Out : The Golden Rule and Two Gates or Pathways**  
**Matthew 7 : 12 – 14**



Firstly, Jesus says what is sometimes called the **Golden Rule** in Matthew 7:12 :

**“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”**

Primarily, Jesus expects us to apply the golden rule personally. Do not wait for someone to do something for you. Take the initiative.

You want to be forgiven? Forgive!

You need encouragement? Encourage!

You feel hurt, wounded, broken and would appreciate gentle care? Be gentle!

However, we need to ask for a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to enable us to put the Golden Rule into practice otherwise it will just be hard work on our part!

***Application Questions :***

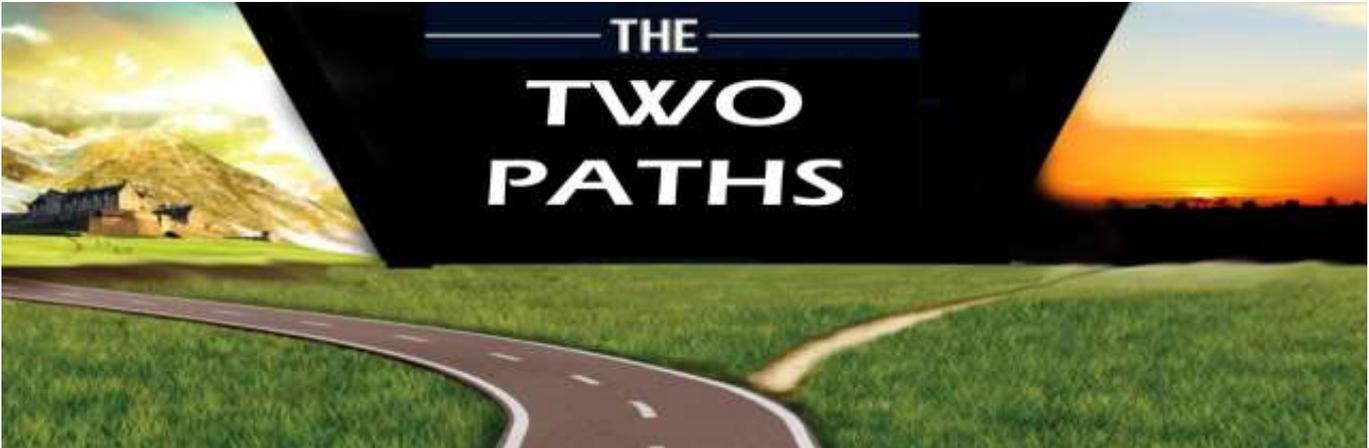
**What makes the Golden Rule so challenging?**

**In what ways is God challenging you to treat others like you want them to treat you?**

**Have you asked for a work of the Holy Spirit in your life in order to put the Golden Rule into practice?**

Secondly Jesus speaks of the two gates or paths when he says in 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 that enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those that find it are few.”



What are characteristics of the two opposing pathways?

### **The Wide Path**

1. The wide path is the road all begin on.
2. The wide path is spacious and easy to follow.
3. The wide path is popular.
4. The wide path leads to death and destruction.

### ***Application Question :***

Which aspects of the wide path do you find most challenging and why?

### **The Narrow Path**

1. The narrow path must be entered by choice.
2. The narrow path is difficult to find and follow.
3. The narrow path is unpopular
4. The narrow path leads to life.

### ***Application Questions:***

Which aspects of the narrow path stood out to you most and why?  
What are some of the ways you can apply Christ's call to pursue the narrow path to how you live your life?