

**Subject: *The Privilege of Walking with God***

**Scripture: *Proverbs 3:1-7***

One of the great promises in the Bible is found in the book of James.

**James 4:8** *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*

When Nancy and I were dating we enjoyed the music of Seals and Crofts, and one of their hit songs was “Get Closer.” We have a Christian song, “Just a Closer Walk with Thee.” As we start this New Year, this should be our number one resolution.

What does it mean to walk with God? The Bible uses the term “walk” to speak of our daily Christian life. It has a starting point (salvation). It is something we do every day. And we have a destination.

## **1. REASONS FOR WALKING WITH GOD**

### **A. We need God’s direction**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.* <sup>6</sup> *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

**Jeremiah 10:23** *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*

### **B. We need God’s protection**

**Psalms 23:1-4**

## **2. REQUIREMENTS FOR WALKING WITH GOD**

### **A. Salvation**

We need new birth and new life from God. We need to be reconciled to God.

**Amos 3:3** *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

When we are saved we have the desire and ability to walk with God, but not until then.

### **B. Humility**

If we are going to walk with God it must be in His ways and on His terms, not ours.

**Micah 6:8** *He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

### **C. Faith and repentance**

Our text in Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart...”

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

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

**Genesis 6:9** *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.*

Hebrews 11 says that Enoch and Noah walked with God by faith.

**Isaiah 55:7-9** <sup>7</sup> *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.* <sup>8</sup> *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.* <sup>9</sup> *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

#### D. Holiness

We must walk in purity.

**James 4:8** *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

**1 John 1:6-7** <sup>6</sup> *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:* <sup>7</sup> *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

**Psalms 51:2** *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

**Psalms 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

#### E. Obedience

If we are going to walk with God we must know and obey the Scriptures. It is not enough to know what the Bible says; we must believe it and obey it. When the wise men came to Jerusalem they asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship Him?" Herod was concerned about this, and so he called for the chief priests and scribes and asked them where Christ would be born. They told him the place because they knew the prophecy in Micah 5:2, but they had no heart to look for Him and find Him.

**Psalms 1:1-2** <sup>1</sup> *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.* <sup>2</sup> *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

**Psalms 119:1** *Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.*

**Psalms 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

#### F. Prayer

**Psalms 143:8** *Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.*

There is nothing ideal or unrealistic about these requirements. They are all real and practical and essential. This is why we all need to have a daily devotional time with God (Bible reading and prayer).

### **3. RESULTS OF WALKING WITH GOD**

Aside of the many personal blessings of walking with God, two things will happen.

#### A. God will be glorified

This should be the main priority in our life.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

**Ephesians 4:1** *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called...*

#### B. Your family and friends will be blessed

Walking with God makes a positive and lasting difference in others, especially the people who know us best.

**Proverbs 20:7** *The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.*

**Proverbs 13:20** *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

You can tell when someone is walking with God. It shows in what they say and do.

One of my favorite books is The Valley of Vision, and something I read recently suggested that the great purpose of life is to glorify God and be a blessing to others. That is possible ONLY if we are walking with God. Pray for yourself and pray for others and encourage others to walk with God every day.