

July 2021

Hello Brethren:

In this *Monthly Letter* the topic will be walking with God. We know that the Father loves His children. We like to see when a father holds the hand of his son, walking together, going place to place and talking together.

We, as the children of God, are to ask ourselves the question: Am I walking with God? From the day God called you until now, do you see yourself walking with God? Or have you stopped walking with Him? A journey of walking with God is not easy, because there are many things God will not let you do, yet those are the things you like to do.

Walking with God needs thorough evaluation. It needs humbleness, because you have to agree first before you start the journey. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). The Bible talks about those who walked with God throughout their lives. Enoch is one of those: "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Genesis 5:24).

We have friends who we walk with, and what is required is that those friends must have the same character and must go in the same direction. So when we are walking with God, we must walk as Jesus walked. We must have the same character and look in the same direction.

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked (1 John 2:6).

In order to walk with God, we must first be called by God, and we must be sanctified. We choose and set apart the friends we want to walk with in the same the way.

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19–20).

God wants us to share our lives with Him. We are to live a life that pleases Him. That is when He can be happy with His friends, and He will reveal to us His secrets that we have not known.

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know (Jeremiah 33:3, *New King James Version*).

We are God's workmanship:

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

For us to walk with God, we need a transformation in life: we are to be moved spiritually from one place to another to live another form of life.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13).

Enoch pleased God with his life, character, and behaviors, but he was just a human being like us. But the life he lived was different and we should look to his life and imitate it. Though he was flesh and blood, he was not earthbound in thinking. He was not part of this crooked life and wicked generation.

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:5–6).

He longed for something ahead that was better:

For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city (Hebrews 11:14–16).

Making a determination to walk with God is not easy, there are trials and temptations along the way, as experienced by our forefathers.

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins;

being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth (Hebrews 11:36–38).

The Apostle Paul, who walked with God, said that he died daily to worldly things.

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily (1 Corinthians 15:31).

We need to die daily to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. We are not to be driven by any situation in the world. We are not to cry as those in the world.

Ask yourself these questions: Do I walk with God, and am I pleasing Him? Do I seek Him in my daily life? Is my life being controlled by God or worldly pleasures and leisure? We need to dedicate our lives to reading the Bible to know what our God wants us to do in our journey with Him. We are not to walk with God only during His Sabbaths, as many do in this current life. Many tend to be good church members on the Sabbath and Holy Days, but the rest of the week they are not walking with God. King David walked with God. Even though he had some weaknesses, he tried to be close to God:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105).

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night (Psalm 1:2).

We can learn from Joshua who walked with God. He knew that the book—that is the Bible—should not depart from our mouths:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).

Many do not want to be friends with their Bible. Some read the Bible on the Sabbath day only. They make the Bible their enemy. They do not believe, or they do not know, that it is the Word of God.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

Walking with God requires prayer—private and personal. It requires supplication. It is the enjoyment of a new life. Neglecting private prayer will make you fall into sin every day.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:18).

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41).

When Christ was here on earth, He walked with God. We read that He was praying all the time. Prayer raises man up to God and brings God down to man. King David said:

I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue (Psalm 39:2–3).

In walking with God you need the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for there is nothing we can do without the guidance of the Spirit of God. We cannot understand anything of God unless we have His inspiration.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

We guide our children to know how to walk, and we do not do it only once. We do it every day until the child knows how to walk. And so it is with God. There also needs to be obedience. We are to hear and obey the Word of God—walk in His Commandments.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Luke 1:6).

We are to *love* to visit the place where God is present:

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD (Psalm 122:1).

We need to have godly associations—to walk with those who obey God.

But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight (Psalm 16:3).

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:25).

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend (Proverbs 27:17).

We are to learn from the prophets, the patriarchs, Christ, and the apostles in how they walked with God, because we are built on their foundation.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:19–21).

And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house (Genesis 24:40).

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

God wants us to walk with Him before He walks with us. Many people want God to walk with them, but they do not want to walk with God.

Take your time to commune with God, plan to be very close to Him. Esther walked with God—she was very close to her Maker. When life was going to be tough for the Jews, she directed all the Jews, wherever they were, to pray and fast so that God might be on their side and help them (Esther 3:1).

David felt that he could be a doorkeeper as long as he was close to God. He wanted to be near to God.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness (Psalm 84:10).

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? (Psalm 42:2)

If we fail to walk with God now, we will not be in His Kingdom. Those who walk with Him in this physical life will get the opportunity to walk with Him in the Kingdom. Ask yourself, do I walk with God?

Let us all ask ourselves, "do I walk with God?"

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaya Owak', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Isaya Owak

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon W. Brisby', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Jon W. Brisby