

Walking With God

Skip Heitzig

Life with God is not for couch potatoes--it is something to be actively pursued. Learn how to get your spiritual life moving as you study men and women who truly walked with God.

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SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	When God Walked with Men
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 3:1-13
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2100

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Today I begin a new series about what it means to walk with God. Rather than going through one book of the Bible or a section of chapters we will explore, throughout Scripture, the concept of people who walked with God and what that means to us. We start today at the beginning with the first man and woman - the crown of God's creation. God wanted to walk with them in fellowship, but something disrupted it all and we've had problems ever since!

OUTLINE

- I. The Setting (Genesis 1:26-27)

- II. The Serpent (vv. 1-5)

- III. The Sin (vv. 6-7)

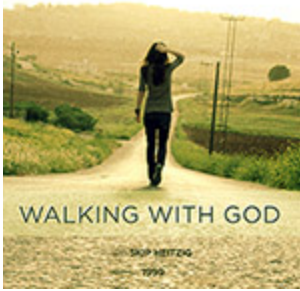
- IV. The Separation (vv. 8-13)

Questions for Discussion:

1. This section of scripture answers the question, "Why are we here." Answer that question for yourself and examine how well you are fulfilling the purpose for which you were created.

2. Think of a recent bout you've had with temptation. How similar or different was it from the very first one in the garden? How attuned are you to the strategies of Satan?

3. Has Jesus been knocking on the door of your heart lately only to find you busy or hiding? Think of all the walks you could have had together. Why not start today?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	A Long and Pleasing Walk
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 5; Hebrews 11; Jude 14-15
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2101



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walk Courageously Against the Crowd
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 6
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2102

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Stress is the result of what the pressures of life can do to the emotional makeup of a person. When the pressure builds, we feel the need to release it. A number of options are available: exercise, counseling, yelling, or conforming to the pressure. Peer pressure is one of life's strongest forces. Every day we make choices based on it. Is it possible to walk with God when the pressure of the crowd is to walk in the other direction?

OUTLINE

- I. Noah's World (Genesis 6:5-7; vv. 11-12)

- II. Noah's Walk (Genesis 6:8-9)

- III. Noah's Willingness (Genesis 6:13-22)

Questions for Discussion:

1. A fun group project would be to find current newspaper headlines that correspond to the description of the world of Noah's day in verses 5-7 and 11-12. Then think of an example of people who have stood tall and walked against the flow - it could even be an example from your own life.

2. Think of the last time you were ridiculed by unbelievers for doing what you believed to be the will of God. Your obedience to God, though scorned, was evidence of your faith. When does that kind of living pay off?

3. Memorize Romans 12: 1-2.



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Learning to Walk at Ninety-Nine!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Genesis 17
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2103

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When our son was being transformed from infant to toddler he, like every child, was struggling to learn how to walk. After months of unsure footing his steps gradually became more firm, he gained confidence and then became the undisputed *expert* at "ambulatory exercise" (walking). You might say Abraham is a *late bloomer* – he's just learning to walk before God with any measure of consistency. (It's about time - he's 99 years old in this chapter.)

OUTLINE

- I. The Charge: "*Walk before me*"

- II. The Charter: "*I will make my covenant*"

- III. The Change: "*Abram/Abraham; Sarai/Sarah*"

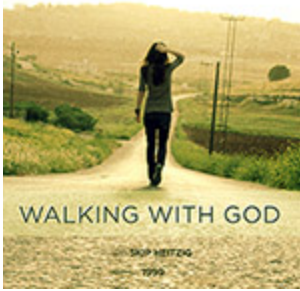
- IV. The Challenge: "*Shall a child be born*?"

Questions for Discussion:

1. Describe the time in your life when your "walk" became consistent - in devotion, in commitment, and in surrendered trust. Perhaps that's not yet a reality for you. What will you do about that?

2. Have you seen personality change in yourself since you've begun your journey with God? Have your wife/husband, children, parents and friends seen those changes as well?

