

Pilgrim's Progress Discussion Questions Week 2

Wicket Gate



1. After being rebuked by Evangelist for turning away from the right path, Christian is determined to get to the Wicket Gate safely without distraction from anything or anybody. What are some distractions, whether good or bad, that keep you from pursuing God at all costs?
2. Christian perseveres and arrives at the Wicket Gate, where he eagerly knocks several times to be let in. Read Matthew 7:7–8. What does the knocking teach us about man's responsibility in salvation? 3.
3. Read John 10:9. Who does Goodwill represent?
4. Describe the basics of Christian's confession, despite his limited spiritual understanding, prior to entering the gate.
5. As Christian moves to enter the gate, Goodwill quickly yanks him through. He describes the enemy as being close by and well-fortified with an artillery of flaming arrows designed to kill those trying to enter the Wicket Gate. Read Ephesians 6:16. What is this scene dramatically illustrating with someone on the threshold of salvation?
6. Most consider the decision of Christian to enter the Wicket Gate as the moment of his salvation. If this is so, why is his burden not immediately removed?

House of the Interpreter

1. Goodwill directs Christian to the house of the Interpreter. Read John 14:26 and 15:26. What does the Interpreter represent? Read Ephesians 5:8–10. What is the significance of the Interpreter lighting the candle?
2. Why does Passion laugh and mock Patience? In Luke 16:25, how did the rich man's disregard for the pauper Lazarus play out in eternity?
3. Patience sat in the chair, holding back and watching Passion indulge in the immediate pleasure and satisfaction of his treasure. When do you find it most difficult to be patient and deny your passion while at the same time watching others find immediate pleasure in worldly desires?

4. Our culture has lost touch with patience. We want everything now and with the least possible effort. Yet developing patience is essential as we grow to become more like Christ. Read Philippians 2:12–13. What does Paul mean by "work out your own salvation?"
5. In the fourth room, Christian is shown a fire roaring in a fireplace and a man trying to extinguish the fire while another is fueling it. What do the fireplace and the fire represent?
6. The devil and his evil forces represent the man attempting to extinguish the fire. How does the enemy seek to douse your godly enthusiasm?
7. Even though the fire is drenched with water, Christian is amazed to see it burning higher and hotter. Who is the man sustaining the fire on the other side of the wall? Read 2 Corinthians 4:6–7. Throughout this passage, Paul is conveying the message of weakness and power. Containers are weak, but God is strong. How does God use your weaknesses to show His power?
8. What are some modern-day reasons why many people consider the call of following God and the truth of Scripture but never actually follow through?
9. In James 4:4, James uses strong language, saying, "Friendship with the world is hatred towards God." What kind of friendship is James talking about? How does this compare with Jesus' statement in Matthew 6:24?
10. Read Acts 14:22 and Philippians 1:29. What do we learn from the valiant man who fights his way into the palace? What does Jesus mean about the Kingdom of God in Matthew 11:12 when He says that the violent take it by force?
11. In the sixth room, Christian is disturbed by the sight of a caged man living in despair. What does an iron cage in a dark room represent in the life of a believer (or, is the man actually a believer)?
12. Everything the Interpreter shows Christian is designed to teach him different aspects of the spiritual life and to make sure he stays on the right path while avoiding deceptive spirits along the way. Which room of the Interpreter's house do you find the most encouraging? Which room do you find the most disturbing?