

How to Walk With God

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“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” **Micah 6:8**

Introduction:

The Bible is filled with great men and women who walked with God:

- Adam walked with God.
- Enoch walked with God.
- Noah walked with God.
- Abraham walked with God.
- Hannah walked with God.
- Jacob walked with God.
- Moses walked with God.
- Deborah walked with God.
- Elijah walked with God.
- Elisha walked with God.
- Isaiah walked with God.
- Jeremiah walked with God.
- John walked with God.
- Mary walked with God.
- Paul walked with God.
- Lydia walked with God.
- Apollos walked with God.
- Peter walked with God.

Of course, we all know that we are supposed to walk with God. We know that we are commanded to read the Bible and pray every day. Consider the Scripture:

Micah 6:8 “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Sadly, though, **many Christians do not have a daily, fruitful, enjoyable, and consistent walk with God.** Why? There are two reasons:

- 1) They don't want to. That is, it isn't a priority for them
- 2) They don't know how to. That is, they have tried and failed.

If you do not have a close walk with the Lord, I hope that you fit into the second category. **Christian, you must walk with God.** That is the purpose for which God created you. You **can** walk with God. But, you ask, how? Well, the goal of this booklet is to teach you some very simple and practical Bible truths about how to walk with God. Let me give you nine steps that you can take to help you have a fruitful walk with the Lord:

1) See yourself as you really are.

You cannot walk with God while you think yourself to be more than you are. Pride will hinder your prayers from being heard and will close your eyes to the truths of the Bible. In fact, most people do not know God and do not walk with Him because they are proud, self-centred, and self-dependent.

How do see yourself as you really are? Consider the example of King David as he came to God

after his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah:

Psalm 51:3-6 “For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

You must be honest and open with God. Admit your sinfulness, and confess openly and thoroughly to God. Be real – don’t be a fake or a hypocrite.

Abraham was called a friend of God; he walked with God as few men in history have done. Consider his attitude toward himself:

Genesis 18:27 “And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes.”

Job was the godliest man in the world in his day. When Job saw himself as God saw him, notice his response:

Job 42:5, 6 “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

If you would walk with God you must humble yourself and see your flesh as God sees it: corrupt and sinful. Remember: **God does not walk with proud people.**

2) See God as He really is.

Before you pray or read your Bible, take a moment to remind yourself of the greatness and majesty of the Person with Whom you are about to fellowship.

Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

There is a balance of **intimacy** and **reverence** that we must achieve in our walk with God.

For example, consider my relationship with my dad. I do not treat him as a private would treat a general, with fear and curtness. I treat him as a best friend. But, I still show respect for him, because he is my father. My relationship with my dad is characterised by intimacy and reverence.

It is good to remind yourself of the greatness of God before you come into His presence. Think of His great power, holiness, glory and strength.

3) Convince yourself of the need to walk with God.

You will never have a consistent walk with God until you have learned what a great privilege and priority it is to do so. **Walking with God is not very important to most Christians.** How do I know that? Because most Christians spend more time getting showered and ready for the day than they spend with God.

You must deliberately convince yourself that you need to walk with God, or else you will never have a rewarding walk with Him. How can you convince yourself of that need?

a) Obey Scripture:

Micah 6:8 “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

1 Timothy 2:1 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of

- thanks, be made for all men;”
- b) See your great need of God.
 - c) Yield to your desire as a child of God.
 - d) Be around others who walk with God.
 - e) Read biographies of those who walked with God.

Let me elaborate on the last point. In order to keep my heart warm and to challenge myself to have a closer walk with God, I like to read biographies of great Christians. Some biographies that I have read include those of Andrew Bonar, David Brainerd, Charles Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, R. A. Torrey, John Wesley, J. Frank Norris, Jack Hyles, and Lester Roloff. **I know of few things that will stir your heart more than reading about men who knew God.**

4) Purpose in your heart to walk with God every day.

You must make a solemn decision to walk with God every day. It may be necessary to make a public decision at church, or tell a close friend of your decision. To purpose in your heart means more than simply walking an aisle at church or making a flippant decision; it means to make a solemn vow to God, and to consciously put God at the top of your priority list. Consider the example of Daniel, whose decision not to eat from the king's table put his very life in jeopardy:

Daniel 1:8 “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

5) Set a daily time for your walk with God.

