What is meant by entering in by the narrow gate?:

• Does it apply to our salvation, or does it apply to finding the abundant life in this physical world?

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it, Matthew 7:13,14.

This scripture passage does not refer to one's salvation, it's dealing with the sanctification of the soul, and finding life in this world for your soul and for your physical body.

The passage has been used to a great extent to control church members, conveying the belief that to get into God's heaven one must walk the straight and narrow, this itself is legalism. The one requirement for salvation is – that we confess the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then shall thou be saved, Romans 10:9. For we are saved by grace though faith, and that is not of ourselves, rather, it is the gift of God, Ephesians 2:8.

You can better realize this using healing and wholeness as an example, understanding that God wants His people to be heal and whole through believing in His Word. We see much if not most of the world using worldly means to maintain their health rather than believing in God's Word for their health. And when we settle for alternate methods that do not guarantee results, and may even leave us with worse side-effects. We have thus settled for the broad way that leads to death.

Only God's Word gives us life and life more abundant, John 10:10. The ways and distractions of the world are very wide and broad and they will eventually lead to destruction, of the physical body and to carnal thinking of the soul. Only walking, abiding in God and obeying His statutes, will lead to maturity of the soul and health to the body.

