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Walk with God

This is the start of a new word study series on the word *walk*. There is 212 occurrences of the *walk*, 122 of *walked*, 1 of *walkedest*, 7 of *walkest*, 41 of *walketh* and 30 of *walking*. We won't cover all 412 occurrences in this study.

In this study we will consider 3 points which include;

1. God has in time past *walked* with man.
2. God calls man to *walk* with him.
3. Man is punished if he rejects God's call to *walk* with Him.

Let us add a little more detail to each of our points.

1. God has in time past walked with man.

Gen 3:8 *And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.*

See also; Deut 23:14

Imagine being in the time of Adam and Eve, when God walked in the garden of Eden. Well, the Holy Scriptures record others who have come very close to walking with God.

* Moses came close when he was on Mt Sinai and God stood with him (see Ex/34: 5 & 6 *And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there...And the Lord passed by before him*),

* God passed by Elijah (see 1Kgs.19: 11).

* Then you have the Lord Jesus Christ who walked this earth. For those who met Him, walked with Him and were taught by Him, they communed with God. Because Jesus Christ was God incarnate, he was God manifest in the flesh, he was the expressed image of the Godhead (Col.2: 9). Jesus taught his disciples that for those that had seen him, had seen the Father (see Jn 14:9 *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father?*). However, if you read a corrupt New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures you will claim that Jesus was only a man, and NOT God manifest in the flesh (see NWT Jn1: 1 *In the beginning was the word and the word was a god...*)

Does God walk with us today?

It would be reasonable to say that no one has had a Moses or Elijah encounter with God and it would be even more likely that no one during the Church age has walked with the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

However, given that the Godhead consists of 3 persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is with us, then God in some profound way does *walk* with us.

Have you ever done something knowingly wrong, as a believer, and either during the event or after, wondered what God would think if he was sitting opposite you, watching your every move? Its not a nice feeling.

But the reality is, God knows and sees our every move and His Holy Spirit resides in us and therefore in some way, God walks with each believer today.

There is poem that depicts this point. It is called *Foot Prints in the Sand*. I have taken the following from :<http://www.jennifersdreams.com/inspirations/footprints.html>

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,

other times there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life,

*when I was suffering from anguish,
sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints,
so I said to the Lord,
“You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life
there has only been one set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?”
The Lord replied,
“The years when you have seen only one set of footprints,
my child, is when I carried you.”*

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Isn't that beautiful. So in a certain way, God is walking with us today, let us remember that.

2. God calls man to walk with him.

Deut 10:12 *And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*
See also 1Kgs 2:3, 1Kgs 3:14 & 1Cor.7: 16.

Our second point is not so much to do with a physical walking but a spiritual walking. And this time, it is us that is to walk with God. We are to walk in all his ways. God calls all men everywhere to repent, and desires everyone to walk in His ways, to be saved.

But what does it mean to walk with God, or to walk in the ways of the Lord?

In the Old Testament to walk in the Lord was to keep his commandments

Judg 2:22 *That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein, as their fathers did keep [it], or not.*

See also; Judg 2:22, Lk.1: 6

Examples in the Bible of men obeying God's call to walk with him;

Enoch walked with God. Gen 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: See also Gen 5:24

Noah walked with God - Gen 6:9

Abraham walked with God - Gen 17:1, 24:40, 48:15

Isaac walked with God - Gen 48:15

The phrase *walked with God* only appears in the Old Testament. The closest verse in the Pauline epistles which suggests we are to walk with God is Col 2:6 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him:*

It is therefore reasonable to suggest that those who believed the gospel of Christ crucified in the Church age also walk with God. Once a lost man is saved, cleansed by the blood of the Jesus Christ, that man walks with

God. But in another sense, we who are saved are called to walk each day with God, we are called to make a conscious effort to walk with Him. But how does he practically do that today, what does it mean today?

Walking - is a physical activity, which in the Holy Scriptures is used metaphorically. Remembering that walking is not running or crawling, or standing still it is moving slow in one direction. Spiritually, the believer who walks, does something...they don't stay still or stay out of the battle. they are moving.

