# THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH: By SamZiwa Young. 2 NEPHI 31:9-20

I Love the phrase "The Straight and Narrow Path." "Straight and Narrow" automatically bring to mind exactness, precision, mathmatical principles, and intelligence; as well as "Narrow" indicating being conscious of staying on a narrow trajectory morally. Being excellent in a narrow way is to humbly follow the guiding line, this would encompass all the virtues of Patience, Humility, Faith, and by extention Grace, Charity, Love, Hope, Long-Suffering, brotherly Kindness, Gratitude, and again Humility in everything you do. Then if you add on the word "Path" to that "Straight and Narrow" you get an even more dynamic and incredible concept! Walking the Straight and Narrow Path, means that there are steps to be taken in the direction of all these concepts. How do you walk a path with a mathmatical exactness toward excellence in Humility, Grace, Faith, and Charity?

First you must see the light ahead where the path is leading; this takes faith because all these principles in their fulness, or brought to their maximal potential, is the character of God. An infinite capacity, or a potential, for Eternal Love, Grace and Charity, also takes an infinite capacity, or a potential for endless Humility, Faith, Hope, and Diligence. These things are the very definition of God, for an all powerful, all knowing God, whose hand is in all things, by definition also embodies all these self evident virtues. To understand these virtues is to know God, because these virtues are the character and personality of God.

So if you are beginning to take exact and precise footsteps in the direction of the realization of all these virtues, mathmatical truths, and self evident unfoldings of intelligence, which is the literal meaning of "The Straight and Narrow Path," then you have faith in God, and faith in His Love, which means you must humbly repent. Repentance and Humility are synonymous, just as Humility and Gratitude are, and the only way you can be forgiven, justified, cleansed, and sanctified is if an atonement is made. You must also therefore humbly keep the commandments of this God of pure intelligence and Love, by keeping his outward signs and ordinances, receiving His Holy Spirit, putting one foot in front of the other all the way down this path; enduring to the end, having faith in the atonement of God's only begotten Son the whole way! If that is not done then how can you say before a just and straight God, that what you did, and what you became was "Straight" and "Narrow" and that it was a "Path", and that you walked that path to the "End" of it?

The very first reference to the Straight and Narrow Path is in Esdras. This is the II Book of Esdras, seventh Chapter, "There is also another thing; A city is builded, and set upon a broad field, and is full of all good things: The entrance thereof is narrow, and is set in a dangerous place to fall, like as if there were a fire on the right hand, and on the left a deep water: And one only path between them both, even between the fire and the water, so small that there could but one man go there at once. If this city now were given unto a man for an inheritance, if he never shall pass the danger set before it, how shall he receive this inheritance? And I said, It is so, Lord. Then said he unto me, Even so also is Israel's portion." (II Esdras 7:6-10.) *

Increadibly enough this principle was simultaneously Reveald to Lehi, in Lehi's dream, in 1 Nephi 8, as well as 1 Nephi 11. It is amazing that there are four divisions of people described in Lehi's vision, ① Those who left the path and went to the great and spacious building, ② Those who fell away to other paths in the mist of darkness, ③ Those who held onto the rod and partook of the Tree of Life, and ④ Those who left the Tree of Life and fell into the muddy water because of the mocking. These four categories of humans are divided into the kingdoms, 1. Telestial, 2. Terrestrial, 3. Celestial, 4. Outerdarkness.

So what are these steps of exactness leading to all Truth, Intelligence, Charity, Humility and Love? The Iron Rod or Words of God tell us. Faith in the Love of God and atonement of Jesus Christ, Repentance and forgiving, Baptism by immersion, The Gift of the Holy Ghost, and Walking the Straight and Narrow Path unto Eternal Life! 2 NEPHI 31:9-20

* "Straight" in Hebrew is "Jasher"