



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## WALKING IN STEP WITH GOD

**KEY PASSAGE:** Ephesians 4:1-3 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:8; 5:24 | Psalm 23:4 | Isaiah 30:21; 40:31  
Amos 3:3 | Matthew 11:28 | Mark 1:35; 10:45 | John 8:28-29 | Romans 8:28; 10:13 | Ephesians 4:1, 17-18; 5:15-17  
Galatians 2:20

### SUMMARY:

**Walking with God means living in close, intimate fellowship with our heavenly Father.**

When we are in step with Him, we don't get ahead of the Lord by rushing into ministry or other opportunities in our timing. Neither do we fall behind by failing to obey what He asks us to do. When we walk with God, we naturally make a difference in the world simply by being who we are in Him. A close relationship with the Father brings us joy, peace, contentment, and purpose. Those qualities attract others to Christ. And the more intimately we walk with the Lord, the more our lives reflect that we belong to Him, and the greater impact we have for His kingdom.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

#### What does it mean to walk with God?

The Bible uses this phrase to describe the lives of righteous people who have an intimate friendship with God characterized by divine guidance (Gen. 3:8; 5:24; Is. 30:21; 40:31). In the New Testament, the apostle Paul wrote, "I . . . implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" (Eph. 4:1). In other words, believers should seek to live in close fellowship with the Lord.

God calls every person to four things:

(1) *Salvation*: the Lord desires each person to believe in Jesus as personal Savior. He allows

individuals to realize their need for Him and want to have their lives changed (Rom. 10:13; Matt. 11:28). (2) *Sanctification*: Once we are saved, we are set apart for the purposes of God. This is a life-long process of maturing and increasing in righteousness. (3) *Service*: The Lord has called each believer to serve Him in some fashion their entire lives. (4) *Accountability*: We will stand before Christ one day to answer for the choices we made in life, whether they were wise or foolish.

What does a worthy Christian walk look like? Keeping in step with God requires that we faithfully read the Bible, obey Him, and believe in His promises. As a result, our lives will be characterized by love, faith, integrity, and wisdom (Eph. 5:15-16). People should be able to see the Lord through us. In other words, the way we treat our families, friends, co-workers, and even strangers will indicate that we love the Father.

#### How do we walk in step with God?

■ **Surrender**: You must first choose to live in agreement with the Lord. Recognize how much you need His guidance and surrender your will, emotions, thoughts, and plans. Begin each morning by praying, "Father, I want You to have your way in my life today, no matter where You lead me or what You ask me to do." A person who is not wholly committed to God will not be able to walk in step with Him consistently. He or she will be easily distracted from pursuing the Father's best.

■ **Sensitivity:** Listening to the Lord is a vital part of enjoying intimate fellowship with Him throughout the day (John 8:28-29). The ability to hear His voice is an absolute essential for the Christian life. My primary prayer for my children as they grew up was that they would know how to listen to God. A young man or woman who hears the voice of the Lord will be equipped to make wise decisions (Eph. 5:15, 17). But learning to listen to God rarely happens without an individual deliberately seeking Him through prayer and solitude. If you want this quality, you must make spending time with the Father a priority.

■ **Scripture:** Through studying the Bible, we can learn how to please the Lord and what attitudes and actions to avoid (Ephesians 4:17-18). We can also learn from the life of Jesus. The Father led Him to those in need—the poor, the sick, and the hurting. God’s plan for us is similar. Although our culture is quite different from that of biblical times, the problems people face remain essentially the same. The Lord desires for us to follow His guidance and minister to suffering people.

■ **Supplication:** Passionate, specific prayer is essential to walking with God. A person who is building an intimate relationship with the Father must talk to Him and listen to His voice. Jesus often withdrew from people to pray in the early morning hours (Mark 1:35). If it was important for the Son of God to connect with the Father, how much more important is it for us to start the day with prayer? When you wake up, thank God that He is part of your life. Each morning can be a new start—filled with joy, peace, and purpose—if we are walking in unity with Jesus. Life will not always be easy nor will it always go according to your expectations, but God will bring spiritual benefits out of any negative circumstances you face (Rom. 8:28). For instance, the apostle Paul might have never written the letters that became part of our Bible if he had not been imprisoned for his faith.

■ **Self-denial:** In Galatians 2:20, Paul writes, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” Now, this *doesn’t* mean that we deny ourselves all

pleasure. God enjoys blessing us with what we need—and often far more than we deserve. But self-denial *does* mean we consider ourselves dead to the temptations of the world and that we allow Christ to live His life through us. Walking in step with God means neither running ahead of His plans nor falling behind. It makes our decisions beneficial, not only for us, but also for the kingdom of God.

■ **Service:** Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Christ gave of Himself by befriending people, healing them, meeting their needs, and ultimately dying on a cross for the sins of the world. I believe if you and I walk in step with Jesus, we will serve God in some fashion every single day. Even home-bound people can minister to others through modern technology. Our intimacy with Christ naturally results in service to the Lord.

## CONCLUSION:

An exciting adventure begins when we walk in step with God. That’s because everything you and I need is found in our relationship with Him. Peace, joy, contentment, confidence, comfort, and direction are ours when we submit to and obey the Lord.

To remember how to walk in step with God, keep in mind six key words. **Surrender** your life to Him each day. Be **sensitive** to the voice of the Lord. **Study** the Scripture to discover what a life in harmony with His purposes is like. Be sure to set aside adequate time for **supplication**, or intimate conversations with the Father. Through **self-denial**, obey the will of God rather than your own. And trust the Lord to bring you opportunities for **service** every day. ✨



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