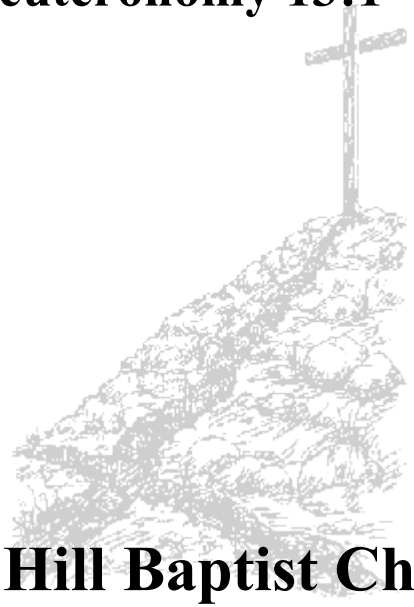


# Walking After The Lord

Doctrine of Walking

Deuteronomy 13:1-4



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**FOCAL** (Deuteronomy 13:1-4 KJV) "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, {2} And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; {3} Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."

As Israel moved into the Promised Land, they would move among many peoples with many ideologies and theologies. In other words, nearly every nation Israel passed through had its own god, and that god *was not* the God of the Holy Bible! So God our Father established *parameters* that Israel was to follow.

In America today the Church that Jesus died for is in much the same position that Israel was in. We find ourselves surrounded by strange doctrinal ideas, flooded on our senses through the television and news media. **People are telling us that *everything's right* and *nothing's wrong*, that there are no *moral imperatives* or *absolute truths*.**

But is this Biblical?

God gave Israel a very clear and simple method to

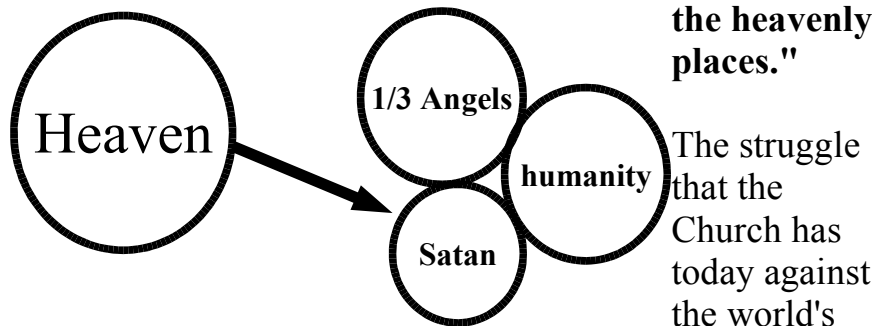
determine whether something or someone had the Divine Seal of Approval. Let's look at this one step at a time.

### **First, There Is An Absolute Truth**

**FOCAL** (Deuteronomy 13:1-2 KJV) "If there arise<sup>1</sup> among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, {2} And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them ..."

There *are* other powers out there besides the power of God - and the Lord Himself recognizes this. He said **If a prophet or dreamer displays his power, and shows you something miraculous ..** God wouldn't have warned that such a thing was possible if it weren't possible. There are powers besides those of God's powers. These powers are described by the Bible:

(Ephesians 6:12 NASB) "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."



powers is the same struggle that Israel faced. When Lucifer fell to sin and rebelled against God, the Bible says that he led a *third part of the angels* (**Revelation 12:4**) to rebel with him. Satan in turn was the one who led Adam and Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit, leading all of humanity into a fallen or sinful state. The one that Jesus Christ called "A Murderer From The Beginning":

(John 8:44 KJV) "... the devil ... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

and the creator of the lie actually caused man *two falls* - the **fall of the angels** and the **fall of mankind**. The fallen angels, determined to keep mankind from following the One True God, took the position of *false or other gods*. They had one purpose in mind, and that was to lead God's people **after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them.**

So how can I avoid being trapped by these demons into following **other gods**? **First of all I need to recognize that *there is an absolute truth, and it is only found in the context of God's Word.*** It is God's Will that His people follow Him and Him alone. This is the reason that He gave us such a complete and wonderful Book like the Bible. If I am going to avoid being led astray from the Word of God, then I need to have a *personal relationship with that Word* in my daily life. I need to read and study the Word of God for myself!

