| Sermon January 20th 2019 – Pastor Stephan p Dyer  **How is your walk with the Lord?**  What an honor it is that we can, walk with our God  If we want to,  Remember, we do have a **choice** as we have a **“free will”** and walking with God is a “surrendering to our God”  Its giving our will up to God, letting go of the reigns we have on our life and giving Him control.  As Christians, one of the first main principle’s is of surrender or "Dying to Self", or the "emptying of self" to allow Christ to live through the us.  As said in **Philippians 1:21** New International Version (NIV)  **21**For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.  Jesus also spoke of hating your father, brother, sister. In **Luke** **14: 26-27**. But that’s a whole lot of teaching for another time.  Its all easy to talk about, but not easy to do.  Think about it though??  Walking with the **creator** of ALL things that we know. Walking hand in hand with God, What an honor.  Let’s consider some things –  When you walk with someone obviously, you will not be going in opposite directions. (Because you are walking WITH them).  If you walk in a different direction you can’t listen to them, you can’t enjoy them, you can’t [share things](https://biblereasons.com/sharing/) with them, and you won’t be able to understand them.  When you walk with the Lord, your will is going to align with Him.  Since you’re walking side by side with Him your focus will be on….. Him.  When you are with your friends you do things together.  Go to the movies. Go out to dinner, BBQ. If you are in Stratford, stock cars, in New Plymouth, the lights.  This is Fellowship.  When you are constantly walking with someone you are, going to understand him or her better aren’t you. You get to know their likes, and dislikes. You are going to know their heart.  Walking with God is not just a time in the prayer closet,  It’s a lifestyle that we can only obtain through Jesus Christ. Remember what Jesus said.  No man comes to the Father but through Me.  **John 14.6**  Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one** comes to the Father but **through Me**.  Walking with God is a **journey**. In fact an **ADVENTURE**  Therefore, the real trick is to walk with Jesus and in this we get to know our God.  As a Carpenter, I, many a time would ask Jesus to help me in my day-to-day work. Especially if I was doing a difficult job.  You see, a lot of the time when asked if I could do a job I would say yes, though inside I was saying no. (Nod head no, but say Yes)  Being a Renovating Carpenter is an interesting job.  You can never see what’s “Underneath” the seen job.  It’s always unknown but you learn to fix it.  So……. Walking with God…….. Imagine this.  You are going on a trip with your best friend who is not comfortable with your pet dog. (A man’s best friend)  You know that there is a problem.  So, out of respect, you don’t bring the dog on the trip.  In the same way when you are walking with God, out of respect, you will tend not to bring along sin, or things that will hold you back from walking with Him.  When you walk with God you will tend to choose to imitate Him and glorify Him in every way possible.  Remember… we are Christians… so we eventually will become... CHRIST LIKE.  **And just a few things to remember about yourself**  **1 Peter 2:9** New International Version (NIV)  **9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.  Exciting news huh? And again in  **Ephesians 2:10** New International Version (NIV)  **10**For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  **Micah 6:8** New International Version (NIV)  **8**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.     And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy     and to walk humbly[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+6%3A8++&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22657a)] with your God  And again in  **Deuteronomy 8:6** New International Version (NIV)  **6**Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.  **Jesus was never empty because He always walked with God doing His will.**  **John 4:32-34** New International Version (NIV)  **32**But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”  **33**Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”  **34**“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.  **1 John 2:6** New International Version (NIV)  **6**Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.  **When we walk with our God we draw closer to the Him with all our heart. He becomes our focus. Our heart longs for Him. Our heart seeks His presence.**  **Our desire to fellowship with Jesus and be like Him will grow while our worldly desires will decrease.**  **Hebrews 10:22** New International Version (NIV)  **22**let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.  **Hebrews 12:2** New International Version (NIV)  **2**fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  **Luke 10:27** New International Version (NIV)  **27**He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A27++&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-25391a" \o "See footnote a)]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.    **When walking with God we desire to please Him and we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives to make us into the image of His Son Jesus.**  **Romans 8:29** New International Version (NIV)  **29**For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the **firstborn** among **many brothers and sisters.**  **How many Brothers and sisters? …. MANY**  **Philippians 1:6** New International Version (NIV)  **6**being confident of this, that **he** who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.    **When walking with the Lord we will grow in our awareness of sin in our lives and our need for a Savior. More and more we will grow in hatred of our sins and want to rid our lives of them.**  **More and more we will confess and forsake our sins.**  **Luke 18:13** New International Version (NIV)  **13**“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.  **When we walk with God we won’t let other things**[distract us from Christ](https://biblereasons.com/distractions/)**.**  **Luke 10:40-42** New International Version (NIV)  **40**But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”  **41**“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, **42**but few things are needed—or indeed only one.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A40-42+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25406a)]Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”  Its really simple.  Simply follow the example of the one He sent. Jesus the Son of God  And we do this by  [**Psalm 119:105**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A105&version=ESV)  Your **word** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  **Remember who the “word” is = Jesus**  **And of course don’t forget our Friend. Our comforter, the Holy Spirit who in all this will guide us into ALL truth.** |
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