

I Will Walk Among You

Leviticus 26:12-13



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PRAYER OUR FATHER, blessed be Thy name for ever and ever. Oh that we praised Thee more! We must confess we never bless Thee as we ought, and our life is far too full of murmuring, or at the best too full of self-seeking, for even in prayer we may do this. Oh God, will You teach us to begin the music of heaven! Grant us the grace to “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.” Grant us grace that we may not bring You blessings merely because You feed us, and clothe us, and because we receive so many mercies at Thy hand; but may we learn to praise You even when You put us under the rod, and when the heart is heavy, and when mercies seem but scant. Oh Lord, teach us this very morning the art of praise. Let our soul take fire, and like a censor full of frankincense, may our whole nature send forth a delicious perfume of praise filled gratitude unto the ever blessed One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Oh Lord, our chief desire this morning before You is to be right with You. There are some in Your presence who are not right with You at all. They cannot look on You, and You cannot accept their offering, for “sin lieth at the door.” Oh God roll every sin away, but we know they must first feel the burden of it, they must come to You and confess it, they must accept the great Substitute and rest in Jesus. Grant the kiss of forgiveness to each of Your children this morning, and may we feel that You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; and in the joy of this, may we feel peace with Thee. In Christ's precious Name We Pray.

Amen and Amen!

FOCAL Read Responsively Leviticus 26:12-13 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. {13} **I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.**

As a child we all used to lay back in the grass and look upward, seeing all sorts of things in the clouds. There – that cloud looks like a doggie, and that one looks like a bird. There goes a horse and look, wasn't that a cowboy on its back? In our innocence we saw the beauty of God's creation and enjoyed it. As we grew the clouds stopped being horsies and doggies – they became cirrus and cumulus, things to be studied and things to be learned. Scientists and teachers made us assign names to each shape and type. They wanted us to learn – and we should learn – but we should never become so engrossed in our learning that we forget the One Who made all that we see. We must never forget the clouds, this earth, and all that is in it is the handiwork of our Creator (**Psalm 8:6**). God made us, dear ones, and gave us dominion over all that He made. The Bible says

“LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. ... Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD.(Psalms 139:1-4^{HCSV})”

God not only made you, but He knows you. He knows every word you will speak before you speak it. He is infinite in power (**Psalm 147:5**) and there is nothing that He cannot do. The Lord knew you *before* you were that child on the hillside looking for duckies in the sky. The prophet Isaiah said **“The LORD hath called me from {my mother's} womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name”.**(Isaiah 49:1) The Psalmist David wrote **“I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly”.** (**Psalms 22:10**). God loved you before you were delivered into this world. **While you were without strength, in Christ died for you (Romans 5:6).** The Lord wants you to know that **“whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life (John 3:16).**

There are many in this world who put great emphasis on knowledge, on what they know or what they think they know. The Bible tells us that “Knowledge puffeth up” (1 Corinthians 8:1). The greatest thing in life is not to know the clouds, but it is to know the Creator of the clouds. The greatest thing in life is not to know Biblical truth, but it is to first know the God Who wrote this precious Word of Truth. The God Who loves you and Who gave Himself for you wants you to know Him, and to know that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)**. It is this God Who wants to walk with you, to live His life through you, and in so doing make your life greater. Look at those you know who have rejected God's Word and ask yourselves, “Are they the better for it?” Look at the young girl who used to have a transcendent beauty, who now looks washed out and

destroyed. She ignored God's call to salvation and allowed herself to be used and abused. God loves her still. Look at the couple who thought the Scripture and the assembly of the Church was but for fools. Their children grew up sullen, believing the world owed them everything. They spend their Sundays not at Church, but in the visitor center at the State Prison where their son serves out his sentence. See the older man who spent more time finding fault and fighting than he did serving the Lord. His friends have all left him. When he dies, he will die alone. He has poisoned his own life by the bitterness and hatred that threatens to consume him. God would save him, if he would only come to Jesus.

