

Do You Know How to Walk Spiritually?

Colossians 4:5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

We do a lot of study on the events at end of the Church Age, the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and History of the Old Testament. But what is of prime importance is how we live each day of our lives, wherever we are in history, how we handle personal problems, personal sufferings.

How we live in our marriages and single lives.

How we handle all the attacks against Christianity; how we handle all the religions on Earth. These are the areas that we live in, day in and day out. Colossians chapters 3 and 4 address these important areas in our lives, starting with **keep seeking the things above** (Colossians 3:1).

Walking is used once in each of the four chapters of Colossians. It has a different emphasis in each of these occurrences.

Colossians 3:7 we walked as unbelievers

Colossians 1:9 we are to walk a new way now that we are in Christ

Colossians 2:6 we are to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit by faith

Colossians 4:5 we are to walk in wisdom toward those who are without

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Points on Walking

I. Spiritual Walking.

The word 'to walk' is a most applicable word for describing living a life pleasing to God. While 'running' is often used for acceleration of Christian growth, (Galatians 5:7), no one 'runs' all the time. Just as walking requires one step at a time, so living each day worthy of the Lord requires living one volitional decision at a time. Walking is a perfect figure because nearly everyone does it. However, doing it and understanding it are two different things. Those who walk, learned to walk before they were aware of mechanical issues involved in walking. We do not even begin to realize all that is involved in walking. The people who really understand how important certain procedures are in walking are those who have to learn to walk all over again. My good friend John Hintz had a major motorcycle accident and among other things had to have a new hip replacement. This caused him to have to learn to walk all over again. That, which most of us take for granted is not that easy. Therefore, this makes a perfect example of living the Spirit Filled-Life. The secret to walking is found in energy plus balance.

In natural or physical walking, you are getting from one place to another, you are moving forward. In spiritual walking **YOU ARE ADVANCING IN THE Plan of God FOR YOUR LIFE**. As we will see in the spiritual realm it will come to refer not only to the individual steps that we take day in and day out but to the course of life, the direction of our lives.

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II. MECHANICS OF WALKING

Principle: Walking is almost an instinct and obvious process of life.

1. Principle #1 of the Mechanics of walking involves recovery of balance. This is one of the first things you learn when you are learning to walk all over again. You quickly learn about balance. Man, Homo Sapiens, is a biped, two footed. This means that man is *off balance* for a second when he walks.
2. Let us develop the analogy of this word from the standpoint of the **mechanics** of walking. Whether you are aware of it, your body is off balance for a second until you put your foot forward and down. And as you put your foot forward and down you move forward on balance.
3. As we walk each day in the Angelic Conflict, we can most easily become off balance, but stabilized by continuing to walk by faith in the Holy Spirit and growing in wisdom and understanding from the Word of God.
4. This also brings up the mechanical point of momentum. As we continue to walk in one direction, we build up momentum in walking. It is most interesting to watch and observe either a baby beginning to walk or someone re-learning to walk after an accident. Not that certain of lifting the foot and planting it and then lifting another, but soon they both learn to develop momentum in walking. So it is in the Christian walk. We should desire momentum in our walk to please Him. We build this

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momentum by continually walking by Faith and continually growing in Wisdom and Understanding from the intake of the Word of God.

5. Principle: The believer is off balance because he lives in Satan's world and possesses an Inherited Sin Nature (ISN). But he recovers and is stabilized by putting his foot down. This is faith recovery, where the Holy Spirit gives or maintains our balance.
6. There are three mechanics of walking:

ENERGY plus MOTION plus BALANCE

Energy. You need energy to walk, power. In the physical analogy we eat and sleep, (and exercise) to have the power to walk. Question: "too tired to walk"? This often happens in the Christian life when believers do not take in the Word of God. In the spiritual realm, the believer needs energy or power. Our power source is the Filling of the Holy Spirit. There is no walking, no movement whatsoever if you are not empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives the believer the power, the energy, to walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord.

Motion. Motion denotes two very important principles of walking:

First: **Volition.** The believer must have a desire to walk worthy of the Lord.

Second: **Direction.** Direction is the whole objective of this study. Walk in a direction that is worthy of the Lord or that is in a direction of wisdom. Direction has everything to do with all the decisions you make in your life. Marriage is made in view of the direction of your life. And I

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might add here, that if you are of the age of marriage, dating must also be in the direction of your life as unto the Lord. The choice of the local church you will attend.

All these and many more are made on the basis of where you see yourself going and who you are in this world. In what direction you are going? Pay close attention. Are you going in the direction of the world or in the direction of pleasing Christ? You cannot do both. Self-gratification or pleasing to Christ? You make decisions of your walk as to where you desire to arrive. For too many people, this is nothing more than getting along with the world. To others, it is to please Christ. It is so very important in Divine Guidance, to know the will of God for your life. This is involved in establishing your goals in life, the direction you desire to make.

