

CHRIST IN THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

Doctrine of Sabbath
Sabbath of Passover
Doctrine of Walking

Leviticus 23: 1-6

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FOCAL Leviticus 23:1-4 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, {2} Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, **Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.** {3} **Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.** {4} These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

You cannot understand the Feasts of Israel unless you understand the principle of the **Sabbath**. God gave Israel a seventh day Sabbath or day of rest:

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the sabbath¹ day, to keep it holy. {9} Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: {10} But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: {11} For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

1 H7676, שַׁבָּת, shabbâth, *shab-bawth'*, Intensive from H7673; *intermission*, that is, (specifically) the *Sabbath*: - (+ every) sabbath.

when He gave the Ten Commandments. The Sabbath was given to remind Israel that it was God Who saved her from Egypt. The Sabbath was a day set apart to worship the Lord God.

The word “Sabbath” literally means intermission. The Sabbath was a time – enforced by the Mosaic Law – to rest and focus on God.

God set apart the Sabbath as a special day when He rested on it:

Genesis 2:2-3 **And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. {3} And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.**

God began to teach His Israel of the Sabbath long before He ever gave them the Law on Mount Sinai. In **Exodus 16** we see that God **rained down bread from Heaven** on His people to feed them in their wilderness journey. God wanted Israel to REST in Him, believing that He would provide for those He so loved. The Lord told Moses:

Exodus 16:4-5 ... **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and**

gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. {5} And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare [that] which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

The Israelite was to gather *just enough manna or Holy Bread* to last for *one day*. If they were greedy and gathered too much bread, whatever they gathered beyond their needs literally rotted the next day. Each person was allowed to take an **omer** of bread (**Exodus 16:16**), which is a tenth part of an **ephah** (**Exodus 16:36**). That cleared things up, didn't it? Just kidding! **Dr. John Gill** defined it this way:

“an ephah in corn measure {was} six gallons, three pints, and three solid inches; and an omer three quarts; which being made into bread, must be more than any ordinary man could well eat”

Dr. Gill went on to illustrate what a blessing this was for Israel. He said:

“what a vast quantity must fall every day to supply so large a number of people with such a measure; some have reckoned it at 94,466 bushels every day, and that there must be consumed in forty years 1,379,203,600 bushels”

God wanted His Israel to rest in His provision – not

in their own strength. This was the reason that He fed Israel manna or bread from Heaven. They were to trust that God would bring enough bread the next day, therefore they were only to gather an omer a day – much more than they could eat. If they gathered too much it turned wormy and stank. They were to eat *every bit of it* that day. God gave one exemption to the **omer a day** plan, and that was when they gathered manna on the sixth day they were to gather *two day's worth*. The Sabbath was to be a Holy Day of rest, a day to focus on the blessings of God and to train oneself to rest in Him.

Why did God give the Sabbath? Why did God allow Israel to gather just enough manna to eat each day, then require that they eat it all that day?

There was a reason for God's manna and God's Sabbath. Some people have taken the Sabbath and turned it into a law that you must keep – else they say “you're not saved”. The Sabbath had absolutely nothing to do with salvation! Listen Beloved: **Israel was already saved when God set forth the Sabbath and the manna**. Moses had already stood at the rim of the Red Sea and told Israel:

Exodus 14:13-14 ... Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have

seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. {14} The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

God fought for Israel and saved Israel. Egypt's mighty Army lay dead in the waters of the Red Sea, crushed under tons of water. Her horses and chariots, once proud, now broken and bloody flowed downstream as a testimony to all who would not heed the Lord God. Israel was saved because God saved her. Why did God give them a Sabbath or an *Intermission*? Hear His Words once more:

Exodus 16:4 ... Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Now that they were saved from Egypt, God wanted to train them to **walk in His Law**. They were supposed to **rest in God's Law or God's Word, His Promise, and His provision**. Go back to Leviticus 23:

FOCAL Leviticus 23:1-4 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, {2} Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. {3} Six days shall work be done: but the **seventh day is the**

sabbath¹ of rest², a holy³ convocation⁴; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. {4} These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

The seventh day is the shabbâth shabbâthôn, the intermission that is a special holiday.

