

Walk, Stand, Sit — Navigating the Path of Righteousness

Part Two: Stand in the Right Place

2.10.19

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! ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ 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. ⁴ The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ 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: I am never static as a Christian. I am either growing in grace or I am going backwards!

Key Terminology:

- 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.
- B. 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.
- C. A Backslider - a Believer who is "out of fellowship" with God. He is walking in rebellion and/or disobedience.
- D. 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.

IV. The Epistle to the Hebrews displays five urgent warning signs.

A. The Danger of Neglect

1. Neglect fails to give our devotion to Christ its proper place.

Hebrews 2:2-3 NIV For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

B. The Danger of Insensitivity

1. Insensitivity fails to follow the leading of the Indwelling Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 3:12-13 NIV See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

C. The Danger of an Undisciplined Life

1. Lack of discipline fails to embrace the concept of intimacy with God.

Hebrews 5:12 NIV In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

D. The Danger of Withdrawal

1. Withdrawal puts a demand upon our own resources that we are unable to meet.

Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

E. The Danger of Apostasy

1. Apostasy says, “There must be another way.” It is the nexus of carnality and betrayal.

Hebrews 10:26-31 NIV If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

V. The Bottom Line

A. Christians should make every effort to:

1. Study the Scripture, strive to walk in the Spirit, and obey everything God puts into our spirit.
2. Train your heart to lean into faith and obedience.
3. Make intimacy with God your highest priority.
4. Stay close to fellow Believers. Reconnect and recommit to the local church.
5. Only as I stay connected to Christ can my life bear lasting fruit.

**Remember, if we focus on security,
we won't have to focus on apostasy.**