

WALKING LIKE JESUS*

Jesus did not come only to die for us but also to live for us in order to reveal the perfect will of God in action. Jesus' life is the exact image of God in the earth and whatever Jesus did was exactly what God desired to be done in each situation. (See Hebrews 1:3; John 14:9.)

God's design in giving us the Holy Spirit is for us to walk by the Spirit like Jesus did rather than our own desires and ideas. This is how He guides us into the works He has ordained for us to do and this is what transforms us into Christ's likeness in our inward nature as the children of God. When we truly allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of the Lord, our lives will become more and more miraculous.

*Romans 8:5-6: Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on **what the flesh desires**; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on **what the Spirit desires**. The **mind governed by the flesh is death**, but the **mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace**.*

*Romans 8:12-14: Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation--but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live. For **those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God**.*

The only way that we will fulfill the good works which God has prepared for us is to live like Jesus and be led by the Spirit of the Lord the way that Jesus was. Living by the guidance of God through the Holy Spirit is not about doing whatever the most godly thing seems to be in any given situation. Instead, we must set our hearts to seek God's guidance above all else and allow Him to correct and guide us along with way, trusting that He will. This requires faith that He is who He says He is and trust that He is a gentle Shepherd, not a harsh master. (Consider Matthew 25:14-30.) The more we listen, the more He will guide us.

*Mark 4:24-25 NLT: Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. **The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given--and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given.** But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."* (See also Matthew 25:29; Luke 8:18.)

DEAD WORKS AND GOOD WORKS

If we continue living our lives according to our fleshly desires or if we continue to try to fulfill the will of God in our own strength or concept of what God's will is, then we are producing *dead works*. A dead work is a work that does not lead to life. Neither our flesh nor our religious concepts of obedience or piety have any ability to produce the righteousness of God leading to everlasting life. We are saved entirely by faith.

*Galatians 3:2-3: I would like to learn just one thing from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing** what you heard? Are you so foolish? After **beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?***

This said, faith alone without works is also dead.

*James 2:17-18: In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead**. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*

Christ redeemed us so that we may be saved by God's grace through faith in Him and so we may do good works for His Kingdom and according to His purposes.

*Ephesians 2:8-10: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- **not by works, so that no one can boast.** For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.***

Now, because the Holy Spirit is within us, we do not have to wonder as the saying goes, "What would Jesus do?" By standards of logic and common sense, Jesus was completely unpredictable, and God's ways often seem like foolishness to our natural mind. (See 1 Corinthians 1:18.) Unfortunately, this is how a lot of us are trying to follow Jesus. We read about Him, imagine the way that we think He is or how we think He would handle a situation, and then we do it according to our own imagined or intellectual concept of Jesus and God's will. We do what we think we should be doing rather than actually seeking Him and waiting for Him to guide us.

Rather, when we allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we know for ourselves what Jesus **is doing** right NOW because Jesus is in us and He is doing it through us right NOW. This said, excelling at living our lives by the indwelling Holy Spirit does not happen overnight, and it cannot be rushed, forced, or faked. In fact, it seems that the more we try to rush, force, and fake it, the worse things go for us. We cannot lean on our own understanding – and even our own understanding of God. We have to become like little children in order to be led by Him and to walk in His miracles.

*Proverbs 3:5-6: **Trust in the LORD** with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding;** in all your ways **submit to him,** and he will make your paths straight.*

*Matthew 18:3: And he said: "Truly I tell you, **unless you change and become like little children,** you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

To be clear, I am not suggesting that God desires us to be stupid people or discard the capacities which He has given us. Rather, I am saying that, as we make decisions, we should choose to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, even if it does not seem to measure up with our common sense or a logical way of approaching things. Our common sense and religious ideas will produce nothing but death. But the Holy Spirit will teach us what we need to know to follow God's path for our lives and fulfill the works He has for us to do. Actually, living by the Holy Spirit gives us the highest intelligence available and He promises to teach us all things!

*1 Corinthians 1:25: For the foolishness of God is **wiser than human wisdom,** and the weakness of God is **stronger than human strength.***

*1 John 2:20, 27: But you have an **anointing from the Holy One [the Holy Spirit],** and all of you **know the truth.** ... As for you, the anointing [the Holy Spirit] you received from him remains in you, **and you do not need anyone to teach you.** But as **his anointing [the Holy Spirit] teaches you about all things** and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, **remain in him.***

CHRIST IN YOU

The Biblical writer who best expressed this abiding relationship of us in Christ and Christ in us through the Holy Spirit was John. John emphasized Jesus' teaching about His relationship with God the Father and our relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit. These are a mirror image of one another.

Jesus walked on earth in a flesh like ours as a demonstration for us of what it looks like to live by the guidance of God's Spirit. When we do what Jesus did by abiding in Him the way He abided in the Father, we will say what He is saying and do what He is doing. It is only through this abiding relationship that we are empowered to carry out God's purposes in the earth.

