

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“WALKING WITH GOD”

We all begin life walking without God. It is possible to believe in God but not walk with God. A person who believes in God will call out to God when they get into trouble but as soon as the trouble goes away they keep walking without God. When I was a boy going to school I believed in God. In fact I was walking home with a friend from school one day when he suddenly turned to me and said, “Do you believe in God?” I stopped, thought for a moment before answering, then, I said definitely, “Yes.” As soon as I said that I had a feeling come over me that I had said the right thing.

It was handy to believe in God when you had a problem. For example, when I was about seven, or eight, I had a teacher who always started the day by getting the class to say the Lord’s prayer. I would recite it out loud like the rest of the class not thinking about any of the words we were speaking. Even now I can remember the words we used to say,

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen”

But they were just words to me and the rest of the class. However one morning I couldn’t find my pencil, I knew I would be in trouble with the teacher if I didn’t have a pencil. Despite the fact she got us to pray we were all quite scared of her. So this was a case of “ God help me out!” As the class recited the Lord’s prayer I joined in and tried to mean every word I spoke. Then I opened my eyes and there was my pencil! It hadn’t been there before, Wow! God had answered my prayer.

But then I just went back to believing in God but not walking with God. I started going to a church when I was eighteen. Gradually as I listened to the teaching I began to realise just how much I needed God in my life. I learned, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” This was John 3:16 the most famous verse in the bible. A deep desire developed in my heart to know Jesus, not just to know about him but to know him personally. I began to hunger and thirst for Jesus. Then one Sunday afternoon I asked him into my heart.

I didn’t feel any different until the next day when I suddenly realised, I knew God and his Son Jesus in my heart. The Lord became real to me.

I began to know from experience what it meant to walk with God. To walk with God is like having a close friend that you enjoy talking with. I found I would go "God walks" and be so conscious of him in my heart that I would have a continual conversation with him. So, to walk with God means to be in fellowship with him. The problem is, it is easy to get out of fellowship with him, to allow something in that spoils the fellowship. It is like a human friendship, two people can be the best of friends but then something happens and they fall out. Usually there are faults on both sides but when we fall out with God it is always our fault.

To walk with God is to walk in spiritual light, to walk without God is to walk in spiritual darkness. 1 John 1:5-7 "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

From these verses we see that if we walk in the light we have fellowship, not only with God but with one another. To walk in the light means to walk in complete honesty with God and to be real in our fellowship with other Christians. God is light and he gives each of us some of that light to walk in. As we obey the light he gives us he increases it and increases it until we enter into his full light in heaven.

Proverbs 4:18,19 gives a perfect picture of the difference between someone walking in God's ever increasing light and someone walking without God in darkness. "The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble."

What does the verse mean in 1 John when it says, "___ and the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin." In the original Greek in which 1 John was written the tense is more like this, "and the blood of Jesus his Son continues to cleanse us from every sin." The blood keeps on cleansing us if we continue walking in the light. It is like the old coal miners who would come up from the mines with their faces and clothes covered in black coal dust. But one part of them is clear and shines in contrast to their dark coal dust faces and clothes, their eyes. The tear ducts continually wash tears over their eyes, cleansing them from every speck of coal dust.

So it can be with us as we live in a sin darkened world constantly surrounded by temptations that seek to enter our hearts like coal dust getting into the eye. If we are walking in the light immediately a sin attacks us we can resist it and the blood of Jesus will wash and continue to wash our hearts clean. Sadly we are not always walking in the light and the sin can get in and spoil our walk with God. In our next lecture I want to look at what we should do then.

WALKING WITHOUT GOD IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS



WALKING WITH GOD IN SPIRITUAL LIGHT



THE BLOOD OF JESUS KEEPS CLEANSING US
AS WE WALK INTO THE FULLNESS OF ETERNAL LIGHT.

FRANK HUTCHINSON