



Walking Worthy of Our Calling

A Biblical Guide to Christian Discipleship

Using the Title as the Focal Point



Written by Doug Hearne 2021

Chapter 1 Introduction to the Series	6
1. Walking	6



2.	Our Calling.....	6
2.1.	The Called of Jesus Christ.....	6
3.	Who Calls Us?	7
4.	What is the Purpose of Our Calling?.....	7
4.1.	Our calling refers to our salvation	7
4.2.	Our calling unites us.....	7
4.3.	Our calling motivates us	7
4.4.	Our calling is for our good.....	7
4.5.	Our calling is a heavenly calling	8
4.6.	Our calling enables us to see the truth about Christ	8
4.7.	Our calling is into fellowship with Christ	8
5.	Walking Worthy of Our Calling	8
6.	Devotional Exercise.....	10
Chapter 2 - Living Fruitful Lives.....		11
1.	Introduction	11
2.	Being Fruitful in Every Good Work	11
3.	Jesus calls Christians to Live Fruitful Lives	11
4.	The Fruit of the Spirit.....	12
4.1.	Love.....	13
4.2.	Joy	13
4.3.	Peace.....	13
4.4.	Longsuffering	13
4.5.	Kindness	13
4.6.	Goodness	14
4.7.	Faithfulness	14
4.8.	Gentleness	14
4.9.	Self-Control	14
7.	Devotional Exercise.....	14
Chapter 3 - Patient Continuance in Doing Good		15
1.	Introduction	15
2.	Salvation is by Grace through Faith, and not by Works	15
3.	The Imperative of Good Works in the Life of a Christian	15
4.	God Rewards Christians according to their Works.....	16



5.	Persistence and Endurance in Doing Good	17
6.	Devotional Exercise.....	17
Chapter 4 - Increasing in the Knowledge of God		18
1.	Introduction	18
2.	The Importance of the Bible	18
3.	How to Study the Bible	19
3.1.	Reading the Bible	19
3.2.	Understanding Biblical History	19
3.3.	Understanding Biblical Geography	19
3.4.	Understanding Bible-Era Cultures.....	19
3.6.	Focal Points	20
3.7.	In-depth Study	20
3.8.	The Moving of the Spirit	20
3.9.	Prayerful Application of the Word.....	20
4.	Devotional Exercise.....	21
Chapter 5 - Walking by Faith Part 1		22
1.	Introduction	22
2.	What is Faith?	22
3.	The Faith of Abraham	23
4.	“Giving Glory to God”	24
4.1.	God is Creator	24
4.2.	God is Eternal.....	24
4.3.	God is Faithful	25
4.4.	God is Good.....	25
4.5.	God is Holy	25
4.6.	God is Immutable.....	25
4.7.	God is Just	26
4.8.	God is Majestic.....	26
4.9.	God is Merciful and Gracious.....	26
4.10.	God is Omnipotent.....	26
4.11.	God is Omnipresent	26
4.12.	God is Omniscient	27
4.13.	God is Perfect.....	27



4.14. God is Righteous	27
4.15. God is Spirit	27
4.16. God is Truth.....	27
5. Devotional Exercise.....	28
Chapter 6 Walking by Faith Part 2	29
1. Introduction	29
2. Faith in the Old Testament	29
2.1. Believe.....	29
2.2. Trust	29
2.3. Hope.....	29
3. The Strength of our Faith.....	30
4. Strengthening our Faith	30
4.1. Focus on God	30
4.2. Knowledge of God.....	30
5. Apply our Faith.....	31
6. The Full Assurance of Faith	32
7. Devotional Exercise.....	32
Chapter 7 - Walking the Ephesians 5 Way.....	33
1. Walk in Love.....	33
2. Walk as Children of Light	34
3. Walk circumspectly.....	35
4. Devotional Exercise.....	35
Chapter 8 - Forgiveness	36
1. Introduction	36
2. The Forgiveness of God	36
3. Our Forgiveness of Others	36
4. The Apparent Contradiction	38
5. The Torment of Unforgiveness	39
6. Application	39
7. Devotional Exercise.....	40
Chapter 9 - Waiting on the Lord	41
1. Introduction	41
2. Step I Establish the Historical and Scriptural Perspectives.....	41



3. Step 2 Determine what the Clause actually Say	42
Step 3 Explore other Passages with Similar Wording	42
4. Step 4 Explore other Occurrences of the Key Words	43
5. Summary of what it Means to Wait on the Lord	44
6. Devotional Exercise.....	45
Chapter 10 - The Christian's Response to Tribulation	46
1. Introduction	46
2. Christians will have trials, testing and tribulation in this world	46
3. Some Trials and Testing are Sent by God for our Good	46
4. How Should Christians Respond to Tribulation?	48
5. Devotional Exercise.....	50
Chapter 11 - Walking from Genesis to Revelation	52
1. Introduction	52
2. Walking with God and Before God	52
3. Walking Amidst the Psalms	53
3.1. How we should Walk, and how we should not Walk	53
3.2. God Will Teach Us the Way we should Walk	53
3.3. How Should We Walk so as to Please God?	53
3.4. God Lights the Way we should Walk	54
3.5. We should Walk with no Fear of Death	54
4. Paul Instructed Christians how to Walk.....	54
5. John Concludes this Series.....	54
6. Devotional Exercise.....	55



Chapter 1 Introduction to the Series

Why the title, Walking Worthy of our Calling? By way of introduction, here is a short explanation of the title of this series.

1. Walking

Walking refers here to our daily conduct; to living consistently in a specific manner. Walk is used in this sense many times in the OT, as the following examples demonstrate:

Ps 119:1-3 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed is those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.

From Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple, recorded in 2 Chron 6: 12-42

- vs 14 ... Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.
- vs 27 ... that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk ...
- vs 31 ... that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways ...

2. Our Calling

2.1. The Called of Jesus Christ

Paul describes Christians everywhere as the "called" of Jesus Christ, for example:

Rom 1:6 among whom you also are the "called" of Jesus Christ;

Note the preposition "of" – "the "called" of Jesus Christ". It is the normal genitive, meaning "belonging to". So, the "called" of Jesus Christ means those called to belong to Jesus Christ, or those called to be the people of Jesus Christ. We are Christ's people – which, of course, is what "Christian" means – Christ's ones.

The words call, called and calling are encountered throughout the NT, as shown in the verses quoted later in this chapter, as well as in following verses: -

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God, which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord ...

1 Cor 1:26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

Eph 1:17-18 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints ...



2 Tim 1:9 God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble.

3. Who Calls Us?

We are “the called”; but who calls us? We find that it is practically the universal usage in the New Testament that the calling of Christians is attributed to God the Father. For example, in Jn 6:44, Jesus says, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him ...”. And in Jn 17:6 Jesus says, “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They are Yours; you gave them to Me ...”. It is God the Father who calls us. He calls us through Christ; He calls us to Christ.

So as Christians we belong to Jesus Christ; we have been called to Him by God the Father; we have been placed in Him; we are in His kingdom; we are in Him as members of His body; we are joined to Him; we abide in Him. There is a mystical relationship between Christians and Jesus Christ – “the “called” of Jesus Christ”.

4. What is the Purpose of Our Calling?

The Bible tells us that our calling accomplishes many things, such as:

4.1. Our calling refers to our salvation

2 Thes 2:14 He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4.2. Our calling unites us

Eph 4:1-6 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

4.3. Our calling motivates us

Phil 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Thes 2:11,12 you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

4.4. Our calling is for our good

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.



4.5. Our calling is a heavenly calling

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling ...

1 Pet 5:10 may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus ...

4.6. Our calling enables us to see the truth about Christ

1 Cor 1:22-24 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

4.7. Our calling is into fellowship with Christ

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Being the “called” of Jesus Christ thus places us into an intimate relationship with Christ, which Paul describes as being in Christ.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This relationship with Jesus is also shown in His illustration of the Vine and the branches:

Jn15:4,5 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; without Me you can do nothing.”

So being the “called” of Jesus Christ is something very special indeed; it is a phrase full of meaning and significance. As Christians, we are blessed and privileged indeed to be “the ‘called’ of Jesus Christ”. Listen to the way Peter described it:

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people*, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

The King James translation has “a peculiar people”, which may have been perfectly understood by Englishmen four hundred years ago, but which today sounds just, well, peculiar. The NKJ translates this as “His own special people”, which brings out the special relationship. What a blessing to be the “called” of Jesus Christ!

