

A Walk with the Lord, Step by Step, Into the Glory of God

I was out walking and, as John Bunyan might say, the Lord used His picture book—the world—to show me what to say. As I stepped out from my home, I let Him show the way. I knew the goal, and the general course, but I did not know the path. As I set out on my walk I caught myself trying to chart a path, then thought, “No. That is not how the Lord leads.”

While the Lord will show you the goal, and His Word provides the general course, He does not show you the path. Instead He shows you one step. Once you take that step, He shows you another. If you will follow Him step by step, studying closely the course, you will find yourself at the goal. Even when you find yourself at the goal, it is up to you to receive it. He will not force you to take any step, not even the one that will place you in His rest. It is up to you to receive it.

As I continued walking, reaching obstacles, seeing paths to pass them, the thoughts were alternately, “How will He lead me here?” and, “Trust Him. He will show the way.” I found myself walking through snow, then avoiding snow, walking on ice, and other times avoiding it. You would be amazed at the traction a dead leaf can provide. Twice I found myself confronted with berms. The first time, I paused and considered a path over the top. It looked solid. It looked safe, but He showed me a path around. As I followed His path, I noted how the berm had been hollowed out, and how the foot of a small animal had gone all the way through. The path around had not looked as safe as the path over, but I trusted in Him.

The Lord will not always show you the path that you think is best. He will not always show you the path that makes sense to you, for His thoughts are not your thoughts, and His wisdom is far above your wisdom, if indeed you have wisdom at all, for He uses the foolish to confound the wise. Just when you think you know the way, and you stride confidently forward, ahead of His lead, is when disaster may strike. Had I followed my own reasoning and climbed over that berm, I might have broken my leg.

Later, I came to the other berm. As I approached this berm, I again caught myself trying to chart a course around, and thought, “No! Follow the Lord!” So I forgot about the berm and concentrated on the step before me as I followed His path—directly to the side of the berm. I paused, considering. I noted a path over the top, but this one did not look safe. Still, I hesitated. Then I noticed a leaf, about halfway up the side, then another at the top. I stepped and the snow did not give. I stepped on the next. Again the snow held. I crossed the berm without a mishap, without even a slip.

I trusted in Him, and followed His path.

Trust in the Lord and the steps that He shows, for where He leads you, there will He also guide you, and where He guides you He will also guard you. Along the course of my walk there were times when my foot slipped, but my Lord was there to save me from falling. I was in His hands. Where I slipped, there did He catch me.

One step. Not a leap. Not a mad dash, flying off a cliff into nowhere. One step. And if that step yields solid ground, one step more. When Joseph, son of Jacob, went down to Egypt he did not proceed directly to the side of the throne. He went as a slave. From there he went to a prison cell. After 13 years in the valley, Joseph ascended the mountain, and became second in command over the kingdom of Egypt. He was 30 years old when this happened.

When Joseph was a boy of 17 years, the Lord showed him a glimpse of the goal the Lord had in mind for him. He did not show Joseph the path to that goal, but Joseph knew the general course: follow the Lord. Remain faithful to the Lord in all things and He shall lead you to His rest.

Joseph did not deserve the sufferings he went through, yet neither was he perfect. Indeed he was boastful and insensitive, perhaps even arrogant. Before he could serve the Lord, he needed to be humbled. He needed to learn to depend only on God. Joseph was faithful and followed the Lord where ever He led, and He led through the valley to the mountaintop.

Will you follow the Lord where ever He leads, or will you choose the lands that look lush over the land of promise? Will you look with the Spirit of God, or with your eyes? Will you chase around after the brass ring? He knows your needs even before you ask, and He is faithful to provide. Who is like the Lord?

Will you seek retribution for your suffering? Will you also pay the price for the suffering you have caused? The price for your evil is your soul. Once you pay the price, how will you buy back your soul? Even the universe is not enough. This is a price you cannot pay. The ransom is too great.

And yet His rest may be found, for the ransom has already been paid. It has been paid, not by you, nor by any man, save the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came down from Heaven, into the body of a man, and lived a life free from evil. There was no price he owed, yet He paid the price for you, hanging on the tree. His blood brings you life, and deliverance from evil. Accept His gift and you shall be saved.

The path to the goal will not be what you expect, for the Lord's wisdom is not yours, but is far above your wisdom. The Lord does not work by anyone's timetable but His own. The path may be convoluted, and hard, and long, oh so long. The fruit of the Lord's plan for you may not show in your lifetime, or even that of your children, but instead may be long generations down the path. But, if you will trust His steps, and follow them faithfully, step by step, you will climb the mountain into the glory of God.

Likewise you must not judge a person's value by worldly appearances. Modern worldly thought would look at a person with worldly eyes, judge their contributions and potentials in that light, and if none is seen, cast them into the dustbin of history as unworthy of our love. You, however, must look with the eyes of the Lord, for He sees all and knows all. His wisdom is not yours.

Early in the last century, there was a woman named Ella. Ella was widowed at an early age, and was left to raise five sons on her own. The wisdom of the world would say, "They can make no contribution. Cast them aside. They are worthless to us." How narrow is your focus? How wide are your eyes opened? Do you look with Heaven's eyes? Will you cast Abram and Sarai aside? What can they contribute? Have you heard the name of Jesus? He came through their seed.

Ella had five sons, and she raised them alone. She fought and scrimped and saved and raised her sons. One of them was sick as a child, and never progressed beyond the sixth grade. What would the world say? "What can he contribute? Cast him aside." Yet he is one of God's children. Woe be to him who causes one of these little ones to fall. It would be better for them to be tied to a millstone and cast into the sea than to cause one of these to fall. Follow the wisdom of the Lord.

Follow His steps. Follow them faithfully, and you shall achieve the goal. This child had children of his own. The Lord's steps are being followed. The mountain is being climbed. One of these children is a corporate executive, and knows the Lord. One is an electrical engineer. One is a secretary for lawyers. One is a lawyer, with children of her own. The other writes these words. The steps of the Lord are being followed. The mountain is being climbed. The wisdom of the Lord shall prevail.

The wisdom of the Lord shall prevail in all things, but it shall not be as you expect, for His thoughts are not your thoughts, and His wisdom is not your wisdom. Truly He uses the foolish to confound the wise. With His love, even the weakest tree does bear fruit. Even the sparrow does not starve, by His grace. By His grace, the elderly couple does conceive. By His grace, the disgraced One hangs from the tree, yet still bears fruit. He opens the path, by His grace, allowing the believer, His children, to climb the mountain, into the glory of God.

May you trust in Him, and in His guidance. May you follow Him step by step, faithful to His love. May you follow Him faithfully, as He leads, up the mountain, into the Glory of God. Amen.

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