The shabbâth shabbâthôn is a holy convocation, or a sacred set apart day where the saints gather together.

When the seventh day came Israel was supposed to gather together to worship the Lord their God only. They were not allowed to gather manna – they were given two day's worth of manna on the sixth day. This was a time to teach Israel that **God is in control**. What was God teaching Israel through His Sabbath? His people had to know *when to walk* and *when not to walk*. They had to trust their God on a moment by moment basis. They were going to go into a land

2 H7677, שַׁבְּתוֹן, shabbâthôn, *shab-baw-thone'*, From H7676; a *sabbatism* or special holiday: - rest, sabbath.

3 H6944, קֹדֶשׁ, qôdesh, *ko'-desh*, From H6942; a *sacred* place or thing; rarely abstractly *sanctity*: - consecrated (thing), dedicated (thing), hallowed (thing), holiness, (X most) holy (X day, portion, thing), saint, sanctuary.

4 H4744, מִקְרָא, miqrâ', *mik-raw'*, From H7121; something *called* out, that is, a public *meeting* (the act, the persons, or the palce); also a *rehearsal*: - assembly, calling, convocation, reading.

filled with enemies and pagan deities. The Land of Canaan – though a wonderful **land of milk and honey** – was also a land filled with **Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites**:

Exodus 3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

God did not save Israel just so they could sit in an armchair and watch the Super Bowl! He didn't save Israel just so He could spoon feed them manna as they trolloped through the desert! God saves a people so that He can use a people to take a land so that His Name might be glorified. Israel was supposed to enter the Land, and follow God to victory. They had to know when to move or march, they had to know when to be still. Every military campaign they would win, they would win it by being obedient to God's Word. In short, they had to be taught to *daily rest in God*. The Sabbath taught them how to rest.

The first generation of Israel died in the wilderness because they would not learn how to

rest in God their Savior. You must – as Israel was supposed to do – move one step at a time, one day at a time, in accordance with God's Holy Word and The Holy Spirit.

God does not condone laziness – but He raises up a people and blesses them *when they learn to rest in and trust Him*. The seventh day Sabbath taught Israel that they must rest in the Lord. If you want to be blessed in this life you must learn to *walk when God says walk, and stop when God says stop*. You must – as Israel was supposed to do – move one step at a time, one day at a time, in accordance *with God's Holy Word and the Holy Spirit*. This was emphasized by Joshua when he got ready to enter the Promised Land. Joshua told Israel:

Joshua 1:13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest⁵, and hath given you this land.

God gives rest – and gives the land. As long as Israel followed God and trusted Him – working when He

5 H5117, נָחַח, nûach, *noo'-akh*, A primitive root; to rest, that is, settle down; used in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively, intransitively, transitively and causatively (to *dwell, stay, let fall, place, let alone, withdraw, give comfort*, etc.): - cease, be confederate, lay, let down, (be) quiet, remain, (cause to, be at, give, have, make to) rest, set down. Compare H3241.

said work and resting when He said rest – they would be blessed.

The Feasts Were Also Sabbaths

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The seventh day was a holy convocation, or a time when Israel was to gather and worship God. But the Feasts are also holy convocations – they were set apart *intermissions unto the Lord*. A Feast is a special day of rest to commemorate something God had done and to *look forward to something that God would do*. Dr. Constable states⁶:

How is a Feast like the seventh day Sabbath? How is it different?

6 Notes on Leviticus, page 85, soniclight.org. See also Timothy K. Hui, "The Purpose of Israel's Annual Feasts," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 147:586 (April-June 1990):143-54.

“The Sabbath was the heart of the whole system of annual feasts in Israel. The other feasts all related to the central idea of rest that the Sabbath epitomized. They focused the Israelites' attention on other Sabbath-like blessings that Yahweh {God} provided for them.”