5. Walking Worthy of Our Calling

Not only are Christians the “called” of Jesus Christ, but the Bible admonishes us to walk worthy of our calling, as we have already seen in Eph 4:1 and 1 Thess 2:12, and as is further illustrated by the following verses:



Col 1:9b,10 ... that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;



2 Thes 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 2:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

1 Jn 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

2 Jn 1:6 This is love that we walk according to His commandments.

So, there is no question that we as Christians are expected to walk worthy of our calling. But how are we to do this? The purpose of this series is to explore Biblical guidelines which will help us to walk worthy of our calling.

6. Devotional Exercise

- Read through Chapter 1 again, paying particular attention to all the Scripture references.
- Before starting Chapter 2, make sure you are convinced that God expects all Christians to walk worthy of our calling.
- Pray that God will help you to become more worthy of your calling, and that your walk may be more pleasing to God.



Chapter 2 - Living Fruitful Lives

1. Introduction

In Chapter 1 we saw that all Christians are described as the “called” of Jesus Christ, and that the Bible admonishes us to walk worthy of our calling. But what must we do to walk worthy of our calling? In the following chapters we will explore some of the teachings of the Bible regarding how to walk worthy of our calling.

2. Being Fruitful in Every Good Work

Paul, in his letter to the church in Colosse, had this to say on the matter of walking worthy of our calling:

Col 1:9b,10 that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

We walk worthy of our calling when our lives please God. And part of what we need to do to please God is to be fruitful in every good work. The NT abounds in admonitions to Christians to live fruitful lives, as the following verses demonstrate:

Rom 7:4 that we should bear fruit to God.

Eph 5:8-10 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Phil 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

3. Jesus calls Christians to Live Fruitful Lives

In several passages in the gospels, we have Jesus’ clear teaching that His followers are to lead fruitful lives.

Matt 7:16-20 “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.”

Jn 15:16 “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit ...”

In the opening passage of Jn 15, Jesus calls upon Christians everywhere to be bear much fruit.



Jn 15:1-8 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.”

God surely expects us to be fruitful. Even when our lives are fruitful, we can expect Him to “prune” us, so that we can be more fruitful. And it is only as we “abide” in Christ, drawing our very sustenance from Him, that we can very fruitful.

When Jesus explained the Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:1-9) to His disciples, He said that “he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matt 13:23) We see that hearing God’s Word, understanding it and applying it results in fruitfulness; some fruitful (thirtyfold), some more fruitful (sixtyfold) and some very fruitful (hundredfold).

4. The Fruit of the Spirit

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul exhorts Christians to walk worthy of their calling, and gave many examples of how they are to do this.

Eph 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Here we see that “walking worthy of our calling”, as one would expect, means exhibiting certain character traits or virtues which are characteristic of a Christian, namely, lowliness, gentleness, longsuffering, love, unity and peace. Paul has similar lists elsewhere in his writings (e.g., 2 Cor 6:6 and 8:7), and Peter lists similar virtues in 2 Pet 1:5-7. In Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he describes these characteristics as the fruit of the Spirit:

Gal 5:22,23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Notice that this is not a list of options from which we can pick and choose. It’s a package deal! “But the fruit of the Spirit is” this package of virtues. So, we need to prayerfully consider each of these Christian virtues and examine ourselves to see if each virtue is genuinely reflected in our lives. Where we are obviously falling short of truly exhibiting any of these virtues, we are not “walking



worthy of our calling” and need to pray for God’s help in making up our deficiencies. By way of assistance in our self-examination, here is a brief description of each of the virtues:

4.1.Love

The NT makes it abundantly clear that, just as God loved the world (Jn 3:16), so Christians are to love God (1 Jn 4:19), love their fellow-Christians (Rom 12:9,10), love their neighbours (Mk 12:31), and even love their enemies (Matt 5:44). The ability to love springs from God’s Spirit within a Christian (Gal 5:22). Jesus said that love proves the genuineness of the Christian’s faith.

Jn 13:34f “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

4.2.Joy

For the Christian, joy is not simply an emotion, but rather an abiding quality founded upon and derived from God. (See Jn 17:13 and Rom 14:17.)

Jn 15:11 “These things have I spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

4.3.Peace

Because the Christian has been reconciled to God and is at peace with God (Rom 5:1), so God enables the Christian to have peace of mind even in this world (Isa 26:3; Phil 4:7). Like Christian joy, peace is an abiding quality for the Christian, a gift from Jesus Christ.

Jn 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Jn 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

4.4.Longsuffering

This means to bear provocation patiently. It is an attribute of God (1 Pet 3:20), which the Christian should strive to emulate (2 Cor 6:6; 2 Tim 4:2; Col 1:11).

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

4.5.Kindness

The NT enjoins the Christian to show brotherly love and kindness (Rom 12:10; 1 Cor 13:4; Col 3:12; 2 Pet 1:5-7).

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.



4.6. Goodness

Jesus instructed us to do good, even to our enemies (Matt 5:44; Lk 6:27, 35; Rom 12:20)

1 Thess 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

4.7. Faithfulness

Virtually all of these virtues are attributes of God. God is faithful (1 Col 1:9). As Christ taught in the Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30), God also expects His servants to be faithful, and rewards their faithfulness. Paul frequently commended his co-workers for their faithfulness (1 Cor 4:17; Col 1:7; Col 4:9).

Rev 17:14 “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

4.8. Gentleness

This is not weakness; think of it rather as strength and power under control. God is gentle (Ps 18:35; Isa 40:11). Paul writes of “the meekness and gentleness of Christ” (2 Cor 10:1). Christians must be gentle in their dealings with others.

2 Tim 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient ...

4.9. Self-Control

Proverbs describes self-control as being slow to anger and ruling one’s spirit.

Prov 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

In this chapter, we have been exploring the concept that living fruitful lives is part of what it means to walk worthy of our calling and of our Lord. We have seen that certain Christian characteristics epitomize the fruitful life. But in a practical sense, what should we do to demonstrate that our lives are indeed fruitful? The opening verse we quoted, Col 1:10, gives us some help: “that you may walk worthy of the Lord, ... being fruitful in every good work.” In the next chapter, we will explore the topic of good works.

7. Devotional Exercise

- Perform a critical self-examination by studying each of the virtues listed on pages 2.3 and 2.4. Look up all the listed verses. With each, ask yourself, “Is this virtue reflected in my life as a Christian?”
- Pray for God’s help in making up for any deficiencies you perceive in your walk.
- Pray that all these virtues will be evident in your life, as you strive to walk worthy of your calling. Jesus said, “You will know them by their fruits.”



Chapter 3 - Patient Continuance in Doing Good

1. Introduction

We are exploring the broad concept that Christians, who are the “called” of Jesus Christ, should walk worthy of their calling. We are looking at the ways we should walk which please God, and in the previous chapter we looked at the concept of living fruitful lives as we strive to serve and please God. In this chapter we look at the concept of “good work”, which the key verse we have been examining relates to being fruitful:

Col 1:9b,10 that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Notice that fruitfulness and good works are always intertwined. We have looked at the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. These virtues should govern and control our interactions with others. And the natural outcome of exercising these virtues will always be good work. Good work is the outward expression of the inward possession of the fruit of the Spirit.

2. Salvation is by Grace through Faith, and not by Works

In this chapter, we are stressing the importance of good works in the life of a Christian. But let's first be clear that salvation is not by works. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. It is by God's grace alone, through the finished work of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for our sins.

Eph 2:8,9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

So, works play no role in our salvation. But once we are saved, once we are Christians, fruitfulness and good works are expected of us by God.

3. The Imperative of Good Works in the Life of a Christian

Throughout this series, our focus is on the teachings of the Bible. As Christians, we know that the Bible is God's Word. We want the Holy Spirit to speak to us through the Word. So, what does the Bible have to say about us doing good work?

Matt 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1 Tim 6:18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Tit 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; ...



Tit 2:13,14 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.

Jas 2:17 Thus, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

So, there can be no doubt that God expects good works in the lives of Christians. If you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself (Lk 10:27), and God has filled your heart, mind and soul with the fruit of the Spirit, then good work will inevitably flow from your life.