Dear friends, God has created all of us with the potential for greatness, if we would but walk with Him. We must do as Jesus said, and

Matthew 18:3-4 ... be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. {4} Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

The way to greatness is not through your knowledge and strength, but on your willingness to surrender your life to Jesus. Will you turn away from your old way of life and turn to Jesus, **the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)?** Will you call unto God in His Holy Name believing that He came that you **might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John**

10:10)? If you will then God will show you – as He has shown so many before you – that life is more than mere existence. Life for the believer is meant to be victorious and overcoming. Be converted. Trust Him, and glorify Him. Be like a little child, and let Him be God. Look to Him Who made the clouds. Teach us to **“wait upon You, O LORD, so that You can renew our strength” (Isaiah 40:31).**

1. The Beginning Of Salvation Is Deliverance From Egypt

FOCAL Leviticus 26:12-13 **And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. {13} I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.**

God told His Israel **“I will walk among you, and will be your God”**. This was a wonderful and precious promise given to – not the world at large – but to those whom the Lord **saved from Egypt**. This promise is conditional. It was not made to the Egyptian, or the Babylonian, or the Canaanite, or the Hittite, or the Hivite. To whom was it given? *To those who had been brought out of Egypt*. Think about Egypt for a moment. Egypt was a land of gods and goddesses. It was a pagan culture whose Pharaoh was even considered to be a god. Egypt was not only pagan, polytheistic, but it was also *a land of graves*. When we say “Egypt” the first thing that comes to mind is *pyramids*, and a pyramid is nothing but a giant tombstone. Egypt is a place of dead gods and

dead people. God says:

FOCAL Leviticus 26:13 **I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.**

Listen my Beloved: before you knew God you were dead things. The Bible does not say that you were a *little bit good*, or that you had a *little life in you*. The Bible says that – up until the day that you called on the Lord Jesus for salvation – you were bound to Egypt. You were a spiritual corpse, and lived bound in a land filled with false gods, false goddesses, and false hope. Your prayers went nowhere, for the Bible says:

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

ILLUSTRATE God would not hear your prayers when you were in Egypt and satisfied where you were. You thought that you were a good and moral person – yet when God looked at you He saw sin. I mean no disrespect to the dead, but think about a corpse for a minute. Many people think that the *moral* will get into God's Heaven – but what is more moral than a corpse? A corpse tells no lies, doesn't backbite others, does no murder nor theft. A corpse does not commit adultery, neither does it have the ability to lust after another. If what takes you into Heaven is the *sins you don't commit* then you would think – logically – that a corpse would

be the first thing to get into God's Heaven. You would think wrong! Jesus said:

Mark 12:26-27 ... have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, **I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? {27} He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living:...**

God is **not the God of the dead, but of the living**. He is not a God of corpses, but the Ever Living God, the God which, if you believe in Him, **you shall never die**.

Morality apart from God will not save. Ritualism will not save. What does save? There had to have been a time in your life when the Lord met you face to face at an altar of repentance. There had to be a time when **God led you out of Egypt**. He led you out of the land of death. He brought you from a state of spiritual death and into new life. This is what the Bible says of every Christian:

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins

You hath God quickened – made alive – you who were dead in trespasses and in sins. This is where you were before you called on the Name of Jesus. But after you called on His Holy Name believe you came from a state of death – like Lazarus of old – and became recipients of Eternal Life. **He is the God of the Living**.

Has He not said:

FOCAL Leviticus 26:12-13 And **I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.**

The Living God walks with a Living People. Living People have risen from the dead – they now see the Light that is Christ! God cries out to all who would be *spiritually Lazarus*:

Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, **Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.**

Awake – rise from the grave. Hear the call of the Spirit, Hear the Gospel of Christ. For Whom did Christ die? Who will God not lead from Egypt? Think on Egypt, and on Israel's departure for a moment. On the day that God led those people from that land of tombstones *whosoever would follow the Pillar of Fire and Pillar of Cloud that was God* was saved. The Egyptians chased after Israel to destroy her, to wreak vengeance, to do the things that her false god Pharaoh decreed. They died miserably under the hand of God's certain judgment. But *Beloved, whosoever would hear the voice of God, whosoever would respond to the preaching of the Prophet* – they were saved with a mighty hand.

And so it is with Christ! The Bible tells us that there are no bounds on the love of Christ. What saith the Scripture?

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: {15} And **that {Christ} died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

Christ died for all. Look to Jesus! C.H. Spurgeon said:

Look at his life of obedience, and see how perfect that was. Which commandment did he ever break? Which duty of relationship did he ever forget? He honored the law of God, and loved the souls of men. He gave the character of God perfect reflection in his human life. You can see what God is as you see what Christ is. He is perfect, even as his Father who is in heaven is perfect. There is no redundance, or excess, or superfluity in his character, even as there is no coming short in any point. Look at the perfection of his sacrifice. He gave his body to be tortured, and his mind to be crushed and broken, even unto the death-agony. He gave himself for us a perfect sacrifice. All that the law could ask was in him. Stretch the measure to its utmost length, and still Christ goes beyond, rather than falls short of the measure of the requirements of justice. He has given to his Father double for all our sins. He has given him suffering for sin committed, and yet a perfect obedience to the law. The Lord God is well pleased with him; he rests in the Son of his love, and for his sake he smiles upon

multitudes of sinners who are represented in him. My heart rejoices as I think of Gethsemane, and Calvary, and of him who by one offering hath perfectly sanctified all who put their trust in him. “It is finished,” said he, and finished it is for ever. Our Lord has presented a perfect sacrifice. “It shall be perfect to be accepted;” and it is perfect. “There shall be no blemish therein;” and there is no blemish in it. **Glory be to God Most High!**

