

2 March 2011

Walk Uprightly before God

This is the second in the series of studies 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 our first study we covered 3 points which include:

1. God has in time past walked with man.
2. God calls man to walk with him.
3. If man rejects God's call to walk with him, he is punished.

In our second study we will cover an additional 3 points:

1. We are to walk by faith not by sight.
2. We are to walk uprightly before God;
3. We are to walk uprightly in truth.

Let us add a little detail to our 3 points:

1. We are to walk by faith not by sight.

2Cor 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

See also Rom.4: 12

Faith in God is common to the children of God in both the Old and New Testaments. For without faith it is impossible to please Him (see Heb.11: 6). Faith is needed for salvation and in our daily walk with the Lord once we have been converted.

What is faith according to the Holy Scriptures? There is a verse that provides a clear biblical definition. Turn to Heb.11: 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hence why, it is impossible to please God (who we cannot see) without faith. Verse 3 of Hebrews chapter 11 gives us an example of faith, where it teaches that Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...Then the remainder of Hebrews 11 gives us examples of men who had faith in God, they include, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and the Patriarchs.

In our previous teaching on this word, we looked at examples of those who had walked with God and they again include Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Isaac. So each of these men walk by faith and not by sight. None of these men knew what was going to happen, they trusted in God, that His will would be done. If the Scriptures has referred to a physical walking then they would be walking blind, not knowing what was in front of their eyes, seeing nothing.

Paul refers to the faith of Abraham as an example (see Rom.4: 12) to us today.

Have you ever had a conversation with an atheist who does not believe that God exists? They will often concentrate on evidence that proves God does not exist, and don't consider the evidence that he does exist. But even if the evidence was 60%, 80% or even 95% in favour of God existing, they still would not believe. Why?

Because you must have faith. That is how our heavenly Father has designed it all. The scientists will never prove that God exists if their search for evidence is founded on the belief that He does not exist, hence the warnings in 1Timothy 6: 20 of oppositions of science falsely so called.

You can beseech them and try and reason with, and persuade the heathen by evidence that God does exist, but the bottom-line is always...faith. And it is no different when we get saved. We are to walk by faith, trusting in God and not in our own plans. We are to

walk trusting that God knows the beginning from the end and will guide us from one day to the next. Hence we are to walk by faith and not sight.

I am often challenged by those families who are involved in a ministry whether it be preaching, teaching or missionary work, and they live by faith. They believe that God will provide for their needs without a full time paying job. Those that do so are an example of walking by faith, trusting daily in our Saviour. That isn't for all of us, and Paul gave us the example of working to put food on the table and being involved in a ministry, as he was a tent maker (see Acts 18: 1-3). So we all have different callings and different levels of faith. But we are all called to walk every day of our Christian life by faith, trusting in God.

2. We are to walk uprightly before God;

1Kgs 3: 6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee...

See also; Prov 2:7; 14:2, 19:1, 20:7, 28:6, 28:18, Ps.15: 2 and 84:11.

What does it mean to walk uprightly before God?

Using Scripture to compare Scripture we find that uprightness is the absence of sin (see Ps.18: 23). So we are to walk, we are live our Christian lives without sin before God. This truth of the Old Testament is also evident in the Pauline epistles to the Church, in the age of grace (See Rom.6: 2, 15 & 16).

Prov.14: 2 suggests that we walk in the uprightness of the Lord. Perhaps the measure of our uprightness is the pure uprightness of God. Anyway, something to think about.

We know that just because we are saved doesn't prohibit us from committing sin, but rather according to Romans chapter, we no longer yield ourselves to sin, but rather we serve obedience unto righteousness (verse 13 & 16). So we are to yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God. In doing so we will walk uprightly before God.

Do you walk uprightly before God, once a year, or once a week at Church? Or do you strive, do you desire to walk uprightly every day? Remember, you will still sin, because of our flesh, and the attacks of the devil, but because we live in the time of grace, do we simply give up and accept our sin? God forbid!

We pick ourselves up and strive to walk uprightly before God, not yielding to the devil.

Perhaps that is where Prov,14: 2 is such a help, because we don't try and walk in our own uprightness but we asked God to help us through His Holy Spirit to walk in His uprightness of God.

The preacher Keith Daniel when he was in New Zealand, asked those in the audience to pray that he would be true in the pulpit and out of the pulpit. In other words, that we would ask God to help him walk uprightly in all situations, whether he, specifically be doing a work of the Lord or doing any other activity. I have remembered the request as a fellow brother showed his desire to walk uprightly in the midst of the battlefield.

Let each one of us ask the Lord to help us walk uprightly in His sight.

3. We are to walk uprightly in truth.

Gal 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before [them] all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? See also 2Jn.1: 4 and 1Kgs 2:4

Given that uprightness is living without sin, it would follow that we would do so in truth. Our verse from Galatians specifies that the truth spoken of is the truth of the gospel, and the gospel will be as preached to the Gentile church by the apostle Paul in his 13 epistles. And that gospel, is the gospel of Christ crucified (see 1Cor.1: 23 & 15: 1-4). In this chapter in Galatians Paul is critical of the Jews who are saved by grace, but they compel the gentiles to live as do the Jews and in doing so they put a yoke of bondage on them that is not of the gospel (see Gal.2: 4).

Do you walk uprightly in truth?

Remember when Jesus was questioning the rich man and he asked him, if he obeyed the law, and the man said, yes, since my youth, then Jesus said, go sell all thy possessions and give them to the poor. And the man could not (see Lk.18: 19-23 and Mk.10: 18-22). He had been walking uprightly, but not according to the truth.

Remember, also that Jesus said, thy word is truth. (see Jn17: 17). So, we must have God's word, the Holy Scriptures before we have truth. And Then we must rightly divide the word of truth (see 2Tim.3: 16). And Then walk uprightly in that truth. And the Holy Scriptures are not preserved for us today in 200 different versions, they are preserved for us in the English text of the 1611 Authorized Bible. So to walk uprightly in truth you will need to be using the 1611 Authorized Bible as your reference point on all matters of faith.

The previous teaching on this topic we made a similar point that there are those in the church who do not believe the truth to be preserved in the Authorized Bible, you only need attend one of the various Churches or Bible colleges to attest to this fact. I remember my first day back in my third year of BCNZ and the lecturer of 1Corinthians attacked the King James Version. He handed around the class a list of verses that the King James Only people circulate, suggesting that the 200 different versions delete them. The first 50 pages of his text book for the class was on rubbishing the King James version. I had just learnt the truth of Holy Scripture during the break (through God's grace) and to have that truth challenged in such a dramatic way the moment I walk in the classroom, just blew me away. If I had not learnt what I had, I would have been sucked in by the devices of the devil, as all the other students in the class were after attending the class.

But the devil does not want God's children to walk uprightly, and if he can't stop that, he will deceive the majority but stopping them from walking uprightly, in truth.

Next time you have a discussion with a person who calls them self a Christian but does not have the Authorized Bible as their authority, remember that devil has deceived them. Walk them gently through the corrupt texts, prayerfully showing them the errors and letting the Holy Spirit lift the blinkers from off their eyes, that they would walk uprightly in truth. And let each one of us strive to do the same, and walk uprightly in truth.

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

1. We are to walk by faith not by sight.
2. We are to walk uprightly before God;
3. We are to walk uprightly in truth. Amen!