

WALKING WITH GOD – IN PURSUIT OF GOD Prt 1

If You are joining us for the first time, you find us in the middle of a series titled **MEERE MORTALS WALKING WITH GOD** and we are doing prt 5 today.

- As far as walking with God is concerned, it is settled in God's heart that He wants to walk with man.
- The big question is whether man is willing to go on a journey with the almighty and if he is, how is he supposed to go about that.
- So far, we have established the fact that God's nature makes it easy for man to walk with Him (He is a promise keeper, He is patient, and He is ever-present).
- In as much as the nature of God is geared towards relating with man, man needs to do a lot of adjustments to walk with God. Since the fall, men's default is to oppose God and to run away from Him.
- In my previous teaching, I used the analogy of a father-son relationship and going back to that relationship, you will find that as the young boy grows, the boy needs to adjust to keep relating with the father at a deeper level.
- Teenagers and adults can easily think they no longer need their parents, but this could result in grave mistakes being made as they detach from the wisdom of the parents.
- In other words, children need to learn how to connect with parents at a deeper level at every stage of life.
- This brings me to the next aspect of walking with God – this morning I will be commencing on a topic titled **IN PURSUIT OF GOD**.
- The truth of the matter is that there is so much that is calling for your attention and obsession, but nothing can satisfy man's emptiness like God does.
- When someone is described as pursuing, they are following or chasing another person or thing with the intent to catch.
- Pursuing something goes beyond just going after something but suggests the continued application of effort to overtake, to reach or attain something.
- The system of this world is designed for man to pursue everything else other than God.
 - Fame, financial independence, progress, and great fun, just to name a few pursuits of mankind.
- That is why the Bible says though we are in the world, but we are not to live like the world does.
- When it comes to walking with God, in the Bible, only 3 people were specifically mentioned as having walked with God.

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- By having a close look at the three men, we get a glimpse of what walking with God looks like. Like I said, this is an intro to the topic of pursuing God.
- **Enoch walked with God.**
- Enoch lived in a time that was increasingly becoming wicked and violent. He lived just three generations before the time of Noah.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked faithfully with God, and then he was no more, for God took him away.

- This man must have done something special to be singled out as one who walked with God. Whatever He did, God enjoyed it so much that he was raptured from earth - he did not go the way of all men.
- His walk with God was characterized by being faithful.
 - It means that he was loyal to God – (Enoch was for God in all circumstances).
 - It means that he was steadfast (persistent and consistent in his actions towards God).
 - It means that he was dependable and reliable – when God needed him, Enoch was available.
- In other words, it is possible to bring pleasure to the Lord by the way you walk with Him. God took him alive and not face decay. This was an extra-ordinary way of dying – this placed him in a different bracket to most people (Melchizedek, Enoch and Elijah). Anyone that brings pleasure to God will attract the extra ordinary way of life.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated so as not to see death, and he was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- I looked at most of the translations and they all use the term "...he pleased God". Enoch had a special testimony of one who pleased God and it means that it is possible to please God.
- Each person has a testimony based on how you carry yourself – are you known as one who pursues God, as one who does not like prayer, as one who is generous, as one who is caring.

Noah walked with God.

Genesis 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

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- Our days are like the days of Noah – everyone is busy drinking and becoming merry and many people are not bothered about church anymore.
- In fact, pursuing God has fallen out of fashion – gone are the days when parents were proud that their children were sold out for God.
- Today, many parents would rather facilitate a worldly lifestyle for their children – what happened to those days when parents instructed their kids to go for youth meetings and camps.
- But Noah was different, he had a testimony of one who walked with God in his generation.
- In his walk with God, Noah did some special things – these were things that were close to the heart of God.
- Noah was known for being upright – he was just and perfect in the eyes of God.
- When the Bible talks about being just and perfect, it is not talking about a life without blemish, but it is talking about a life lived from a broken disposition.
- David was not without fault but God called him “a man after God’s own heart”. David ran to God each time he missed the mark, David consulted God each time he was about to make a move, David laid down everything for God each time he got a chance.
- If we are to walk with God, we need to pursue brokenness at a heart level.
- Whilst God was being vexed by everyone else, God found pleasure in Noah – the Bible says in *Genesis 6:12 And God looked upon the earth. And, behold, it was corrupted! For all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.*
- When the time for judgement came, God’s heart was drawn to Noah. Noah became part and parcel of God’s redemption plan for humanity when God saved him from the flood.

Levi walked with God.

- This one is rather an interesting one because it does not speak directly of Levi as a person but rather the tribe of Levi.
- When God was unhappy with what the priests were doing during the days of Malachi, he reminded them of what a priest should be doing by referring to Levi. The priests at that time were unfaithful, dishonorable to God, were prone to divorcing their wives arbitrarily and were behaving like commoners.

Malachi 2:5 My covenant with him (Levi) was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. True instruction was in

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his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity.

- God was not referring to an individual but rather to a community or a tribe of people. It means that a community or a nation can walk with God or fight against God.
- Not much was said about Levi, but he was the 3rd born of Jacob and his prominent mention was when he and Simeon killed Shechem (the man who raped their sister) and all of his people in Genesis 34. Because of this, they received no blessing from Jacob when he departed from earth.
- As a person, Levi carried no blessing from his father Jacob and that was passed down to his sons as well – but that was going to change.
- The change of the fortunes for the sons of Levi happened in Exodus 32 when the Israelites committed a grave sin against the LORD. They sculpted a golden calf and bowed down before it. But the Levites were the only tribe who did not participate in the shameful act.
- From that point onwards, the Levites found favor with God, and they were appointed as the Lord's priests.
- From that point onwards, Levi became the model priest who walked with God. In Malachi we get a glimpse of what it looks like to walk with God.

Malachi 2:5 My covenant with him (Levi) was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity

- Levi feared God. The proud and arrogant cannot walk with God. In other words pride and walking God are mutually exclusive – they cannot coexist.
- Levi had the knowledge of God's word (God's will) – God's instructions were in his mouth and faithfully taught others about them.
- Levi dissociated himself with unrighteousness. This was seen by his use of words.
- Levi had a strong spiritual influence on people around him - turned many back from iniquity.
- Enoch, Noah, and Levi had a different heart – it was a heart that was in full pursuit of God. There was a zeal and passion that drew them towards God.
- Walking with God, requires a response from mere mortals. How should you respond to God's advances towards you? This is what we will cover next week.

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