

Just Keep Walking!

Genesis 5:21-24 - NKJV

²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. ²² After he begot Methuselah, ***Enoch walked with God*** three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ And ***Enoch walked with God***; and he was not, for God took him.

Genesis 5:21-24 - CEV

²¹ When Enoch was sixty-five, he had a son named Methuselah, ²² and during the next three hundred years he had more children. ***Enoch truly loved God***, ²³⁻²⁴ and God took him away at the age of three hundred sixty-five.

Genesis 6:8-9 - NKJV

⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. - ***Noah Pleases God***

⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. ***Noah walked with God.***

Genesis 6:8-9 - CEV

⁸ But ***the LORD was pleased with Noah***, ⁹ and this is the story about him. ***Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God.***

Enoch and Noah have something in common –

- They were both delivered from the perils and trials of their world.
- With Enoch, ***God took him out of the world.***
- With Noah, ***God destroyed the world around him.***

In both cases, the Bible tells us, these men found ***the mercy and grace of God***

- ***Not*** because they did any great thing - Or were heavenly superstars
- The Bible simply says this about both men: ***“They walked with God”***

This may not seem like much, but lately it has been impressed upon me that **those who will be victorious** are not the ones who are perfect, or never struggle.

But those who in the midst of trouble, discouragement, persecution, ridicule, family problems, peer pressure, in the midst of every conceivable hindrance - - -

JUST KEEP WALKING!!!

Maybe not leaping, maybe not scaling mountain peaks, maybe not making a whole lot of progress, but ***people who will just keep walking with God!***

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEFINED AS A WALK!

Romans 6:4 - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so ***we also should walk*** in newness of life.

Romans 8:1 - Free from Indwelling Sin

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, ***who do not walk according to the flesh***, but according to ***the Spirit***.

Romans 13:13-14 - ¹³ ***Let us walk properly***, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Galatians 5:16 - Walking in the Spirit - ¹⁶ I say then: ***Walk in the Spirit***, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- From the time we begin our relationship with God,
- It is ordained that ***we walk and not sit still!***
- It is the intention of the Holy Spirit the we continually progress in the Spirit!

Isaiah 40:31 –

But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

- We are to continually be moving toward a goal!
- Some fly, some run, **but most of us walk!**

Our Christian walk has been defined as a race.

Hebrews 12:1 - The Race of Faith –

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside **every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and **let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us,

- However, **this race is different** than other races,
- For in this race **it is not** the fastest runner that wins!

Solomon said that the race is not always to the swift!

And Jesus said, This race is going to be won by those who endure to the end!

The winners will be the ones who ignore the distractions, and muscle cramps, and opportunities to quit and **just keep walking!**

We have all heard the story of **the tortoise and the hare!**

- Why did the tortoise win the race?
- Because he was faster?
- No, of course not, but **because he just kept plodding along!**

The hare was ***running circles around him for a while***

- But soon lost his interest in the race and sat down to take a nap.
- But, the **old tortoise just kept walking!**

- **I may not** be running, I may not be leaping, but **I am enduring!**
- I am just going to **keep walking!**

IN GENESIS 13, GOD GIVES ABRAHAM SOME GREAT PROMISES.

Genesis 13:14-18 – 14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

¹⁶ And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, *then* your descendants also could be numbered.

¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”

¹⁸ Then Abram moved *his* tent, and went and dwelt by ^[b]the terebinth trees of Mamre, which *are* in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

God said, “Abram, ***I will give you everything you are looking at***, but *in order for you to possess it*, **you have to walk** through the land!”

What is the one thing that could have ***kept Abram from occupying the land?***

What would have kept him ***from seeing the promise?***

The only thing that could have stopped him

- Was **if he would have quit walking!**
- Because, as long as **he kept walking**
- He **kept gaining** new territory!

God said, “***As much land as your foot touches will be yours!***”

I will tell you this morning **that the enemy of our soul** cannot take away the promises of God!

- But, **if he can discourage us** to the point that **we stop walking** -
- He has accomplished his purpose!!!
- As long as **we keep walking**, victory is ours!

We may have some hardships to overcome,

- We may have to **walk through** some unpleasant places
- But as long as **we keep walking** we will **get through** them eventually!

David said,

Psalms 23:4 - Yea, though **I walk through** the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- I am not going to stay in this valley
- I am **only walking** through it!
- If I stay here I will die, so **I will just keep walking!**

Psalm 138:7 - Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;
You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right
hand will save me.

