



Walking with God 1 HOW CLOSE?



THE REALITY: We're all on a JOURNEY.

THE TRUTH: It's not always EASY; sometimes we get LOST, stumble + fall, find ourselves going round and round in frustrating circles.

THE POINT: We're not meant to travel ALONE ... + it should be a great adventure.

WALKING implies MOTION, DIRECTION, PROGRESS.

WITH implies RELATIONSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, CLOSENESS.

GOD implies WORSHIP, SUBMISSION, PURPOSE (His).

Perhaps the clearest indicator of the HEALTH of your relationship with God is the CLOSENESS of your walk.

Starting point is often asking right Qs

- *Do you walk with Lord or are you going it alone?*
- *Do you sense Him close right now or does He seem distant?*
- *Are you walking with God ... or is it God walking with you? Is there difference?*
- *Do you know where you're going? Direction? Destination?*
- *Expectation? What picture does 'walking with God' paint for you?*
- *What are the benefits walking with God brings?*

Ultimately, walking with God is the key to your

- a) PEACE & JOY b) SECURITY & IDENTITY
- c) GROWTH & DIRECTION d) PRODUCTIVITY & FRUITFULNESS

→ *How does the closeness of your walk feed into all that?*

What do we know about JESUS' WALK?

1. Jesus had an active, consistent PRAYER LIFE (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16).
 2. Jesus had an intimate KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE (Luke 2:47, 4:15-16,21, 22:37, 24:44).
 3. Jesus was always looking to JUMP ON BOARD with what the FATHER WAS DOING (John 5:19-20). ... Almost as though Jesus was scanning the scene, watching out to see where God was already at work. How did He know/see? There was a closeness..
 4. Jesus had a DEPENDENCY RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38).
- *How are you getting along with each of those? Any room for growth? Anything else Jesus modelled that we should imitate?*

NEW TESTAMENT EXPECTATION & GOD'S INTENT FOR US

- * Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5, 2 Corinthians 6:16
 - * EXPECTATION = Children of God live LED, INSPIRED, EMPOWERED, COMFORTED by God the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17, Romans 8:14)
- *Those are wonderful promises. Do you really live in reality of them? Gift of the Paraclete takes our walk to a different level (difference between black & white + full technicolour). How? What has been your experience? What could that be like?*

- * JAMES 4:8 → *When you DRAW CLOSE to God, God will DRAW CLOSE to you.*
- * What you don't FEED eventually DIES ... or at least becomes MALNOURISHED + UNHEALTHY.
- * God INVITES us to walk with Him, but doesn't IMPOSE Himself on us. He even allows us to WALK AWAY.
- * He chooses to DRAW rather than DEMAND, to WOO not IMPEL, to CONVICT rather than CONDEMN.

3 THINGS WE NEED TO CULTIVATE THAT DESIRE

1. NOURISHMENT (Romans 10:17, Matthew 4:4)
 - * "Slay your dragons before breakfast ... Kick-start your day" (Michael Hyatt)
 - * "Three-headed dragon called lethargy" → Pneuma, spiritual = BIBLE ... Soma, physical = EXERCISE ... Nous, intellectual = READING (audiobooks)

→ *Do you battle the same dragon? Which head gives you most grief? How do you overcome each? What additional strategies could you try? Any books to recommend?*
2. INVITATION (James 4:8, Luke 11:9-13)
 - * Depth of relationship / closeness of walk depends to a large degree on your level of INVITATION / INCLUSION.

→ *Do you invite God into day? Is He prominent in decisions / steering conversation / feeding thinking?*

→ *Do you include Him? Dialoguing, processing, asking His opinion, following where inward witness leads? What does that look like for you? How could you do it more?*
3. FOLLOWING (Ephesians 5:1-2)
 - * Are we walking with God or just GOING FOR A WALK? ... = "He that thinketh he leadeth + hath no one following him is only taking walk."
 - * DANGER = We expect God to FOLLOW BEHIND US picking up pieces, answering crisis prayers, managing damage control.

→ *Do you ever find yourself guilty of that? Who's leading + who's following in your relationship with the Lord? How could you shift that perhaps?*

CLOSING THOUGHT: What if God was really close? What if your walk was really tight? What if you could you have in every situation: a) Mind of Christ, b) Strong awareness of His love + encouragement, c) Strength / stability that comes because you're in Christ, d) Convicting guiding nudge of Holy Spirit

Imagine if you had Jesus filling thoughts, deeds, decisions, priorities ... conscience, conversations ... in music / reading / watching ... at start + end of every day, in fact of everything → That would be quite the walk!

→ *So, what does walking with God look like in your dreams now?*

RESPONSE

1. FIRST DECISION = Give your life to Jesus ... to walk with Him
 2. DAILY DECISION = Give God priority in your life: invitation, devotion ... rededication
 3. DEEPER DECISION = Press into new levels of inclusion, intimacy, closeness
- *Which one are you? Where are you right now?*