

Romans #9
The Christian's Walk of Faith
Romans 4:9-13

In our last study of this epistle we looked at one of the greatest aspects of salvation, and that knowing that our sins are no longer charged to us, but are charged to the finished work of Jesus Christ. This week we are going to see that the same faith that causes us to be saved, also causes us to become involved in a very special walk of life.

We will begin this week's study by looking at Romans 4:9-12, "Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised."

In the verses we have just read, we learn that justification in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament, was totally independent of rituals or works. The indication that we have before us is that Abraham was "reckoned ... for righteousness" and justified at least twentyfive years before he was circumcised. That is the reason that we have been told in verse 13, "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." It is imperative that all of us realize that the Bible is teaching us that the promise of eternal life is not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith!

Therefore, Paul is simply telling us that with the "new birth" comes a "new walk." Look at verse 12, "And the father of circumcision to who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham."

God has established a pattern for the Christian to follow if he is to live the victorious and abundant life. Let's look at four truths.

1. **Obviously, the new walk must begin with the new birth.** Colossians 3:10 says, "And ... put on the new man, that is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." Ezekiel 36:26-27 reminds us that the idea of the newness of life is not just a New Testament doctrine, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my ordinances, and do them." The New Testament counterpart to Ezekiel is found in Ephesians 4:22-24, "That you put off concerning the former manner of life the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." And, of course, 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The newness of life is compared as two different persons the "old man" and the "new man." When a person becomes saved the "old man" belongs in the *past*, and is to be put away with all the sinfulness and lusts that he was

involved with. The "new man" belongs to the *present*, and is "after the image of Him that created him." When a person becomes saved, we do not attain our new nature because of reformation or self-development, but because God creates within us "the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Therefore, we can conclude that if the believer is going to walk in the faith, he must walk in the newness of life.

2. **The new walk must continue with consistency.** Ephesians 4:1 says, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation to which you are called." I Thessalonians 2:11-12 says, "As you know how we exhorted and encouraged and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that you would walk worthy of God, who has called you unto his kingdom and glory." Colossians 1:10 says, "That you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." **I am convinced "to walk worthy of the Lord" goes much deeper than the average believer has gone.** You see, the average believer, or the carnal Christian, lives a very shallow Christian life they are merely saved and satisfied. The average church member has never yielded his life to the Holy Spirit to be led into a walk of harmony with God.

Don't misunderstand what I am trying to say, for to "walk worthy of the Lord," does not mean that we are to walk according to some pledge or to some set of rules. To "walk worthy of the Lord" is to walk worthy of the name "Christian." You see, our lives represent the only Christ the world will ever know. If the world does not see Jesus in us, then we are not "walking worthy of the Lord." **One of the greatest mistakes that Christians are making today is to talk about Christ, while not showing the world He has made a difference in lives! Our children are laughing behind our backs as we try to tell them about Christ and the church. Why? Because they continue to see our ugliness and selfishness and pride unforgiveness being manifested in our everyday living.** Oh how we need to heed to God's call for those of us who name the name of Christ to "walk worthy of the Lord."

3. **The new walk must continue with caution.** Ephesians 5:15-16 says, "See, then, that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." The Greek wording for "walk circumspectly" actually to "walk with caution." The idea is that of a sentry walk on guard duty. And the reason that we are admonished to walk with such caution is found in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." **It is obvious that Satan's first desire is to damn your soul and to see you burn in hell.** But if you hear the gospel and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, he still does not give up. He will then seek to rob you of your joy of being saved, and try to take away the power of your testimony, by causing you to yield to temptation. And let me assure that Satan knows your weaknesses and he knows what he has used before to tear down your will power.

But do not despair, for we have been given this promise in I Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." **You see, the more we trust God to help us in our times of trial, the more confidence we will have in him.** And the more confidence we have in Him, the more we will lean on Him the time of need for strength to overcome the temptations that come our way. Therefore, it is necessary for us to walk with caution.

4. The new walk must be a walk patterned after Christ. 1 Peter 2:21 says, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps." I John 2:6 says, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." **But, how did Jesus walk?** The answer is found in John 8:29, "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." He walked doing the things that pleased the Father.

There are many people who struggle with finding God's will for their lives. But I have concluded that the best way to find God's will for your life is to start with what you already know. Let me give you some examples.

There should be no question about God's will concerning Bible study. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Listen to this promise in Joshua 1:8, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." **It amazes me that so many people want to be successful, but they just can't seem to get it all together.** Well, good success is a way of life that comes from being established in the Word of God. It comes from hearing and obeying the Word so consistently that it begins to guide your actions even when you are not consciously thinking about it. It is God's will for every Christian to read and study the Bible.

There should be no question about God's will concerning prayer. In Luke 18:1 we are told that Jesus "spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Colossians 4:2 says, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Surely it is God's will for the Christian to become involved in a fervent prayer life.

There should be no question about God's will concerning Worship attendance. Psalm 149:1 says, "Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints." Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more, as you see the day approaching." Surely there can be no question about God's will for your worship attendance.

There should be no question about God's will concerning giving. Proverbs 3:9-10 reads like this in the Amplified Bible, "Honor the Lord with your capital and sufficiency ... and with the first fruits of all your income; so shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine." Jesus put it this way in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you measure it shall be measured to you again."

There is something about tithing that is supernatural. Tithing is a covenant transaction that gets God involved in what you are doing. Not just in the financial realm but in every area of your life ... spirit, soul, and body.

It is God's will for you to tithe. Why? Because He loves you and takes pleasure in your prosperity.

The Bible tells us in Philippians 3:9, "...not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Listen, I don't care how badly you may have messed things up or how many struggles that you might be facing; the Bible says that you are righteous!

What does that have to do with walking by faith? Simply this now that you are righteous, live like you are!