

Following in Who's Footsteps?
Psalm 17:5

Psalms 17:5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

Intro: This verse was literally my prayer on Wednesday Morning as I walked up the hill to go to the Store. Daddy's footprints from the previous day so I walked – literally in his footsteps.

The old saying (from the 1800's) is “Following in his father's footsteps.” Did you know that Footsteps are found 4 times in the Bible? Are WE following in OUR SAVIOUR'S FOOTSTEPS?

1. Are Our Footsteps In The “Right” Path?

1. Where You Are Now: Psalms 17:5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.
2. Where You Were: Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
3. How You See to go: Psalms 119:105 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
4. Where Satan Wants You: Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.
5. Think Before You Walk: Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

2. Are Our Footsteps In The “Right” Way?

1. Psalms 77:19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.
2. Psalms 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
 1. The word “Way” here refers to a path/road and it also represents a WAY OF LIFE.
 2. **THY WAY is GOD'S WAY. REMEMBER:**
3. John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 1. Notice “**THE WAY**” not a way among ways.
4. Where **IS THY WAY (THE WAY OF GOD)** – it's **IN THE SEA**.
 1. This speaks – literally – of the Way – Path that God had laid out for **HIS CHILDREN – IN THE RED SEA**.
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
 3. Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.
 4. Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
 5. Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
 6. Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
 7. Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
5. His **PATH is IN THE GREAT WATERS**.
 1. It's good to know the following: Matthew 14:25-27 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on

the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

2. Note Also the **GREAT WATERS**:

1. **THE SPIRIT (THE HOLY GHOST) IS GREAT!!!**

1. Ezekiel 47:1-5 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. 2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. 3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. 4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. 5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

2. **THE SCRIPTURES (THE HOLY BIBLE) IS GREAT!!!!**

1. Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
2. Referenced to in John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6. His **FOOTSTEPS** - here - are **NOT KNOWN**.

1. Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Sometimes we don't **KNOW** the **WHY** let alone the way - for when we are **IN THE STORMS** the steps of Jesus sometimes cannot be seen or discerned. Hence recall:

1. One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me." The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

3. **Are Our Footsteps "Reproached" Along the Way?**

1. Psalms 89:50-51 Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants; how I do bear in my bosom the reproach of all the mighty people; 51 Wherewith thine enemies have reproached, O LORD; wherewith they have reproached the footsteps of thine anointed.

2. I include another verse - verse 50 to show that Ethan was being faithful to the Lord and His Word - and His Promises.

3. Note who wrote this Psalm 89: "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And

Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about." (1 Kings 4:29-31)

4. Literally this Psalm is Ethan looking at Solomon - who was wise and has since become corrupted and he sees the unGodly mocking - scoffing at the promises made to David.

5. Recall -

1. John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

2. John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

3. 2 Peter 3:3-7 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

1. Note, the scoffers said the same about the **FIRST COMING** of **CHRIST** - Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the **LORD** with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the **LORD**, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

4. Matthew 13:20-21 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

4. Are Our Footsteps Near The Flock's Way?

1. Song of Solomon 1:8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

1. J. Vernon McGee says: "Feed thy kids"—the little lambs need to be fed, and all of us, my friend, come under that classification. Peter put it this way, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" ([1Pe 2:2](#)).

2. "Feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents." Believers need to feed themselves beside the shepherds' tents, because that is the place where the grass would be unusually green. Of course it is the Word of God on which we are to feed. We cannot feed others and tell them about the joy of the Word of God unless it is a joy to us.

3. We need to feed upon the Word of God, then we need to get the Word out to others, you see. The Bride of Christ, who is to be presented to Him in the future, is to get the Word of God out today. As the body of believers, we are failing to do this.

4. "If thou *know not*, O thou fairest among women"—there are many things for which we do not have the answer. When I was a young preacher, I tried to get the answer to everything. I was given some good advice: "Don't let what you don't know disturb what you do know!" Do you know that Christ died for your sins? Do you know that you are trusting in Him? Are you resting upon Him? You can say, "... I know that my redeemer liveth ..." ([Job 19:25](#)). You can say, "... I know whom I have believed ..." ([2Ti 1:12](#))—Paul could say that, but I don't find Paul saying that he knew all about the doctrine of election. So let's not permit what we don't know to disturb what we do know. That is what the shepherd is saying to this girl. Don't worry about what you don't know. Just be sure to feed *your* sheep. That is your responsibility.