

# Learning to Walk with God



*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”  
Romans 8:28*

In the churches you always hear the terms “Walking with God” or “Walking in the Spirit” but what do they mean. Many times we have a perception that God is a big policeman in the sky who’s primary goal is to swoop down and punish you when you do something wrong. This is not the case at all. Jesus has a great deal of love for us and a great deal of patience. Read 2nd Peter 3:9

### Read the following passages and answer the questions.

Read **John 14:21** Whoever has my commands and \_\_\_\_\_ them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be \_\_\_\_\_ by my Father and I too will \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ myself to Him.

Jesus is telling us that if we love him we show that love by obeying His teachings. This is not following the letter of the law but the “spirit” of the law. If we have an obedience problem we have a love problem as well. Obedience is the outward expression of your love of God. The reward for obedience and love is that He will reveal Himself to you.

**Read 1 John 4:15-16** and fill in the blanks. Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, God abides in him and he in God. And we have come to know and believed the \_\_\_\_\_ which God has for us. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and the one who \_\_\_\_\_ in love abides in God, and \_\_\_\_\_ abides in Him.

To live a love-filled life is to be God-filled. Your relationship with God right now reveals what you *REALLY believe* about Him. It is spiritually impossible for you to believe one way and to live your life another. You can’t continue to walk with God and stay where you are now. God will continue to grow you spiritually and bless you through that growth.

**Take just a few moments and write in your own words what these passages are telling you about your own personal walk with God?** Based on these passages what do you think God wants you to do right now?

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In the churches The Bible is a book that gives us a record of how God has worked and still works through individuals today. God has always been interested in us and involved with us if we will let Him. God’s way of working through people is to let them know that He has a mission for them to carry out. That mission could be as simple as being kind to the person that sits down next to you at the bus stop, to as large as Moses’ mission to deliver the nation of Israel from the hands of Egypt. However God is always the one that takes the initiative first.

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## Notes:

- When God was ready to deliver the nation of Israel He came to Moses first.
- When God was ready to announce the coming of Messiah He made His intentions known through Zacharias and Elizabeth that they would have a son “John the Baptist” who would be a forerunner for “Christ”.
- When God wanted to create a nation for Himself He came to Abraham.
- God came to the Apostle Paul to tell Him to stop persecuting His church and to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

God has told us in **Amos 3:7** that **He does nothing without revealing Himself to his servants the prophets first.**

Tell me in your own words what do you think God has been wanting you to do in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you listened to Him and obeyed, or have you ignored His request?

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If you have ignored Him, briefly explain why?

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How do you hear the voice of God? God has revealed Himself different ways through the course of history. He has set the pattern of revealing Himself through supernatural revelation. Going to church, intelligence, political power and social influence are all insufficient to come to know the voice of God.

**Read John 15:14-16** You are My friends, if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ***You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed YOU that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever that you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.***

Jesus told us that if we are His “sheep” then he will go before us and prepare our way and we will follow Him because we hear His voice. However strangers simply will not follow, but will flee from Him. John 10:4-5

It was normal for Jesus to hear from his Father before he did or said things. His whole life was guided by this principle. **(John 5:19)** This is God’s pattern, He initiates, He reveals, we listen, we respond.



## Notes:

### HOW Does God Reveal Himself?

#### Through the Holy Spirit that is within you.

The Holy Spirit may:

- Speak directly to you and tell you what to do. (**Acts 8:29; 10:19-20**)
- Speak through your church (**Acts 13:2**)
- Tell you where to go (**Acts 20:22**)

This speaking is through your inner being. God gives you a sense of peace or direction about what He wants you to do. (It is important to remember that God will never ask you to do something that violates His written Word in the Bible.)

#### Angels may give you revelation:

They may assist you in times of trouble (**Acts 5:19-20; 12:7-11**)

Give you specific directions (**Acts 8:26**) (**Acts 10:4-6**)

#### Give you comfort (**Acts 27:24**)

Angels of God always give glory to Jesus Christ. Angels of Satan will try and deceive you for they come as an “angel of Light”. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

#### God speaks to us through His Bible.

God tells us that ALL of Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

God uses His Word to teach us through the use of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is our helper (John 14:16) The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, and will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak and disclose to you what is to come. (John 16:13) The Holy Spirit's job is to convict you that God's Word is truth. (John 16:8)

WE should not contradict, add or take away words from the Bible. “*Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.*” (Proverbs 30:5-6)

#### God speaks to us through circumstances and experience.

There are many circumstances that can occur through life that will cause us to wonder what God is doing in our lives. It is extremely important for us to have the “Viewpoint of God” through those circumstances or we will miss totally God's intentions.