4. God Rewards Christians according to their Works

Matt 16:27 “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

Rev 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.

Matt 25:31-40 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

This passage sheds some light on the type of actions which may be classified as “good works”. It also indicates that our striving to do good should be focussed primarily on those whom Christ describes as “My brethren”. He was addressing the “sheep” – arguably, all the Christians. The rest of the passage (vs 41-46) goes on to show that the “goats” will be punished for their lack of good works. Note that Christ does not describe the “goats” as “My brethren”. Based on this passage, Christians should focus their efforts to do good primarily (but not exclusively) on the Church and the community of Christians.



5. Persistence and Endurance in Doing Good

A very helpful verse is Rom 2:7. The passage of Scripture in which this verse occurs is expounding God's righteous judgement on all who do evil, but glory, honour and peace to everyone who works what is good. (vs 10) The passage states that God will render to each according to his deeds ...

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour and immortality.

We want to stress here the importance of patient continuance in doing good. Patient continuance means persistence and endurance. As Jesus taught in the Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:1-9; 18-23), a good start is not enough; we need to persist and endure. We need patience, because we are in a world that is dead against us. We are subject to the onslaughts of the world, and the flesh, and the devil. We will be tried and tested by things that happen to us directly, or things that happen in our families, in our workplaces or in the world. The devil does his utmost to get us down. What pleases God is patient continuance in doing good.

The wording of the clause, patient continuance in doing good, indicates that the Christian should be on the constant lookout for opportunities for doing good. Even when our efforts to do good are rebuffed and rejected by the world, we need to exercise patient continuance in doing good. We are looking at a Christian mind-set. Our minds should be set on fostering and cherishing the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit, and on exercising these virtues in good works. To repeat an earlier statement, good work is the outward expression of the inward possession of the fruit of the Spirit.

6. Devotional Exercise

- Read through the notes carefully and look up all the Scripture references given.
- Make sure that you are convinced that God expects good works in the life of every Christian, and that means in your Christian Walk.
- Examine your life honestly. Is there a pattern of good works in your life? Do you honestly strive to do good works?
- Pray that God would make you fruitful in every good work, for His praise and glory.



Chapter 4 - Increasing in the Knowledge of God

1. Introduction

In the previous two chapters, we have been focusing on two aspects of walking worthy of our calling, namely, living fruitful lives and doing good work. In this chapter, we focus on the third aspect listed in our key verse, which is to increase in the knowledge of God.

Col 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

The primary way to increase in the knowledge of God is clearly to read and study the Bible. The Bible is the self-revelation of God; we learn more about God by studying the Word of God. In this chapter, we will look at the importance of the Bible, and at various ways of studying it.

2 Tim 3:16,17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. The Importance of the Bible

In looking at the importance of the Bible, we can do no better than to quote John MacArthur:

“The Bible contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

“Its’ doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practise it to be holy.

“It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Here heaven is open, and the gates of hell are disclosed.

“Christ is the grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

“Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the judgement, and is established forever.

“It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labour, and condemn all who trifle with its contents.”

1 Thess 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.



3. How to Study the Bible

Innumerable books have been written on how to study the Bible. The following pointers are just helpful, practical guidelines:

3.1. Reading the Bible

The Bible is not like a novel, which you can read through in a couple of days. Reading the Bible requires focussed, intelligent concentration. You may have to read a passage several times to understand its meaning. So, it takes time to read the Bible.

Is 28:9,10 “Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line. Here a little, there a little.”

The Bible is comprised of 66 books, 1189 chapters, 31,173 verses and 774,746 words. Plan to read through the entire Bible in a year. This requires reading 3 or 4 chapters per day, and most people have time to do this. There are numerous Bible reading schedules available, listing which chapters to read each day of the year. For very busy people, there are schedules which spread the reading of the Bible over two years. Whatever plan you adopt, stick to it. Make reading the Bible a consistent part of your daily routine. Once you have read through the entire Bible, start again from the beginning.

3.2. Understanding Biblical History

The Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years, from about 1405 B.C. to A.D. 95. Thus, to understand a passage of Scripture, it helps to know when it was written, and what the historical issues were at that time. So, Christians need to have a basic understanding of Biblical history. Faith Baptist Church regularly teaches a series entitled An Overview of the Bible using the Twenty C's, which is one good way of learning basic Bible history.

3.3. Understanding Biblical Geography

The Bible frequently refers to places, towns, rivers, valleys and mountains. So, it helps to know something about the geography of the Bible lands. A good Bible atlas is an invaluable reference tool that can help you comprehend the geography and topography of the Holy Lands.

3.4. Understanding Bible-Era Cultures

Over the 1500 years spanning the Bible, there were numerous cultural changes taking place. Since Scripture must first be viewed in the context of the culture in which it was written, it obviously helps our understanding to have some knowledge of the cultural values during the different Biblical epochs. For example, an understanding of first-century Jewish culture will enhance our understanding of the four Gospels. Likewise, Acts and the epistles must be read in light of the Greek and Roman cultures.



3.5. Bible Study Aids

We live in the Information Age, in which information about anything is only a Google away. But if you're an old-fashioned "book person", it is recommended that you build up a library of good Biblical reference materials, as these are invaluable in systematic Bible study. We recommend the following:

- A good Study Bible. We recommend the New King James version.
- A good Bible Dictionary.
- An Atlas of the Holy Lands.
- A good Concordance. If you're the scholastic type with cash to spare, then you'll love Young's Analytical Concordance.
- A good Bible Handbook, such as The MacArthur Bible Handbook.
- A good Bible Commentary, which is similar to a Handbook but more detailed.
- If you're studying a particular book of the Bible, and want more guidance on that particular book, then an Exposition on that book will be helpful.

With aids such as above, the key is to get to know them well, know how to use them, and to use them often. Otherwise, they're just a waste of money.

3.6. Focal Points

When reading the Bible, it is helpful to compile a list of topics about which you are particularly interested in learning more. For example, you could list topics such as the attributes of God; the Messianic prophecies; God's covenants with man; references to creation, sacrifices, and salvation; references to End Times and the Day of the Lord; etc. Then, during your regular Bible reading, keep these topics in mind, and keep your eyes open for any pertinent verses. I find it helpful to underline such verses in my Bible, and to make a note of the verses in my list of topics.

3.7. In-depth Study

The daily reading of the Bible is a great way of building up knowledge of the complex big picture of God's interaction with mankind. But we strongly recommend that you add to this an in-depth study of some portions of Scripture, such as the Gospel of John, or Romans, or Ephesians or Philipians. You will be amazed at the depth of God's Word!

3.8. The Moving of the Spirit

God speaks to us through His Word. It often happens that, while reading a very familiar passage, our eyes will suddenly be opened to a spiritual truth that we had never noted before. So, when reading the Bible, be alert and amenable to the moving of the Holy Spirit. Let God speak through His Word!

3.9. Prayerful Application of the Word

The purpose of Bible study is to learn to know God personally, and to provide opportunity for Him to speak to us individually through His Word. So, our study of His Word must be approached prayerfully, and with the intention of applying in our lives what we learn about God and His will for our lives.



Ps 1:1,2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law, he meditates day and night.

Josh 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

4. Devotional Exercise

- Ask yourself, “Am I increasing in the knowledge of God, as I strive to walk worthy of my calling? Is my study of God’s Word effective?”
- If you believe that you should devote more effort to your study of the Bible, make plans to do more, and stick to them.
- Pray that you would come to know God more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly.



Chapter 5 - Walking by Faith Part 1

1. Introduction

When we “walk worthy of our calling”, we conduct ourselves daily in a manner which pleases God. This is not something which we do on the rare occasion, but rather it is an ongoing striving, a conscious daily lifestyle, a deliberate mind-set, a long-term goal involving patience, persistence and determination. In this series, we are exploring ways to help us to walk worthy, so as to please God. And the Bible tells us that it is impossible to please God without faith.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

So, in this chapter, we will examine aspects of faith. The key verse is the following:

2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Thus, the Bible says that we are to “walk by faith”. So, the focus of this chapter and the next is the whole question of faith. What is faith? How do we exercise our faith? How do we grow our faith? How do we walk by faith?