Let's take a look at the parallels between Jesus' relationship with His Father and our relationship with Christ now that He has ascended to heaven and poured the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Jesus could do nothing by Himself, only what He saw the Father doing – *mirrors* – We can do nothing apart from Him and our flesh profits nothing:

*John 5:19-20: Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the **Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For **the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does**. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.*

*John 6:63: **The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing**. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life.*

*John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing**.*

God did not leave Jesus alone – *mirrors* – Jesus does not leave us alone as orphans:

*John 8:29: The one who sent me **is with me**; he has **not left me alone**, for I always do what pleases him."*

*John 14:16-18: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and **be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you**. **I will not leave you as orphans**; I will come to you.*

God was in Jesus and Jesus was in God – *mirrors* – Christ is in us and we are in Christ:

*John 10:38: But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that **the Father is in me, and I in the Father**."*

*John 14:10-11,17,20,23: Don't you believe that **I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me**? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, **it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work**. Believe me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ... **the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, **for he lives with you and will be in you**. ... On that day you will realize that **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you**. ... Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and **we will come to them and make our home with them**.*

*John 15:4-7: **Remain in me, as I also remain in you**. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you**, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **If you remain in me and my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

Jesus had life in Him – *mirrors* – We have life in us:

*John 1:4: **In him was life**, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

John 5:26: For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted **the Son also to have life in himself.**

John 6:40,47-48,54,57: For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and **believes in him shall have eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day." ... Very truly I tell you, the one who **believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.** ... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood **has eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day. ... Just as the living Father sent me and **I live because of the Father**, so the one who feeds on me **will live because of me.**

John 11:25 : Jesus said to her, "**I am** the resurrection and **the life.** The one who **believes in me will live**, even though they die;

John 14:6,19: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me... Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.**

God taught Jesus, showed Jesus what to do and what to say, and Jesus obeyed God's commands – mirrors – Jesus teaches us all that He knows, shows us what to do and what to say, and we keep His commands

John 8:28-29: So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that **I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.** The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for **I always do what pleases him.**"

John 12:49-50: For **I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.** I know that his command leads to eternal life. So **whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.**"

John 14:15,21,23,26,31: "**If you love me, keep my commands.** ... **Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.** The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." ... Jesus replied, "**Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.** My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ... But the Advocate, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.** ... but he comes so that the world may learn that **I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.**" Come now; let us leave.

John 15:3,10,15: **You are already clean** because of the word I have spoken to you. If you **keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as **I have kept my Father's commands** and remain in his love. ... I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

John 16:13,15: But when he, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, **he will guide you into all the truth.** He will not speak on his own; **he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you** what is yet to come. ... All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said **the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.**"

1Jo 2:20,27: But you have an anointing from the Holy One, [the Holy Spirit] and **all of you know the truth.** ... As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as **his anointing teaches you about all things** and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Jesus' teaching was not His own but God's – mirrors – Our teaching is not our own but Christ's:

John 7:16: Jesus answered, "**My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. ...**

John 14:24,26: Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. **These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. ...** But the Advocate, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

John 15:15: I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

Mat 28:19-20: **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus is the Son of God – mirrors – We are the children of God:

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that **he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 10:36: what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, **'I am God's Son'?**

John 1:12: Yet **to all who did receive him**, to those **who believed** in his name, he gave the right to **become children of God--**

Jesus is the light of the world – mirrors – We are the light of the world:

John 1:4: In him was life, and that life was **the light of all mankind.**

John 9:5: While I am in the world, **I am the light of the world."**

John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

John 12:36,46: Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may **become children of light."** When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. ... **I have come into the world as a light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

Mat 5:14: **"You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Jesus did not sin – mirrors – We will not sin:

1Jo 3:5-6,9: But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. **And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning.** No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ... **No one who is born of God will continue to sin**, because God's seed remains in them; **they cannot go on sinning**, because they have been born of God.

1Jo 5:18: We know that **anyone born of God does not continue to sin**; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

God loves Jesus – mirrors – Jesus loves us:

John 5:20: For **the Father loves the Son** and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

John 14:21: Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. **The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them** and show myself to them."

John 15:9: **As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.** Now remain in my love.

God sent Jesus into the world – mirrors – Jesus sends us into the world to be like Him and do His works.

John 6:38: For **I have come down from heaven** not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

John 12:45: **The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.**

John 14:9: Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 13:20: Very truly I tell you, **whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.**"

Mat 28:19-20: Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely **I am with you** always, to the very end of the age."

Mar 16:15-18: He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And **these signs will accompany those who believe:** In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

John 14:12: Very truly I tell you, **whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these,** because I am going to the Father.

Only through the Holy Spirit can we be guided by God into the good works which He has prepared for us. When we are led by the Holy Spirit in us directing us, empowering us, and strengthening us, will we become like Jesus and we will not produce dead works but good works of eternal life. We will walk like Jesus walked, talk like He talked, do the things He did, and endure through the trials of life in order to receive our eternal rewards.

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