

Does My Walk Please God?

1 Thessalonians 1, 4:1-2

Micah 6:1-8

Hebrews 11:1-6



Did we do our homework?

Or did we just hear! (James 1:22; Heb 13:17)

Lie - There is no eternal absolute standard for right and wrong (Part 1).

2026 Goals

- Growing in an intimate relationship with God. (John 17:1-3)
- Losing our lives to serve God and serve others. (Luke 9:23)
- Walking (living) a life that is fully pleasing in God's sight. (1 Thess 4:1)
- Doing what God requires. (Deuteronomy 10:12-14)
- Being good stewards of God's gift of time. (Ephesians 5:16)

Definition of Walking (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

- Paul **urges** and **exhorts** the young Thessalonian Christians to abound more and more in their walk.
- "WALK" means to live; to be occupied with; to be moving ahead.
- "to walk" is περιπατέω (peripateo) and it means **"to make one's way, to progress, to live, to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self, to behave, to live day-by-day."**
- "to walk" signifies:
 - ❶ A voluntary act.
 - A direction with a pursuit. God's command to **PURSUE**: Holiness (Hebrews 12:14); things that edify another (Romans 14:19); love (1 Cor 14:1); what is good for you and for all (1 Thess 5:15); righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Timothy 6:11); peace (Hebrews 12:14)
 - ❷ A steady advance toward a GOAL - see Ephesians 4:13; Philip 3:13-14; **2 Corinthians 4:16**; Romans 12:1-2.
 - ❸ A progress - being transformed daily. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29)
- (Ephesians 4:1) We are to walk **worthy** of our **call**. "call" refers to God's call of regeneration. At regeneration God "re-creates" us into NEW creatures and we become the "children of God" by the will of God. (John 1:12-13; James 1:18; 2 Cor 5:7; John 3:1-8; Romans 8:28-30; 9:11; Galatians 1:15; 2 Thess 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:9; 5:10; Hebrews 3:1)

- “worthy” is ἀξιόλογος *axios* {ax-ee'-oce} and comes from the root which means “balancing the scales”. Since we are the children of God, heirs of God, coheirs with Christ – such a high position – then our lives must match “balance” with who we are!
- As the children of God we now have an obligation to walk as Christ walked by living righteous lives. (1 John 2:6; 3:1-10)
- Our “walk” in the world is to be visible to the world. (Matt 5:13-16)
- **Either** we walk “according to the course of this world and according to the prince of the power of air” (Ephesians 2:2-3) **or** we walk “worthy of the calling with which we were called” – the children of God. (Ephesians 4:1)
- “Walking” is something first LEARNED (i.e. infants, military) and then done without effort. (Psalm 86:11; 25:4; 27:11; 119:33)
- The Christian walk (life) is never stationary – we are either climbing to HIGHER GROUND or going BACKWARDS (backsliding).
 - See Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6
 - In contrast to Paul: Philippians 3:12-14
- We are expected/**obligated** to grow in maturity. (1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18; Eph. 4:15)

The Narrow/Difficult Path (Matthew 7:13-14)

- We must enter the NARROW gate of SALVATION.
- Those who truly enter the NARROW gate WALK the DIFFICULT path of SANCTIFICATION (Holiness [see Hebrews 12:14]).
- ONLY that GATE **and** that PATH (way) lead to **LIFE**.

An Example: Enoch Walked with God (Gen 5:22-23; Heb 11:5; Jude 14)

- ★ **300 years** with God in a sinful world - we need to learn from him.
- ★ Before Enoch walked with God:
 - He walked “according to the world” (Ephesians 2:2).
 - He walked in his “own way” (Isaiah 53:6; Ephesians 2:3).
 - He walked according to “the dictates of his evil heart” (Jeremiah 3:17; 9:14; 13:10).
- ★ Enoch walking with God implies:
 - ① Enoch, a sinner/enemy of God, was reconciled to God. (2 Cor 5:20)
 - Reconciliation presupposes sovereign grace. As an enemy of God I have no desire to be reconciled! God reconciles us to Himself by bestowing His powerful grace on us that transforms us into obedient children (1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 John 3:6-10).
 - Only when two agree can they walk together (Amos 3:3).
 - ② Enoch surrendered his life to God. “Enoch” means “dedicated.”
 - He had to submit and be conformed to God!! (MEDITATE)
 - ③ Enoch was controlled by the Word of God. Enoch lived on every word that came from the mouth of God (Luke 4:4).