2. What is Faith?

A dictionary defines faith as complete trust or confidence; as a firm belief in divine truth, without logical proof. For our purposes, the words belief and trust can be regarded as being synonymous with faith. The biblical description of faith is in harmony with the dictionary definition:

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Biblical hope should always be understood as overwhelming confidence. So, faith gives us overwhelming confidence or complete trust in what we believe, to the extent that we are so certain of things not seen that they are regarded as having substance, as being completely and perfectly evident. This is illustrated by Job’s faith, as shown in the following verses:

Job 19:25-27 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

In the Bible, the word faith occurs only rarely in the OT, for example:

Hab 2:4b but the just shall live by his faith. (Quoted in Rom 1:17 and Heb10:38)

However, the word faith is frequently used in the NT, occurring over 300 times. Typically, for one seeking salvation, faith is seen as the attribute whereby a person abandons all reliance on his own efforts to obtain salvation and fully on Christ alone for all that salvation means.



Phil 3:8b,9 ... that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

The following are some well-known verses in which the word faith, or its synonyms, occurs.

Jn 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Rom 3:21f but now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

Rom 5:1,2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 Jn 5:4 For whoever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.

Eph 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

1 Thes 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

Jas 1:5,6 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

1 Tim 6:11f but you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

3. The Faith of Abraham

The great faith chapter, Hebrews 11, focuses a lot of attention on the faith of Abraham. God had told Abraham that he would have a vast number of descendants, but Abraham was nearly one hundred years old, his wife Sarah was ninety, and they were childless. Yet by faith Abraham believed God.

Gen 15:6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Paul, in his great argument about righteousness by faith in Romans chapters 3 & 4, also cites the example of Abraham’s faith.

Rom 4:18-21 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” And not



being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

We see that Abraham "was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God." So, the very essence of faith is that which gives glory to God. As we give glory to God, we shall be made strong ourselves, and our faith will be strong. Abraham had good reasons not to believe God.

In terms of their physical abilities to bear a child, both Abraham and Sarah were as good as "dead". And God's promise was overwhelming in terms of the number of descendants promised. Yet Abraham, instead of stumbling in unbelief, looked to God and at God. That is the real secret of faith. In a remarkable passage of Scripture, God calls Abraham "My friend"! (Isa 41:8) One of the main explanations of the troubles and difficulties which most of us experience in our lives is that, instead of keeping our eyes steadfastly on God, we look at ourselves and our weaknesses and the staggering greatness of the life to which we have been called. We look at these things and we become weak and begin to stagger. Think of Peter, waking on the water to Jesus:

Matt 14:30f but when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Abraham did not stagger for the reason that he gave glory to God, he kept his eyes on God, and he looked to God. He was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

4. "Giving Glory to God"

As we have noted about the faith of Abraham, he did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God. (Rom 4:20) Giving glory to God is an important part of exercising faith, and always results from having faith. We glorify God by realizing who God is and what God is. Contemplate and meditate on the glorious attributes of God. Here is a brief list of these attributes (in alphabetical order), which may be helpful in strengthening our faith

4.1. God is Creator

God created everything; space, time, the heavens and the earth.

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Jn 1 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4.2. God is Eternal

God is timeless and eternal – from everlasting to everlasting.



Deut 32:39f “Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; ... For I raise My hand to heaven, and say, “As I live forever ...”

Rev 1:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

4.3. God is Faithful

God is eternally faithful; with Him there is “no variation or shadow of turning.”

Ps 36:5 Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Ps 89:1 I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

4.4. God is Good

“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” (1 Jn 1:5)

Ps 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Ps 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord

Ps 33:5b the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

4.5. God is Holy

Holiness epitomizes God, as the following verses demonstrate:

Ps 99:9 Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.

Isa 6:3 “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”

Rev 4:8 ... And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

Rev 15:4 “Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy.”

4.6. God is Immutable

God never changes. “I AM WHO I AM”. (Exodus 3:14)

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Mal 3:6 For I am the Lord, I do not change



Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift are from above, and comes down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

4.7. God is Just

God judges, but His judgements are always just, fair and appropriate.

Ps 33:5a He loves righteousness and justice

4.8. God is Majestic

The majesty and glory of God are a constant theme of Scripture. God is full of glory, ineffable glory, beyond our comprehension, beyond our imagination. He dwells in light that is unapproachable, "pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise."

Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

1 Chron 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head overall.

4.9. God is Merciful and Gracious

God's actions towards humans are always rich in mercy (not doing to us what we deserve) and grace (giving us what we don't deserve).

Ps 103:17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him

Ps 108:4 For Your mercy is great above the heavens, and Your truth reaches to the clouds.

Joel 2:13 So rend your hearts, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

4.10. God is Omnipotent

God is all-powerful; there is nothing He cannot do.

Ps 62:11 God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God.

Jb 42:2 I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."

Matt 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

4.11. God is Omnipresent

He is present everywhere; wherever you are, there He is.



Ps 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Prov 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Jer 23:23f “Am I a God near at hand,” says the Lord, “and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the Lord; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.

4.12. God is Omniscient

God knows everything; there is nothing He doesn't know.

Isa 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

1 Sam 2:3 ... the Lord is the God of knowledge

Job 34:21 “For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps.”

Ps 147:5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

1 Jn 3:20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

4.13. God is Perfect

Ps 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Matt 5:48 “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

4.14. God is Righteous

His actions always conform to His will and His nature.

Ps 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.

Ps 119:137 Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright are Your judgements

4.15. God is Spirit

He is without physical form or presence. Listen to what Jesus said:

Jn 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

4.16. God is Truth

Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.



2 Sam 7:28 "And now, O Lord God, you are God, and Your words are true ...

5. Devotional Exercise

- Abraham was "strengthened in faith, giving glory to God." Take a first step towards strengthening your faith by daily praying through the list of God's attributes. Strive to give glory to God by praising Him for each and every one of His attributes.
- Can you think of any attributes of God which are not on the list?



Chapter 6 Walking by Faith Part 2

1. Introduction

Let me remind you of our key verse for this section:

2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

We have seen that faith is having complete trust in God. We looked at various attributes of God, and when we realize who God is and what He is, it seems foolish not to trust Him. Faith is that which always glorifies God. Perhaps a good way to explain this is to look at the opposite of faith, which is unbelief. One can understand that there is nothing so insulting to God as not to believe Him. If unbelief insults God, then believing Him surely pleases Him; faith surely glorifies Him - believing and trusting God simply and solely because He is God.

2. Faith in the Old Testament

We stated that the word faith occurs only rarely in the OT. But other words having a similar meaning are frequently used in the OT such as believe, trust and hope. Examining the use of these words in the OT will assist us in our understanding of the concept of faith.

2.1. Believe

When we have faith, we believe. While the word believe, like the word faith, is not found often in the OT, but one verse is of the utmost importance:

Gen 15:6 And he (Abram) believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

2.2. Trust

Throughout the OT, having faith in God is frequently described as trusting in the Lord.

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

Ps 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Prov 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

Isa 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

2.3. Hope

Biblical hope should always be understood as overwhelming confidence.

Ps 147:11 The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.



Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.

So, faith involves belief, trust and hope. Believing is an intellectual process, involving the mind. Trusting is more of an emotional process, involving the heart. And hoping, particularly having a confident expectation of a future event, can be regarded as involving the soul.

When a certain lawyer asked Jesus the question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” The answer given was to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself (Lk 10:25-28). Here we see the involvement of the mind, the heart and the soul. I think it is fair to say that to love God this deeply requires a genuine and deep faith in Him. So not surprisingly we see all these aspects of faith at work in this passage of Scripture.

3. The Strength of our Faith

We saw in Part I that Abraham’s faith was strong, that he was strengthened in faith (Rom 4:20). Jesus said that Peter had little faith, because he doubted and sank into the water (Matt 14:31). So, there are obviously degrees of faith; some have strong faith, others have weak faith. Some have much faith; others have little faith. But even if our faith is weak, note that it is still faith, real faith. It is not unbelief. And irrespective of how much faith we have, our faith can be strengthened, as was Abraham’s. We all want to have more faith; like the apostles, we all want our faith to be increased.

Lk 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

It is surely true that some degree of faith has been given to all of us by God. Some people find it easy to exercise their faith. Others are more prone to doubt. But no matter how much faith we have to start off with, there are things that we can do to strengthen our faith.

