

FULLY FURNISHED

or

THE CHRISTIAN WORKER'S EQUIPMENT

by

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CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

THE WORKER'S WALK

WE read in Proverbs 6:13, that the wicked man **“speaketh with his feet.”** From this, we gather the meaning of the word **“walk,”** for as the wicked man speaks by his life, and tells us which way he is going, so the Christian should as plainly indicate by his manner of life, whom he serves. The term **“walk”** in the Word of God, refers to the whole tenor of the life.

Looking back upon the past, we are reminded in Ephesians 2:2, 3, what was the tone and tendency of our walk - **“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”** (Ephesians 2:2-3)

The believer's walk is spoken of in different ways, such as walking with God, before Him, and after Him. We shall confine ourselves to the first:-

Walking with God means companionship with Him. For, **“Can two walk together except they be agreed?”** (Amos 3:3).

Sin thrust man out from the presence of God. Christ came to reconcile man to God. It was man who went away from God, and not God from man. Now God is beseeching the sinner to be reconciled to Himself; and the moment he is reconciled by faith in Christ, the difference is removed, his sins are forgiven, he is made a child of God, and all the value of the person and work of Christ is reckoned to him; and God is well pleased, for He sees the believer in Christ. In Eden, God walked and talked with Adam, but sin severed the communion. Now, grace restores man to the companionship of God; hence, we are called to have fellowship with Him, and with the Lord Jesus.

Walking with God implies acquaintance with Him. The question asked long ago, **“How can man be just with God?”** (Job 9:2; 25:4), is answered in Romans 5:1, **“Being justified by faith we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

When we believe in Christ, we become acquainted with God, and thus we are at peace (Job 22:21).

There is no longer opposition on our part; we comply with His conditions, and we accept His invitation to be reconciled, and thus there is agreement as to our salvation, as there was with Israel, when, in obedience to the command of God, they took the lamb and slew it, and sprinkled its blood on the door-posts and lintel, and then God went with them out of Egypt.

Walking with God means agreement with Him.

Elihu, in speaking of Job's friends, and referring to what Job had said, spoke thus: - "**He hath said, It profiteth a man nothing that he should delight himself with God**" (Job 34:9). What the Lord says, is our law, and what He wills, we love. We are one with Him, and have all in common with Him. As God says of the wicked, "**When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers**" (Psalm 1: 18), so now we consent with His plan, and partake of His provision.

Walking with God suggests achievement with Him.

In the history of Israel under King Saul, we find that when the Israelites were fighting against the Philistines, on one occasion, Saul had commanded that the people should not eat until the evening, and the one who disobeyed was to die. Jonathan, however, had not heard of the command of his father, and he, in returning from the slaughter of the enemy, had put his spear into a honeycomb and eaten; and because of this act, Saul said that Jonathan should die. But the people protested and said,

"God forbid: as the Lord liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground, for he hath wrought with God this day" (I Samuel 14:24, 27, 28, 29, 43, 45).

The point to which we call attention is this, what Jonathan and his armour-bearer did, they accomplished with God. Their achievements were owing to the fact, that the Lord Himself was with them. Similarly, in our defensive action against the wiles of the enemy, and our offensive achievements in pulling down the strongholds of Satan, it is only as the Lord is with us, and as we are with Him, that He gives us the victory.

Walking with God speaks of allegiance to Him.

The Lord, in contrasting the condition of Israel, and of Judah, says, "**Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints**" (Hosea 11:12).

As the soldier shows he is with his sovereign and country, by his faithful obedience, and as the governor of an institution shows he is with those who placed him in the position he occupies, by ruling according to their desire, so we evidence our walking with God, by obeying His Word, and observing His will.

Walking with God denotes abiding with Him.

The Holy Spirit, in giving directions as to what action the Christian was to take, in reference to his worldly occupations, says, "**Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God**" (I Corinthians 7:24).

Walking with God, there will be no hasty step taken, but a calm, patient waiting upon Him, and an acquiescence with the Divine will. If there were always this calm abiding with God, what mistakes would be avoided, and what blunders prevented, and yet what readiness to do His will, when He bids us “**go forward**,” for we may be sure that when He says “**Forward**” it must mean to be with Him! It was because Levi and Phinehas were walking with God, that the one was afraid before the name of the Lord, and that the other was not afraid to slay the Israelite and the Midianitish woman, when they brought sin into the camp (compare Malachi 2:5,6, with Numbers 25:6-14). If we know what it is to look into the face of God, we shall not be afraid to look into the face of man. Abiding with God, we shall be in the right place.

Walking with God, we shall be in activity with Him in Christian work.

“**My Father worketh hitherto, and I work**” (John 5:17), said Christ; and the Apostle Paul, in speaking of himself and his fellow-labourers, says, “**We are labourers together with God**” (I Corinthians 3:9).

Here we are reminded of our dignity and duty.

“Who would not labour in such sweet company?” So says an old Puritan. All believers are “saved to serve,” as a friend wrote on his photograph, in placing his autograph upon it.

But let us remember, that there may be activity, without walking with God.