With - suggests that the walk is not by ourselves. And although we cannot see our companion, nevertheless He is with us (see Heb.13: 5 *I will never leave thee nor forsake thee*).

God - confirms to the Muslim that we do not walk with Allah, for the God of the Holy Scriptures is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A saved man walks with God, when he chooses each day to walk uprightly and moving forward in the things of God.

Would you raise your voice, or get angry without a cause toward your spouse, or your brother, or sister or enemy, next time, if you knew in your heart of hearts that you walked with God and that he was right next to you?

Christians who have not believed in vain, walk with God by the virtue that they are saved, and God is their Father. But let us not weary in our walking, let us be purposeful in it. Let us make each stride of our walking count for God. Remembering that God cannot stand the sight of sin, and that all unrighteousness is sin, let us flee iniquity, that when we desire to walk with God he is not on the other side of the road (so to speak), but is next to us, holding our hand. Or as in our poem is carrying us, when our burden feels too heavy. Let us with purpose walk with God, as Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Isaac did in the Old Testament age.

3. If man rejects God's call to Walk with Him, he is punished.

Lev 26:21 *And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.*

See also Lev 26:23-41, Deut 8:19

In the Old Testament when the nation of Israel or individuals chose to walk contrary to the law God punished them. This is evident when Moses went up to Mt Sinai and came down with the tablets of stone and found the people making a golden calf to call their god and worshipped it as god (Ex.32: 1-35, Deut.9: 16 & Act 7: 40-45). In Ex.32:35 the Scriptures record that the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf. They were punished for rejecting God's call to walk with Him, in His ways. This became a pattern throughout the Old Testament, where the majority of Israel would reject God's call to walk with Him, but a remnant was saved. This was especially apparent when she came to the land that was promised, a land flowing with milk and honey. What did she do, but marry her neighbours and desired to do the things they did, which was against the commandment, not to walk in the way of the surrounding nations (Lev 20:23 *And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them*).

During the church age today, it is no different. The majority of people say no to walking with God, and so in His eyes they are wicked. And God's response to the wicked is no different between the Old Testament times and today, hence preachers often use Ps.9: 17 *The wicked shall be turned into hell*. See also; Jn.3: 18 & 36.

And of course today the heathen don't just say no, to walking with God, they don't believe what He says in the Scriptures and so call him a liar, and our school system teaches our young folk that God did not create the heaven and earth. And the prevailing belief on the street appears to be one of not believing there is a God. But those who believe such and teach others to believe the same, WILL be punished, with everlasting destruction, with everlasting torment in hell. Well that is what the Holy Scriptures teach (see Mat.25: 46, 2Thes.1: 8-9 & 2Pet.2: 4). And we either believe the book or we reject it and if we reject what God says, then we obviously reject his call to walk with Him.

For those of us who have children can you remember when they first started school, and for those who do not have children, perhaps think back to when you started school. Perhaps your Mum or Dad dropped you off to school and then called you to walk with them across the road, knowing the dangers of crossing a busy road.

What if you had rejected the call of your parents to walk with them across the busy road?

More than likely a car would have hit you and death or serious injury was the result. Could you imagine your life, if you had received a serious back injury?

Every day in a wheel chair, with a straw out of your mouth, because you rejected the call of your parents to walk with them. Remember: There are always *consequences* to disobedience, whether it is our parents or God. So it is, when man rejects God calls man to walk with Him, to receive Him, and believe Him.

I remember listening to tape of an American preacher who preached on hell, and he said, that IF such a place existed then we should ALL be getting out there warning family, friends, neighbours and the general population...IF hell really exists. And according tot he Holy Scriptures it does exist and it is the place God has chosen to punish those who reject His call to walk with Him. Let each one of us use every opportunity that God gives us to warn the heathen of their impending punishment, let us encourage the heathen to accept God's call to walk with Him.

Have said what we have said, let us say it again.

1. God has in time past *walked* with man.
2. God calls man to *walk* with him.
3. Man is punished if he rejects God's call to *walk* with Him. Amen, Amen and Amen!