

A WALK WITH GOD

Leviticus 26:11-12

Introduction: God started with one man, Abraham and built a nation that was to be dedicated to Him. God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt, led them across the Red Sea, then gave to them 10 basic commandments. He then made a covenant with them that if they would do thus and so, He would walk with them. It took their being in agreement with God to be able to "walk" with Him. That was then, so how do we walk with God today? Every Christian wants to walk with God, not just an imaginary walk, but a genuine, real, conscious walk with God. How does that happen? Does God even want to walk with us as He did His people, Israel? Yes! God wants so much to be with each of His children, to share in their daily activities but a lot of the time He can't for His people have to be in agreement with Him in order for there to be a walk together. What do Christians need to do in order to walk with God?

I. THE FIRST THING IS TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOURSELF

1. People are dishonest with themselves because they are afraid of what others might find out.
 - What they are really like, how selfish they really are.
 - Things they say they like, they really don't, etc.
2. People deceive themselves about their selfishness and egos because they are afraid that if the "real" them was found out then it would alienate them from friends.
3. People don't want to accept the Biblical truth that everyone is truly interested in only themselves.
4. With this truth applied, our churches have many who look pure, sound pure, but are inwardly sick of themselves, of their weaknesses, are frustrated and lack a real interest in the Church.
5. To walk with God, the first step is HONESTY.
 - Admit that we are all self-centered sinners and have deceived ourselves and the "truth" is not in any of us.
 - Admit that all our energies and efforts inside and outside the church are tainted with self-desires for recognition, power, and social acceptance.
6. To walk with God, we must realize that God is not interested in our money or any of the things we are so interested in. God wants our WILL.
7. We have bound ourselves by the great desire to prove that we are somebody, something and need to be recognized.
8. When we give God our will, He will begin to show us life as we've never seen it before and we will begin to walk with Him.

II. WE MUST BE HONEST WITH GOD

1. When we are convicted and are drawn to Jesus, we surrender all that we know to Him.
 - However there is much more to be surrendered that we are not even aware of that lies beneath and it is called the "old sin nature."
2. We commit all which we know about at that time, but there must be a daily, continual recommitment of self as the Holy Spirit reveals those hidden things to our consciousness.
 - Many become discouraged and even give up when they begin to realize just how awful they really are- lust, resentment, jealousy, selfishness, things never before aware of.
3. We must make specific ways to bring our sinful rebelliousness to Jesus by changing our manner of prayer life.
 - No more sporadic, mechanical monologues about the great things, such as wars, cancer, success, etc. but begin to bring in the little things, such as temper, jealousy, etc.
 - With God there is nothing too small to not talk about and the more we talk to God about the everyday things, the closer we come to God.
4. We must make a regular time of prayer and study of God's Word each day.
 - You know your friends and they know you because you spend time together, you must do the same with God to get to know Him.
 - You must talk to God about the real inside you. He already knows about it, so freely talk to Him about it.
 - Be specific with God. Not, "forgive me all my sins, amen..." You committed them one by one, therefore confess them to God one by one.
5. Be honest with God. Admit what you did or did not do without making excuses.
 - I lied instead of I "exaggerated"
 - I heard and enjoyed that dirty story/joke, instead of "Lord you know how we are..."
 - Get someone to pray with and be as honest with that person as you are with God.
 - It becomes comforting to realize that there are others just like you who are far from being all you should and could be with the Lord.

III. GOOD THINGS ALSO KEEP US FROM WALKING WITH GOD

1. We think that it is the "bad" things that we do that cause us to not be as close to God as we should be but there are "good" things as well that separates us from God.
 - I don't steal, kill, commit adultery or do this or that but why am I so miserable and frustrated?
 - Because we haven't realized that we have never really given Jesus the supreme thing He wants from us - our total love.
2. Isn't it scary to think that we love something more than we do God? What do we do about it?
 - First of all admit it, tell God what it is that is more important to you than He is.

- Ask the Lord to show you how to live exclusively for Him one day at a time.
3. What if you honestly don't want God to be ahead of what is already your most important thing?
 - You need to go to the Lord and tell Him exactly that. There is something/someone more important in your life than He is.
 - You need to tell the Lord then that you don't know how to want Him to be first in your life and if you do want Him to be first in your life, give Him "permission" to take over your life completely.
 4. Now you leave things to the Lord. You have not promised to change or to gather the strength or this or that. You have confessed your need and weaknesses and turned your life over to the Lord.
 - The Lord will bring about the needed change. He will give you the power, the desire to change and give you all you need to do it.

CONCLUSION:

1. To walk with God, you must be aware that He is there with you.
 - Talk to Him every day, talk about little things, personal things.
 - Talk to Him about what He might have in mind for you that day.
2. Throughout the day, stop what you are doing and talk to God some more, continue your talk from the last time you talked.
3. Always be honest with yourself, be honest with God and give Him the freedom to make changes in your life throughout every day as you walk together.
4. Walking with God is exciting, it is humbling, it is an honor.