

Chapter 6 Walk



We cannot Stand unless we Walk.

Our enemy will “eat us for lunch.” Here are some Scriptures that back this up.

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:11,12).

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

“Neither give place to the devil”(Ephesians 4:27).

“He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap” (1 Timothy 3:7).

“and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will” (2 Timothy 2:26).

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

It is clear from these Scriptures and many others, that even as believers we can become the victim of Satan and his assistants in many different ways. These Scriptures also show that our conduct and lifestyle have something to do with giving Satan the right to hurt us.

Our victory over Satan and circumstances can only be successful as a result of our *walk*. We need the character of Jesus in our lives to be safe. If we attempt to make it in life with our old character, we have already lost the spiritual war. However, if we are walking in God's character, then the enemy only sees Jesus and not us. Remember, the enemy has no place in Jesus. Jesus already defeated Satan.

Ephesians 4:1 says, “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the calling with which you are called.”

We sought to make it clear in the “Sit” lesson that our self-image determines our conduct, and that the Christian life does not begin with “walking.” In other words our performance, or anything that we can do or accomplish. Grace is what got us in, and grace is what will carry us through!

Everything is based upon the finished work of Jesus at the Cross of Calvary and what He accomplished there and who we became as a result of His cross.

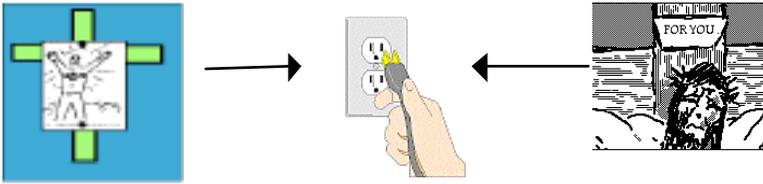
The Lord has done everything for us. He is seated at the throne and we are seated with Him. We have been crucified, we died, were buried, were raised and resurrected with Him and we have been seated with Him in the

heavenlies. Ephesians 2:6 says, “and has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.”

However, the Christian life does not end there. Our Christian walk is a relationship between two persons, God and us. A relationship does not come instantly, it requires much time. Therein lies the problem with most Christians. They do not wish to take time, to give their priority to keeping their relationship living and vital with God. Romans 12:1-2 makes it clear that in view of the wonderful mercies of God that we need now to respond by offering ourselves a living sacrifice, which is our reasonable service. In thus doing we constantly renew our minds from the old way of living and the result and promise is that we will prove, or walk out, the will of God for our lives.

To walk worthy of the Lord depends upon our cross. Luke 9:23 says, “And He said to all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Remember, our relationship with God is a blood covenant. It takes two parties and two deaths to make it valid.



There are several types of choices we have daily. Depending upon our choice, we either get closer or further from God.

a. Moral choices. Do we say yes or no to stealing, lying, cheating, illicit sex, gossip and the list goes on? Are we obeying the Word, or our flesh?

b. Trials and suffering. Do we say yes or no to trusting in God’s Word more than our circumstances? Are we trusting the Word or our flesh?

c. Authority. Do we say yes or no the Lordship of Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Do we say yes or no to the authorities that God puts over us, like teachers, pastors, police, parents, etc.? If you cannot obey who is over you, then leave. If they are asking you to sin, then do not obey them. God will protect you from even evil authority.

d. The World. Do we say yes or no to the *world*? The *world* is a spiritual kingdom just like the Kingdom of God. 1 John 2:15-16 says the craving for sensual gratification, the greedy longings of the mind and the assurance in one’s own resources are attributes of the “world” (Lust of the

flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life). Each time we choose one of these, we move away from God.

We are not perfect, but we can walk and live in repentance. We will fail from time to time, but God gives us a perfect forgiveness, just as we had never sinned. 1 John 1:9 says, “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God knows that most of us fail not because we want to, but because we are victims of something. His cure is not to slap us around, but to come and let us know who we are in Him, with the hope that will cause us to be drawn to Him even more.

