

WALKING

Walking! It is a function of the body that is often taken for granted. The act of walking, like any other movement is a result of learning: either by purpose, or by trial and error. As a rule, most individuals walk by utilizing a method they learned as a child, i.e., a controlled fall. This method is a simple stick out the foot and fall on it. This method requires a great deal of unmerited faith: the method assumes the foot will meet a flat, stable surface. On the many occasions when the assumed flat, stable surface turns out to be a curb, or an indentation in the surface the result is a jarring or stumble at best, or a fall at worse. In the event of a fall the result will produce a few bruises or scratches at best, or broken bones (sometimes death) at worse. Even when an individual knows how to walk the danger is ever present but highly minimized.

Spiritually an individual is faced with the same danger. Many individuals will approach their spiritual walk by trial and error. This approach sounds something like this: "I thought," "It seems to me," and/or "I don't see anything wrong with it." Solomon dealt with these types of walking, saying, "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12), "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel" (Prov. 12:15), and/or "All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives" (Prov. 16:2). These are like unto Judah, of whom Jeremiah said, "they did not obey Your voice or walk in Your law; they have done nothing of all that You commanded them to do; therefore You have made all this calamity come upon them" (Jer. 32:23). It will only be among those who heed the words of Jeremiah, saying, "I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23), that will walk safely. The Psalmist once wrote, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path" (Psa. 119:105).

How important is a controlled spiritual walk? The apostle Paul was keenly aware of this necessity, when he said, "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called," (Eph. 4:1). This necessitates "that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them..." (Eph. 4:17).

The apostle Peter put it this way, "Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble" (2 Pet. 1:10). Follow sound words and "When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble" (Prov. 4:12).
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