



Walking Closely with God

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Ephesians 5:15-21)

What does "walking" imply? It implies direction and progress. It's pursuing a course of action or way of life which is focused on God, and which is progressive because the Christian life is not static. We cannot stop short at conversion or salvation. We cannot remain complacent after our salvation because we saved to tell others about the good news and to serve Him all the days of our life. Paul said, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

How to walk closely with God?

It is walking in touch with Him through:

1. Reading His Word (Psalms 1; 119:13-16; Joshua 1:8; Jeremiah 15:16)

Let us encourage one another to:

- Study God's commandments
- Reflect on His ways
- Delight in His principles

Meditate on His Word

In so doing, it will help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Not only to grow in grace and in knowledge but also in holiness, wisdom, faith and love.

2. Praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

As Christians we need to be in an attitude of constant prayer and never cease to pray. We need to be conscious of God's presence with us wherever we may be and whatever we may be doing.

Prayer may be defined as "a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit for such things God has promised or according to His Word for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God" (John Bunyan). Paul exhorted us to pray "always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Ephesian 6:18).

3. Serving

The Psalmist said, "...he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me" (Psalm 101:6b).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGM & Election of Sunday School Exco 2008

Date : 18 Nov 07

Lunch will be provided for all staff and family after 2nd worship service at 12:20 pm. All teaching staff are requested to confirm attendance for lunch and AGM with their respective DS.

DS are to give the number of attendees to Sis Jennifer Goh by TODAY.

Short SS Exco Meeting TODAY 12:20 pm at FEK Room.

The SS Exco designated \$ 10 000 to Beulah House project in Sept

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One of the hallmarks of Christianity is service as exemplified by our Lord when He washed His disciples' feet. It was service in humility. Jesus said, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered (served) unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Walking closely with God involves:

a) **Walking by faith** for "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrew 11:5-6). Enoch walked faithfully with God for three hundred years.

The word "walk: means how you live or conduct yourself. Enoch was a good example of one who walked by faith.

- He walked by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)
 - He walked in agreement with God (Amos 3:3)
 - He walked interacting (in touch and in step) with God (Genesis 5:22)
 - He walked telling forth the second coming of Christ and His judgment (Jude 14-15)
- He walked in humility (Micah 6:8)

b) **Walking in love** (Ephesians 5:2; 2 John 5-6)
To walk in love is to give our services for others. It is "essentially the unselfish giving of oneself for the benefit of others. It is not "What can I get out of that person?" but "What can I do for that person?" Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Christ demonstrated this love on the Cross. He "commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). What amazing love!

c) **Walking circumspectly** (Ephesians 5:15-17)
Walking circumspectly is to walk cautiously, carefully, looking around. As believers we ought to watch carefully how we conduct ourselves in the world. The people of the world are more interested to see our walk than our talk. We are "living epistles" to be read by them (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). So let us walk our talk.

d) **Walking in truth** (3 John 3-4)
It is said that it is "good to have the truth in us but it is better to manifest the truth in our lives. Men would rather see a sermon than hear one." "Walking in the truth" (2 John 4) is walking in response and in obedience to His Word.

e) **Walking in the light** (1 John 1:7)
Since we have been brought out of spiritual darkness into His marvellous light of salvation, we ought to walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). John said, "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another" (1 John 1:7). Here we have mutual

fellowship, that is, we have fellowship with Him, and He with us.

f) **Walking in the Spirit** (Galatians 5:16, 25)
Paul said, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1). As Christians, we need to walk a Spirit-controlled life. Such a life results in:

- Communicating with one another with psalms (*psalmois*: OT psalms sung with stringed instruments such as harps)
 - Communicating with one another with hymns (*hymnois*: praises composed by both Christian laity and theologians)
 - Communicating with one another with spiritual songs (a general term)
 - Communicating with the Lord, making melody (*psallontes*: singing with a stringed instrument) in the heart
 - Communicating with a thankful heart to God the Father
- Communicating in the spirit of submission to one another and together submitting to the Lord.

g) **Walking pleasing God** (1 Thessalonians 4:1)
This is walking in holiness, "walking in the fear of the Lord," walking in a God-loving and God-fearing way (Acts 9:31); walking worthy of one's vocation (Ephesians 4:1). Enoch walked pleasing God (Hebrews 11:5b).

h) **Walking obeying His commandments** (2 John 6)
Here we are commanded to love our fellow believers. "... he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8b). Christian love is in terms of obedience to God. As Christians we ought to exhibit the spirit of love to one another and to others. Paul said, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbours: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).

Conclusion

How long have you walked with God? How is your walk with Him since you were saved? Are you walking worthy of the Lord? (Ephesians 4:10; Colossians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12).

May God help us that we may walk by faith in Christ, in agreement with Him; interacting with Him all the days of our life; telling forth the second coming of Christ and warning people of the judgment to come, and walking in humility. Let us "Walk Closely with God." Let us strive to have a closer walk with Jesus that every day with Him will be closer and sweeter than the day before. May all glory and honour redound to His holy Name! Amen.

Elder Khoo Peng Kiat

Walk close to God by reading His Word, praying and serving