4. Strengthening our Faith

4.1. Focus on God

The first thing we need to do to strengthen our faith is to focus on God, and not on our circumstances or problems. We need to strengthen our understanding of who God is. As we described in Part I, one way of doing this is to focus prayerfully on God’s attributes. The verses of Scripture describing God’s attributes, given in Part I, will help us to focus on God, and realize who He is and what He can do.

4.2. Knowledge of God

The most important factor in faith is always our knowledge of God. This means thorough and deep knowledge of the Bible, and through it of God.

If you want to have strong faith, read your Bible. Go through it regularly from beginning to end. Concentrate on the revelation that God has given of Himself and of His character. Read the prophecies God has revealed, and see how His promises have been fulfilled, and are being fulfilled.

See God’s hand at work as history unfolds. Read the stories of the great heroes of faith. That is the way to develop strong faith. It is generally a process, and it normally takes time.



Above all, it means having a personal knowledge of God; praying, spending time in His presence, waiting upon Him, abiding in Him. Note the inspiring words of Paul in this regard:

Phil 3:7-10 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings

How can reading the Bible increase our faith? Note the following passage:

1 Thess 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

As Paul points out, the Bible – the Word of God – effectively works in you who believe. And one of the things it accomplishes is to strengthen our faith.

5. Apply our Faith

The next thing we can do to strengthen our faith is to regularly apply the knowledge we have gained about God through studying the Bible. Jesus said, “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” (Jn 13:17) This can surely be applied to faith. Note also the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matt 7:24-27 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Clearly, Jesus expects us to apply our knowledge of God’s Word. A mere theoretical knowledge that never ventures out upon what it knows and believes will never be a strong faith. So, in addition to our knowledge about God and of God, there must be the application of that knowledge. The disciples in the boat during the storm were terrified, and the boat was filling with water. But Jesus was asleep.

Lk 8:24f And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was calm. But He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

The disciples clearly had faith, but Jesus was disappointed that they weren’t exercising their faith. You have faith, but where is it? Why do you not apply it to this very situation in which you find



yourselves? The disciples were looking at the waves and the water instead of focusing on God. But He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

So, in addition to our knowledge of God there is the vital and important element of the application of what we know. It is when we are challenged, when we are facing difficulties, when we are facing the storms of life, that our faith needs to be applied.

In times like this, instead of being terrified by the circumstances, we need to look to God, and all that He is and all that He does for us and strengthen our faith. We need to live above the circumstances, not be under the circumstances.

In Mk 11:22, Jesus said to His disciples, “Have faith in God.” Hudson Taylor felt that a better translation would be “Hold on to the faithfulness of God.” And this is what we do when we exercise our faith – the focus is never on us and our faith, but rather on God and His faithfulness.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

6. The Full Assurance of Faith

The NT uses the term full assurance at least three times – full assurance of knowledge (Col 2:2); full assurance of hope (Heb 6:11); and in Heb 10:22, full assurance of faith.

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith ...

As we study God’s Word, and grow in our knowledge of God, we become more and more assured that our trust in God is fully justified. We all need to strive for the full assurance of faith, so that we can walk by faith, and not by sight.

7. Devotional Exercise

Things to do to strengthen your faith:

- Learn more about God and His attributes by focused and attentive Bible reading.
- Glorify God for who He is and what He is like. Pray regularly through the list of His attributes in awe and wonder and give Him glory.
- In any difficult situation, focus on God and what He is able to do, and trust Him. Apply your faith.
- Walk by faith, and not by sight.



Chapter 7 - Walking the Ephesians 5 Way

Paul, after telling Christians in Eph 4:1 to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, goes on in Eph 5 to illustrate three aspects of how they should walk worthy of their calling. He writes that they should walk in love, walk as children of light, and walk circumspectly. In this chapter, we'll examine each of these instructions.

1. Walk in Love

Eph 5:1,2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

To be imitators of God is a good summary of this series. As we have often seen, the virtues we strive after are the attributes of God. As John tells us in 1 Jn 4:8, God is love. So naturally as we strive to imitate God, to be like Christ, we should walk in love.

As with all the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit, love is not of ourselves, but is bestowed on us by God.

1 Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 Jn 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

John emphasizes that, since God loves us, so we ought to love one another.

1 Jn 4:9-11 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Of course, let's not forget that loving one another is the new commandment of Jesus Christ.

Jn 13:34,35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 Jn 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

2 Jn 5,6 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

The emphasis that we should walk according to Christ's commandment means that we should make loving one another a matter of daily practice. Paul also emphasizes this, in writing of the fruit of the Spirit:



Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

John also points out that we mustn't just talk about love but demonstrate our love for one another in practical ways.

1 Jn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but indeed and in truth.

In the chapter on good work, we stated that good work is the outward expression of the inward possession of the fruit of the Spirit. Ephesians 5 emphasizes this; not only should we genuinely love one another, but we should demonstrate this love by walking in love.

2. Walk as Children of Light

The second of the Ephesians 5 teachings on how we should walk is that we should walk as children of light.

Eph 5:8-10 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount is well-known, and complements Paul's admonition that Christians should walk as children of light:

Matt 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven."

Note the way Jesus equates light with good works, and the way Paul relates walking as children of light with the fruit of the Spirit. As we walk in the Spirit, the inward possession of the fruit of the Spirit is demonstrated by the outward expression of good work. This is evident to our neighbours, so that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.

The following verses of Scripture about walking in the light are also instructive:

Jn 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.

1 Jn 1:5-7 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Isa 2:5 O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.



3. Walk circumspectly

The third of the Ephesians 5 teachings on how we should walk is that we should walk circumspectly.

Eph 5:15,16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

To walk circumspectly means literally to walk while looking around. The passage above suggests two ways in which we should walk while looking around.

Firstly, the days are evil, so that we must not be foolish in this wicked world. We must beware of the evil around us, and walk wisely, prudently, cautiously, watchfully and warily. This is a timely reminder that this world is not our home; as Christians we are in the world but not of the world; our citizenship is in heaven. Like the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, who were strangers and pilgrims on the earth, we need to walk circumspectly. John aptly describes the situation as he closes his first epistle:

1 Jn 5:18-20 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Secondly, we must walk wisely, looking around for opportunities to be witnesses for Christ in an alien world. So, we must walk redeeming the time. The Greek word translated here as redeeming is the word “exagoramenoi”. Ex- means out of, and agora is the marketplace.

So, like looking around for bargains in the marketplace, and snapping them up, redeeming the time means to snap up all the opportunities that are available; making the most of the time which is available to us to be effective witnesses for Christ – to let our light shine!

4. Devotional Exercise

- Jesus commanded us to love one another. Try to put your love for others into deeds, as you strive to walk in love.
- Jesus is the light of the world. Strive to abide in Him, and Him in you, so that His light will be seen in you, particularly through your good works.
- The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. So, walk circumspectly but be on the lookout to snap up any opportunity to be witness for Christ – to let your light shine!



Chapter 8 - Forgiveness

1. Introduction

While there isn't a verse of Scripture which says, "walk in forgiveness", the role of forgiveness in the life of a Christian is so important that we need to devote a chapter to it.

There are many wonderful passages of Scripture, and the following passage is surely one of them. It summarizes much of what we have focused on in this series. Note that the highlighted portion on forgiving one another has a prominent role in the passage.

Col 3:12-17 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

2. The Forgiveness of God

The focus here is on our forgiveness of others, but we first need to be reminded of God's forgiveness of us, so here's a very short summary:

Ever since the Fall, which condemned all mankind to a sinful nature, and thus to being separated from God and exposed to the wrath of God, man has been striving to correct the situation. But it turns out that there is nothing man can do to be reconciled with God, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom 3:23) Only God could bring about reconciliation. He has done this by sending His Son to take on human form, being born of a virgin, to live a perfect, sinless life, and to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. Since the penalty of our sins has been paid by the Lord Jesus Christ, God offers us forgiveness of sins and the gift of salvation through faith by believing in Jesus and His sacrificial, atoning work on the cross. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn 3:16) God thus enables us to be saved, and to arrive in heaven with our sins forgiven, and to be able to be in God's presence, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. That's the wonderful and incredible gift of God's forgiveness.

