



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

(Colossians 1:9-10 NASB)

Dear Beloved,

These verses have a very special place in our hearts because they are part of the words Paul's mom used to dedicate his first Bible to him when he was confirmed. What a blessing!

But beyond that, we sense that the Holy Spirit is now focusing us on the specific words: **“...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord...”** We are experiencing a battle for the basic fabric of our society and for the governmental foundation of our country. There are many voices claiming to be Christian, but we are stunned by some of the behavior being exhibited by some who are making that claim. Knowing that the Bible says that the devil is the father of all lies, we wonder what spirit is actually the head of some of the loudest voices in our land when we repeatedly hear lies proclaimed as truths. We also know that the Bible says Jesus declared Himself to be the **“...way, the truth, and the life.”**

We have been pondering exactly what is important to Him right now to walk worthy of Him and prayed for the **“spiritual wisdom and understanding”** to know how to **“walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”**. We sense that there are seven aspects of walking worthy of our Lord, Jesus, and each one is demonstrated for us by special saints in the scripture.

The first and primary aspect is **The Path of Fellowship** as exemplified by Enoch. He walked in such harmony and friendship with God that one day after his stroll with Him, God took him home with Him (Gen. 5:24). I can just hear the Father saying: *You know my dear friend, Enoch, it's actually closer to My house from here than it is to yours. Why not just continue our fellowship and walk back to My house.* I (Paul) actually experienced a sense of this first step in walking worthy of the Lord when for the first time in my walk with Jesus the Holy Spirit breathed 1 Cor. 1:9 into my heart: **“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”** What I heard in these words was actually: *God has called me to be a buddy with Jesus!* Can you imagine the chuckle in my heart when our seminary-trained friend started to explain to me the seven meanings of the Greek word translated “fellowship”? Buddy wasn't one of them!

The Walk of Works as shown us by Noah is the second aspect of walking worthy of our Lord. Can you imagine the perseverance Noah had to continue preaching righteousness and warning his neighbors while laboring to build a huge boat to escape the deluge of rain he said was coming...when there had never yet even been rain. The apostle, James, balances the emphasis in the New Testament between faith and the works that demonstrate faith, and we particularly appreciate his promise to the persistent worker: **“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”** (James 1:12)

The Route of Faith is demonstrated for us in Abraham’s history. His route had some drastic learning curves in it, but so do most of ours. But when the final test of faith came involving the sacrifice of his son of promise, he stayed on the route of righteousness! This is the most awesome faith feat in scripture because it literally foreshadows God’s sacrifice of His own son, Jesus. Abraham would not be diverted from his route of faith in his God even by the most unimaginable challenge: **“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, [can you say: tempted to take some alternate route in faith] offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son...He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.”** (Heb. 11:17 & 19)

The fourth aspect of walking worthy of our Lord Jesus is **The Journey of Obedience**. Although obedience is a key ingredient of each and every aspect of walking worthy of our Lord, it is hard to find a better example of a journey of obedience than that of Moses. His life story even shows us how he had to learn to take the journey of obedience when he so often felt inadequate, frustrated, and angered by what he had to walk through on his way. So his learned and lost obedience, his fearless yet fragile obedience, and his heroic but still humble obedience show us all the aspects of our own journeys of learning to walk in obedience to our loving God who has declared that His love of obedience to Him outshines any sacrifice: **“Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to heed than the fat of rams.”** (1 Sam. 15:22)

The Highway of Worship, the fifth aspect of walking worthy, is modeled for us by David! Worship is truly the high way! It never ceases to be amazing how David could pour out his guts in frustration, indignation, and even anger at God, at His people, and even at himself for verse after verse in the Psalms, but always end by praising God for His faithfulness and worshiping Him with all his heart. To borrow a page from Abraham’s book, his dedication to worship in the most unthinkable situation was a mainstay to his ability to have faith in his God. Abraham’s declaration of worshiping unto faith in Gen. 22:5 is absolutely awesome: **“Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will *worship and return to you.*’”** (emphasis added!)

Jesus Himself is the sixth aspect of walking worthy. He is **The Super Highway of Submission!** **“...He said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”** (John 19:30) He could have called down legions of angels to save Himself and stepped down from the cross, but instead He bowed His head in complete submission to the plan of His Father—to save us! **“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”** (Luke 22:42)

We learn and grow in our ability to walk worthy of our Lord and God as we grow in our **spiritual wisdom and understanding** and as we become more like Jesus: from a path, to a walkway, to being on His route, for our journey, to the highway, and then on to His super highway!

The seventh aspect of walking worthy is for the Church—that's all of us called-out ones—through the grace and mercy of God's Holy Spirit, to start treading on **The Toll Road of Identity!** Yes, Beloved, there is an increasingly huge toll being extracted from God's saints who are daring to be totally identified with His Son, Jesus. Not just in third world countries that have allowed radical Islam to dominate their societies with Allah's bloodthirsty hate and lust for death, but even here in the world's last bastion of Godly freedom and liberty under established Judeo-Christian law and order.

But don't despair! Read and appropriate Paul's whole prayer for us all to be: **"...strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."** (Col. 1:11-14)

May God's grace, favor, and anointing be upon you, be in you, and flow out through you as you walk with Him into His victory, His joy, and His presence!

Hugs,

