



# BIBLICAL LIFE

## Mentor's Tips



## The Simplicity of Walking with God

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We live in a culture that seems to thrive on complexity. What was once simple is now so complex that only the young – with their ability to multitask – can understand how to navigate it. It doesn't matter if it is a video game, computer program or setting the clock on your new state-of-the-art blue ray DVD player. Even as techno-savvy as I have been in the past, I am reluctant to upgrade to the new and improved. The new complexities presented to us have learning curves that are too time-consuming. I am getting too old to waste my time learning to do something I have already mastered – albeit with my older or outdated stuff!

As the culture of this generation strives for new levels of complexity, so does religion. Religion has nothing to do with walking with God. Religion was developed by men that rejected the simplicity of the Word and the Gospel of the Kingdom. These men decided to develop their own system (or systems) of getting to God.

I have found that spiritual and psychological bondages love complexity and religion too. These bondages tell us that all this activity is advancement. The truth is, once we can back off from the situation, we find religion has made us the proverbial hamster on the running wheel. We can run hard and long but never get anywhere. Religion will never bring us closer to God or free us from our bondages!

In fact, the Apostle Paul warned us about the “hamster wheel” of religion:

**2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

All the traits of those Paul warns about in verses 1 – 4 can be found just as easily in local churches as they are in local taverns!

### Adam in the Garden

**Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

In this passage in Genesis, we find the partial story of the Fall of Man. In this story, I believe, we have overlooked an important fact. God came in the cool of the evening to walk with Adam and Eve. It was His time of fellowship with His creation. Sin broke that fellowship and now man was hiding from his Creator.



### Resources

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Man was made to walk with God. It is part of our spiritual DNA. Religion can never replace the powerful effects of the simplicity of walking with God. In a few moments, I am going to show you that what Adam somehow believed he was missing could have been found in those walks! You can never spend time touching eternity and not become more than you presently are.

## The Short Story of Enoch

### Genesis 5:22-24 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

In our Christian culture, we are not used to the rules of studying Torah. The eyes that have a Hebraic hermeneutic will see things significant that most will glance over. One rabbinic hermeneutical principle states that there is no redundancy in the Torah. Every word – even every letter – has a purpose. The Hebraic school of thought is that to bring emphasis, a word or phrase is repeated. Jesus did this when He said “verily, verily.” That simply meant what He was saying was extremely important. There are only two things in the Word of God that are brought to the superlative (meaning it is repeated three times). The first is that God is holy, holy, holy. This tells us that God’s character is ultimately holy. His holiness overshadows everything else – to include love. (That gives us something to ponder.) The second is the announcement of three “woes” for the inhabitants of the earth in the Book of Revelation. (Rev 8:13). When a prophet wanted to announce judgment from God, it would start with “woe.” We see in Revelation 8:13 that the ultimate judgment of God begins to be poured out.

I said all that to say this: the scripture tells us twice that Enoch walked with God. In fact, that is about all it tells us of Enoch. But the walk was so powerful that God took him out of time and space for, perhaps, a future purpose. That purpose is found in the Book of Revelation. I believe Enoch is one of the two witnesses. His walk with God worked such power in his life that he was counted worthy to stand along Elijah as final witnesses in the earth for the Almighty! Now that was some power walk!

## The Walking of Abraham

### Genesis 17:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

The English language does not serve the Word of God well at times. We read this scripture like this: “I am Almighty God. From now on your walk had better be perfect, because I am watching.” I have heard ministers of the Gospel preach exactly that from this scripture. When we look at the Hebrew, we find something that makes more sense.

“Walk before me” is derived from one Hebrew word. It is the word “halak” (הלך). This word means “to walk, to proceed, to live.”<sup>1</sup> The phrase “be thou perfect” is taken from the Hebrew word “tamiym” (תמיים), which means “complete, whole, entire, sound, healthful, wholesome, unimpaired, and having integrity.”<sup>2</sup>

God appeared to Abraham and said “I am Almighty God. Come walk with Me and I will make you complete, whole, sound, healthful, wholesome, unimpaired and having integrity!”

The facts prove this out in Abraham’s life. He did not start out well. We all remember the story about how, out of fear, Abraham told Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister. That whole situation set the stage for Ishmael. Later on in his life, when Lot and his family were taken captive by the kings than raided

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Sodom, Abraham raised up an army from his own household and won. Something powerful happened in the heart of Abraham as he walked with God!

## The Call from Jesus

### Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

We get so caught up with the “fishers of men” that we miss the call. Almighty God, in the flesh, was calling men to come walk with Him. It is the same thing He expected from Adam, Enoch and Abraham. We also have the same promise here that Abraham had, if you can see it. Jesus said “Come walk with Me and let Me be your Teacher. As we walk together, I will make you . . .”

The Greek word here for “make” is “poieo” (ποιέω), which means “to make, to construct, to fashion, to prepare, to be the author of, to make a thing out of something.”<sup>3</sup> From a Greek mindset, it is about as close as we are going to get to the Hebrew word for “tamiym.” It is clear to me that God was still giving the same call. It also adds more power to the concept of “following the faith of Abraham” that Paul refers to in Galatians.

Does a similar thing happen with the disciples that occurred with Abraham? Let’s look at the Book of Acts:

### Acts 4:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

In this verse, we are seeing the same boldness that Abraham demonstrated in his later years. Something had changed in the heart of Abraham and now we are seeing it in the hearts of Peter and John! This change will occur in the hearts of all those that are walking with God – over time.

## The Question

How can we tell if someone is walking with God or on the hamster wheel of religion? With religion, you are forever running and never changing. In walking with God, each step brings greater clarity and wholeness.

So are you running in the complexity of religion or walking in the simplicity of a living relationship with the Lord of Heaven and Earth? Remember, it has always been about the walk!

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## Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Strong's # H1980. Strong's Enhanced Lexicon. BibleWorks for Windows 7.0. BibleWorks, LLC, Norfolk, VA. Copyright © 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Strong's # H5849.

<sup>3</sup> Strong's # G 4160.