

Walking with God

"And Noah walked with God." – Genesis 6:9

Summary:

True religion recognises that our supreme relationship is with God. Scripture describes the believer as walking *after* God, following him as leader and example; walking *before* God, living continually in his sight; and walking *with* God, enjoying him as companion and friend. Such fellowship requires reconciliation through Christ and a heart reconciled to God, loving his presence and choosing his way. Walking with God also means sharing his purpose by seeking his glory in everything. Close fellowship gradually produces likeness to him and gives the believer extraordinary honour, security, sufficiency, and rest in the presence of the King of kings.

Outline:

1. Our chief relationship is with God

- Piety must sustain morality because our obligations and expectations toward God are supreme.

2. Walk after God

- Follow him as leader and example, as beloved children imitate their Father.

3. Walk before God

- Live consciously in his sight, remembering that he is always watching and witnessing.

4. Walk with God

- Through mutual reconciliation, enjoy God as companion and friend while choosing his presence and way.

5. Fellowship brings likeness and security

- Seeking God's glory transforms character and gives honour, safety, provision, and rest.

Text

The apostle aptly describes religion when, speaking of God, he says, “with whom we have to do.” Though we relate to others in many ways, morality must rest on and flow from piety. Our primary concern is God: our relationship with him, expectations of him, and obligations to him are supreme.

Scripture uses three expressions for our walk with God.

- **First**, “walking after the Lord” presents him as our leader and example, requiring us to follow him as beloved children: “They shall walk after the Lord,” says Hosea.
- **Second**, walking before God presents him as our observer and witness; we live continually in his sight. God said to Abraham, “Walk before me.” David said, “I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.”
- **Third**, we also read of “walking with God.” Noah and Enoch walked with God, as does everyone who shares in divine grace. The expression presents God as our companion and friend—a surprising but true reality. God and his people share fellowship, made possible by reconciliation, because “how can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

Reconciliation must be mutual. It is not enough for God to be reconciled to us through the blood of the cross; we must also be reconciled to God, love his presence, and choose his way. Walking with God requires unity of direction—we must advance toward the same end. God’s purpose is his glory, and we are commanded, “Whether ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” When we follow this rule, we walk with God; when we neglect it, we turn away and go another direction.

Familiarity naturally shapes us in another’s spirit and manner. Scripture says, “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Walking with God makes me resemble him, and others will recognize that I have been with Jesus.

How greatly people would envy one permitted to walk with a king! Yet the believer walks with the King of kings and Lord of lords. “Such honour have all his saints.” Nearness to him

brings security: "He is at my right hand; I shall not be moved." What can I lack when I have him? "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

This sermon is taken from William Jay's devotional, *Morning and Evening Exercises* (January 19, Evening), first published in 1854.