Once again, notice the godly example of Daniel, whose regular, scheduled, daily walk with God was not interrupted even by the threat of death:

Daniel 6:10 “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”

The reason that many Christians do not have a consistent walk with God is simple: Walking with God is not a habit for them. God is simply not a part of the schedule of most Christians!

If you would walk with God, you must make your time with God a part of your daily schedule, just like eating, sleeping, driving to work, going to school, etc. Make it a part of your daily routine. It is wise to set a minimum time for prayer and Bible study.

For example, my time at Bible college in America was one of the busiest periods of my life. It was a constant struggle to have a consistent walk with God. So, I put God in my schedule, and purposed to spend 30 minutes in prayer and 30 minutes in the Bible every day. Of course, I sometimes failed at this, but I was able to maintain my walk with God in spite of my busy schedule. How? I set a daily time for my walk with God.

6) Choose a place where you can walk with God.

We previously mentioned that Abraham walked with God. Notice something about Abraham's relationship with the Lord:

Genesis 19:27 “And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:”

Abraham had a certain place where he met the Lord every day. Perhaps we would be wise to learn from such a great man, and choose a place for ourselves where we will spend time with God.

You would be smart to find somewhere convenient where you can read the Bible and pray without interruptions and distractions. This will reinforce the habit of walking with God.

For example, most every morning I get up, shower, make a cup of tea, and then sit down at our dining table where I read my Bible. This routine helps me to have a consistent walk with the Lord.

Choose a quiet place where you will meet God every day. It will become a holy, special place, and it will help you to walk with God.

7) Do not let God get squeezed out of your schedule.

It has been well said, **“If you are too busy to walk with God, then you are too busy!”**

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Exodus 20:3 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

How sad that when our day gets overcrowded with responsibilities, God is often the One who gets pushed aside for more “important” things. Shame on us! We must refuse to let God be squeezed out of our schedule.

There is a pastor in California named Paul Chapel. He pastors a very large church, and has a very full schedule. How does he stop God from being squeezed out of his schedule? He makes appointments with God in his daily schedule. **He refuses to be too busy for God.**

Why don't many Christians walk with God? Because walking with God is not a priority for them. You must choose to make it a priority, or you will not have a consistent and rewarding walk with God.

8) Plan your Bible reading and prayer time.

Even ants have the sense to plan and prepare for the important things of life:

Proverbs 30:25 “The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;”

The ants are wise enough to plan ahead for the cold winter months when they will have no food. Yet, most Christians are not wise enough to plan their lives. Dr. Wendell Evans, president of Hyles-Anderson College, says:

“When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

You would be wise to plan what you will do in your Bible reading, and in your prayer time.

Write out a strategy, and stick to it. Plan your work, and work your plan.

As a personal example, almost every morning I read from the Old Testament, Psalms, Proverbs, and the New Testament. I plan to read through the Bible at least once a year. My prayer time starts with thanksgiving, praise, confession, and ends with supplication. I often use a detailed prayer list. Why do I plan out my walk with God? Because it is important!

9) Be patient and persistent.

It is never easy to walk with God, so don't be surprised when you fail. **But, when you fail, don't quit: try again!**

Proverbs 24:16 “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again; but the wicked shall fall into mischief.”

If the disciples struggled to walk with God, shall not we?

Matthew 26:36-43 “Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.”

It is hard to walk with God, because walking with God is spiritual, and nothing spiritual is easy – “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Sometimes you may feel like you are getting nothing out of your Bible reading. You may be confused, and even bored at times. Sometimes you will wonder if God even hears your prayers. You often will not feel like praying, or you may fall asleep in prayer. Should you quit because it is hard? No!

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

1 Corinthians 15:57, 58 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Conclusion:

The simple truth is that you will never be a joyful, useful and fruitful Christian if you do not learn to have a consistent walk with God. Your personal life, your marriage, your children and your career will never reach their full potential if you don't walk with God. You can walk with God, and you must walk with God. **Will you walk with God?**

Let's review the nine steps again:

- 1) See yourself as you really are.
- 2) See God as He really is.
- 3) Convince yourself of the need to walk with God.
- 4) Purpose in your heart to walk with God every day.
- 5) Set a daily time for your walk with God.
- 6) Choose a place where you can walk with God.
- 7) Do not let God get squeezed out of your schedule.
- 8) Plan your Bible reading and prayer time.
- 9) Be patient and persistent.