3. Our Forgiveness of Others

We come now to the question of our forgiveness of others. A good place to start is to look at the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught His disciples to pray:

Matt 6:9-13 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom comes. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation



but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Jesus then went on to elaborate only one portion of this prayer, one aspect of this prayer, namely, vs 12, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. He said:

Matt 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses.”

Note the apparent contradiction with what I have just said about God’s forgiveness. God forgives us our sins because of the finished, sacrificial work of Christ on the cross. There’s nothing we can do, because Christ has done it all. We cannot earn salvation; it is a gift of God. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:8) But regarding the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus says, “if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” This seems to be an apparent contradiction, which we need to figure out.

The Lord’s Prayer is not the only teaching by Jesus on the question of forgiveness. He also taught the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.

Matt 18:21-35: Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So, the fellow servant fell at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So, when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then the master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

So, my heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”



Before we focus on the crucial part of this parable, which is about forgiveness, note that Jesus said that the parable is like “the kingdom of heaven”. We can assume that the king in the parable is a portrayal of God the Father. Secondly, note that Jesus specifically mentions the amounts of the two debts, so we need to take careful note of these amounts. The amount that the servant owed the king was ten thousand talents. Now a talent was not a coin, but a weight of money; a common talent weighed 34 kg, and a royal talent 68 kg. 1 talent was equivalent to 6000 drachmas (the Greek silver coin).

So, the servant in the parable owed the king a huge amount – ten thousand talents, or about 340 tons of money, or 60 million drachmas. We are told in 1 Kg 10:14 that the weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was 666 talents of gold. This servant owed ten thousand talents! Consider Jesus’ Parable of the Talents; the man travelling to a far country for a long time gave his servants five talents, two talents and one talent. Again, in comparison, ten thousand talents are an enormous amount of money. So, the servant owing the king ten thousand talents had no way of ever repaying the king. The king’s forgiveness was thus a huge act of forgiveness. Then note that the second servant owed the first servant 100 denarii. A denarius was the basic Roman silver coin. A hundred denarii would have weighed about ½kg. This was about one millionth of what the first servant owed the king! No wonder the king was angered by the first servant’s lack of forgiveness.

Let’s summarize the clear teaching from the Lord’s Prayer and from this parable. First, it is abundantly clear that God expects us to forgive those who trespass against us. We can

go further and say that God desires that everyone forgives everyone for everything. God describes people who don’t forgive as wicked. Those who choose not to forgive, God delivers to torment until we learn to forgive. God clearly has little tolerance for the sin of unforgiveness. These torments are intended to bring about discipline to fully forgive. Forgiving without limit ensures freedom from these torments.

We need to say more about these torments, but first let’s first resolve the apparent contradiction.

4. The Apparent Contradiction

The explanation of the apparent contradiction is quite simple. Both views of God’s forgiveness are true; one applies after death, in heaven one day, while the other applies before death, here on earth. I said, speaking of God’s forgiveness of sin made possible by Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross, that our salvation enables us to arrive in heaven with our sins forgiven, and to be able to be in God’s presence, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Yes, our reconciliation with God does affect our lives here on earth, before death, but the full impact of our salvation is only realized after death. In contrast, the consequences of forgiving or of not forgiving others are experienced right here in this life. So, a Christian who is unforgiving will experience torment in this life but will still arrive in heaven fully forgiven. One who is not saved, who never believes in Jesus Christ, may in this life be very forgiving of others, and thus never experience torment for unforgiveness in this life; but in the next life will not go to heaven, but experience torment in hell for eternity.



5. The Torment of Unforgiveness

Let's get back to this question of torment in our lives because of not forgiving "those that trespass against us". The concept of torment is frequently found in the NT, conveyed by the Greek word "basazino". Here are three examples:

Matt 8:5,6 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

The apostle Peter, speaking of Lot living among the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, said,

2 Pet 2:8 that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds

1 Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Each of these torments is in this life, not the life hereafter. So, when we do not forgive someone who has wronged us, God allows torment in our lives to bring about discipline, to bring us to the place of forgiveness.

This life should be viewed as a time of preparation for the life hereafter. We frequently see in the NT how God shapes and moulds us in this life to get rid of those aspects of our lives which displease Him – how He chips away at the "living stones" – how He prunes the branches of the Vine to make them more fruitful. The Bible frequently speaks of the correction or discipline which God imposes on us, or the trials we must endure to mould us into likeness of Christ; e.g.,

Prov 3:11,12 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor despise His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

1 Pet 1:6,7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...

1Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you ...

So, God uses chastening and correction and trials and testing in this life to prepare us for the life hereafter. He moulds and shapes and disciplines us to make us more like Jesus. If we are unforgiving, He subjects us to torments to make us forgive.

6. Application

So how does all this apply to us? Firstly, it means that we need to check very carefully whether there is anyone in our lives that has done something to us – trespassed against us - whom we have never forgiven. If so, we need to urgently and prayerfully get to the place of genuine forgiveness.



Secondly, we need to see if we are aware of torment in our lives. If so, could it be God tormenting us for something or someone we have not forgiven? Bruce Wilkerson has made a thorough study of this and is convinced that a great deal of torment in the lives of Christians is the result of our unforgiving spirits.

The question of forgiveness is very serious in the life of every Christian. Jesus requires us to make it a daily matter of prayer – forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. Regarding the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus says that the master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. Jesus warns us that our heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses. Note also the teaching of Jesus, as recorded in the following verse:

Mk 11:25-26 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

“But”, you say, “this person you are expecting me to forgive is really my enemy, who has done terrible things to me.” Listen to the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matt 5:43-44 “You have that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you ...”

So let us do what Paul tells us each to do:

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Let’s conclude with the teaching of Jesus, which complements nicely His Parable of the Unforgiving Servant:

Lk 6:37,38 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

7. Devotional Exercise

- Is there anyone you have never forgiven? Forgive them!
- Are you experiencing any torment in your life? Could it be because of unforgiveness?
- As you strive to walk worthy of your calling, pray that God would help you forgive others even as God in Christ forgave you.



Chapter 9 - Waiting on the Lord

1. Introduction

Given the “signs of the times” in which we are living, with the threat of the Covid-19 virus and the worldwide conditions the pandemic has brought about, it seems appropriate that we should conclude this series on Walking Worthy of our Calling with a chapter on Waiting on the Lord, since the Bible tells us that “those who wait on the Lord ... shall walk and not faint.”

Isa 40:31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

What does it really mean, to wait on the Lord? More importantly, what does the Bible mean when it says we are to wait on the Lord? We will use four steps to try to clarify the meaning of the clause. The process will be described in some detail, because it is useful in trying to discern the meaning of not just this clause, but of any passage of the Bible.

2. Step I Establish the Historical and Scriptural Perspectives

Firstly, there is always a danger, when pulling a single verse from Scripture, that we miss the context of the verse, and so we can easily misinterpret the verse. So, we need to first establish both the historical and the scriptural perspectives of this verse.

The prophet Isaiah lived through a pivotal period in the nation of Israel’s history, the second half of the 8th century BC. This was the time of the divided kingdom, with the ten tribes forming the northern kingdom of Israel, and Judah forming the southern kingdom. The first half of the 8th century BC was a period of relative peace for both Israel and Judah, but this changed at the time of the death of King Uzziah in 740 BC. It changed because Assyria was aggressively bent on building an empire and had its eyes on Israel and Judah. Assyria first attacked the northern kingdom of Israel, and by 722 BC, Israel had been defeated by Assyria, and the people taken into captivity. The territory which had been the kingdom of Israel became a cosmopolitan Assyrian province. The kingdom of Judah in the south was also threatened by Assyria. King Hezekiah of Judah eventually revolted against Assyria, which brought the might of King Sennacherib of Assyria down upon him in 701 BC and left the little kingdom of Judah almost prostrate in spite of the miraculous rescue of Jerusalem.

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah deal with this period, but also contain some remarkable prophecies, particularly Messianic prophecies. Isaiah explains this in the opening verse of the book of Isaiah:

Isa 1:1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Then the book of Isaiah changes dramatically in chapters 40 to 66, focussing on prophecy, particularly about the Babylonian captivity of Judah, which would take place over a hundred years’ later, in the 6th century BC. So, the structure of the book of Isaiah resembles that of the whole Bible. The Bible has 66 books; Isaiah has 66 chapters. The OT has 39 books; the first part of Isaiah has 39 chapters. The NT has 27 books; the second part of Isaiah has 27 chapters.