Consider Joseph. Now Joseph was born into a very rich family as the son of Jacob. (**Had Money**) However when Joseph turned 17 he was thrown into a pit and betrayed by his brothers. Subsequently Joseph was taken as a slave into Egypt. (**Lost Money**) As a slave Joseph worked his way up to be a

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steward or “Money Manager” for the household of Potiphar who was in charge of Pharaoh’s body guards for protection. Consequently Joseph was then treated very well. **(Had Money)** Potiphar’s wife desired to have sex with Joseph and tried to entice him to do so while Potiphar was away on a business trip. Joseph refused because he wanted to obey God. When Potiphar returned his wife accused Joseph of raping her and Joseph was thrown into prison and forced to perform hard labor. **(Lost Money)** Pharaoh was then given a terrible dream that frightened him so much he asked for his



### Notes:

seekers to interpret the dream. Because the dream was given to Pharaoh by God, Joseph was the only one that could interpret the dream. Joseph did and was then made Prime Minister of Egypt. **(Had Money)**. If Joseph had viewed his circumstances strictly from the perspective of money or what God thought of him he would have been pretty confused wouldn't he. God's viewpoint was that He had chosen Joseph to be the deliver of Israel, God knew that Joseph was a faithful man and a righteous man and sought to please God. If Joseph had measured his entire circumstances by money He would have completely missed out on fulfilling God's purpose in his life.

When you face circumstances that are challenging, please don't start blaming God. Don't give up on Him because “ He will never leave you or forsake you” Hebrews 13:5 God always has a higher purpose for your life and His ways are not like your ways. (Isaiah 55:8, Proverbs 3:5-6)

**Fill in the following blanks from Proverbs 3:5-6.** Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on \_\_\_\_\_ own \_\_\_\_\_ . In all of your ways \_\_\_\_\_ Him and He will make your \_\_\_\_\_ .

Remember what ever circumstances you are going through, you aren't the first person to ever get discouraged. Consider Moses, *Moses was so discouraged he was ready to quit.* (Exodus 6:12) Don't give up, pray that God will reveal what steps he wants you to take next. **Read Proverbs 16:9.**

### **God speaks through visions and dreams or impressions.**

During the Bible times it was very common for God to speak to people through visions and dreams. In the Old Testament visions and dreams were mainly for prophets. *“When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams”.* (Num 12:6) In the new testament visions and dreams continued through those in the church (Acts 2:17-18) While some dreams and visions can be nothing more than you having heartburn from eating bad pizza the night before, God does speak through these means. However God, will not contradict His written Word. It is always wise to confirm your dream or vision with someone else as it relates to Scripture, or even ask God to have someone else confirm the dream to you through them.

*To better understand how this works for you, consider the following four points in helping you discern if God is speaking to you.*

#### **1. When God speaks, it is unique to that person.**

*God does not use formulas, methods, or surefire techniques that we would then all know it is God speaking. God uses our relationship with Him to speak to us because He wants it to be personal to us.*

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## 2. **When God speaks, you are sure it is God speaking.**

*This is because only God could cause you to know it is him. As you grow in your relationship with God, His voice may even begin to sound like your own. Meaning you know your own voice, and now how much more you will know it is His voice speaking to you.*



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## 3. **When God speaks to you, you will know what He said.**

*Make no mistake about it. You will know what God is saying and what God is expecting of you. Sometimes we don't want to understand or act like we didn't really hear God speaking to us. That is our problem. God is truth and when He says we will know it is Him, then it is Him, and we are to trust and obey.*

## 4. **When God speaks, it is an awesome experience.**

*Today we get so much noise directed in our face that all we want is peace and quiet. We have learned to turn out and what is sad about this is we may be missing the chance to hear His voice. Take time for God and listen. Give Him praise, show respect and honor. Then when He speaks you will experience an awesome personal experience. God does things in a big way, far beyond what we could plan or do, and God does them in powerful ways. Let God speak to you and use you in awesome ways.*

### **God speaks through prayer.**

Many Christians don't realize the power of prayer nor it's relationship with God. Prayer is a two-way communication with God. Most of us view prayer as simply talking to God, but we miss out on the most important part, Listening to God. In fact what God says to you is far more important than what you say to God. Whether or not you know it, God knows your prayers before you even ask. He even knows your true heart and motive.