As to Direction: The direction you wish to go determines decisions, big or small you make daily in your life.

For example, many pastors and Christians have to decide if they desire unity at any cost or if they decide to stay with the Word of God.

Balance is that which stabilizes your life. The application here is twofold: First, for BALANCE you need to keep moving in that predetermined direction. Believers lose balance when they are walking in a manner worthy of the Lord and then change directions right in the middle of a step. Essential in balance is continual movement in a direction. Secondly, doctrine in the soul gives balance to your life.

Therefore, the analogy. You decide your direction and start walking. You put one foot out in front of you, and immediately you are off balance.

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Therefore, vulnerable. So, you quickly move the other foot out in front to recover balance. Continual motion is the key. This momentum gives balance and stability to your life. Later, you are able to walk or march in line with the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:25).

Walking is used in the Word of God to describe the pattern of life. Of great importance in the Bible is the power source you choose for walking.

Walk According to the Flesh

or

Walk According to the power of the Holy Spirit.

You choose each day your power source and direction of your walk.

III. There are four spheres of the believer's walk in walking worthy of the Lord.

(1) In the **Holy Spirit**. Galatians 5:16.

(2) **By Faith**. 2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

This one is most interesting, for when we physically walk we walk by sight, but spiritually we walk by Faith, by means of Faith in the Holy Spirit.

(3) We walk **in Truth**, that is we walk in the Knowledge of the Word of God as seen in 2 John 4.

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2 John 4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.

I was very glad to find some, not all believers walk in the truth of the Word of God of your children walking in truth

(4) We are to walk in Spiritual Love. Ephesians 5:1-2.

So we are to walk

in the Holy Spirit;

in Truth;

in Spiritual Love and

by Faith;

It is impossible to walk worthy of the Lord or to walk so as to please Him without walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

IV. Walking, therefore, is a description of the Filling of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:2-4. Therefore, knowing how to be filled of the Holy Spirit is essential to the believer in walking—living a life that is pleasing to Jesus Christ.

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V. There are some strong warnings concerning how we walk as Christians:

- (1) Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.

Question: How does a wise man walk? By the Power of the Holy Spirit, guided by doctrine in his soul.

- (2) **1 John 1:6** If we say/claim that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

What about walking in darkness?

John 12:35 So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. (That is Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.) **Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.**”

I am afraid that the epitaph of many Christians will read *he was always walking in the dark!*

Also:

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying,

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“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

Another warning:

Revelation 16:15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”)

(3) Another warning that is often overlooked when studying the Christian walk.

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

The point, here, is that we are prone to war, battle in the Angelic Conflict according to how we war in the physical world, training and disciplining the flesh.

But as this passage teaches us, we do not fight in the Spiritual, invisible conflict by the flesh.

How then do we fight?

2 Corinthians 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare (spiritual and invisible) are not of the flesh, (visible) but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

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Built up against us. Against your growth in Wisdom and Knowledge and Understanding of the Word of God;

against your marriage,

against your happiness,

against walking to please Him.

So, we are not to walk as unwise, but as wise, that is, by wisdom from the Word of God; not to walk in darkness—that is not to walk in life outside of our position in Christ and not walk about naked of our position in Christ.

We are not to fight in Angelic Conflict as we walk in flesh.

VI. Walking wisely from the Old Testament

Confidence of walking with the Lord:

Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, (severe testing and judgment) you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.

The love of God calls for us to walk in a manner that pleases Him:

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, (His Word) Where the good way is, and

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walk in it; And (result) you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Jeremiah 6:17 “And I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, 'We will not listen.'”

Jeremiah 6:19...I am bringing disaster on this people.

Wake up America!!

Unfortunately, sometimes it is not wise to walk as your parents walked:

Ezekiel 20:18 “I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers or keep their ordinances or defile yourselves with their idols.

Another historical example is that of Amon:

2 Kings 21:20 He (Amon) did evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done.

2 Kings 21:21 For he walked in all the way that his father had walked, and served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them.

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2 Kings 21:22 So (as a result of walking as his father walked) he forsook the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

But sometimes, parents live in a wisdom that you should follow:

1 Samuel 8:3 His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

In conclusion, the Biblical concept of **Walking** covers every area of your life, every decision you make:

If single:

- Your involvement with others and Why,
- Which college,
- Job,
- Where to live,
- Why marry this person?
- Decisions you make as to whom you will marry and why?
- Where you go to church and why?
- Financial decisions you make and why?
- What you do with your money?
- Moral decisions you make.

Next we come to **Walk in Wisdom.**