Peter was very active when he cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest, but Christ was not with him in the action. That labour only counts that is done with God, and we are only truly active, when we keep step with Him.

Walking with God, there will be acknowledgment by Him.

We read that the angel said to Mary, “**Thou hast found favour with God**” (Luke 1:30); and also of Jesus it is stated, in speaking of Him as to His humanity, He “**increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man**” (Luke 2:52).

Enoch, of whom it is said that he “**walked with God**,” gives us the clue to obtaining the favour or pleasure of God, in that it is said of him, “**he pleased God**” (Hebrews 11:5). How? By simply walking with Him. Walking with God does not mean that we shall be acknowledged by men, but this to the true heart is of little moment, so long as he knows that walking with God will bring acknowledgment from Him.

What are some of the results of walking with God? We have already implied in some measure what they are, but there are seven distinct results mentioned in the Word:

1. Joy in God.

As Enoch pleased God by his walk, and that meant joy to him, so shall it be with us, for as we accompany Him, we have the joy of His strength as our support, the joy of His salvation as our song, the joy of His presence as our stay, the joy of His countenance as our delight, the joy of His service as our success, and the joy of His Word as our study.

2. Endurance in God - “**Noah walked with God**” (Genesis 6:9).

In Hebrews 11:7, we are told how he walked with God. The Lord told him to build the Ark, and he simply obeyed. We may imagine what he had to endure,- the opposition, the persecution, and the sneers which he would encounter, and how discouraging, humanly speaking, to be preaching all the years he did without any fruit! (I Peter 3:20). But he endured because he was with God, and being with Him, he understood the Divine plan. Many suffer from the disease of fits and starts in Christian service. This is because they have not got the remedy - walking with God. Those only endure, who walk with the Enduring One.

3. Knowledge in the ways of God.

God “**made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel**” (Psalm 103:7). Israel only knew the ways of God by His acts, but Moses knew the ways before the acts. And we shall know the ways of God, as we walk with Him. He will instruct us, and we shall be able to enter into His mind, respecting His people, His purpose, His love, His will; for while the things that are of God have not “**entered into the heart of man,**” yet He will reveal them to us by His Holy Spirit, through the Word, as we walk with Him (I Corinthians 2:9, 10).

4. Courage in God.

Phinehas was courageous, quick to discern evil, and zealous for the honour of God, because he was in fellowship with Him (Malachi 2:6; Numbers 25:6-15). The fear of man will not be known by us, if we are looking into the face of God. The face of Jesus was “**set**” like a “**flint**” (Isaiah 1:7), as He steadfastly went to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51); and if we would have the face of flint, we can only obtain it through the light and strength which comes from communion with God. If we receive not from the Divine Source the firmness of courage we need, we shall be like the soft wax that yields to the lightest impression.

5. Confidence in the Lord.

David could calmly sing, “**I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me**” (Psalm 23:4). Enemies were surrounding him, and their shadows were flitting across his path as he was walking through the valley, but the Lord was with him; therefore he had a good Defence, and an able Deliverer, and could confidently boast in the Lord. Whom need we fear, if we are walking with God? No man on earth, nor aught of Satan’s hellish band.

6. Rest in the Lord. The Lord Jesus gives us the clue to this, in those words of His, where He says,

“Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:29).

Yoked with Christ, we walk with Him, and hold sweet converse. What: is the yoke of Christ? It is simply the will of God. And as we are in His will, we walk with Him, for this is His will. Thus we enjoy His own rest. Rest in service. Freedom from carking care, and wearing worry. Liberty from self, by resting in Him. Deliverance from care, by casting all upon Him.

7. Zeal kindled by the Lord. “**Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, saying The Lord is risen indeed**” (Luke 24:32-34).

For those disheartened disciples on their way to Emmaus, Christ opened their understanding, as He opened to them the Scriptures, while they were walking together; and then He made Himself known to them as He lifted up His hands to bless the evening meal. Then their hearts were warmed and their souls were stirred, and with swift feet they went to make known to the rest what had happened.

What was it that caused the change in them from sadness to gladness, from faint-heartedness to heartiness? It was their walk with Christ.

Let us walk with Him, and thus be separate from the world, then we shall find that in His presence there is fulness of joy, perfect peace, the comfort of His promises, the assurance of His truth, the strength of His arm, and the supply of His hand.

“Oh let me walk with Thee, Thou mighty God!
Lean on Thine arm, and trust Thy love alone;
With Thee hold converse sweet where'er I go;
Thy smile of love my highest bliss below!

With Thee transact life's business, doing all
With single aim for Thee as Thou dost call:
My every comfort at Thy hand receive,
My every talent to Thy glory give!

Thy counsel seek in every trying hour,
In all my weakness trust “Thy mighty power,
Oh may this high companionship be mine,
And all my life by its reflection shine!

My great, my wise. my never-failing Friend.
Whose love no change can know, no turn, no end:
My Saviour God! who gavest Thy life for me,
Let nothing come between my heart and Thee.

~ end of chapter 23 ~

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