

WALK THE WALK



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LifeinJesus.net

'Walk the Walk'
by
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all Scripture quotations are taken from
the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE)
(Any words in brackets are not in the original text
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Before reading this booklet, I encourage you to read the one called 'Talk the Talk'. This one will then make more sense.

The way the world works is based on performance. If you don't do what you're supposed to do at work, you will get a reprimand or even the sack. If you behave badly towards your friends, they will probably drop you. Even in a marriage, performance plays a part. If you abused your wife or husband it is likely they will leave you. On the other hand, if you do well at work, you may get a pay rise or a promotion. If you are a really good friend then your friendships will deepen and you may find more people want to be your friend. If you are loving and supportive to your wife or husband, they will probably show you more love in return.

God's Unconditional Love

But when it comes to God, everything is different. He loves you as you are – yes, it really is true – just as you are. Not as you wish you were, or how other people think you are – no, He loves you just as you really are right now. It's called unconditional love, because His love for you doesn't depend on you earning it or reaching some standard. It is true love.

And He knows everything about you. He's the only One who knows you better than you know yourself. You can't hide anything from Him – He knows you through and through. I think that is so comforting. Some people find it frightening to think that God knows everything about them, but God doesn't want you to feel frightened. Knowing there is someone who you don't have to pretend to is freedom. And He doesn't condemn you and

tell you off for the things you've done and said and thought which are wrong. He just tells you He loves you and wants to show you He does too if you will let Him. He loves you totally even though He knows you completely.

You're Saved by Faith

God wants you to believe He loves you and accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour – the Bible calls it being born-again. God knows you're not perfect, no-one is, but He wants you to love Him so He can bless and guide you in every part of your life. He knows it's the only way you can find true peace and real joy and that's what he wants for you – the best.

To be able to have a relationship with God you need to realise that you can't get it all right by yourself, and that you need someone to be your Saviour and accept Jesus as that Saviour. Jesus took all the punishment for everything you've thought, said and done that is wrong – past, present and future. When you believe in what He has done for you, you can turn to Him with faith and He will respond – He will save you, not because you deserve it or because of anything you've tried to do to earn it, but just because He loves you and Jesus has made it possible. You can know about God's unconditional love for you, but you can only experience it when you are born-again.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says – *'By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, that no one would boast.'* Grace is God's unconditional love for you and faith is the way you respond to Him when you believe. You're born-again by God's unconditional love, but you have to take it through faith. You can't earn it and you don't deserve it – it's true for everyone including you. The Bible calls

the things that people do ‘works’. If you could save yourself by your own works you would be perfect and would be able to boast about how great you are. Because you’re saved by grace through faith, you can’t boast about yourself, but you can praise God for what He’s done and love Him back. (To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.)

Good Works

So you aren’t saved by works, and yet the next verse in the Ephesians passage quoted above is Ephesians 2:10 which says – *‘For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.’* God has good works that He has planned for His people to do. When you respond to God’s amazing love for you, your response will be, “So what do you want me to do Lord?”

Real love leads to actions. It did for God when He sent His Son, Jesus, to die a horrible death for you. And it does for His followers too. Real love leads to actions or works and God has already got something planned for your life – that’s exciting. He’s not going to push you in at the deep end – He’s going to guide you at the rate that is just right for you, and He always gives you the choice whether to follow or not.

Get it the Right Way Round

It is so important to get this faith and works thing the right way round. If you try to earn God’s love by doing good things, you’re never going to be satisfied and you will never find peace and joy. But if you believe in God’s unconditional love for you and respond with a desire to live a life that pleases Him, then peace and joy will be yours.

James 2:14-18 says – *‘What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you tells them, “Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;” yet you didn’t give them the things the body needs, what good is it? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. ¹⁸Yes, a man will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’* The person who says he has faith but refuses to help people in need proves that his faith is not real.

The answer to the question in verse 14 ‘Can faith save him?’ is ‘Yes,’ but the person the writer is describing has proved that he doesn’t have a real faith even though he says he has, so his type of faith can’t save him – he is a hypocrite. He may be talking the talk, but he is not walking the walk. Good works don’t save you, but doing them in response to God’s love for you, proves that you have faith.

