

The WALK

1 of 4 | Walk in the WORD

SLIDE 1 Introduction

This month I'm sharing a series about our walk with the Lord. We are so stuck on ourselves and believe everything we do is so great that we seldom reflect on whether our walk with the Lord is pleasing to him or not. How do I know this? Because we actually have no basis on which to judge ourselves and how we walk in this world.

To remedy this ever-increasing problem among believers, I'm going to share four areas this month that we must review in our personal lives about our walk with the Lord. They are how we walk in the Word, how we walk in God's ways, how we walk in the wisdom he provides for us, and how we walk in the wealth he gives.

SLIDE 2a Today, is about our **Walk in his WORD**.

SLIDE 2b Next Sunday is about how we **Walk in his WAY**. There early church was even referred to as *The Way*.

SLIDE 2c On the 21st I'll share about how we are to **Walk in his WISDOM**.

SLIDE 2d Finally, on Communion Sunday, the 28th, I'll share about why we need to **Walk in his WEALTH**. Mainly so we won't spend our lives chasing after the things this world provides and missing out on the things God gives us richly to enjoy.

So, since we have so much to cover, let's get right into it:

SLIDE 3 Walk in his WORD

In any relationship there are expectations. I know we live in a society that demands you accept them as they are, but that's not how it works.

I'm a married man, so there is that expectation that I should quit dating other women and be faithful to my wife. Ignoring the expectations of others is a quick way to exit your relationship with them. These social, relational and spiritual expectations need to be addressed and discussed, clarified, and reinforced.

SLIDE 4 Great Expectations

The same is true in our relationship with the Lord. There are many expectations we have laid on him. What you might not understand or want to accept is that he has

laid many expectations on us. It's called a covenant relationship. We always want to skirt this issue with grace, but how we act in our relationship with the Lord shows a lot about how we feel about him, and vice-versa. Also, how we act in our personal relationships reflect a lot about how we feel about others.

The first step in this necessary realization is starting a conversation. You must learn to communicate your expectations and receive feedback to determine whether you were understood or not. We do this regularly with children. We need to be clear about what our expectations of them are and we need them to convey this back to us to make sure they "got it."

SLIDE 5 Knowing the WORD

In our relationship with the Lord we learn about our covenant relationship with him through his Word. His Word not only teaches us things that will benefit our lives here on earth, it also teaches us about our personal relationship with him.

In other words, you cannot know about a person until you sit down and talk to them for yourself. I'm not going to depend on what others tell me about the Lord. If he is real, he can talk to me for himself.

Misinterpretation of the Bible comes from people examining God's words and not having an actual relationship with him. Our relationship may begin by being introduced, but then it is by developing a conversation about yourself and the other person.

Remember: Even Jesus is a mediator between God and man. We must take the next step and learn about our relationship with God, having been introduced by Jesus. I knew Jesus for many years as my Lord and Savior, before I ever knew him and God.

At the last supper Jesus was asked a couple of telling questions by two of the disciples, Thomas and Philip:

SLIDE 6 **John 14:5-10 (NIV)** *"⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ **If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.** From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

SLIDE 7 *"⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." ⁹ Jesus*

answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."

Sometimes you don't realize the weight of the relationship you have with God. Thomas and Philip must have had a moment during that supper where they turned to each other and said, "OMG! We've been walking with God all this time!"

SLIDE 8 Knowing the FATHER

These are the testimonies that the Word of God gives us about who we are in relationship with. We are in relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ. God wants to know us personally. He wants us to talk to him directly through Jesus name.

Too often we are still like the fallen Adam and Eve, trying to find a place to hide from him, rather than expose ourselves to the cleansing light of his Word.

There are many, many Scriptures about this, but I can only focus on a few today.

When Jesus got into it with the Jewish leaders because he was healing on the Sabbath day, in his defense he said this:

SLIDE 9 John 5:39, 40 (NIV) ³⁹ *You study [KJV: search] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. **These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,*** ⁴⁰ *yet you refuse to come to me to have life."*

Who Jesus is and how he is in relationship with us is revealed to us through the Scriptures. Yet, we would rather receive what someone else says about God rather than approach him ourselves through his own Word.

Our modern times and high-tech communications lead us to believe we know a lot about things that we actually know nothing about. If we are ignorant of what the Bible says, we are losing out in our relationship with the Lord. Worse than that, we can be led astray from the truth that is in him.

Let me just pull that phrase out of Ephesians here:

SLIDE 10 Ephesians 4:20 (NIV) ²⁰ *That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with **the truth***

that is in Jesus."

SLIDE 11 Why We Miss It

The main reason we miss out on our personal relationship with the Lord is always centered around not knowing his Word and why he is revealing it to us. It comes from the fact that before we actually entered into a covenant relationship with the Savior, we heard so much about him from others. You may say our views of God and religion were "tainted" before we ever came to know Christ and we have a hard time shaking off those presuppositions we made.

There is a lot of preprogramming that happens in the church, even to the point of robbing people of a direct relationship with the lord. This is what the Pharisees did in Jesus' day. This attitude is one of the woes Jesus pronounced on religious leaders:

SLIDE 12 Matthew 23:13 (NIV) *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, **nor will you let those enter who are trying to.**"*

Jesus also referred to them as "blind guides" and "hypocrites." These are strong words towards people who are trying to tell you what God is like and they don't even know him themselves. Let's not fall into the trap of thinking we have knowledge, but being blind to the fact that we do not have relationship with God through his Word.

SLIDE 13 Altar Time

Walking in the Word of God means truly knowing God and being obedient to the expectations he has upon our lives. As in all relationships—it works both ways.

And in our relationships let us remember where they begin:

SLIDE 14 1st John 1:7 (NIV) *"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."*

Let us all walk in the light of his Word.