

Marks of a Mature Christian, Part 2

Steve Hogan – February 19, 2023

[Hope Bible Church of Tampa](http://HopeBibleChurchofTampa.org)
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As Christians, we need to know how God wants us to live. And in His Word, in the Bible, God tells you exactly how He wants you to live. And we're taking four weeks to talk about God's purpose and plans for our lives. Last week we talked about "*Knowing and Loving God, Knowing, and Believing the Truths of God, and Living a Holy Life,*" and today we'll talk about "*Walking in the Spirit, Being Humble, and Having Faith.*"

First, there's "*Walking in the Spirit.*" Now let's look at some vss. that talk about the Spirit.

1. John 14:16-17. God gives us the Holy Spirit. And the Spirit is called the Helper, and the Greek word from which the word helper is translated is "*paraclete*", which means called alongside. The Spirit is to help you be and do all that God wants. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and what He does relates to the truth, and He is the One who teaches us the truth. John 14:26

2. Galatians 5:16 – "*Walk by the Spirit.*" God commands us to live our daily lives by the leading and power of the Spirit. You can't live the Christian life by your power and wisdom. Every day and all day long you need the Holy Spirit. Often times we aren't doing what God wants, and that's because we aren't looking to the Spirit and depending on Him. Mark 1:9-12; Acts 2:1-4, 9:31 - Gal. 5:16-18. We struggle with our sinful flesh, and the only way to get victory over our flesh is by the Spirit. All of you are tempted to sin - it may be fear, pride, anger, impurity, laziness, etc. And the Spirit gives you the desire and the power to get victory over that sin. Psalm 143:10. God wants His Spirit to lead you in the ways He wants you to go. Rom. 8:9-14

3. Galatians 5:22. Being a Christian means you're not doing what is wrong but are doing what is right. And vss. 18-21 says that the Spirit helps you to not do what is wrong, to not sin, and vs. 22 says that the Spirit helps you to do what is right, to be godly, to bear fruit. And to live the Christian life, you must walk by the Spirit, you must live your daily life by the power, the truth, and the leading of the Spirit. Gal. 5:25

4. Ephesians 6:10-18. We struggle with the flesh, and we also struggle with the devil. And to win in the Christian life, we must defeat the devil, and this happens as we live by the Spirit. - Vs. 14. This talks about the belt of truth and the Holy Spirit teaches us the truth. Vs. 17. We see that the Spirit has a sword, and this sword is the word of God, the truth of God. The Spirit defeats the devil by God's word. And being filled with God's word is the key to being filled with the Spirit, who then fights for you against the enemy. 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Eph. 5:18. You're not to be drunk with wine, you're not to satisfy the flesh, you're to be filled with the Spirit - then you'll be speaking and singing in a godly way, and you'll be thankful. And again, you have to be filled with God's word to be filled with the Spirit. So get God's word in you, read God's word, meditate on it, think about it, and then the Spirit in you will have His sword, His weapon to fight the enemy. Col. 3:16

Eph. 6:18. One major key to praying is the Spirit – the Spirit is to lead you and empower you in praying to God. It's only by Spirit that you can pray rightly and effectively. Rom. 8:26-27 - 2 Cor. 13:14. The Holy Spirit is not an it, He's a person, and God wants you to have a relationship with Him. Just remember that the Spirit is in you, and you're to love Him, talk to Him, pray to Him, pour out your heart to Him, and have fellowship with Him. Jesus

Now let's talk about humility. God wants you to be loving, holy, faithful, and courageous, and being humble relates to all of these. Being humble is one of the most important character qualities there is, and you need to be humble to be the Christian God wants you to be. Numb. 12:3 - Moses, Phil. 2:4-8 – Jesus, Acts 20:19 – Paul - Being humble means *“low lying,”* or *“lowliness of mind.”* As a Christian, it means seeing who you are in relationship to God. You know God is God, and you're but a human, and compared to God, you are lowly, and therefore you are to be lowly of mind, to think of yourself as lowly.

It means seeing that God is great, holy, powerful, and omniscient, and you're not great, you still sin, you don't have much power, you don't know everything - therefore, you're lowly, and see yourself as small compared to God, and you're humbled. Isaiah 40:12-26 It's seeing that God is your Creator and that He made you. It's seeing that God is sovereign over all things and can do whatever He wants in your life, and in this world. Dan. 4:35 It's seeing that God is your Father and you are His child, that He is your Master and you are His servant, that He's the Savior and you are the sinner.

A lot of people think they're important - they think more highly of themselves than they ought. They may think that way because of their intelligence, their IQ, the job they have, the money they have, the house they own, the clothes they wear, or friends they have. Jn. 3:27, 1 Cor. 4:7 - Unbelievers look at things from a human and worldly perspective, but not from God's perspective, not in accordance with God's truth. Only when a person becomes a Christian can he be truly humble, truly lowly of mind, and truly grow, truly be all that God wants him to be, and be great in God's eyes. Matt. 18:12. Exodus 3:1-6, Joshua 5:13-15, Luke 1:46-52, 1 Timothy 1:12-17

And being humble has an amazing and profound effect on your life.