If you meet anyone that has a close walk with God, whether it is a missionary, pastor, friend, or spouse you will come to realize that they have a very consistent and powerful prayer life. Prayer is like being a wall lamp, you have to plug it into the "Power" in order to shine brightly. God is no different. We have to plug into His power in order for people to see Jesus through us.

Unfortunately for most of us our prayer lives sound like a bunch of spiritual mumbo- jumbo. We only pray when we want something. God wants us to pray about everything. Our financial decisions, who we date, who we marry, whether or not to take a job, everything, because God wants to give us His best. He doesn't want us to settle for second best. How many times have you ever had your children ask you to do something or buy them something that you knew wasn't in their best interest? God is the same way, He may allow you to settle for second best because you didn't consult Him, but His real heart is to give you His best if you will consult Him first.

**Ephesians 6:28 tells us that we are to pray at all times in the Spirit. But how do you really pray? Jesus teaches us how in Matthew 6:5 -15. Let's work through this together.**

Read 6:5 Jesus tells us how not to pray. What were these people doing

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wrong when they prayed? \_\_\_\_\_

Instead in 6:6 Where does God want you to pray? \_\_\_\_\_



## Notes:

Gods' point here is to get somewhere where there aren't any distractions. He wants your full attention when you talk with Him. How annoying is it to you when you try and talk to someone and they are only giving you part of their attention?

In verse 6:7 What does God say about meaningless repetition?

God wants you to talk to Him just like a best friend. Your prayers don't have to be fancy or full of spiritual talk. Just talk to Jesus just as you would if He was sitting right next to you. Actually He is closer in that He is inside of you. Be very specific in your prayers Don't pray in generalities.

**In Matthew 6:8** What does God tell you about His knowledge about your prayers?

If God knows your prayers ahead of time why is it necessary to pray? God wants you to show Him that you are dependent on Him and He wants you to see that He indeed cares about you and will answer your prayers. However your motives must be pure and praying in His will, not your own.

**In verse ( 9)** we are to Give Praise to God, and thank Him for His holiness. So many times in prayer all we do is ask God for something and we never thank Him for just loving us so much. How would you feel if your children always demanded from you to give them something but they never showed their appreciation by thanking you. After a while that would get old wouldn't it?

**In verse (10)** we are to pray for things to be here on earth the same way it is in heaven. Do we really mean that? So many of us as Christians prefer it here the way it is, instead of really wanting from the bottom of their heart, Gods law to be established here on earth. **Read Galatians 5:19-20-21** Compare this to the Kingdom of Heaven. How does this compare with your thoughts about what God requires of us here on earth?

**In verse ( 11)** We are to pray for daily provision. How much do you trust God for your daily provisions Would you say that you trust your own abilities to earn money, more than Gods ability to provide. **On a scale of 1-10 circle the answer that describes how much you honestly are trusting God for all of your provision.**

Self 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 God

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## Notes:

**In verse (12)** we are to ask God to forgive us for our sins. But it has a condition. You are to forgive others that you are angry with or that you believe have done you injustice. See verses (14-15) as well. Write down the names of some people that you have not forgiven.

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Pray right now. Do not go any further until you do this. Ask God to help you forgive the hurt and disappointment and anger that you have with others. For if you expect God to forgive you, you must forgive as God does.

**Last of all in verse (13)** Pray for God to protect you against the attacks and schemes of the Devil. They are real and will get more intense as you become effective for the Kingdom. However read **1 John 4:4** and **Ephesians 6:10-18**. What kind of confidence does this give you about God's ability to deliver you against temptation \_\_\_\_\_

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## Learning to Walk with God with your finances.

As we have learned in this study, God is very interested in our daily lives. He is also very interested in our financial lives. In Luke 16 we have already discussed that God is going to hold us accountable for how we handle the little things before He will ever show us the bigger things in life.

## Lets look at a few Scriptures together:

What does **Luke 12:15** warn us of? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Luke 12:22-31**.

What does God say about being anxious and not walking with Him? (vs 22-26) \_\_\_\_\_

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When was the last time you were anxious about your finances?

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How did you resolve the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you think God wants you to resolve the problem?

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Do you think God really wants you to do without? Read verses **12:29-31**?

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**Notes:**

In order for God to come to your aid what must you FIRST do? (Vs 31)

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What does God instruct you to do in verse (32) \_\_\_\_\_

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