<sup>1</sup> Qal Imperfect quwm {pronounced koom} , to come to power

Christians today have a tendency to *read books about the Bible* and yet *never read the Bible*. But Beloved, the Bible is God's Love Letter to YOU. The more you know of the Scripture, the less likely you are to be deceived by the devil or the world. Let me use this example: If you had never eaten an apple, how could you tell what a *good apple* tastes like? But if you've eaten apples then you know the good from the bitter, the ripe from the unripe. So it is with God's Word. As you read and apply its precepts to your heart, you discover that every word in it's Holy Text is written with loving you in mind. Since:

**(1 John 4:8-9 KJV) "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. {9} In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."**

God is love, and you are in love with God, the outflow of a life tied to Him will not be selfish and fickle, but it will be loving and forgiving as Christ our Savior is. We who believe **live through Him**, that is, Christ lives out His life through me.

### **Second, Realize Satan's Tactics Are To *Draw Away***

**FOCAL** (Deuteronomy 13:2-3 KJV) "... Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; {3} Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams..."

The devil always follows the same pattern when he attacks any of God's people - *divide and conquer*. He did this with the other fallen angels, leading them *away* from God. He did this in the Garden of Eden when he said:

**(Genesis 3:1 KJV) "... Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"**

I immediately begin to get suspicious of anyone when they draw away from the *clearly revealed Word of God* and begin *assuming* things. Satan's implication to Eve was, "Did God *really* say that ... or did you just *think* you heard Him say that?" Once you begin to *reason* with the devil, you're already on a road that leads to no where!

Our Lord Jesus had a very simple method for correcting the devil - He said:

**(Matthew 4:4 KJV) "... It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**

**(Matthew 4:7 KJV) "... It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."**

**(Matthew 4:10 KJV) "... Get thee hence, Satan: for It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."**

What does the Bible say? I've found this to be a very simple method to keep me on track over the years. Very few days go by without someone asking me about something someone said relevant to the Christian faith.

Now I want to be very careful how I say this, because I don't want to be misunderstood. I love the works of many Christian pastors and writers, some living and some dead. I treasure the works of **Charles Stanley, Adrien Rodgers, J. Vernon McGee, C.H. Spurgeon, John Walvoord, John Wesley, John MacArthur, Dwight L. Moody**, and many others. These are all great men of God. However, my *ultimate source of Absolute Truth is the Word of God*, not what these men have said. The final authority for the believer must be, as Jesus made it, "**It is written**". Otherwise, you will be led away after other gods!

### **Third, The Fruit of God Is Always Perfect**

**FOCAL** (Deuteronomy 13:3-4 KJV) "**Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.**"

There is a QUALITY to God that is not to be found in the false gods or Satan's devilish deceptions. You can always tell when a bell is broken, for its tone will be untrue or hollow. In the same way, the devil's deceptions, when compared to God's ways, are always tinnish and cheap.

The Bible teaches us that the *works of the flesh*, that is, the outflow from the Old Sin Nature is *always selfish* or

*self serving*. Look at the list that we are given in Galatians:

**(Galatians 5:19-21 KJV) "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, {20} Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, {21} Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**"

Every one of these *works of the flesh* lead the person to *self satisfaction* rather than Divine Love. Can you see Jesus Christ doing any of these works? I can't! The works of the flesh are also *self destructive*, destroying either the self esteem or the physical life of the person. The quality of the devil is always suspect. What about the quality of God?

**(Galatians 5:22-23 KJV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."**

Note that the text says **the FRUIT of the Spirit**. There are many works of evil attributed to the devil and the flesh, but only ONE FRUIT with many flavors from the Lord. Now look at the flavors of the produce of God: **love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance**. Each flavor in the fruit of the Spirit supports the other flavors. The quality of God is amazing, and blessed. If you wish to have a

blessed, satisfying life, then you must orient your life so as to follow after Jesus and not after the gods of this world.

