

THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE

If we had our way, and most of the time we do, we would travel the path of least resistance. In other words, if there is more than one way to do something, we would, more than likely, take the easy way out.

This "rule" is especially true when it comes to doing things we dislike. All we need is a little encouragement to procrastinate and those jobs we don't like doing, get put off to tomorrow. It doesn't seem to make any difference how easy a task is, if we don't want to do it, it can become an evil monster who can't be overcome. The converse is also true, if we want to do something, even if the endeavor is difficult, it will be accomplished nonetheless because we wanted to do it.

Choosing the path of least resistance is true in personal relationships. As we are aware of the world around us, many times we will not agree with our neighbor about one subject or another. Because we don't want to appear dogmatic in expressing our own views, we compromise and find ourselves not "standing up for what we believe in." In taking the path of least resistance to avoid conflict, we should never allow ourselves to be dominated by another who is just a little more assertive. Your position is true or false based on the facts, not because someone yells a little louder.

Another area of taking the path of least resistance is that of daily physical conveniences. We have many labor-saving devices which allow us to do less work today than we did, say, 15 years ago. Many of us now use dishwashers, self-propelled lawn mowers, trash compactors, automatic washing machines, color televisions with remote controls, and so on. None of these things are intrinsically wrong or sinful, but the point here is that if there is an easier way to do something, we will choose it.

This brings us to the most tragic area of the path of least resistance. The area of religion. Satan is an adversary of Christianity and he uses the path of least resistance. He would rather us compromise plain Bible teachings than to discipline ourselves in godliness. The path of least resistance yields to temptation causing sin at a moment's notice. It says that ignorance of the Scriptures is bliss (study is hard work!), and it tells us that it makes no difference as to what one believes just so long that he does believe. The path of least resistance will never contend for the faith" (Jude 3), "fight, the good fight of faith" (2Tim. 4:7), or "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

Jesus never promised us that living the Christian life was going to be all "peaches and cream." We do have a "rose garden" of blessings as a Christian, but there is a cost involved in our discipleship. In Luke 9:23 Jesus says, "If anyone would be disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." Jesus tells us of three ingredients which make a disciple and all three are directly opposed to the path of least resistance (crucifying pride, enduring hardships, and patterning one's life after Jesus).

A Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) realizes that the cost of discipleship is worth the price of heaven. Our suffering, toil, pain, and perseverance will all be worth it when we reach the heavenly realm. Let us not be like water running down the mountain side following the path of least resistance as we journey through life. Jesus said not, to follow that path; "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."