- ④ Enoch lived **for** God. (1 Peter 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:15)
- ⑤ Enoch persevered in his walk - for 300 years! (Matthew 24:13)
- ⑥ Enoch walked with courage and confidence (Psalm 23:2-4; 3:6; 27:1-4; 118:6; Isaiah 41:10; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)
- ⑦ Enoch's walk was opposed by the world. It was not an easy walk (2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 7:13-14; 1 John 2:15-16; Mark 13:13; John 15:19; 17:21; 1 John 3:13)
- ⑧ Enoch spoke boldly in his ungodly generation (Jude 14).
- ⑨ Enoch's life pleased God! (Hebrews 11:5)

Christ's Example

- (John 8:29) He always did what was pleasing to the Father (Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Isaiah 42:1; 42:21; Romans 15:3)
- (1 John 2:6) How did Christ walk?
 - ① Living in complete dependence on the Father (John 5:30)
 - ② Doing the Father's will. (John 5:30; 4:34; 6:38; Psalm 40:7-8; Heb 10:7-9)
 - ③ Obeying God's commandments - the Law (Isaiah 42:21; Matthew 5:17).
 - ④ Prayer - fervent prayer (Hebrews 5:7).
- (Matthew 11:29-30) We are called to walk *with* Christ - *yoked* to Christ - learning from Christ!

Paul's Example and Teachings

- Paul lived his life to please God and not man (Galatians 1:10).
- The righteous (meditate) walk by faith (working faith) and not by sight. (Romans 1:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Habakkuk 24; Hebrews 10:38; Galatians 3:11)
- (Romans 6:4) If we have died with Christ then we rise with Him and walk in **newness** of life.
- (Romans 8:1-4) There is no condemnation for those walking not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (Word).
- (Galatians 5:16, 18, 25) Walk in the Spirit - filled with the Spirit - controlled by the Spirit and, so doing, we will not fulfill the lust of **OUR** flesh.
- (Ephesians 2:10) Walk in the works foreordained for us to walk in.
- (Ephesians 4:1) Walk worthy of the calling of God.
- (Ephesians 5:8) Walk as children of light - walking in the light as Christ walked in the light (1 John 1:6-7)
- (Colossians 1:10) Walking worthy of the Lord; **fully** pleasing Him.
- (1 Thessalonians 2:12) Walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Thessalonians' Example

- (1:1-10) Description of the Church of Thessalonika from the outside.
 - (v. 3) Paul remembered their **work** of faith, their **labor** in love, and their

endurance in hope.

- (v. 4) Their election was visible to others!
- (v. 6) They were **followers** of the Lord - even in **much** affliction.
- (v. 6) They followed in the joy of the Holy Spirit.
- (v. 7) They were examples for others to follow.
- (v. 8) The Word of God went OUT from them to others.
- (v. 8) Their faith in God had gone out and others saw it!
- (v. 9) Their faith TURNED them to God from idols to **serve** the living and true God.
- (v. 10) They eagerly waited for Christ to return! (Heb 9:28)
- (4:1-2) **Call for MORE - not less!** (MEDITATE)
 - The goal: Pleasing God more and more.

Walking in the Light

- (Psalm 119:105) God has given us His light to walk by (Psalm 43:3; Proverbs 6:23) Walking in the Spirit is walking in accordance with God Word (Galatians 5:16, 25) What does walking in the light look like? - Psalm 1:1-2.
- (1 John 1:6-7) We are to walk in the light as Christ walked in the light.
- (Ephesians 5:8) We are LIGHT and are obligated to walk as children of light.

How Does One's Walk Please God?

- WALK in His Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**; Galatians 5:16, 25; **Psalm 119:133**)
- OBEDIENCE (1 John 3:22; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
- FEAR HIM (Psalm 147:11; 103: 11, 13, 17; Malachi 3:16-17)
- ACKNOWLEDGE Him in ALL your ways (Proverbs 3:5-7)
- MINISTERING to OTHERS (Hebrews 13:16)
- DEALING TRUTHFULLY (Proverbs 12:22)
- BLAMELESS (Proverbs 11:20)

What Happens to Those Who Walk to Please God

- ✓ NECESSITY of PRAYER and KNOWING GOD'S WILL - Colossians 1:9-11
- ① A **deeper** knowledge of God - leading to a **deeper** relationship with God. "It is one thing to *talk* about God, to *reason* and *speculate* about God, to *hear* and *read* of God, but it is quite another thing to *know* Him." One grows in maturity and strength when walking with God.
- ② A **deeper** understanding of God Himself, God's grace, His mercy, and His love.
 - Walking with the holy, holy, holy God one's hatred for sin grows more and more - hatred for HIS sins! (Psalm 119:104, 128; 1 Timothy 1:15)
 - With each step one decreases and God increases (John 3:30; Eph 3:8).
- ③ A **deeper** peace and joy - Psa 16:11; 36:7-9; Isaiah 26:3-4; 48:17-18; Rom 8:31
- ④ A greater witness for God (Jude 14-15)
- ⑤ Answer to prayer - 1 John 3:22