



20220810 Wednesday Night – So Walk In Him

⁶As you, therefore, have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (Colossians 2:6-10)

This isn't the first time the Bible describes the faith journey in terms of having deep roots to take you through the storms of life. Paul continues to write the little Church in Colossae, urging them to be "rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith." We read these passages, and it is good to wonder whether you indeed are "rooted and built up in Him." One of my favorite pieces of scripture was a passage I had my sons memorize as boys.

*¹Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
²But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law, he meditates day and night.
³He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1 NKJV)*

This outlines happiness for a young man or woman. It stems from "how they walk". Do they walk according to counsel of God's Word, or do they walk, being directed by the world with its schemes and philosophies? Paul seems to echo this passage that every Jewish boy would have learned in Synagogue growing up. How is your walk? How do you become "rooted and built up and established"?

When you received Christ Jesus, you chose to accept His marvelous grace. You heard something or experienced something that called out to your dead spirit. Something about it seemed real. Something about it seemed right. In my case, accepting Jesus was a great relief. It was like I had always been looking for that thing that made sense. I had an itch that nothing seemed to scratch. I had always looked for that thing to which I could commit my life. I wanted to settle the issue of whether there was a God or not. I wanted my life to count for something of value. I

was fifteen, kneeling in a chapel where I had prayed every morning probably for three months. I heard the Shema Israel in a service that morning, and the Holy Spirit convicted me. I realized how lost I really was. I realized I didn't love God with all my heart, soul, and might. Instead, I just loved myself and focused on myself. I was hopelessly lost in myself. I had come to the end of me.

So for me, the "root" of my faith took hold when I came to the end of myself. I realized that I could not find meaning in anything moving forward without the guidance of the God who made me. The seed that many others planted along the way (parents, Christian Camp, Church) was born anew. In a nano-second, the seed came to life. I suppose metaphorically, the little shoot came from the seed and was a "new creation." As a child, I had already memorized the verse, *"¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor 5:17 KJV)* A "new creation" had come into being. I was now destined to live with Him for eternity in heaven. I now had a friend upon whom I could depend. The roots started down into the soil, and the leaves began to emerge above the surface.

Paul says that we are to walk in Him after this little, but humongous step of receiving His grace. So how do we walk in Him? We walk in Him by enjoying fellowship with Him, and taking direction from Him in our lives. (Proverbs 3:5-6) We've all heard it, but how do we live it? *"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."* For me, it meant figuring out some way to capture just a little bit of Him each day in reading His word and in conversation with Him. I would read one Proverb every day to try to glean some of the wisdom of God. And then, I began a conversation with Jesus. I might say, "Lord, just guide me today and let my light shine for You." If you race forward to how I live my life today, my first thoughts are probably on Him when I wake up. I realize that I'm still here, and I begin a conversation with the Lord within my own conscience. That is walking in Him.

When you walk with someone, you spend time with them. You spend time with the Lord by realizing that you are in His presence. It's all strange because when that "seed sprouted," I received the Holy Spirit of God within me. So, now I had God outside and inside of me. When you walk with someone, you head in some direction together. My focus was now to learn more about Him and to learn more about myself and others through Him. God desires real conversation with us. He wants an honest discussion with us. For me, it might have started with a question, "Lord, do you love me?" And then I might turn to read for that day, and I would see, *"¹⁷ The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17 NKJV)* His word tells me that He IS in my midst, He is mighty, He WILL save me, and He rejoices over me with joy, resting in His love He sings over me! That's walking with Him. As questions arose and still arise, while walking in Him I look to scripture to see what the answers are.

Walking with Him, and getting honest with Him, lets me be free to tell Him when I am afraid. It might start with a dialogue where I tell Him, "Lord, I'm afraid of being uncomfortable in my visit to the doctor this morning." He then answers me back in His word, *"For God has not given us a*

spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7) That tells me about my identity in Him. His Word is truth. The answers I get are much like what Dalton talked about last Wednesday. He told us that listening to the Lord is like listening to a GPS. It doesn't spit out all the directions at once; rather, it gives you the directions a piece at a time when you've made headway to wherever you're going. This is how you get "rooted in the faith" and built up. Always be on your guard because while He's working to build you up, the world, the flesh, the devil, the circumstances of life, etc., will be working overtime to tear you down. Paul speaks to that. He's speaking to where we get our direction. We should get it from God and not from the world.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Do you realize that you are being cheated when you buy into the nonsense and distraction of the world? The world's philosophies pretty much center around man. When you focus on and adopt any world philosophy as the centerpiece of your life, you are focused on the wrong thing. You are focused on something that won't satisfy. You are focused on yourself. So how are you cheated? You are cheated because the world tells you that success, stuff, education, political philosophies, etc., will give eternal meaning to your life. That is a lie. The bad news is that they will not. Now understand me. I believe that having a promising career and making enough to meet your needs is exactly what God desires for you. He doesn't want us to be mired in poverty or misery, or we'll never be able to help anyone else along the way. But the world's things will always leave you a little empty and hungry for more. The good news is that God will give meaning to your life. What He gives is abundant. And what He gives satisfies. One of my favorite passages is in John 4 where Jesus promises the Samaritan woman, *“¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”(John 4:14)*

Paul then makes sure that we know why He is our all.

⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (Colossians 2:6-10)

There it is. Christ is the answer because ALL OF THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD DWELLS IN HIM. He was and is God in the flesh. That's the answer! That's the ticket! He is almighty God, so He can, and He will meet your needs. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead. Yet with the “mystery” of Jesus, He is the closest friend that you and I can have. What a friend we have in Jesus! We have an amazing companion when we walk with Him. Our lives work when we are rooted and built up in Him alone. You are rooted and built up while you walk in a relationship with Him.

And then Paul dishes out the mic drop, "YOU ARE COMPLETE IN HIM." Think about what that means.

This does not mean, of course, that all the fullness of the Godhead indwells the believer. The only One of whom that was ever true, or ever shall be true, is the Lord Jesus Christ. But this verse teaches that the believer has in Christ all that is needed for life and godliness. Spurgeon gives a good definition of our completeness. He says we are (1) Complete without the aid of a Jewish ceremony. (2) Complete without the help of philosophy. (3) Complete without the inventions of superstition. (4) Complete without human merit.

This One in whom we are complete **is the head of all principality and power**. The Gnostics were greatly taken up with the subject of angels. Mention of this is made later on in this chapter. But Christ is head over all the angelic beings, and it would be ridiculous to be occupied with angels when we can have the Creator of angels as the object of our affections and enjoy communion with Him.¹

As you have received Christ Jesus your Lord, so walk in Him.

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Let us pray.

¹ MacDonald, W. (1995). [*Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*](#). (A. Farstad, Ed.) (p. 2003). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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