

## **WALKING WITH GOD**

Micah 6:8 ... "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

We once sang a chorus containing the words of this verse from Micah. It was an era in which young Christians sought answers to questions about God, their faith, and their relationship with Christ. Many portions of scripture entered our hearts and minds through Christian music during that time. Unfortunately, I find much of the music in churches and Christian concerts today, to contain little of God's Word and more of man's thoughts. Today we look at what it means to walk with God.

"Walking" is the opposite of standing, sitting or lying down. The act of walking means you are moving, hopefully in a forward direction. The word "with," in the context of our verse, means as a companion. When you walk with someone, you do not follow, nor do you lead. Due to my longer legs I have trouble slowing down enough when walking with my wife, to avoid outpacing her. I'm very conscious of that, because I want to be her companion, not her drill sergeant.

There are many songs, hymns and sermons in which our relationship with God is in terms of following him. This portrays God as a tour guide; forcing us to try and follow his steps through the jungle of life, or the hardships of strife, or in our uncertainties of his will. True, I'd rather follow God than any other leader, but God really wants more than to be our tour guide. Some Christians go to the other extreme and insist that God should follow them. They claim that wherever they go, even into places where God is not honored, that God follows them. Neither definition is very accurate or desirable.

What God expects of us, as illustrated in today's verse, is that we live as his companion and walk WITH him. If you understand the advantages of walking WITH someone, this might make more sense. For instance, if you are following a tour guide, you have to strain to hear their words, because they are facing away from you. You might miss their instructions, advice or knowledge about the place you are touring. If you are in front of your guide, they must give you specific instructions for every step you take, every turn required to stay on course, and still give you advice and pass along their knowledge.

God desires that you walk at his side, neither behind nor ahead. By walking with him, you set the pace of your journey together. He can whisper in your ear and you will still hear every word he says. He can say, "Let's turn here, and then you turn in unison." When you are walking WITH God, you are no longer in a crowd of impatient tourists (or a church of feverish worshippers); you are walking shoulder to shoulder with your creator in a one-on-one, highly personal experience.

Are you walking with God? If that is the kind of relationship you want with him, it only requires that you live obediently to him, spend sufficient time talking to and listening to him, and are willing to give up your own desire to lead so you can become his companion.

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