3. What are the situations in which you find your faith being stretched the most?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walking in Dad's Footsteps
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Kings 3:3-14
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2104

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The old saying, "*Like father like son*" is never truer than when applied to David and Solomon. Like his father, Solomon walked with God. Like his father, Solomon failed his God. This is both a warning and an encouragement. It's a warning in that no matter what our background or previous spiritual history, going astray can ruin it all. It's an encouragement in that you don't have to wander - you *can* make a stand. You *can* walk with God. You *can* finish well!

OUTLINE

- I. The Walk of an Influential Father
 - A. David Walked Influentially
 - B. David Walked with Integrity
 - C. David Walked Collectively

- II. The Wish of an Impressionable Son
 - A. To Walk Humbly Before God (vv. 7-8)
 - B. To Walk Wisely Before Mankind (v. 9; 10-14)

III. The Wanderings of an Insatiable Ruler

Questions for Discussion:

1. In what ways are you like your parents? What are the differences? What is your spiritual legacy like that you received from them? What will be the spiritual legacy you pass on to your kids?
2. What are the areas of your life you feel most tempted to get prideful over? How does that pride restrict wise judgment? How does a humble walk with God enable wisdom?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walking Through Death Valley
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Psalm 23
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2105

MESSAGE SUMMARY

You've heard the saying, "*Death and taxes are inevitable.*" Someone commenting on this axiom remarked, "*Maybe death and taxes are inevitable, but death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets!*" Maybe so, but Scripture does teach that death is the Last Enemy! It's the place where everyone will walk - until the coming of Christ. On this path there are *certainties* and *possibilities*.

OUTLINE

- I. Certainties Regarding Life and Death
 - A. I Will Walk Through Valleys
 - B. I Will Walk Through Dark valleys

- II. Possibilities Regarding Life and Death
 - A. I Can Walk Without Fear
 - B. I Can Walk With God's Presence

Questions for Discussion:

1. Describe an encounter you've had walking through this valley of death. (You may be in one right now). How could your experience help others who are facing the same valley? Read 2 Corinthians and apply it by becoming a comforter.
2. How can the natural reaction of fear be tamed and changed to faith during these times?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walking Off Course
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Jeremiah 9:12-14
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2106

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The last several weeks we've looked at those who "Walked with God". Through the daily grind of life, with people who hardly think about God, these folks pursued God with a passion. But what happens when one doesn't? What are the downward steps of a person or nation when they don't "Walk with God"? God outlines the steps of a nation that walked off course.

OUTLINE

- I. They *Departed* from Scripture

- II. They *Disobeyed* God

- III. They *Devised* Their Own Way

- IV. They *Depended* on People

Questions for Discussion:

1. What place does the Bible honestly hold in the everyday reality of your life? Can you see a cause and effect relationship between the place the Bible holds and your ability to fight temptation?

2. How does modern society's view of God affect your own view? How willing are you to adopt their values, to gain their favor, and fit into their company?

3. What kind of example do you think you are to others in the faith?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walk While Bending Low
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Micah 6:1-8
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2107

MESSAGE SUMMARY

"Order in the Court! The Court will now hear the case of Sovereign God versus the nation Israel." That's how this section of the Old Testament is laid out - it's an oracle written ancient legal format. Here we learn that when we "walk with God," pride must always be guarded against. The Christian must cultivate humility.

OUTLINE

- I. The Plaintiff's Case (vv. 1-5)

- II. The Defendant's Question (vv. 6-7)

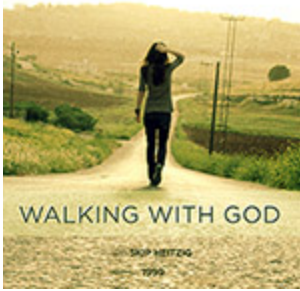
- III. The Lawyer's Close (v. 8)

Questions for Discussion:

1. When was the last time you *rehearsed* your spiritual history? Why not try it with your family or small group. Note the positive results of this exercise and practice it often.

2. Outward things like ceremonies and rituals can be comforting yet deceiving. Have you ever found yourself going through all the right motions without the right attitudes?