**Ye shall walk after the LORD your God:  
The Doctrine of Walking**

**1** The Christian is designed by God to *walk* or *live out his life* by serving the Lord:

**(Romans 14:7-8 KJV) "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. {8} For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."**

Just as it was with Israel of old, we are saved to serve our Savior. This is our *purpose* for being. We no longer live for ourselves, but we live to serve the Creator *Who now lives inside of us*:

**(2 Corinthians 6:16 KJV) "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."**

**(Ephesians 2:10 KJV) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."**

enabling us to do His Works and showing His Fruit. A

Christian who does not habitually seek to serve Jesus will *never* find happiness in this life. Just as the salmon must return to its place of birth to spawn, and as the birds flock south for the winter, the Christian is designed by God to give as Christ gave:

**(Acts 20:35 KJV) "I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."**

That, truly, is the life of blessing we are called to.

**2** The Christian is designed to walk in the truths of the Word of God:

**(3 John 1:3-4 KJV) "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. {4} I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."**

**(John 17:17 KJV) "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."**

The unbeliever does not have the capacity to understand the truths of God's Word, but believers are designed by God to **walk in truth**, that is, apply what the Scripture tells us to our lives. The Bible is the starting and ending point for every discussion of truth that we have. Not an opinion, not what I think, but what the Scripture thinks - and how Jesus lived. Jesus Christ came to offer us

*eternal* life, but also *abundant* life. He said:

**(John 10:10 KJV) "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly<sup>2</sup>. "**

Is it possible to be happy without Jesus? Well yes, I suppose so. But the joy from such a life is only transitory. If your joy is based on money, then you're only happy when you have money. If it's based on achievement, then you'll only be happy when you are the king of the mountain. But if your joy is based on that inner contentment that comes from knowing Jesus Christ and living your life *with Him* you will never be totally unhappy. He is our Peace!

**3** God *inside* the Christian guides our daily decisions as well. The Bible tells us:

**(Galatians 5:16 KJV) "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."**

**Walking in the Spirit** is yielding your life to God the Holy Spirit Who now indwells you. Ancient Israel did not have this resource, but we do, if we are saved by the grace of God. Walking in the Spirit means to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit, to live your life as God directs. The Christian way of life is very much a *supernatural way of life* - you cannot live it apart from a living, abiding relationship with God. We read:

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<sup>2</sup> perissos {pronounced per-is-sos? }, abundantly, superior, much greater

**(Romans 8:1 KJV) "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."**

The believer is not under condemnation because he or she is indwelt by and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God. This indwelling Spirit directs us to *live righteously, just as Christ did*:

**(Romans 8:4 KJV) "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."**

The righteousness of the Law can never be fulfilled by the unbeliever trying in his own power to do right. But the righteousness of the Law is *naturally fulfilled* by the God filled, God controlled believer.

**4** The believer is commanded to *walk by faith*:

**(2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV) "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"**

We go where God says go when He says go there. Unlike the children of Israel, we do not say "no" to God because of what appears to be overwhelming odds. I realize that I can do nothing *apart from God*, but with the Apostle I say:

**(Philippians 4:13 KJV) "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."**

and,

**(Jeremiah 17:5-8 KJV) "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. {6} For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. {7} Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. {8} For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."**

Some of the worse punishments came on King David for *numbering<sup>3</sup> his troops* rather than trusting on the gracious power of God. The Christian way of life is a *faith driven way of life*.

**5** The believer is commanded to *walk with other like minded believers*:

**(1 John 1:7 KJV) "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."**

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<sup>3</sup> David was not *counting the cost* (Luke 14:28), but he was showing pride in his own armies when he numbered them. He recognized this and repented: (2 Samuel 24:10 KJV) "And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly."

God has placed us together as His Church to *walk together* in Jesus, accomplishing His work *together* for His glory. As believers in love with Christ and with one another, we are called to love as Jesus loved - and still loves - through us.

**(Ephesians 4:1-3 KJV) "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, {2} With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; {3} Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."**

The walk of the believer should be in sharp contrast to the walk of the unbeliever, as day is different from night. That which characterizes the Christian walk is the peace of God, honoring our Savior with all that we do.

**(Romans 13:13-14 KJV) "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. {14} But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."**