Getting back to our verse, Isa 40:31, note that it is in the opening chapter of the second part of Isaiah. The first part of Isaiah closes with Judah in critical danger of being destroyed by Assyria. Isaiah chapter 40 opens with the words, “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God, and then focuses on the power of God, which is contrasted with the weakness of the people of Judah. Chapter 40 concludes with these verses

Isa 40:29-31 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.

So, we see that both the historical and the Scriptural contexts give our verse both added perspective and added relevance. God’s people were exhausted and defeated and needed God’s comfort and strength. But the truth of this verse didn’t only apply to God’s people some 2700 years ago. Its truth applies just as much to God’s people today, particularly in times of stress and adversity, such as the Covid-19 pandemic which we are facing; “those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

3. Step 2 Determine what the Clause actually Say

Secondly, another very good guideline in interpreting Scripture is this: Scripture almost always means what it actually says! If someone gives you a long and complicated explanation of why a passage of Scripture doesn’t mean what it appears to say, be suspicious! So “those who wait on the Lord” means – those who wait on the Lord! So that’s the first clear meaning of the clause. To wait means to wait. We all know what it means to wait. “Wait until the weather is warmer”; “wait until the traffic light turns green”; “wait until you’re older (or bigger or stronger or wiser)”.

If a person says to me, “Wait here until I come back”, and I do so, I soon see that waiting involves the exercising of some other attributes. Firstly, there is the question of trust.

Do I trust this person to do what he says he will do, namely, to come back? Do I believe that this person will really come back? Do I have faith that this person will return? If it is someone, I love for whom I’m waiting, then that love plays a part in the waiting process. There is also the question of authority and obedience to authority. If the person is my boss or someone in a position of authority over me, then I will be more inclined to wait, to be obedient, because I respect that person’s authority over me. If a long time passes, and the person still hasn’t returned, I will no doubt become impatient, and realize that I must exercise patience and endurance. I mustn’t lose heart but must be steadfast. If we are “waiting on the Lord”, then surely all these attributes will apply – trust, belief, faith, love, obedience to the Lord’s authority, patience and endurance.

Step 3 Explore other Passages with Similar Wording

Thirdly, we should see if there are other passages of Scripture which use the same wording and see if we can get additional clarification of meaning from such passages. So, are there other passages of Scripture which contain the wording “wait on the Lord”, or some equivalent wording?



The concept of waiting on the Lord is often found in the OT. By way of example, we will look at three verses from the Psalms, each of which adds an extra dimension to the concept of waiting on the Lord:

Ps 25:4,5 Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all day.

In this verse we see that waiting on the Lord involves God leading us and teaching us. So, learning about God, His nature, His ways, His works and His will, is part of the “waiting” process.

Ps 27:14 Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!

Here we see that waiting on God requires courage and strength, and that God will strengthen us as we wait. Also, the strengthening may be a strengthening of the heart.

The third passage from Psalms doesn’t actually contain the words “wait on the Lord”, but it is nevertheless clearly about waiting on the Lord, but in a different sense; that of a servant waiting on his or her master.

Ps 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He has mercy on us.

This is an interesting and informative verse. We learn that waiting on the Lord is like a servant waiting upon the master, looking for the slightest signal to be of service. So, the waiting is not a mindless, dormant activity. We should be attentive and alert, with our minds focused and wide awake, and ready to do the Master’s bidding

4. Step 4 Explore other Occurrences of the Key Words

The fourth action we can take to try to better understand a verse is to look up key words of the verse in a concordance, to see where else in Scripture these key words are used, and in what sense they are used. Remember that we are always dealing with translations of the Hebrew or Greek original writings. If you have a copy of Young’s Analytical Concordance, you will be able to trace where else the specific Hebrew or Greek words are used.

Using Young’s Analytical Concordance, and looking up the word “wait”, one soon realizes that there are at least 15 Hebrew words translated as “wait”, as well as eight Greek words, each with a different nuance of meaning! There are about 100 verses in the Bible in which these words are used. The Hebrew word translated as “wait” in Isa 40:31 is “qavah”, which means to wait expectantly, in hope. I decided to look up the other OT passages where this word “qavah” is found. The bad news is that there are 28 such passages; the good news is that Young’s lists only 5 passages in which “qavah” is used in the same conjugation as in Isa 40:31. (Hebrew verbs have seven conjugations.) So, let’s look at these 5 passages to see if we can learn anything more from them: -



Ps 25:1-3 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in you; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies' triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed ...

Here we see that waiting on the Lord involves trusting God, with the expectant hope and belief that God will get us through our difficulties and help us triumph over these difficulties.

Ps 37:7-9 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret – it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth

Here we see that we should not fret about our difficulties and become angry over them. Rather, we should “wait on the Lord” patiently, with our souls at peace and at rest, knowing that, with God’s help, we will ultimately triumph over the difficulties.

Ps 69:5-6 O God, you know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You. Let not those who wait for You, O Lord of hosts, be ashamed because of me; let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.

So, in waiting on the Lord, we should not let the foolishness and sins of others distract us and confuse us.

Isa 49:23b Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord, for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.

Again, we see the ultimate triumph and vindication of those who wait on the Lord.

Lam 3:25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Here “waiting on the Lord” is seen as equivalent to seeking the Lord; we should wait quietly and in biblical hope, which is overwhelming confidence; knowing that God is good to those who wait for Him

So, in seeking to understand what the clause “those who wait on the Lord” truly means, we have checked the historical and scriptural contexts of the verse; we have assumed the Bible means what it says; we have looked at other verses which contain the same clause; and we have looked at other verses which contain the same Hebrew word for the key word wait. We can summarize the results of this search as follows:

5. Summary of what it Means to Wait on the Lord

So, what does the clause Those who wait on the Lord really mean? We see that it applies particularly to those in times of stress and difficulties (such as the Covid-19 pandemic!). To wait



means to wait. We should wait on the Lord in trust, belief, faith, love, obedience to the Lord's authority, patience and endurance.

The period of waiting is a time of seeking the Lord and allowing God to teach us more about His nature, His ways, His works and His will. We should wait attentively, with the expectant belief and overwhelming confidence that God will help us overcome the difficulties.

We should not fret and become angry, but wait patiently, quietly and peacefully. We should not allow others to distract or confuse us. We can be sure that God is good to those who wait on Him, and that we will ultimately come through the waiting process triumphantly and victoriously.

6. Devotional Exercise

- If you are experiencing stress and difficulties in the circumstances in which you find yourself, you particularly need to wait on the Lord.
- Having read through the notes carefully, pay particular attention to the summary on p9.5 of what it means to wait on the Lord.
- Go through the points one at a time, and check whether there are areas in your behaviour where you are falling short of the biblical standards.
- Prayerfully strive, with God's help, to make up for your deficiencies. Those who wait on the Lord ... shall walk and not faint.



Chapter 10 - The Christian's Response to Tribulation

1. Introduction

We have been looking for biblical guidance as we strive to walk worthy of our calling. We do this because we want to please God in the way we live. In our lives as Christians, we often encounter trials, testing and tribulation. In this chapter, we seek biblical guidance regarding how we should respond to the question of suffering, and what our response to suffering should be.

2. Christians will have trials, testing and tribulation in this world

The Bible is clear that Christians, who are in the world but not of the world, should expect trials, testing, persecution, suffering and tribulation in this world.

Matt 5:10,11 "Blessed is those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake."

Jn 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Phil 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

1 Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

3. Some Trials and Testing are Sent by God for our Good

When we are "new" Christians, having just been saved, we are "babes in Christ".

1 Cor 3:1f and I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal.

We need to grow spiritually to become mature Christians. The process of maturing spiritually is referred to as sanctification. When applied to the whole body of believers, it is sometimes referred to as the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ, as illustrated by the following passage:

Eph 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.



God guides the process by means of which babes in Christ grow spiritually to become mature Christians – the sanctification process. He does this by “pruning” us so that we become more fruitful (Jn 15:2). He chips away at the “living stones” until they are perfect for their unique positions in His spiritual temple (1 Pet 2:5). (As this latter verse states, we “are being built up” – it is an ongoing process.) The process of “pruning” and having bits chipped off is painful but necessary. They are evidence of the Father’s love for His children, and His disciplining is always for our long-term benefit, as the following passages illustrate:

Deut 8:5,6 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

Prov 3:11,12 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Jn 15:2 ... every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Heb 12:7-10 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Rev 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.