3. In what ways should your *personal* relationship with God be demonstrated in your *public* relationships. Note: *Personal* relationship doesn't necessarily mean *private* relationship!



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	A Stroll In the Storm
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Matthew 14:22-32
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2108

MESSAGE SUMMARY

David said that even if he made his bed in hell, God would be with him (Psalm 139:8). You can never escape God's presence. But why would "Loving God" allow you to experience the heartache and pain of life's storms? Could there be more to those storms than meets the eye?

OUTLINE

- I. The Place of Great Peril (vv. 22-24)

- II. The Place of God's Presence (vv. 25-27)

- III. The Place of Gracious Possibilities (vv. 28-31)

- IV. The Place of Glorious Praise (vv. 32-33)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Find a struggling friend and encourage him or her with a personal story of how adversity polished your life and brought you to a place of greater understanding of the purposes of God.

2. Jesus sent His disciples away, alone, without Him. Read 2 Chronicles 32: 27-31. Why would God "withdraw" Himself from someone who had a lifetime legacy of serving Him?

3. Nurture the habit of responding in praise to the lessons God teaches you. Let worship become second nature when you learn in God's Classroom.



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walking, Talking, and Enjoying Heartburn!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Luke 24:13-32
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2109

MESSAGE SUMMARY

On a stretch of country road, somewhere between Jerusalem and Emmaus, two discouraged disciples had an encounter that would change their lives and rock their world.Â From despondency to delight, from disappointment to discovery, after Jesus came alongside them, these two guys were never the same.Â What made the difference?Â Jesus did! He walked with them, and made the familiar things of Scripture brand new.

OUTLINE

- I. The Setting Unhurried (vv. 13-15a)
- II. The Savior Unrecognized (vv. 15-24)
- III. The Scriptures Understood (vv. 25-27)
- IV. The Satisfaction Undeniable (vv. 28-32)

Questions for Discussion:

1. If God were to make an entry in his "book of remembrance" (Mal. 3:16) recording the things you discuss with others about Him, what would it read like?
2. Name an instance in your life when the Scriptures "came alive" to you and caused you to see Jesus in a whole new dimension. Were the results similar to those described here? Did that experience give you an appetite for more?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walk Step By Step In the Spirit
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Galatians 5:16-18
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2110



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Watch Your Step
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Galatians 5:19-21; 5:24
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2111

MESSAGE SUMMARY

To walk in the Spirit is to pay close attention to your direction and destination. Every path has certain obstacles - rough terrain that hampers visibility and progress. On the "Highway of Righteousness" the potholes and debris can come from within our own selves - *the flesh!* That "Old Nature" we were born with manifests itself with a fierce competition that *must* be dealt with.

OUTLINE

- I. The Description of the Flesh (vv. 19-21a)
 - A. Sensual Sins
 - B. Spiritual Sins
 - C. Social Sins

II. The Destination of the Flesh (v. 21b)

III. The Denial of the Flesh (v. 24)

Questions for Discussion:

- I. With today's text as background, describe what "freedom" is to you as a believer.

2. If all true believers have crucified the flesh, why do we still have skirmishes with it?

3. What are some of the hindrances to the production of spiritual fruit?

4. Share with someone, a practical example of how you have overcome an area of your life that was a real struggle.



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	The Walk of Fruitfulness
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Galatians 5:22-25
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2112

MESSAGE SUMMARY

How do I know that I'm really walking with God? That's been the subject of our series the last many weeks. The answer has been multifaceted. But what evidence is there that unmistakably demonstrates that I am placing my footsteps in His footprints? The Bible calls it "fruit" and everyone walking with God will manifest it somehow!

OUTLINE

I. The Fruitful Walk *Generally*

A. It's Natural

B. It's Noticeable

C. It's Nourishing

II. The Fruitful Walk *Specifically*

A. Nine-fold description of the fruit of the Spirit

III. The Fruitful Walk *Actually*

Questions for Discussion:

1. Examine v. 22 and identify specific areas of your 'life where the "fruit" may be underdeveloped or lacking.
2. List ways, with the help of the Holy Spirit, that you can improve the fruitfulness in those areas.
3. Read Ephesians 4:22-32. Commit one or more verses to memory, that will help strengthen your walk with God.