The Feasts – just like the seventh day Sabbath – were designed to teach Israel to *rest in God their Savior*. God established the Feasts – and the seventh day Sabbath – as a Law to teach His people about the coming of Christ. The Scripture tells us:

Galatians 3:23-29 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. {24} Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. {27} For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. {28} There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. {29} And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Before faith came God's **kept us under the Law**. The Law teaches us of Christ. It taught Israel of Christ, and taught her how to trust in the Lord. Israel was a people – saved by God – but to whom the Promise of the Spirit had not yet come. In the Old Testament the Saint of God was *not indwelt by God the Holy Spirit* – but looked forward to the day when Christ would come and God would indwell His people. What does the Scripture say to the Church Age believer?

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

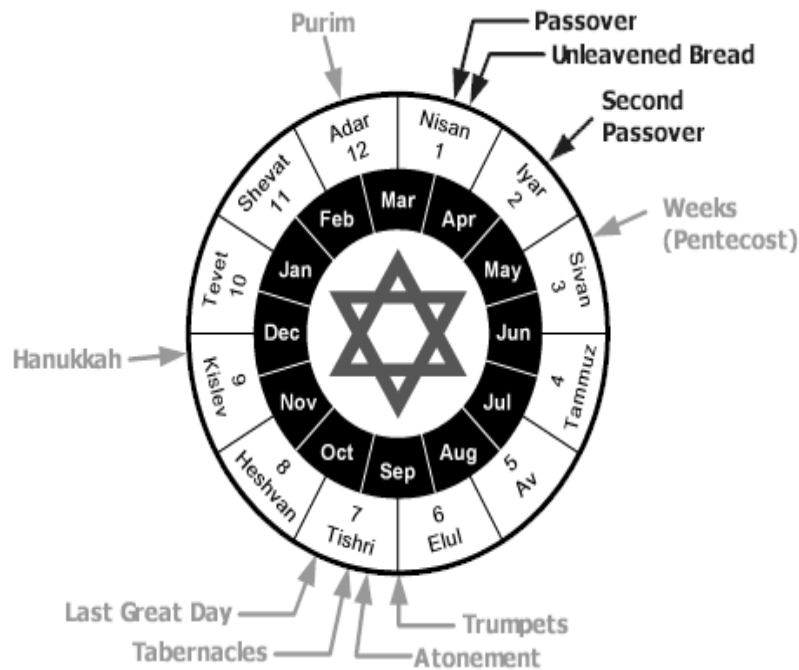
The Spirit of God lives inside of each Church Age believer. Furthermore:

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. {6} And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. {7} Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The Law – and the Feasts and Sabbaths that were

a part of that Law – **was the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.** Now under Christ we are no longer under the Law.

The Feasts are an interesting study because, as I said before, they pointed to the Coming of Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's look at each one of these briefly⁷.



The Feast {Sabbath} Of The Passover

The Feast {holy convocation/ Sabbath} of the

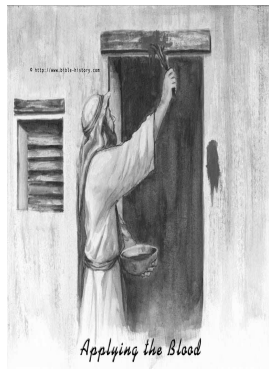
Passover

commemorated what God did in delivering Israel from Egypt:

Exodus 12:1-11 And the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, {2} **This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.** {3} Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the **tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house:** {4} And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. {5} Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: {6} And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. {7} And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. {8} And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. {9} Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. {10} And ye

⁷ illustration from <http://www3.telus.net/public/kstam/en/temple/details/passover.htm>

shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. {11} And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.



This was the very first Feast that God gave Israel, and it was always celebrated on their *New Year*. God said “**This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you**”. The beginning of faith is slaying of the Passover Lamb. The

beginning of a walk with God is *faith in Jesus Christ*. On the “**tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb**”. Each household would take a Lamb *without spot or blemish* into their household on the 10th of Nisan (March-April) and then hold that Lamb until the 14th of Nisan.

FOCAL Leviticus 23:5 In the **fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover**.

The Lamb was then killed, and its Blood placed on the doorposts of the house. God then sent the death angel into Egypt to kill the firstborn of all those who did not believe.

