

WALK 102

Following Jesus in Discipleship

What is our priority? *To obey His commands*

John 14:15:

If you really love Me, you will keep and obey My commandments.

John 14:21:

The person who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who really loves Me; and whoever really loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him – I will make Myself real to him.

John 14:23-24:

Jesus answered, “If anyone really loves Me, he will keep My word, My teaching; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him.

*One who does **not** really love Me does **not** keep My words. And the word (teaching) which you hear is not Mine, but is the Father’s who sent Me.*

John 15:9-10:

I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love and do not doubt My love for you. If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.

Luke 6:46-49:

Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not practice what I tell you?

Everyone who comes to Me and listens to My words and obeys them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a far-sighted, practical, and sensible man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and yet could not shake it, because it had been securely built and founded on the rock.

⁴⁹ *But the one who has merely heard and has not practiced what I say, is like a foolish man who built a house on the ground without any foundation, and the torrent burst against it; and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.*

Romans 6:16-18:

Do you not know that when you continually offer yourselves to someone to do his will, you are the slaves of the one whom you obey, either slaves of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness, right standing with God?

¹⁷ *But thank God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed.*

¹⁸ *And having been set free from sin, you have become the slaves of righteousness of conformity to God’s will and purpose.*

How do we live this walk out?

Through the 4 areas of spiritual development: head, heart, hands, habits.

Head. All learning begins with the information we input into our lives; and all that knowledge goes through our brain. The *head* is our part of the growth equation: we are responsible to put good information into our noggin! Joshua is commanded to constantly and consistently observe the whole law, and not to turn away from it (Joshua 1:6-8):

Be strong and confident and courageous, for you will give this people as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers (ancestors) to give them.

⁷Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do everything in accordance with the entire law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may prosper and be successful wherever you go.

⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read and meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful.

Heart. Putting in good knowledge is only the beginning; to be an effective disciple, we must submit to His authority and leadership. It is in the heart that the Holy Spirit will use our knowledge for His glory and purposes! Trust is a key element as we allow God to change our ideas, beliefs, and feelings, aligning them to His perfect will.

Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart

And do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him,

And He will make your paths straight and smooth, removing obstacles that block your way.

Do not be wise in your own eyes,

But fear the Lord with reverent awe and obedience and turn entirely away from evil (Proverbs 3:5-7).

Hands. Knowing God (head) and trusting God (heart) will naturally develop into our actions (hands). The growing Christian is focused on discerning the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect, trusting it, and obeying it. Our actions, in both word and deed, are intent on answering one question: “How can I bring this person closer to God?”

And do not be conformed to this world any longer with its superficial values and customs, but be transformed and progressively changed as you mature spiritually by the renewing of your mind, focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes, so that you may prove for yourselves what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect in His plan and purpose for you (Romans 12:2).

Habits. The ultimate result of our spiritual growth is how we work together as Christ’s bride, His church. We use our God-given gifts in habitual living with other believers: Every believer is asking, “Am I using my gifts to the fullest?”

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace (1 Peter 4:10).