1 John 2:3-6 says – *‘This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. ⁴One who says, “I know him,” and doesn’t keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn’t in him. ⁵But God’s love has most certainly been perfected in whoever keeps his word. This is how we know that we are in him: ⁶he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked.’* And Jesus explains what His commandment is in John 13:34-35 – *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* The good works which will prove you have a true faith are all based on love – love for God and love for others. Your love doesn’t earn you God’s love, but it proves that you love Him.

Faith doesn't come from good works; good works come from real faith. You have to get it the right way round. It is really important to talk the talk, but it is then equally important to walk the walk. The walk flows from the talk and proves that the talk is real.

Walk for God

As you seek to walk the walk, try to make sure you do it for God. Colossians 3:23-24 says – *'And whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord, and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.'* If you do good things so other people will think well of you, there isn't any reward for you from God. But when you do it because you love God and want to please Him as well as help other people, God promises you a reward.

You get to heaven by being born-again, but when you get there the Bible says that there will be rewards according to how well you have followed Jesus's commandment to love. Heaven is a perfect place and everyone there will at last be made perfect in every way, so there's not going to be any pride or jealousy about these rewards, but God wants you to know about them.

Nobody on earth can do everything unselfishly, but seek to do good to others simply for God and for the person's sake, not for any praise from others, and the rewards will look after themselves.

Living holy

Obedying Jesus isn't only about doing works of love, but also about your lifestyle. Good wholesome thoughts will lead to a good wholesome way of speaking and a good wholesome way

of living. The Bible calls living in a way that pleases God, being holy. But again, you have to get it the right way round. You can try and be holy by your own effort and struggle and feel miserable, or you can be born-again and let God's love for you and your love for Him naturally lead you into being holy. A holy life will not get you faith and salvation – remember, you can never be saved by your own works. But a true faith will make you to want to live a holy life.

But don't get hung up on it. You can never be perfect because no-one can. God wants you to desire to please Him by the way you live, recognise when you go wrong, turn away from it, and receive the forgiveness Jesus has won for you. Romans 8:1 says – *'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.'* God is not condemning you – He's encouraging you.

Walk with God

As you walk the walk, do it with God. Don't try and do it by yourself. Imagine you are a child going for a walk with your dad. It's nice to talk together as you walk. You can tell him about the happy things that are happening in your life and you can talk about the difficult things as well. And you can listen to what he has to say. He will laugh with you at the funny things and help you understand what's happening in difficult times and show you how to face them and come through them safely. If your backpack gets too heavy, he'll carry it for you. If you get tired he can stop and rest with you from time to time – if necessary he can carry you. If you have to get over a stile which is too high, he can pick you up and put you down on the other side. He can hold your hand just because he loves you and wants you to know how much he loves being with you.

It's just the same with God. He wants to talk with you, laugh with you, comfort you and guide you. He wants to carry your burdens and help you rest knowing that He loves you, He will carry you if life seems overwhelming, He can help you over a difficulty and bring you out the other side safely. And He wants to walk holding your hand – to help you, guide you and simply show you He loves you. But you have to let Him do these things. God will not force Himself on you, He loves you too much to do that. Put your hand in His and walk the walk with Him – it's so much easier and so much more enjoyable.

Practise Walking

Walking gets easier the more you do it – as you walk further and further your leg muscles develop, and a walk that you once struggled with is easy. As you practise walking the walk with God, that gets easier too. Eventually you will find that you don't have to think about what you say or do so much – speaking and acting in a way that pleases God will gradually become more natural. Of course you'll never become perfect in this life – no-one can. When a thought pops into your head which isn't a good one, pounce on it straight away and start thinking about something else. If it's a struggle, reading your Bible out loud or singing praise songs will help. Make a decision today to be someone who doesn't just talk about being a Christian, but someone who does good works too. As you obey Jesus's command to love others, you'll find you experience God's love for you more and more and the talking and the walking will get easier. And don't just talk about love and faith and peace and patience, act them out – practise and it will become more and more natural. Walk the walk with God and for God and enjoy it.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you’ve done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you’ve ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you’ll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God’s love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
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I encourage you to read the booklet 'Talk the Talk'
before you read this.

It is really important to talk the talk,
but it doesn't mean anything
if you don't walk the walk as well.

No-one can do it for you
but this booklet will encourage you and help you
to understand what it's about
and how to step out trusting God.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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