

07 01 24

The ingredients to build our love for God Pt 5 Walk with the LORD

This is our fifth teaching on the necessary ingredients to build our love for God. In our previous study we covered three points- (i) All God's children are to serve the LORD, (ii) serve the LORD in sincerity and in truth and (iii) Our reasonable service to God is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Him. In this study we will cover three additional points- (i) Walk with God, (ii) walk by faith, and (iii) live by the faith of the Son of God who gave Himself for us..

To establish a little more detail on our three points we search the scriptures using the words-walk, trust and faith:

i) Walk with God

Examples include:

* Enoch walked with God

[22] And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years...

[23] And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

[24] And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. Genesis 5:22-24

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Heb.11: 5).

* Noah walked with God

“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen.6:9).

The king made a covenant with the LORD to walk after the LORD with all His heart!

“And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book” (2 Chr.34: 31).

What does the LORD require of us?

Walk humbly with Him!

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Mic.6:8).

2. Walk by faith

[6] Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

[7] (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2Cor.5: 7).

Abraham was an example of walking by faith

“And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised” (Romans 4:12).

Moses walked by faith

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment” (Heb.11: 23).

Walk in the Spirit

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16)

As we trust in the LORD may He cause us to know the way we are to walk

“Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.” (Ps.142: 8).

3. Live by the faith of Christ

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...” (Gal.2: 20).

The just shall live by faith

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Rom.1:17). See also- Gal.3: 11.

Paul links living in the Spirit with walking in the Spirit

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Gal.5: 25)

Illustration

The Guinness book of records- identifies the longest marriage ever was enjoyed was by Herbert Fisher (USA, b. 1905) and Zelmyra Fisher (USA, b. 1907). The couple had been married for 86 years 290 days as of 27 February 2011, when Mr Fisher passed away. Together they withstood the Great Depression and World War II, lived through the Civil Rights Movement and eventually lived to witness the first African-American president of the USA.

Herbert and Zelmyra grew up together as best friends in North Carolina, USA and married on 13 May 1924. Herbert was 18 years old and Zelmyra was 16.

“The best piece of marriage advice Zelmyra and Herbert ever received was to ‘respect, support, and communicate with each other. Be faithful, honest, and true. Love each other with ALL of your heart.’”

Question

How does walking with the LORD build our love for Him?

Answer from the scriptures

The couple that were married for 86 years, and still loved each other went through wars, depression, change and unrest- which would have caused tribulation in their relationship. Getting through those times of affliction would have seen the greatest change and strengthening in their love for one another.

So it is with God.

Example of David:

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears” (Ps.18: 6).

“I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications” Ps.116: 1

“O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful...” (Ps.31: 23)

“O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me...” (Ps.7:1).

David’s love for the LORD would have grown over the years through his tribulation and trusting.

David put his trust in God to defend him

“But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee” (Ps.5: 11).

Such trust is not half-hearted, but with all of your heart. In Psalm 5: 11- there is link between trust and love. Which is not surprising as trust takes place in our heart, and so does love. Therefore, trust is the foundation and breeding ground for love. Hence, it would not surprise us that there is a link between walking with God and our heart. David walked in integrity of heart- 1 Kgs 9:4- “And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments.”

Example of the Lord Jesus Christ when He walked the earth.

Jesus is our ultimate example of love, and faith and trusting in the Father. Today we do not have to walk with God by our own faith, but by the faith of Christ. Therefore, when tribulation strikes, when times of affliction occur, and they will, your trust in God which is evident as you walk by faith, is actually the faith of Christ that dwells in you (Rom.8: 9 - 11). And Jesus’ faith in His Father was perfect, His love for His Father would have been perfect as His Father loved Him- Jn.15:9 -“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”

In conclusion, a significant ingredient to growing our love for God is to walk with Him. When we do so on a daily basis- we will talk with Him, not just about church, the bible, and home, but every aspect of our life. about everything (as the couple of our 86 year long marriage testified- communication is a key ingredient). When we walk with the LORD, our trust in Him will take on a level of maturity, and our love for Him will grow exponentially through the trials, as we depend on Him and trust Him to honour the promises in His word!. To the glory of God!