Passover for the Jew was a remembrance of the time that God sent the death angel into Egypt to kill all unbelievers – but it was also a type or shadow of the Coming of Christ.

The Bible tells us:

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Jesus is our Passover, sacrificed for all who believe in Him. Jesus Christ was crucified at the same time the Lambs were being slain for the Jewish Passover:

John 19:14-18 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! {15} But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. {16} Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. {17} And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: {18} Where they crucified him, and two other

with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

He is our Passover. Because Jesus Christ took our judgment on Himself, we who believe shall never be condemned!

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The **Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29)** was crucified and judged for you and for me. He died *the day before the Sabbath or the Feast* and rose again on the first day of the week. The Bible tells us that Jesus said:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus **was in the heart of the earth** for *three days and three nights*. HE DID NOT DIE ON FRIDAY AND RAISE UP AGAIN ON SUNDAY. By no means possible can you get **three days and three nights** out of Friday to Sunday. Jesus was crucified and died *before* the Holy Convocation or the Special Sabbath occurred. His Body lay entombed while His

Spirit went unto God. Jesus said **“Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit” (Luke 23:46)**. His Spirit ascended unto God, but His Body lay entombed just as He said and taught:

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

“After three days He would rise again”. He didn't die on “Good Friday” as so many confused ones believe. He died before the Sabbath, died with the Lambs just before the Holy Convocation of the Passover. He rose again on the third day just as He said – on **the first day of the week (Mark 16:9)**. Christians today gather together and worship the Lord – not on the Jewish Sabbath – but on the **first day of the week** – because this is when Jesus rose from the grave. This is a pattern that we have followed from the days of the early Church. We see that **Paul the Apostle preached and the Lord's Table was observed** on the first day of the week:

Why do Christians meet and worship on Sunday – the first day of the week – and not on the Jewish Sabbath?

Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Collections were taken up for the work of the ministry on the first day of the week for the support of missions. We see here that

1 Corinthians 16:2-3 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. {3} And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

Paul had the **Corinthian** Church gather collections – along with the *churches of Galatia* (see verse 1) – to send funds to the mission field in **Jerusalem**. We who are Christians *do not meet together on the Sabbath*. We meet together on the first day of the week to worship the Lord, commemorating His resurrection. **Roland de Vaux** stated⁸:

For the Christian, every day is a day that we rest in the Lord. We live our lives surrendered to Christ.

⁸ Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions*, Part I, Chapter 2: "Divisions of Time."

"Jesus claimed that 'the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath' (Mark 2:28); he could therefore abolish the sabbath, and he did in fact do so, for the New Covenant which he brought abrogated the Old Covenant, of which the sabbath was the sign. The Christian Sunday is not in any sense a continuation of the Jewish sabbath. The latter closed the week, but the Christian Sunday opens the week in the new era by commemorating the Resurrection of our Lord, and the appearances of the risen Christ, and by directing our attention to the future, when he will come again. And yet Sunday does symbolize the fulfillment of those promises which the sabbath foreshadowed. Like all the other promises of the Old Testament, these promises too are realized not in an institution, but in the person of Christ: it is he who fulfills the entire Law. Sunday is the 'Lord's Day,' the day of him who lightens our burdens (Matthew 11:28), through whom, with whom and in whom we enter into God's own rest (Hebrews 4:1-11)."

The Bible emphasizes this in **Hebrews chapter 4**. We read:

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. {10} For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. {11} Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall

after the same example of unbelief.

We labor to enter into that rest. We who are Christians surrender our lives daily – resting in faith and in Jesus. We follow God one step at a time and one day at a time.

Doctrine of Walking



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

Romans 14:7-8 "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 "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 "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 "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."

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

3 John 1:3-4 "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 "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 "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"

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 "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.

Romans 8:4 "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 "(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 we must say:

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

Jeremiah 17:5-8 "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."

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

1 John 1:7 "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."

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 "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 "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."

May God touch your hearts with His Word! Next week we'll look at the remaining Feasts, and see how they relate to Christ.



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