Don't be like Esau. He was Jacob's twin brother. Esau, on the surface did not seem any worse than his twin brother Jacob. Jacob was a deceiver, yet God intervened and supernaturally gave the first born birthright to Jacob, even though Jacob was the last one out of the womb. Esau despised his birthright, thinking that it was not that big of a deal, and sold it to Jacob for a bowl of stew. Yet later in life when he tried to repent, he could not. We have a spiritual birthright when we are born of God, and this is a warning to us not to despise it. We could end up as Esau, who did not make it (Hebrews 12:16).

Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 says, “I say, then, Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”

Romans 8:1 says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Walking in the Spirit is a simple, but different way to live and the easiest way I know to be right with God on a daily basis. It is a process that goes like this:

1. You continue to look into the Word of God (mirror) and ask God to show you how to live. Ask Him, and seek out what His standards are for your life. For instance, it says to not lie, to treat your friends with love, to submit to your parents and teachers, to treat your brothers and sisters with kindness, to not get drunk, do not be selfish, don't be angry, always forgive not matter what, etc.

2. You determine to live the way God wants you to, knowing that only God in you can walk a life worthy of the Lord.

3. When you fail, and you will, be totally honest with yourself, God and others around you. Repent (turn) quickly. The promise is that when we repent (turn) that the Kingdom of God is at hand, or within our reach.

4. Confess your sin to God. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

5. Confess what the Word of God says about your situation in a positive way, i.e., Galatians 2:20 that says, “I have been crucified with

Christ, and I live; yet no longer I, but Christ lives in me. And that life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith toward the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself on my behalf.”

6. As you continue to live this way those old habits and old sinful ways begin to disappear. The grace of God takes over and gives you the character of God instead of your old character.

7. Grace kicks in for your sin. You did not get righteous by the things you did, so your righteousness is still there, it just has some dirt on it.

While you walk in the Spirit, God gives you grace for your mistakes, and takes the penalty of the sin that you would normally suffer, and gives you a blessing that you do not deserve.

8. Not only does grace kick in for your sin, not only does God give you a blessing that you did not deserve, but the grace you receive is actually the power that gets rid of the sin (or the problem) you are dealing with in the first place. Look at Zechariah 4:7 which says, “Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel [a type of Jesus] *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof with* shoutings, *crying*, Grace, grace unto it.” God speaks “grace” to your situation, and the mountain is removed!

David was called a man after God's own heart, even after he sinned tragically with Bathsheba and Uriah. You may find yourself in this place. If you do, you need to recall that David not only confessed his sin to God, but as is stated in his repentance in Psalm 51, he asked God to give him a pure heart and to renew a right spirit within him. God knows if you really want to change like David did.

The Word judges us. You need to look into the mirror.

James 1:23-25 says, “Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.”

The Word of God is our judge just like a mirror is our judge. It looks at us and tells us the truth of what is right and what is wrong. But we can look at a some dirt on our face, see it, and walk away and forget it. James says we can do the same thing when we look at the Word of God. We can see what we are supposed to do, but we can walk away as if we never saw it. If the man who obeys is blessed, then the man who does not obey is cursed!

Obedience to the Word is a powerful thing!

1. It “takes up your cross,” it completes the blood covenant and puts you under the care and protection of God.

2. It totally takes Satan off your case. He will still attempt to hurt you, bad things may seem to happen, but they cannot hurt you. Matthew 7:24-27

says, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

3. It prepares you for eternity. The more you obey, the more Jesus gives you His Spirit and makes Himself real to you. Also, something happens inside of you over a period of time that separates you from the world and makes you closer to Jesus. When you get to Heaven, you will have a position closer to Him forever!

4. There are always rewards for obedience to His Word. John 14:23 tells us that our reward is His presence. Jesus draws us into His presence and we experience eternity, we are partakers of the Divine Nature!

5. You become a slave to whom you obey. Will it be Jesus or someone else? Romans 6:16 says, “Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

Obedience to God is not based upon the fear that He will hurt you if you disobey; it is based upon the fact that you love Him and want to please Him. John 14:21 says, “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

If you want to see who loves God, look around and see who is going out of their way to obey Him!

Now let's look at the mirror. (Please refer to A Spiritual Check-up in the Flowing River chapter.