

Commands About Our Walk as Believers

Therefore I [Paul], the prisoner of the Lord, implore you [brethren] to walk in a manner worthy of the calling [salvation] with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Introduction

I am in the process of writing a book titled **A Worthy Walk: Living Each Day According to the Will of God**. I define our *walk* as applying what we know to our everyday lives. It is about our behavior or conduct as we lead our lives in response to what God has done for us.

The book will begin by explaining salvation and our need for it, what it means to walk worthy of our calling as expressed in Ephesians 4:1-3, and using the word of God wisely based on II Timothy 2:15. As described in the first three chapters of Ephesians and elsewhere throughout Paul's letters, I am certain that *our calling* refers to our salvation—what God has done for us through the redemptive work of Christ at the cross (Ephesians 1:3-8, 13-14; 2:4-10; 4:4; II Timothy 1:8-9; Romans 8:29-30; I Corinthians 1:9; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; I Timothy 6:12). Furthermore, to *walk worthy* means to conduct our lives in a manner that is befitting our salvation in Christ and as a child of God.

I will then devote chapters to walking in love (Chapter 5) and walking in humility (Chapter 6). I believe these two commands provide the foundation for our walk as believers. That is, if we truly believe and implement them, we will be on the right path to walking worthy of our calling. Furthermore, I believe all the other commands depend and expand upon the principles of love and humility.

Currently, my projected Chapter 7 will address those other commands about our walk. To help prepare the chapter, I looked up the Greek word for *walk* in my concordances, which is *peripateo*;¹ it is also translated at *behave*, *conduct yourselves*, or similar words depending on the Bible version. I will try to explain each of the verses containing *peripateo* as well as other commands pertaining to our walk. Drafts of those explanations are provided in the “Mini-Studies” page of our website at gospelofgracenotes.org (beginning June 5, 2024).

Brethren, exhortations concerning our walk as members of the body of Christ were received by Paul from our Lord Jesus Christ and should be understood as the same as commands (I Thessalonians 2:13; 4:1-12; II Thessalonians 3:4-15; I Timothy 1:18-19). Therefore, we need to consider them very seriously, take them to heart, and endeavor to obey them. Numerous other exhortations and examples regarding how God wants and expects us to live that do not contain the Greek word for *walk* are provided for us in Paul's letters and supported in principle throughout Scripture. I will include some of them in Chapter 7, also.

You will see that all the key verses that directly concern our walk as members of the body of Christ are from Paul's letters because his letters are addressed to us. I think it is important to realize that the Greek word *peripateo*, as it relates to a daily walk, occurs only a few times outside of Paul's letters. They

¹ Five times the word *walk* is translated from *stoukeo* that means to walk (or live) orderly or by rule (Acts 21:24; Romans 4:12; Galatians 5:25; 6:16; and Philippians 3:16).

pertain to walking in the light rather than in darkness (John 8:12; 11:9-10; 12:35; I John 1:6-7; 2:11), walking in the truth (II John 1:4; III John 1:3-4), and walking in love (II John 1:6)—subjects that are also thoroughly addressed, in the context of our walk, by Paul in his letters. Besides the three references in the book of John, all other occurrences of *peripateo* in the gospel accounts (Matthew through John) refer to physically walking.

The above referenced verses in the book and letters of John are prophetic and directly apply to future kingdom believers (after the rapture), who will be sinless (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-27; Hebrews 8:7-12; 10:14-18; James 2:8-13; I John 3:4-6), and do not apply to members of the body of Christ. Their walk will distinguish them from nonbelievers, which is not the case in this dispensation of grace because we sin and often walk according to the flesh. Those who walk in darkness, according to lies, and without love—i.e., anyone who sins—will be proven to be nonbelievers (I John 1:5-10; 2:3-6, 9-11, 15-17, 29; 3:4-10). Their perfect walk is explained more fully in my study **The Mystery (God's Secret Plan)** on the website; I intend to include that study as an appendix because of its importance in understanding the word God.

Therefore, if we truly want to know and understand God's instructions to us regarding how He wants us to conduct our lives (walk) as His children, we need to direct our attention to Paul's letters first. Then we will see how the principles of our walk are supported throughout Scripture. I will explain and emphasize the importance and distinctiveness of Paul's apostleship and message in the first chapters of the book.

Commands that Contain the Word *Walk*

Commands that contain the word *walk*, from the Greek word *peripateo*, in Paul's letters that I will specifically address in Chapter 7 of my planned book are as follows:

- Walk in Christ (Colossians 2:6)
 - Walk worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1)
 - Walk worthy of our Lord (Colossians 1:10)
 - Walk worthy of God (I Thessalonians 2:12)
- Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)
- Walk in love (Ephesians 5:2) (*I devote a full chapter to this subject*)
- Walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4)
- Walk honestly—behave properly (Romans 13:13; I Thessalonians 4:12)
- Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8)
- Walk in good works (Ephesians 2:10)
- Walk in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15; Colossians 4:5)
- Walk by faith and not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7)
- Walk according to Paul's example (Philippians 3:17)

Other Commands About Our Walk

Some other commands about our walk in Paul's letters that do not contain the word *walk* that I will specifically address in Chapter 7 are as follows:

- Be thankful (I Thessalonians 5:18)

- Be humble (Philippians 2:3-8) *(I devote a full chapter to this subject)*
- Yield ourselves to God (Romans 6:11-13)
- Be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2)
- Be above reproach (Philippians 2:14-15)
- Speak with grace (Colossians 4:6)
- Speak the truth (Ephesians 4:25)
- Be of the same mind (Romans 12:16; Philippians 2:1-2) *(I devote a full chapter to this subject)*
- Do all things for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, 23)
- Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

More Commands About Our Walk

There are even more commands in Paul's letters about our walk. Some of them that I plan to address or refer to elsewhere in my book are:

- Forgive others (Ephesians 4:32)
- Set our minds on things above (Colossians 3:1-2)
- Think on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and are of good repute (Philippians 4:8)
- Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Encourage the fainthearted and help the weak (I Thessalonians 5:14)
- Be patient with everyone (I Thessalonians 5:14)
- Glorify God in our bodies (I Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Be reconciled to God (II Corinthians 5:20)
- Be sanctified (I Thessalonians 4:3-7)
- Be mature (I Corinthians 14:20; Ephesians 4:14-16)
- Subject ourselves to our governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1) *(I devote a full chapter to this subject)*
- Stand firm in the faith (I Corinthians 16:13)
- Fight the good fight of faith (I Timothy 1:18-19; 6:12)

These lists do not address all the commands in Paul's letters regarding how God expects us to walk as His children. I may add more as I complete my book, but I leave it to you to read the references provided above (and their context) and to search the Scriptures to learn more about how we are to walk worthy of our salvation in Christ. My hope is to complete the book in 2025, but there is still much to be done to ensure, to the best of my understanding, that it accurately represents the word of God. I readily confess, however, that there may be doctrinal errors or that I may have drawn incorrect conclusions. That is why I provide as many Scripture references as practical to help the reader decide whether my statements and conclusions are correct or not.

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