

# Walk, Stand, Sit — Navigating the Path of Righteousness

## Part One: Walk on the Right Road

2.3.19

**Psalm 1 NASB** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

### I. Understanding the Journey

- A. As we progress in our walk with God, there is a time to walk, to stand, and to sit.
- B. To walk means to move along a wise path as we progress.
- C. To stand means to take up a posture of righteousness and to become unmovable.
- D. To sit means to make determined, wise decisions that produce increasing stability in our standing before God.

### II. With that understanding in place

- A. We WALK on the Right Road. (We do not follow the path of sinners. There is an abundance of demonic doors we can walk through.)
- B. We STAND in the right place. (We do not come to the same conclusions of the wicked. There are many dangerous stopping places we must avoid.)
- C. We SIT in the right chair. (We direct life from wisdom that disagrees with the scornful. There is a deadly way that seems to be life-giving.)

**III. Central Truth:** As we walk this narrow way, there are many roads that will seek to merge with us, bringing dangerous traffic into our journey. Avoid any traffic seeking to enter your life from these secondary roads.

**Ephesians 2:1-10 ESV** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A. Defeating the Enemy

1. Recognize
2. Repent
3. Renounce
4. Replace
5. Resist (Reject/Rebuke)

B. Our goal is to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. (The Epistles of John, James, and Peter)

1. The world – represents the old fallen system (our “world view”) that generates rebellion against God.
2. The flesh – has to do with our behavior (via thoughts, actions, and values).
3. The devil – spiritual beings that actively oppose the Kingdom of God itself, which is coming daily in power.

C. The Christian Life is lived out of our inner person, energized by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Romans 8)

D. Our battle is not with people, but with spiritual forces of wickedness. (Ephesians 6:12)

1. This does not mean that we have no “people problems.” We certainly do at times.
2. This does not mean that all our problems are demonic.
3. It does mean that some of them may be.
4. The enemy loves to “latch on” to other issues.

E. Doorways for Demons

1. Anger and unforgiveness

- a. **Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil.
- b. **2 Corinthians 2:9-11 ESV** For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup>Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, <sup>11</sup>so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

2. Sexual sin, perversion, uncontrolled lust

- a. **1 Corinthians 5:5 ESV** you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

3. Hatred and violence

- a. **John 8:44 ESV** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

4. Envy, jealousy, and narcissism (inappropriate self-focus)

- a. **James 3:13-18 ESV** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then

peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- b. **1 Samuel 18:8-11 ESV** And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup>And Saul eyed David from that day on. <sup>10</sup>The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. <sup>11</sup>And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

## 5. Occult Practices

- a. **Leviticus 19:31 ESV** "Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.
- b. **Deuteronomy 18:9-14 ESV** "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. <sup>10</sup>There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer <sup>11</sup>or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, <sup>12</sup> for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. <sup>13</sup>You shall be blameless before the LORD your God, <sup>14</sup>for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.
- c. **Acts 16:17, 18** She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

## 6. Idolatry or greed

- a. **1 Corinthians 10:19-21 ESV** What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup>No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.
- b. **Revelation 9:20, 21 ESV** The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, <sup>21</sup>nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

- c. **1 Timothy 6:8-10 ESV** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.
- d. **Colossians 3:1-10 ESV** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

## 7. Blasphemy

- a. **1 Timothy 1:18-20 ESV** This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, <sup>20</sup>among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.
- b. Note: Many scholars include the usage of certain illegal drugs as a doorway for demons on the basis of Revelation 9:21 and 18:23.

## F. Understanding the battle

1. You cannot cast out the flesh.
2. You cannot discipline a demon.
3. A victim's mindset ensures continued domination.
4. An arrogant mindset ensures a fall.
5. A careless mindset ensures absolutely nothing.

6. Therefore, we are to be sober, vigilant, and very serious about reigning in life as Christ intended.
  
7. Remember what happens when you aren't prepared to reign: "Under three things the earth quakes; and under four, it cannot bear up: Under a slave when he becomes king." **Proverbs 30:21-22a NASB**

#### IV. For further study

##### A. Key Terminology

1. A Maturing Christian – I am increasing in conformity to the image of Christ as I Know - Grow - Sow. I have a relationship of intimacy with the Father. I am growing into all things concerning Christ. The Holy Spirit is using me to invest into the lives of others. By doing these things, I am loving the Lord with all my strength and cherishing my neighbor as I my own self.
  
2. A Weak Christian – a Believer who is not growing in the faith. Defeat marks his life, but it is not necessarily the result of overt rebellion. This is essentially immaturity.
  
3. A Backslider – a Believer who is "out of fellowship" with God. He is walking in rebellion and/or disobedience.
  
4. An Apostate – one who has defected from the faith. Some Christians teach an Apostate was never saved. Others teach that an Apostate was saved, but may no longer be renewed to a place of faith. Some teach that Backsliders and Apostates are synonymous terms.