God, **I am in the presence of enemies**, but I am **still walking!**

Job 23:11 - My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned
aside.

NCV – My feet **have closely followed his steps**; I have **stayed in his way**; I did not
turn aside.

Sometimes I have to **walk through the darkness**,

- through the desert - through the fire - through the prison cell
- Sometimes my journey **is not always pleasant....**
- But I am going to **keep walking!**

The ones who get the victory are the ones who just keep walking!

I PROMISE YOU THAT WHEREVER YOU WALK YOU WILL NOT WALK ALONE!

God will walk with you through every trial, every temptation, every problem!

Take a look at the **three Hebrew boys**.

Daniel 3:23 – CEV - ²¹⁻²³ The king wanted it done at that very moment. So the
soldiers tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and threw them into the
flaming furnace with all of their clothes still on, including their turbans. The fire
was so hot that flames leaped out and killed the soldiers.

- **The goal of the enemy** was to knock these young men down!
- To get them off of their feet.
- Just to make the fall down and stop progressing!

Look at what happens when God steps into the fire!

Daniel 3:24-25 - NKJV

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?”

They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

²⁵ “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

- **You can walk in the furnace - - -**
That was designed to knock you off of your feet when ***God is with you!!!***
- **You can walk through the valley of the shadow of death ---**
That was designed to destroy you when ***God is with you!!!***
- **You can keep walking - - -**
When your enemy is trying to destroy you as long as ***God is with you!!!***

No matter what happens, or where your journey takes you, **just keep walking!**
God will be with you!!!!!!!!!!

IN 600 B.C. THERE WERE A GROUP OF ISRAELITES TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE BABYLONIANS.

Now within this group of captives, three groups emerged from the total number.

1. *There were those spoken of in Psalms 137:1*

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

- **This was the group that just gave up.**
- They remembered how things used to be
- ***They just sat down and surrendered to the enemy.***

2. *There were those who changed their names and tried to blend in with Babylon.*

3. ***And then there was the group of which Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel were a part.***

- Those **who refused to quit** praying to their God
- Those **who refused to bow** to an idol
- Those **who refused to eat** of the King's meat!

Those are the ones who found favor in the eyes of friend and foe alike, the ones who just refused to quit walking!

This was the group that walked back to Jerusalem when Cyrus released them! It was no stretch to walk back to Jerusalem, because ***they never stopped walking with God*** in Babylon!

I want to be a part of the third group this morning, ***the ones who just keep walking in spite of trouble!***

The ones who may be knocked down, but get right back up and keep walking!

THERE WAS AN OLD TACTIC USED BY THE ENEMY IN YEARS GONE BY.

You can find it in **Judges 1:6**

Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and ***cut off his thumbs and big toes.***

- **Without** your great, or big toe, ***you cannot walk.***
- There is no concern about you ever ***being a problem again***
- **Because** you can't march!!!!

The enemy doesn't have to kill us to make us ineffective, he just has to get us to stop walking!

In more recent times, armies would take sharpened sticks and drive them into the ground, pointed end up.

When the soldiers marched through the field, they would step on these sharpened sticks, driving them through their feet.

At that point, there marching days were over.....

CLOSE:

This is why Paul said in **Ephesians 5:15** - Walk in Wisdom

¹⁵ See then that you **walk** circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

NIV - Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.

Walk carefully, watch where you are going!

- The enemy would love to **plant things in your path** that would ***cause you to stop walking!***
- ***Watch where you are going!***

Part of the armor of God that Paul mentions is this:

Ephesians 6:15 - and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

- ***Why do I need to protect my feet?***
- There are no vital organs contained in the foot!
- People lose feet and continue to live for years and years!

So, why worry about my foot?

I have to make sure that I keep walking!

I must protect my feet, because what really matters is not that I am a spiritual giant, or that I make it through life without falling, or sinning, but ***what really matters is that I just keep walking!***

What really matters is that no matter **how many times I fall**, I get up and **keep walking!**

What hallmarked Enoch, and Noah, and Abraham, and all of the other great people of the Bible?

Was it that they were perfect?

No, it is that ***they “...walked with God”***

- They **never** gave up,
- They **kept pressing forward!**

I wonder if anyone would like to renew their marching orders this morning?