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Are You Walking Worthy?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 4:1-7
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2113

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When we set out to *walk with God* we are never alone. There are others on the same path that are moving in the same direction. It's this *corporate* rather than *individual* walk that we consider today. Getting along with others can be difficult. Getting along with others in the church is essential!

OUTLINE

- I. A Worthy Walk is Defined by Consistency (v. 1)

- II. A Worthy Walk is Demonstrated by Humility (v. 2)

- III. A Worthy Walk is Dignified by Unity (vv. 3-6)

- IV. A Worthy Walk is Displayed by Diversity (v. 7)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does our society normally view these qualities listed in verse 2? How do you feel about them? Of these qualities, which describes you best? In which areas are you weak? In what ways could you strengthen your weak areas?

2. What part are you playing in maintaining unity in your church? How is the use of your gifts and talents helping to bring about that unity?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	When Christians Walk In Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 5:1-7
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2114

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Love for others is the exact opposite of selfish living. It also happens to be the birthmark that betrays us as being God's people. Ask anyone on the street what they would expect Christians to be like and the word *love* will inevitably come up in their answer. To walk with God means to walk in love. When we do that, we will be:

OUTLINE

- I. Imitating our Father

- II. Emulating our Savior

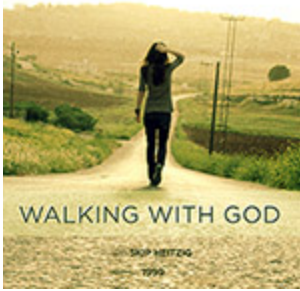
- III. Influencing our Brother

Questions for Discussion:

1. Ask your wife/husband or a friend to recount a time when your actions reflected the character of God.

2. Why is *selfishness* so much easier to practice as a way of life than *sacrifice*? Which is more satisfying?

3. Send a card of appreciation to someone who has genuinely shown love to you by a pure lifestyle.



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Step Into the Son-Light
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I John 1:5-7
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2115

MESSAGE SUMMARY

I love early mornings when the sun first comes up over the eastern sky. The light filters its way into windows and through neighborhoods; life gets under way. Most of life's activities are performed under some kind of light. There is a spiritual analogy in our "Walk with God." We walk best in His light. Called out of a life of spiritual darkness, we now see the path clearly.

OUTLINE

I. The Character of the Creator (v. 5)

- A. Positively: "*God is light*"
- B. Negatively: "*no darkness at all*"

II. The Confession of the Pretender (v. 6)

- A. Has the Right Words
- B. Has the Wrong Walk

III. The Course of the Believer (v. 7)

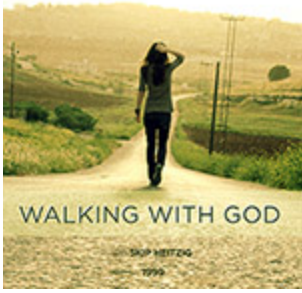
- A. His/Her Mode of Life: "*walk in the light*"

B. His/Her Motivation: "*as He is in the light*"

C. His/Her Manifestation: "*We have fellowship*"; "*Blood cleanses: us*"

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is one of the scariest experiences you have ever had in the dark? Why? How do you feel about darkness now? How is light helpful to your daily life?
2. What is one of the biggest lies you remember telling (as child or even as an adult)? How long was it covered up? How did you bring it into the light?
3. How does a false profession of following Jesus cover up darkness in a person's life? What's the solution?



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walk Carefully Without Stumbling
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 5:15-21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2116



SERIES:	Walking With God
MESSAGE:	Walking In Eternity
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2117

OUTLINE

- I. The Intimacy with the Creator is Restored (Vs. 1-3)
- II. The Misery of the Creation is Removed (Vs. 4-5)
- III. The City of Habitation is Resplendent (Vs. 9-21)
- IV. The Activity of the Saved is Resumed (Vs. 24-25)