

WALKING WITH GOD

Micah 6:8

(All Scripture Quotations NASB1995)

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WALKING WITH GOD

God requires us walk with Him.

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

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There are several examples in scripture of those who “walked with God.”

Noah:

“Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.” (Genesis 6:9b)

Enoch:

“Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (Genesis 5:24)

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There are several examples in scripture of those who “walked before God.”

Abraham and Isaac:

“He blessed Joseph, and said, ‘The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day ...’” (Genesis 48:15)

David:

“Then Solomon said, ‘You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.’” (I Kings 3:6)

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What does it mean to walk with God, and what must we focus on to be successful in doing so?

- To speak of our “walk” is to speak of “the whole round of the activities of the individual life.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
- Therefore, to “walk with God” is to conduct the “whole round of the activities of our individual life” with, before, and consistent with God and His revealed will.

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To be successful in “walking with God,” we need to be constantly aware that we have all come from God, and that God, our Creator, has all authority and dominion over us.

Isaiah recognized this fact.

“But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)

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When we live our lives cognizant of the fact that we are simply the work of God's hands, we will live lives in continual submission to His inherent authority and dominion over us.

David reflected on this fact in several psalms.

"Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments." (Psalm 119:73)

"I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:14)

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When Paul observed the city of Athens and their altar to "the unknown God," he taught them about the God they didn't know, the only true God:

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us ..."
(Acts 17:24-27)

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Paul concludes his lesson to the Athenians by emphasizing everyone's responsibility as created beings of the one true God to "seek God," of our need to "repent," and for what reason:

"Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:29-31)

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This same principle, that the one who has been created owes a life of submission and labor for the One who created him, is applied to those in the church:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."
(Ephesians 2:10)

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

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Those who walk with God follow His teaching, denying self, and living sensibly, righteously and godly, being zealous for good deeds:

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." (Titus 2:11-14)

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We must live daily with the perspective that we are continually in the presence of God.

There is a link between failing to recognize God as our creator and failing to live life with the knowledge of His presence.

"Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord, and whose deeds are done in a dark place, and they say, 'Who sees us?' or 'Who knows us?' You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, 'He did not make me'; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, 'He has no understanding'?"
(Isaiah 29:15-16)

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Failing to recognize the presence of God and His design for our lives is self-willed rebellion.

“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker – An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’”
(Isaiah 45:9)

We walk with God when we daily remember that He is the Potter and we are the clay, and when we dedicate each day of our lives to be useful in His service.

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In contrast to the attitude that says “who sees us?” is the attitude expressed by David who understood that he continually lived his life in the presence of God.

“O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” (Psalm 139:1-7)

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When David wrote “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” in Psalm 139, he understood that nothing that man does is done in secret.

David had learned his lesson from his sin with Bathsheba. God told David through Nathan the prophet,

“Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.”
(2 Samuel 12:12)

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Other passages express this understanding of the fact that we daily live in the presence of God.

“But You know me, O Lord; You see me; and You examine my heart’s attitude toward You.”
(Jeremiah 12:3a)

“For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.” (Jeremiah 16:17)

“For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths.” (Proverbs 5:21)

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.” (Proverbs 15:3)

“Does He not see my ways and number all my steps?”
(Job 31:4)

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Other passages express this understanding of the fact that we daily live in the presence of God.

“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps. There is no darkness or deep shadow where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. For He does not need to consider a man further, that he should go before God in judgment. He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, and sets others in their place. Therefore He knows their works, and He overthrows them in the night, and they are crushed.” (Job 34:21-25)

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4:13)

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Walking with God means living with a continuing passion to be with God. Those who walk with God live their lives always longing to be with Him.

Paul longed to be with God so much that he had the attitude that to depart this life and be with Christ would be very much better.

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better, yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.”
(Philippians 1:21-24)

Those who walk with God have placed their hope on living in such a way that they might one day be where Christ is.

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Walking with God means planning to spend eternity with Him, taking Jesus at His word when He said,

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”

(John 14:1-3)

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The one who walks with God lives with the understanding that we are temporary sojourners while upon earth, and that our true home and citizenship are in heaven.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

(Philippians 3:20-21)

“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” **(1 Peter 1:17-19)**

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The daily desire to be with God brings with it the need to always be “pleasing to Him.”

“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

(2 Corinthians 5:6-10)

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To walk with God, we must walk by the Spirit.

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

(Galatians 5:16-25)

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To walk with God, we must walk in a manner worthy of God.

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” **(Ephesians 4:1-3)**

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God ...”

(Colossians 1:9-10)

“... so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:12)

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To walk with God, we must understand His will.

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

To walk with God, we must walk according to the pattern revealed in His word.

“Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”

(Philippians 3:17-19)

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To walk with God, we must imitate Him, walking in love.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

(Ephesians 5:1-10)

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To walk with God, we must make it our ambition to please Him more each day.

"Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more." **(1 Thessalonians 4:1)**

To walk with God, we must walk in the Light.

"This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **(1 John 1:5-9)**

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To walk with God, we must walk in the same manner as Jesus walked, keeping His commandments.

"By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." **(1 John 2:3-6)**

To walk with God, we must walk in truth.

"For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

(3 John 3-4)

*"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" **(John 14:6)***

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To walk with God, we must walk in Christ.

"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude." **(Colossians 2:6-7)**

To walk with God, we must walk in newness of life.

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

(Romans 6:3-4)

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

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To begin your walk with God, you must be a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." **(Acts 4:12)**

"Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." **(Acts 10:43)**

"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time." **(1 Timothy 2:5-6)**

To begin your walk with God as a Christian, you must obey the gospel of Jesus Christ to be saved.

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HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Hear the word of God
(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message
(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins
(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ
(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins
(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient
(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

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