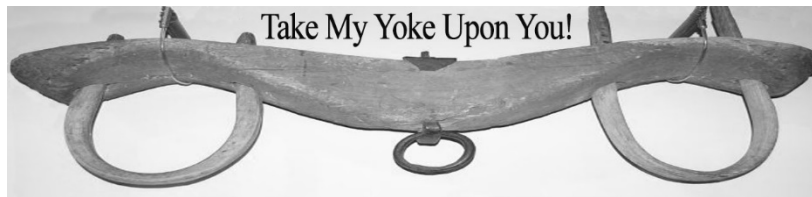


LESSON 5: WALKING WITH GOD



... *Sir, we would see Jesus.* Yes, you will find Him in the way, for Jesus has invited you to take His yoke upon you and walk with Him each day.

Do you know anything about the people mentioned in the Bible who walked with God? First of all, they were people just like you and me. There is only one thing that makes any saved person different from those who walked with God. That one thing is just a little word, but it means a lot to Him. That word is **desire**. People who walk with God do so because they have the **desire** to be close to Him. Consider the implications of this verse, James 4:8: "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." It's that simple! But to do that, you must have a pure heart. A pure heart is a heart that is free from all unconfessed sin and anything else that would hinder your fellowshiping with a Thrice-Holy God who is your Heavenly Father. **Desire** is the key to making this possible. Take His yoke upon you and walk with Him every day. Delight in His presence.

Here are two references in Scripture that talk about people who enjoyed walking with the Lord Jesus Christ before His Incarnation. By the way, LORD written in all caps in the Old Testament is the personal name for God, which is commonly known today as Yahweh. In most references, it is Jesus Christ appearing as a Christophany (Jesus in a bodily form before His Incarnation). He is also referred to many times as the Angel of the LORD.

Genesis 5:21–24

21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

How long was it before Enoch walked with God? It was 65 years. There's a lot missing in this story that would be very interesting to know. How did Enoch get saved? How long after Enoch knew the LORD was it that he learned to walk with Him? There are many more questions that one could think of that will have to wait until we see him in glory. And that part about God taking Enoch—that's my favorite.

Well, the next story about Noah has quite a different ending, yet to me, it is far more dramatic. If you're an animal lover, you might enjoy the voyage. On the other hand, if you are prone to sea sickness, the thought could induce nightmares. Walking with God has the components not only of desire and purity but also of faith. Desire, combined with faith and a pure heart, is what makes one's walk with the Lord a reality. Think of the great privilege that Noah had to walk with his Creator, who would recreate a new world right before his very eyes.

Genesis 6:7–9

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Now, as we move to the New Testament, the walk with God is so much more profound, so much more personal, and so much more passionate. Could you imagine yourself as Mary, His mother; Joseph, His step-father; or one of His followers? “Walking with God” took on a whole new dimension during the years that He walked this earth. Can you imagine yourself in the very presence of the LORD God of heaven and earth?

Until we have the overwhelming joy of walking with Him in His Kingdom of righteousness described in Revelation 21, we children of God are invited to walk with Him now by yoking up each day. The yoke is used as a metaphor to describe how the Lord can ease the burden of the one walking with Him. He said that His yoke is easy and that His burden is light.

Matthew 11:28–30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

This passage is not only an invitation for sinners who are lost but also an invitation for all those who are bearing their burdens during the heat of the day. It is a day when Jesus said the world would be like the days of Noah and like the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. And it is a day when good would be called evil and evil would be called good. I don't know about you, but I need His help. Christians have to wear

a hard yoke that this wicked world has placed upon them and a heavy burden of care that make their journeys tiresome. We need Him to help us lighten our burdens. If you yoke up with the Lord each day, you will never walk alone. His presence will not only be in you, but it will also be with you in everything that you do. Enjoy the walk, pilgrim!

Lesson 5 Memorization

Question 1: What are the three requirements that make it possible to walk with God?

Answer: The three requirements are to know Him by the means of a spiritual birth into the family of God, to have the desire to walk with Him, and to obey His Word.

Question 2: Which of the three requirements will prove most likely to enable you to succeed?

Answer: Desire!

Enjoy your walk with the sweet Lord Jesus every day.