

Walking with God – 12/06/2016

“Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (Gen.5:24)

Beloved in the Lord,

Life presents us with a choice – we can either walk with God, or live our life without Him. What our life is like, and our eternal future, is dependent upon which path we choose. To walk with God, means to live in faith, believing on The Lord Jesus Christ, to surrender all to Him and to daily trust Him. To walk according to His will. This path is always the right one and it is always blessed.

Walking with God, doesn't mean that you will not have difficulties and problems, but what it does mean is that in the midst of your trials you will always have hope, peace and an indescribable joy that abides deep in your heart, that is not affected by outward circumstances.

God's people can experience the same difficulties, heartache, trials and sufferings as others, yet the outcome is very different. Those who walk with God walk in victory. Life is full of problems, suffering, pain and difficulties. It is how we deal with them that matters. Jesus taught: ***“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)***

When we walk with The Lord, we have peace in Christ Jesus. He had defeated the world, sin and death. The Apostle Paul walked in the Lord and he wrote:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18).

Only a person, who like Paul, is walking with God, can say this or even understand these words. Paul had the big picture. He had the eternal perspective. The eternal perspective is so much greater than the worldly earthly perspective. A person, who does not walk with the Lord, does not possess the eternal perspective, and so views life very narrowly. Especially true today as we live in such a narcissistic age, where people are so taken in by their own self importance, that they have trouble seeing beyond themselves.

In today's service, we commemorate June 14 and the tragic and horrific events of that time. We can view things from a human perspective or we can view them from a Godly, eternal perspective. The human perspective concentrates on the horror, on the lives lost, on freedom lost, on possessions and homes lost. If we think too much upon these things then we despair, become angry, and maybe even vengeful and hateful towards the perpetrators.

On the other hand, the eternal, Godly perspective says: “I don't understand it, it was horrible, but for the sake of Christ Jesus and in His name I forgive all who committed these crimes against humanity and I believe that ultimately all things work together for good, for those who love God.” The eternal perspective says, I don't understand it all, I maybe don't

see any good, but I know and believe that God is in control and that ultimately all will be well.

I know from my own experience, that when things are viewed from God's eternal perspective and not the human, then we have victory and peace. Peace that Paul describes as being beyond our comprehension.

Almost 37 years ago, my mother died very suddenly. Standing in the hospital God granted me an eternal perspective and I remember praying: "Lord I don't know what You are doing, but You know best. I trust You." My heart was filled with peace, and I had a deep joy in my heart, even though I was experiencing great loss and grief.

To walk with God is blessed. To live and walk with Him like Enoch did is blessed. God can then fulfil His plan and you have peace and joy and victory, no matter what the circumstances.

To live with hate and unforgiveness, with bitterness is like living with a cancer that slowly kills you.

Many things happen in life for which we have no clear explanation. A Scripture that has helped me a lot is Deuteronomy 29:29 : ***"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."***

Many ask why would a loving God allow June 14? Why did God take my child? Why did God allow me to become sick? Why? Why? Why?

This line of questioning and way of thinking will not get us very far at all. Maybe we don't need to know why. God clearly states in His Word:

***"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares 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." (Is.55:8-9)***

God ways and His thoughts are not ours. He knows exactly what He is doing and why. He does all things well. God has an eternal perspective, and nothing happens outside of His knowledge and ultimate control. I believe that when we get to Heaven, then we will fully comprehend and we will say "Yes, He did all things well."

God does not always answer the why question, but He does promise His peace and His presence to those who walk with Him. Jesus invites us:

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Mt.11:28-30)

He is inviting us, even commanding us to come to Him and to give it all to Him. We are to leave all in His hands. "Lord, I don't understand, I am hurting, , but I trust You and surrender all to You." If and when we do this He grants us His peace, His love and He fills our heart with hope. He gives us that eternal perspective that causes us to say along with Paul:

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18).

This is living life with an eternal perspective. You understand that the time we spend here is but a drop in the ocean of eternity. What is 70, 80 or 90 years compared to eternity? - nothing.

All of the things that we are so passionate about, that we hold onto so tightly, will be of little or no significance in eternity. It is incredibly liberating to live with an eternal perspective, to walk with God. You can enjoy all that God gives in this life but you are not tied to it. You know that temporal things are just that – temporal. You also know that the bad things will also pass.

If you are in Christ then you have a wonderful and bright future with Him in eternity. That life will be vastly different. John gives us a glimpse:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. " (Rev.21:1-6)

May we walk with God, keep our eyes on Him and live with an eternal perspective and be blessed.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***