

## The WALK

### 4 of 4 | Walk in his WEALTH

#### SLIDE 1 Introduction

Today we conclude our series on *The WALK*. I hope we can all see that how we walk in this world has a direct impact on how people perceive the Lord. Like the old saying goes, "You are the only Bible some people will ever read."

We talked about how we are to lay a foundation for our lives by walking in his Word. Then I shared how we are to walk in God's ways. These ways reveal the nature of God. It kind of like the motivations behind the actions. We could even say they are the fruit of the Spirit being born through our knowledge of God's Word. (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control - Galatians 5:22, 23) God's Word is transformative.

Last Sunday I talked about how we are to walk in his wisdom, stating that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, as Proverbs 9:10 tells us.

#### SLIDE 2 Some Definitions

Today we will conclude with walking in his wealth. But before we get into why this is necessary, we need to set up some local definitions about this topic.

Some of the words I will be using will seem to overlap, but in the context of today's message they are drawn to illustrate the different between simply the natural (not necessarily evil) and the spiritual sides of life.

The first, of course, is wealth. I draw a distinction between wealth and riches, equating riches with just the things valued by the world. Whereas I attribute wealth to the resources God gives us not only to enjoy life, but to serve him.

Secondly, I will use terms like lack and poverty with these same two sides. Example: We are called to live in an abundant supply of God's provision and on the other hand, be poor in spirit. (Matthew 5:3)

Finally, I will use the word blessed. It may seem odd, but I will draw a contrast between it and happy.

Of note is the fact that all the things covered in this series are things we must choose to walk in. They are not automatic. For too long we have assumed that everything God intended for us is just going to happen. No, there are many things in the spirit world that you will miss out on if you do not apply what you learn.

To put it another way: There are things you WILL DO because you are his child, but there are things you SHOULD DO because you bear his name.

### **SLIDE 3** Walking in his WEALTH

The actual word "wealth" is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. (118 in the NIV) The first place appears in Genesis where we are told that Isaac reaped a hundredfold in the land of what he planted. (Genesis 26:11)

**SLIDE 4** Genesis 26:13 (NIV) *"The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy."*

Isaac received a return on his investment. Herein we see the first principle of wealth that God wants us to walk in. Many teachers today call it "seed time and harvest," because that is the way God set up the world and his kingdom. Giving always comes before receiving. You cannot draw from the ground what you did not plant. It is a divine proclamation of the Lord:

**SLIDE 5** Genesis 8:22 (NIV) *"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

The first thing we need to get our heads around is that everything we receive from God comes from some form of investment in the truths of his Word. The promises of his Word are the seed we sow to establish the wealth we need to fulfill his purpose for our lives. Also remember: Purpose comes before pleasure.

Before I go further, let's make it clear where we are to sow the precious seed of God's Word – it is in our hearts. The fruit of the Spirit I mentioned is the fruit we need to live in the blessings of the Lord. This begins with self-control and grows all the way to love, which is sacrificial service to others. Again, it is the fruit of the Spirit.

Moving a little further forward in the Old Testament we find this very motivational

verse:

**SLIDE 6 Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)** *"But remember the Lord your God, **for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth**, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."*

Walking in his wealth is not a given, it is built through investment. He doesn't "give" you wealth, he gives you "ability" to produce it. It comes in the form of seed. The same thing applies in the natural.

And in the same way, as your natural investments can be threatened by weather (for a crop) or the economy (for your money), our spiritual investment can be threatened by enemies of a spiritual nature—fear, doubt, unbelief.

That's why Jesus said to *"...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."* (Matthew 6:20)

### **SLIDE 7 Tend Your Crop**

There is a principle in the Scriptures called stewardship. Whatever you have must be tended for it to grow. Proverbs tells us of the foolishness of those who do not take care of what they have been given. I've seen Model T's going down the road looking as new as the day they came out of the factory. I've also seen them rusting away in a farmer's field. This is called the law of use. You have to keep your list of priorities in order or the things you need to keep moving forward will be lost simply from lack of maintenance.

It would be like saving the muscles in your arms for when you need them, but not working them to keep them strong. Again Proverbs says:

**SLIDE 8 Proverbs 12:11 (NIV)** *"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."*

It does not make sense to chase things in this life that do not serve your God-given purpose. It becomes self-defeating. With all the other enemies you face trying to steal your abundance, don't become one of those enemies yourself.

The prophet Isaiah directs us to the voice of the Spirit when he says this:

**SLIDE 9** **Isaiah 55:2 (NIV)** *“Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.”*

Learning contentment with the things you have allows you to focus on the things that matter and not endless fantasies. Do not develop a victim mentality that says the reason you cannot prosper is because of the people or the systems around you. Not everyone with an abundance is evil or sold out to the system. Many have produced wealth by walking in its natural principles. How much more should we be able to live in the abundance of the Lord by walking in the wisdom of his Word concerning sowing and reaping. Isaiah 55, verses 1 through 8 would be a good follow up to read concerning what I have shared today. The Lord desires to bless you, but there are things you must walk in to fully realize how blessed you can be.

**SLIDE 10** **You Get Out What You Put In**

What goes for your spiritual walk goes also for your financial walk. The only way you can be a consumer is to be a producer. Many of us simply need to learn the wisdom of a simple farmer. Jesus cited many parables based on sowing and reaping. We too, if we desire to serve God to the fullest, should take heed to what we sow into and how we sow it.

One of the biggest and most powerful seeds the Lord has given us is our words. We can speak blessing over our lives or we can speak cursing. We can choose to be grateful or hateful. We can complain or sustain. We can seek answers or seek excuses.

However, the biggest thing we must realize is all of this is up to us. Poverty is part of the curse, but we have been delivered from the curse. We have been given a pathway to provision for every purpose.

And of special note: Even though you can create wealth through the principles of the Bible, it should not be your end game. Following God's purpose in your life ensures his provision goes with you and you will defeat every enemy that comes against your

resources.

**SLIDE 11 2nd Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)** *"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

**SLIDE 12 Altar Time**

I pray this series has been beneficial to you in some way.

Our personal walk with God is probably the most powerful witness we can have to others who are struggling with the same things we do.