Look to the Holy Writ! God has promised:

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. {17} For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

For whom did Christ die? For you, and for me. What stops you from accepting Him. **Awake thou that sleepest – do not sleep through the call of your salvation.** Oh, how terrible to lose one's soul when salvation is so near. Turn unto Jesus, and He will quicken you. Believe on Him, trust what He has said, and you shall be given rest.

2. The Joy Of Salvation Is Continued Deliverance From Egypt

FOCAL Leviticus 26:12-13 And I will walk among

you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. {13} **I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.**

What did God say to delivered Israel? “**I delivered you, that you should not be their bondmen – their slaves. I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you go upright**”. The Lord did not save Israel so that she could stay in bondage to Egypt. He delivers His people so that they can walk free from sin and from trespasses. Israel was saved **out of Egypt** – not **in Egypt**. Neither does God saves us **in our sins**, but He saves us **out of our sins**. What did God tell His Israel?

Leviticus 26:1-2 **Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God. {2} Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.**

“**You will worship Me and Me alone**”. The Lord demands that those He has saved **worship Him and heed His Word**. Look at verse 3: “**If you walk in My statutes**”. Jesus said:

Luke 6:46-49 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?** {47} **Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: {48} He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. {49} But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.**

God's people were to remember that they were God's people. They were to focus on God's promise:

FOCAL Leviticus 26:12 And **I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.**

God walks among His people, and wants His people to remember that. God said **you shall keep My Sabbaths, and reverence My sanctuary.** Listen Beloved: Ancient Israel had no Temple, no physical structure that God

indwelt. **God walked among His people.** God does not walk among the sinner, unsaved and unclean. God does not dwell where the leprosy of sin is. No, dear Ones. God dwells **among His people.** When His people follow Him and glorify Him He blesses them. What did God say to Israel?

FOCAL Leviticus 26:3-6 If ye walk in my statutes, and **keep my commandments, and do them; {4} Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. {5} And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. {6} And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.**

As goes the believer, so goes the land. When God's people remember that He is God and they are His, He blesses the land for their sake. God saved us, He made us alive so that He could

Ephesians 2:6 raised us up together, and

made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The Church focused on and glorifying Christ is like ancient Israel focused on and glorifying Yahweh. It is God's intent to **raise you up together in Heavenly places, making you sit with Christ Jesus**. If you – by surrendered living faith – would take one step at a time one day at a time, trusting the Lord and glorifying Him, then God will help you overcome the land. Every place where death and idolatry is can be washed clean by the testimony of Christ in you. When God lives through you and you, in obedience, live as if God is walking with you (for He is) then you can live victoriously and happy in this life. What does the Scripture say?

Colossians 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. {2} Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

God saved Israel so that He could be their God. He saved you so that He could be your God. **IF you are risen with Christ – then seek the same things that Christ sought. Set you affection on things above, not on things of this earth.** Before Christ you were yoked to this world, dead in sin, certain of impending judgment. After you were saved you were **removed from Egypt. You are dead to this world so that you can follow the ever living God.**

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

How then is the Christian to live? The Israelite, saved from Egypt, no longer worshiped the gods and goddesses of Egypt. What Pharaoh wanted no longer matter. He died under Divine Judgment – his corpse floats down the Red Sea along with his so called “mighty men”. The Israelite was saved so that they as a nation could go into the Land of Promise and win that land for the Lord.

So it is with you!

You are **dead with Christ from the old ways of this world (Colossians 2:20)**. You no longer belong to Pharaoh, nor to the gods and goddesses that the lost follow. You belong to God. The Word says:

Galatians 2:20 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, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God walks with you - and you walk with God. The evil you did as an unbeliever you are no longer allowed to do. When you sin, you confess that sin before God, glorifying Him for the gift of His fellowship. God said:

FOCAL Leviticus 26:13 .. I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt ... **I**

have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

If you belong to Christ, you are no longer bound under the yoke of sin. Come unto Him, all ye that are heavy laden, and Christ will give you rest (**Matthew 11:28**). Worship Him. Serve Him. Follow His Word to victory.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