- First, it affects your relationship with God. When you're truly humble, you'll worship God, you'll praise and exalt Him, for He's your Lord, your Savior, and your King. Vss You learn from God, for He's your teacher and you're His student, and you want Him to teach you. But proud people don't want to learn from God, and don't learn from God. You'll serve God, you'll be a servant of God, you'll carry out the purpose and the work God has given you to do. Moses - Heb. 3:5

You obey God, for He's your Lord, your Master, the One who tells you what to do, and you obey Him. Now proud people don't obey God, they think they can do whatever they want, and that there won't be any consequences, but they're wrong.

- You confess your sins to God, you admit that God is right, and you are wrong. Ps 51:17
- You pray to God, for you know you are needy and that only God can really help you, can meet your needs. But proud people don't pray – they don't think they need God, they think they can figure out life on their own. But they are wrong.

Second, being humble affects your relationships with others. You understand that others are more important than you. Phil. 2:3-8 - You are humble like Jesus, and think about the interests and needs of others, and you help and serve others, and you pray for others. 1 Sam. 25 – Abigail. You love others. If you're not humble, you think about yourself and what you want. Proud people don't love others, and in fact, can't truly love others – they're selfish, angry, jealous, malicious, and unkind in their speech. And to be patient, kind, gentle, compassionate, and forgiving, you need to be humble.

Humble people have good relationships. The only way to have a good marriage is for there to be humility. If there's not humility in either husband or wife, you'll have major problems. If there's humility in one of the two, then the marriage can make it, but with some difficulty. If both partners are humble, then you'll have a very blessed and successful marriage. You will serve others, want to help others, want to give your time to others, want to pray for others. You will be a team player, and you won't be doing just what you want. You won't think you're a know it all. You'll listen to others, and you'll learn from others.

Now God, in His Fatherly and wise way, helps us to grow in humility.

- He does that by giving us His word, for His word helps us to see who God is, and that humbles us, and motivates us to worship and obey Him. 1 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Pet 2-3
- He does that by giving us authority figures – parents, employers, governments, and we are to be humble before them and submit to them. Col. 3-4, Eph. 5-6
- He does that by giving us trials, by giving us difficult situations. You see God wants to put us in our place, to help us see that we need Him, that only He can really help us.
- James 4:10. We're to humble ourselves before God. We do that when we praise God, when we pray, when we learn from God, when we love and serve others. Then God will exalt you. And if you don't humble yourself, God will humble you one way or another.

The third area I want to talk about today is "*Having Faith*". Having faith is essential for salvation and for your entire Christian life on earth. Eph. 2:8 says we are saved by faith. And 2 Cor. 5 says you're to walk by faith, to live your Christian life by faith.

Now what is faith? First, it means we are having faith in God. That is, faith has to do with your relationship with God. And to have faith in God means you're trusting Him, you're depending on Him, you're relying on Him. That is, you know you need God, and so you trust Him, you depend on Him to help you, to lead you, to give you the grace, wisdom, and strength you need.

Having faith is the means to connecting with God, having this relationship with God, and being able to live the life God has planned out for you.

- Jer. 17:5-8. Now if you don't have faith, you'll be cursed, that is, you won't be blessed - but if you do have faith, then you'll be blessed. Prov. 28:25-26, 29:25. A big part of the Christian life is believing that God will bless you, and expecting that He'll bless you.
- John 11:40 – If you want God to be glorified, you have to have faith. John 14:13-14
- Heb. 11:6 – Faith is the key to pleasing God, to serving and obeying God. Door - key
- Heb. 11 – The word faith is mentioned 25 times in this chapter. Indeed, faith is central, is essential, is the key to living the Christian life, to being a godly and successful Christian.

Now Jesus tried to help His disciples grow in faith, and He tries to help you grow in faith too. Matt. 6:30, 8:10, 8:26, 15:27, John 6:5-6. Jesus talked about people who had great faith, little faith, and no faith. And we need to ask God to give us great faith. Mark 9:24
And Paul talked a lot about believers and their faith. Eph. 1:5, Col. 1:3-4, 1 Th. 1:3:4-10

And God commands us to have faith, to trust in Him, and that's because it's essential for salvation and for our daily living. Prov. 3:5-6, Mark 11:22. Having faith is necessary to do God's work, and for our relationships, and when we go through trials, and in fact, God gives us trials so we grow in faith. James 1:2-4, 1 Pet 1:3-9

And what is the key to having faith? Rom. 10:14-17. For your faith to grow, you need God's word, for it is the basis of your faith. It tells you all about God, and you need to know who God is if you are to really trust Him. Ps. 9:10, ABC's. God's word tells you what you're to do, and it's only by faith that you can do what God wants you to do. Gal. 5:6, Heb. 11. Again, faith is the means by which we connect with God, by which we talk to God, by which we have this relationship with God, by which we gain the power to do what God wants us to do. Time with God – Psalms. As a Christian, you can't go by your feelings, by your emotions. As 2 Cor. 5 says, you are to walk by faith and not by sight. And again, the key to having faith is God's word.

Well today, we have talked about the Holy Spirit, humility, and faith. Might God help each one of us grow in our relationship with the Spirit, and might He help us to be humble, and to have faith, to be trusting Him.