

WALKING WITH GOD – IN PURSUIT OF GOD PRT 2

If You are joining us for the first time, you find us in the middle of a series titled **HERE MORTALS WALKING WITH GOD** and we are doing prt 6 today.

- I want to continue from where I left off last time when I introduced the topic **IN PURSUIT OF GOD** and today, I want to do **part 2**.
- When it comes to walking with God, you need to develop a hunger for Him.
- Like they say, “you can take a horse to the river, but you cannot force the horse to drink the water”. God might be readily available for you, but no one can force you to pursue Him, unless you choose to do so.
- The Bible is a story of people who lived in pursuit of God and one of those is the apostle, Paul. After encountering the God of heaven on his murderous trip to Damascus, Paul made the pursuit of God his ultimate life mission.

Philippians 3:10 (NLT) I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! 12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- Paul was a highly acclaimed apostle – he was a pure Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, he followed the law to the “t”, he was circumcised on the eighth day, he was a top Pharisee.
- When he looked at all that in comparison to knowing Christ, he counted all that to be useless and vain - *Philippians 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*
- He decided that his mission was to intimately know Christ and the power that resided in Christ.
- Pastor Fadzi taught about pursuing that one thing and this is another perfect example of a man who pursued that one thing.
- Paul was not only prepared to know Christ but was prepared to share in His suffering as well. This is another level of walking with God – walking with God will cost you something.
- Many people want to walk with God but are not prepared to pay the price that comes with walking with Him.

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- Paul had a background that could drag him away from God and he was ready to forget about his past successes and failures to lay hold of the treasure found in Christ.
- Now, when it comes to pursuing God, we gleaned a little bit into the lives of 3 men that were identified as having walked with God (Enoch, Noah, and Levi).
- Yes, it was great to learn from these men, but we need something more than just men to teach us how to pursue God.
- There is no better teacher on how to pursue God than Christ Jesus Himself – The Bible says Jesus was the perfect man who ever walked on earth.
- Through observing Jesus, you and I have a fail proof manual that can direct us on how to pursue God.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds,

- In times past, God spoke through prophets but is now talking to us by His son, who is a true representative of God the Father.
- We need to bring Jesus back to everything that we do – it is through Him that we can learn what the Father requires “*but has in these last days spoken to us by His Son*”.
- For us to learn how to pursue God like Jesus did, we need to go into eternity past to understand how God the Father and God the son related.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being.

Colossians 1:15 (NLT) Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.

- Why am I bringing up these scriptures? These scriptures highlight something very profound; they are telling us that God the Father and God the son are one and yet it was the son who came down to do the difficult job of redeeming humanity.
- Though, you will not find the term trinity in the bible, but the concept is written though out scripture. This speaks of 3 equal parts that make up the one – God the father, God the son and God the holy spirit are one and yet distinct beings.
- This tells you of how the three walk together and there is no closer relationship than that.

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- The way they operate is through what is called functional subordination. The son knows how He relates to God the father and the Holy spirit knows how He relates to the Father and the Son.
- How was it possible that the son agreed to come down to earth and be disrobed of some of His glory.
- The answer to that question will give us our first principle that will enable us to walk with God.

Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me) to do Your will, O God." 8 Above, when He said, "Sacrifice and offering, and burnt offerings and offering for sin You did not desire, neither did You have pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), 9 then He said, "Lo, I come to do Your will, O God."

- A conversation was had in eternity past among God. The Godhead wanted to put in place a redemption plan for humanity. God the Father told the son and the Holy spirit of His displeasure of religious sacraments – He had no joy in burnt offerings as they were not good enough to bring reconciliation between humanity and God.
- It was in that conversation that the Son volunteered to come down and do the will of the Father, to do what would bring pleasure to the Father.
- The Son requested that a body be prepared for Him and made a commitment to go down to earth and do the Father's will.
- This is profound when you consider that God the Son was God and that He could not remain with the glory as God whilst being in the body of a man.
- Jesus had a particular attitude which would be key to anyone who wants to walk with God.

Philippians 2:5 (NLT) You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

- By coming down as a man, Jesus lived out the highest level of obedience.

Philippians 2:7 ... When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

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1. Obedience is the foundation for walking with God.

- Jesus did not have to come down as a man, but He chose to submit himself to God the Father.
- That word obey, comes from a Greek word “hupekoos”, which means to listen attentively with the aim to follow instruction.
- That is why the Bible says in *1 Samuel 15:22* “...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed [is better] than the fat of rams.”
- Obedience is the bedrock for humility – it is out of obedience that true humility can be lived out.
- Humility and obedience are the foundation required to walk with God, without which no one can walk with Him.
- Jesus subjected himself to the law of God, and wholly obeyed it. Though He was God and was part of the Godhead that put in place the laws, yet He was prepared to be subject to His own laws.
- When Jesus became a man, He suffered great humiliation in that He was disrobed of some of His glory. That humiliation continued even by the way He lived His life – He had no place of His own and would have been categorized as a poor man by all accounts.
- To walk with God, you have to pass the obedience test.
- *Philippians 2:6* says “Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.
- Obedience is tested when you have to give up your rights in order to follow someone’s instructions.
- Obedience is tested when what you are asked to do goes against your preference and God tends to expect that from us.
- Obedience is tested when you feel your own voice is not being heard and God wants His voice to be heard and not yours.
- Obedience is tested when your name is not being praised and God does not want to share His glory with another.
- Obedience is tested when you don’t see a direct personal benefit to what you are instructed to do.
- Obedience is a matter of the heart, and we need to deal with it at a heart level.
- By nature, human beings are rebellious and don’t like to follow instructions and that includes you and me.
- We are going to pray for obedient hearts as we aspire to walk with God.