

Walking with God – Gen 5.21-24

Lesson 5: Directions for walking with God, Part 2

- VIII. Labor to keep a tender conscience so you can be aware of the very beginnings of decline, Mt 26.41
- A. We have a great deal of corruption still with us in this body of death, and the heart is quickly drawn away from the ways of God. But if we could keep a tender conscience and watch against the first signs of withdrawal, we can preserve our walk with God.
 - 1. As soon as we got one step from God, what difference would it make for us if we had a conscience so tender that it would immediately ask: *Where are you? Where are you going? What are you doing here?*
 - 2. How different it is when we've already gotten far from God! We begin to have many thoughts of despair, doubting that God would take us back, doubting that He would forgive us. And these thoughts lead to thoughts of, "Well, I've gone this far. There's no point in going back now. What's the difference? I'd might as well go all the way. I'm already guilty anyway. God's already displeased anyway." and so we go further and further away from God. We reason that if we've forsaken God and God's forsaken us, then all we have left is our lusts.
 - B. Let us, then, take heed of stepping away from God by keeping our conscience tender of the least decline.
- IX. Labor to be spiritual in your solitude, Ps 16.11
- A. This is especially important for those of us who are very busy in earthly matters. When we have some alone time, some down time, we need to be very diligent about making sure that we don't waste the opportunities we have to be alone with God. It's so easy to fill our solitude with social media and distractions of all sorts, until the time is all spent and our spirit, and our walk with God still suffers.
 - B. Christ was very busy, both with the crowds and with His disciples. But He purposely took time to be with the Father. Why? Because time with God is a means of grace.
 - C. Those who are spiritual in their solitude will be spiritual when they come into company, Ex 34.29
- X. Let God's presence be more to you than all the world, Job 31.1-4
- A. When our hearts are set on sin, we usually look around to see if anyone's watching; and if someone sees us who knows us, then our faces suddenly cover with shame because our credit with them has been marred.
 - B. Why is it that we don't consider if God's watching?
 - C. But when we walk with God, we count His presence as more than all, and we fear to do anything in His presence that we wouldn't do openly in the presence of all men and we fear to do anything in the presence of men that we wouldn't do in the presence of God.
- XI. Go on with your obedience even though you see nothing come of it.
- A. Our obedience to God isn't conditioned upon what comfort or joy we get out of it, so we must continue in our duty and leave the results of it with the Lord.
- XII. Make good interpretations of all God's ways and dealings with you.
- A. This is such a mighty help to keep us in the ways of God.
 - B. If God comes to you in the way of affliction, don't immediately conclude that God's angry with you or has become an enemy to you or is forsaking you. Instead, exercise your faith in His Word and promises and conclude that He means as much good to you in this way as in another, Rom 8.28; Heb 12.7-10, 12-14

- C. What about when God withdraws from us? The rule to remember is this, whenever God seems to withdraw from you, it's His call to you to press on after Him, Ps 63.1-8
1. If He withdraws, follow hard after Him. If He withdraws yet further, then get up and run after Him, Mt 15.21-28
 2. In the day of spiritual afflictions, see that you're less concerned to be delivered than to be assured that God is with you still. Because if sin makes affliction heavy, then God makes it light.

Objection: God sometimes withdraws from me that I cannot find or see Him. He hides Himself and I am at a loss. What should I do?

Answer:

1. Be of good comfort. It's a good sign that you know what walking with God is so that you know what it is when He withdraws.
2. Examine your heart to see if you haven't shut God out from walking with you, by quenching the Spirit by your sins so that God's withdraw is a testimony of His displeasure.
3. Remember that it's better if God withdraws from you than that you withdraw from Him. If God withdraws from you, this is only your affliction; but if you withdraw from God, this is your sin, and sin is worse than affliction.
4. God's withdrawing of comfort is not always the withdrawing of His presence. See that you strive to live by faith in those times and strengthen your confidence in His promises.
5. If you can't see God's face in comforts, then listen for His voice in His Word and follow that.
6. Wait upon the Lord. Let God do what He will, but you resolve to stay in His path and keep up the use of His means, and be sure that you will meet Him again, Ps 101.2; 119.8

To conclude, let us meditate on the fact that if there's so much excellence in walking with God here below, what will there be in walking with God above!? Therefore let us seek to walk with God below in a way that'll bring the joys of heaven down and prepare our hearts and souls to ascend to heaven above, Pss 16.11; 17.15

Finis.