

=PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING=

Lesson 8

The Christian and His Walk with God

AIM: to teach my pupil to walk with God.

POINT OF CONTACT: Discuss with the class members the longest walk they have ever taken. Find out where they walk or how much they walk. Discuss the subject of walking for a while. For example, one could discuss hikes or marches in the Army.

INTRODUCTION: The word “walk” customarily means “a transition from one place to another,” but it is also used in the Bible to signify “conduct, behavior, or manner of living.” In this sense, it is mentioned again and again in the Bible. For example, in Deuteronomy 8:19, the Israelites were warned not to walk after other gods. It is said of Samuel’s sons that they “walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.” We find in II Kings 21:21, 22 that King Amon “walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them.” In Psalm 1:1, a blessing is pronounced upon the man that “walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.” Job 31:7 says that a man’s heart may walk after his eyes, and the Psalmist said in Psalm 73:9 that the tongue of the wicked “walketh through the earth.” Isaiah speaks of “The people that walked in darkness,” in Isaiah 9:2. Let us notice some things about this subject of walking with God.

I. WHAT WALKING WITH GOD MEANS.

1. Walking involves starting. One must begin his walk. This is started at the new birth. One cannot walk with God unless he has started the walk. He starts the walk when he is converted. (Explain to the class what it means to be saved and how to be saved.)
2. Walking is a daily, menial task. Of course, the Christian needs mountaintops, but the main thing is to walk with God. An old college professor used to say, “It is not how high you jump, but how straight you walk when you hit the ground.” In other words, the spirituality of a person should be determined by his lowest point, not by his highest point. It is our daily life that counts.
3. Walking is effort. It is one of the most difficult things that a child learns. It calls for unceasing effort. It is not a natural thing for a person to walk with God. He must do it on purpose. It requires effort.
4. Walking means you are going somewhere; it implies progress. A believer should not remain stagnant. He should continually move forward spiritually. If he does not, he will slip backward.
5. Walking implies a movement steadily towards a goal. A Christian is on his way to Heaven as he walks with God.

II. THE KIND OF WALK WE OUGHT TO HAVE.

1. We should not walk “according to the course of this world.” Ephesians 2:2.
2. We should walk worthy of a Christian. Ephesians 4:1. In other words, we should act like Christians and walk like Christians.
3. Our walk should be different than the walk of unbelievers. Ephesians 4:17. There should be a difference between God’s people and Satan’s people.

III. HOW WE SHOULD WALK.

1. We should walk in purity, as “children of light.” Ephesians 5:8.
2. We should walk in sincerity. II Corinthians 4:2.
3. We should walk in obedience. III John 3, 4, “For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” (Discuss the telling of truth and the doing of things that are truthful.)
5. We are to walk in faith. II Corinthians 5:7, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” As we walk, we are to have faith that God knows what is best. He leads our walk. We are to follow Him, believing that He knows the best walk for us.

6. We are to walk honestly. Romans 13:13. We are to walk in Christian integrity. We are to be reliable and honest in all of our relationships and deliberations.
7. We are to walk circumspectly. Ephesians 5:15, 16, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” This means we are to watch our step constantly because others are watching our steps. We are to realize that we have influence, and how we walk determines how others will walk.
8. We are to walk wisely. Colossians 4:5, 6.
9. We are to walk lovingly. Ephesians 5:2a, “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.”

IV. TWO SECRETS TO THE CHRISTIAN WALK.

1. Walking with God pleases God. Genesis 5:22a, “And Enoch walked with God.” He walked with God for three hundred years. It is said that he walked with God after Methuselah was born. No doubt the birth of Methuselah made him realize his need to walk with God. The fact that we are parents should make us walk with God. The thing we are driving at with this point, however, is that Enoch pleased God because he walked with God. It is always pleasing to God when we walk with Him.
2. The secret of all the walk with God is to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16. Yielding to the Spirit is the answer. This is the complete dependence, not upon our own will, but upon the indwelling Holy Spirit, Who inclines the heart towards the good and walks beside us all the way and will eventually lead us Home!