The Bible often refers to our trials and testing as a refining process. As in the refining of silver and gold, the unwanted dross in our lives is removed so that we can emerge pure and without stain.

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

Ps 66:10 For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.

Isa 48:1 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Mal 3:3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and purge them as gold and silver.

1 Pet 1:6,7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold which perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



4. How Should Christians Respond to Tribulation?

In this world, Christians will undergo trials, testing and tribulation. Sometimes God chastens us to correct, refine and purify us. Sometimes we are persecuted because we are Christians.

Sometimes bad things happen to us simply because we are in an evil world. How should Christians respond to such tribulation?

As we have seen from the passages of Scripture quoted above, when God chastens us, we should endure it and not despise it, realizing that it is for our long-term benefit. And Jesus said that we are “blessed” when we are persecuted for His sake. We need to examine Rom 5:1-5 to get a fuller answer to the question of how Christians should respond to tribulation.

In this passage, Paul is listing the benefits of salvation:

Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Then Paul makes a remarkable statement about tribulations, adding them to his list of the benefits of salvation:

Rom 5:3-5 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Glory in tribulations! Paul is not the only NT writer to make this astonishing point.

Jas 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Matt 5:11,12 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you

Acts 5:40-42 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. So, they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

1 Pet 4:12-13 Beloved do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad about exceeding joy.



Does this mean that when we are chastised, we should immediately ignore the pain and burst forth into praise of God? No, the pain is necessary; but it is the long-term benefits which enable us to praise God.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

To make sense of all of this, we need to return to Rom 5:1-5. Again, note in Rom 5:1,2 that the benefits of salvation enable us to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Remember that biblical hope should always be interpreted as great confidence. So, our salvation results in us having great confidence of our heavenly destination.

But then come the tribulations in our lives (Rom 5:3), and a process gets underway. Tribulation produces perseverance. (For produces, the KJ has worketh, which seems to emphasize that time and process are involved.) Tribulations worketh perseverance; perseverance worketh character; and character worketh hope.

So, we start with hope in the glory of God, but then God gets busy with His pruning and chipping, and we now have hope; but this differs from the hope with which we started!

Paul emphasizes this by using litotes. Litotes is a literary device for emphasizing a positive by using the negation of its opposite. So, when Paul says, "Now hope does not disappoint", he is stressing through litotes that this hope is absolutely thrilling – if we had great confidence before, we now have absolutely overwhelming confidence.

And the passage goes on to tell us the reason for this new hope, and the reason why we can glory in tribulation. As usual, it has nothing to do with our ability; it is all God's doing

Rom 5:5 ... because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us

- ... the love of God ...not our love towards God, but God's love for us!
- ...poured out ... the verb indicates that God's love is gushing forth abundantly; not a trickle but a torrent
- ... in our hearts ...not into our hearts, but in our hearts. As Christians, we know that God already indwells us. He is already in our hearts, and that's where His love is gushing forth.

1 Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

This happens by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes us abundantly certain and assured of the love of God.

Rom 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and



joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together

Note that this outpouring of God's love in times of tribulation is not something we deduce intellectually through reason; rather, it is the direct and immediate assurance given by the Holy Spirit, who overwhelms us with the love of God. It is poured out in our hearts and is the highest form of assurance.

Tribulations enable us to mature as Christians and are a real test of our faith (1 Pet 1:6,7). Ps 119:71 tells me that it is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. And it is love of God, poured out in our hearts, that enables us to respond to tribulation with joy, giving praise and glory to God.

In conclusion, meditate on the following passages of Scripture, and their guidance to us regarding how we should respond as Christians to tribulation in our lives:

Rom 5:1-5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:35,37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us

Note that it is in all these things – in the midst of them – in tribulation, in distress, in persecution, in famine, in nakedness, in peril or sword – that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us

As we strive to walk worthy of our calling, we will face times of tribulation or distress or persecution. May we do so as more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

5. Devotional Exercise

- Are you going through tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Then focus on the love of God has been poured out in your heart by the Holy Spirit.
- And know that in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- Mature as a Christian to be more than a conqueror!





Chapter 11 - Walking from Genesis to Revelation

1. Introduction

We have been examining how we as Christians should walk worthy of our calling; indeed, how we should live our lives so as to please God. This is obviously a very broad topic, but we will bring this short series to an end by looking at a miscellany of passages from both the OT and the NT which give us guidance in how-to-walk-in ways that please God, and in the paths that He chooses. We pray that God would speak to us through His Word.

Ps 25:4,5 Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all day.

2. Walking with God and Before God

From the early chapters of Genesis and throughout the OT, the heroes of faith all walked with God or before God.

Gen 5:22b ... Enoch walked with God three hundred years, ...

Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Gen 6:8,9b But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. ... Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Gen 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

(Blameless in this context means to be genuinely and unreservedly committed to God's service.)

David, on his deathbed, gave these final instructions to Solomon:

1 Kg 2:2-4 "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the Lord may fulfil His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

Hezekiah, when sick and near death, prayed this prayer:

2 Kg 20:3 "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart and have done what was good in Your sight."



3. Walking Amidst the Psalms

The Psalms are full of guidance on how-to walk-in ways that please God.

3.1.How we should Walk, and how we should not Walk

Ps 1:1,2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law, he meditates day and night.

Ps 81:11-13 But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So, I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels. Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!

Ps 119:1-3 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed is those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.

3.2.God Will Teach Us the Way we should Walk

Ps 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye

Ps 25:9,10 The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, too such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Ps 25:12 Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.

Ps 27:11 Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path ...

Ps 86:11 Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth

Ps 143:8 Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning. For in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift my soul to You

3.3.How Should We Walk so as to Please God?

Ps 15:1,2 Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.

Ps 84:11 For the Lord is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Ps 26:1 Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted the Lord; I shall not slip.

Ps 26:3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth.

Ps 128:1 Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.



3.4. God Lights the Way we should Walk

Ps 89:15 Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.

Ps 56:13b Have You not kept my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

3.5. We should Walk with no Fear of Death

Ps 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

4. Paul Instructed Christians how to Walk

Rom 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Also, vs 4)

Rom 13:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

Rom 14:15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Eph 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of love

1 Thess 2:11,12 ... as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 Thess 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

1 Thes 4:11,12 ... that you also, aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

5. John Concludes this Series

1 Jn 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.



2 Jn 4 I rejoice greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the father.

2 Jn 6a This is love that we walk according to His commandments.

3 Jn 3,4 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Rev 3:4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.”

Rev 21:23,24 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it.

6. Devotional Exercise

We conclude this short devotional study with a summary of some of the things we can do to help us walk worthy of our calling and be more pleasing to God.

- The fruit of the Spirit should be evident in our lives. Perform a critical self-examination by studying each of the virtues listed on pages 2.3 and 2.4. With each, ask yourself, “Is this virtue reflected in my life as a Christian?” Pray for God’s help in making up for any deficiencies you perceive in your walk.
- Establish a pattern of good works in your life. Pray that God would make you fruitful in every good work.
- Devote more effort to your study of the Bible, so that you will be increasing in the knowledge of God. Pray that you would come to know God more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly.
- Strive to strengthen your faith by daily praying through the list of God’s attributes. Strive to give glory to God by praising Him for each and every one of His attributes.
- In any difficult situation, focus on God and what He is able to do, and trust Him.
- Jesus commanded us to love one another. Make an effort to put your love for others into deeds, as you strive to walk in love.
- Jesus is the light of the world. Strive to abide in Him, as He abides in you, so that His light will be seen in you, particularly through your good works.
- Walk circumspectly in this evil world but be on the lookout to snap up any opportunity to be witness for Christ – to let your light shine!
- As you strive to walk worthy of your calling, pray that God would help you forgive others even as God in Christ forgave you.
- If you are experiencing difficulties in the circumstances in which you find yourself, you particularly need to wait on the Lord, so that you shall walk and not faint.



- Are you going through tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Then focus on the love of God has been poured out in your heart by the Holy Spirit.