



GIG278 – Walking with God Is Doing

Hi, and welcome to this podcast. So glad you are able to join me. I wanted to talk a little bit about a class that Silvana and I went to recently, it was very interesting. There are many aspects of it that I could talk about, but I want to focus on one specific thing that really struck me and I thought, “I just have to talk to everybody about this.” I think this idea is important for us to lay hold of in our walk with God. I am titling this, *Walking with God Is Doing*, and I am going to give you the end of the podcast before I give you the beginning.

What I want to end with is to have us get a notebook, and I would love it if you just title this notebook, *My Walk with God*. I think it is a notebook that we could keep with us at all times, but especially when we are reading, studying, praying, and whatever we are into spiritually in seeking the Lord. We can use this notebook very specifically whenever we are listening to a message. I know many out there listen to messages in different formats nowadays, wherever you get them, whether it is over the Internet or whether you are really part of the older crew that listens to CDs, or whatever. You listen to many messages, you read sermons and messages that are in text in one form or another, and you are in the Scriptures yourself at home; you are in your own prayer life, you are waiting on the Lord; and during these times, the Lord is showing you things or speaking. What I would like you to do, and what I really want to do myself in a very consistent way, is to keep an action step on all that really touches my heart and my mind in what I am reading.

I think this is really important for us as believers, because there is a tendency for us to consume a lot of material, to consume teaching, even Scriptures, to memorize Scriptures; but the concern is, what do we actually do about it? I think it is important that we develop some methodology that helps us, that reminds us, that assists us in doing something about what the Lord is showing us, or what the Lord is speaking to us about, what the Scriptures are speaking to us about, in our daily walk with God. And so, in this class, as I said, it really struck me because every time we learned something as a specific teaching to be understood, then we were encouraged to sit with that, to work with that, and to develop an action step. And I thought, “That really ties in to our walk with God,” because a walk with God is done one step after another step after another step. That is why we call it a walk with God: we are continually taking steps in God. It is part of our growing in God and maturing in God, I think, that we really do learn to stay on top of this idea that if the Lord shows us something or teaches us something, if a Scripture really touches our heart, then we need to sit with that with the purpose of determining, “What am I going to do about this? and when?” Because I think just to develop some concept of action around what we are learning is not enough. I think that we have to set some type of a timeline on ourself that gets us into doing it now; because there is a way in which, until we walk in it, it does not become ours, it does not become real, we do not really appropriate what it is that the Lord is showing us.

So, again, I encourage you in this. If you do not want to use a notebook, then do something else; I do not know, spray paint your bedroom walls, do whatever you need to do. But let’s take the time when we are reaching in to the Lord, when we are working through the Scriptures or wherever we are getting our teaching from, that we really look to Him and say, “What am I going to do with this? How am I going

to express this in some type of action that I can do?" And I should look to do it now. If God is speaking to me in it, then I should do it sooner rather than later. If He is showing me something, then I have to assume He is showing me that in order to get me to do it at the moment, not two years from now. Because if it was something for two years from now, then why does the Lord not wait and show it to me two years from now? If He is showing it to me today, then I think it is today. You know, today if we hear His voice, we do not harden our heart. We move in what He is showing us to do.

I want to read Genesis the seventeenth chapter, verse 1. It says, "Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless.'" Here is this idea of walking with God, which I want to add to this because what we are talking about in making some action step is all about a walk. A walk is one step, one foot in front of another, time and time again. That is how we walk, that is how we make progress. To me it is different from learning, or hearing, because you can do those things sitting down. We can learn a lot of things, we can read a lot of Scriptures, we can listen to many, many messages, and not do anything about it; and I really question how beneficial that is in our life. How long will we even remember some of those things? or how much we will really understand the depth of what it is that God is trying to teach us in His Word and through His Word if we are not walking with Him in it?

So, Abram was instructed by God to walk, to walk before Him. That is what God told him to do. He said, "Hey, look, get up and go cross that river and walk to the land where I am telling you to go."

Immediately Abram walked with God. It says that many times he did not know where he was going, but he still walked, one foot in front of the other. I believe that in your walk with God you must somehow get into motion, and that is what this is about. There needs to be an action step. All the action step is doing is getting you in motion to do the Word that God is speaking to you about.

This goes all the way back to the book of Genesis. Now, did Abraham keep a notebook? I do not know, probably not a notebook, maybe a scroll; but he walked before the Lord, and he was always in motion doing step by step what God told him to do. We see this in David. In Psalm 116, verse 9, he says, "I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living." So David knew what it was to walk with God, to walk before Him. You say, "Well, these are Old Testament things." A lot of Christians unfortunately have the concept that the Old Testament is old, and therefore I think it is better to refer to it as the Hebrew Scriptures. And we see that in the Hebrew Scriptures, this is spoken to us many times to walk in the things, to walk before the Lord; and David had that.

But if you say, "Well, I need some New Testament reference book," read the book of Galatians, read the book of Ephesians. These books refer to it. Hebrews refers to this concept of our walk. Galatians 5:16 says, "Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh." See, if we are in motion in what God is showing us to do, then positive things happen and work for us.

If we are looking for New Testament references, how about going to the Gospels? We will look at John the thirteenth chapter, verses 12-17. This is at the Last Supper, as it is called, the Seder meal of the Passover.

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

I love the fact that He is drawing a distinction here between knowing and doing. I think this is a trap that we fall into. Maybe it is out of laziness, maybe it is out of just not really knowing how to walk with God properly, because many times I think we put the emphasis on learning or knowing. We know the Scriptures; but it is not knowing the Scriptures, it is doing the Scriptures. It is not knowing the things of God, it is doing what He has commanded us to do. And I think we run into trouble sometimes in the context of being obedient to the commandments, or following His commandments, because many times we have learned the commandments in the context of the Old Testament Scriptures, the Hebrew Scriptures, about, "Do not kill, do not steal, do not rob," and we therefore almost feel that it is something negative; it is what we are not to do. So we kind of lose the concept that what the Lord is looking for is for us to do something.

That is where Christ comes and brings the emphasis. When they ask Him the question and challenge Him about what is the greatest commandment, He says that you are to love the Lord with all of your heart. He gave them something to do, not something not to do – not to steal, not to commit adultery, not to do, not to do, not to do, as we find through the Ten Words, or the Ten Commandments as we call it, things that are not to be done necessarily; and Christ puts it in a different context, saying, "You are going to love the Lord your God with all of your heart." He goes to the Shema prayer and He tells us what we are to do. Then following that up, He says that we are to love our neighbor as ourself. So it is about what we are to do. To be obedient is not to not do something, because that is what the commandments seem to tell us about, not doing things. Obedience is really the opposite; it is to do something. How are we obedient to the Lord? By loving the Lord with all of our heart; by loving our neighbor as ourself. These are actions, these are things that we can create action statements around and create for ourselves on paper as reminders of something that we should do about what we are hearing or what we are reading in the Scriptures.

So, this is a great example. I think it is interesting that it is what Christ left the disciples with, which was hugely impactful for them on this night. What He did was He demonstrated an action. Christ did not teach them about foot washing, Christ washed their feet. Then He explained to them, "Here is what I want you to do about what I have shown you. What I have had you observe of washing one another's feet, I want you to do this." I think that is something we should think about. I know sometimes people have foot washing services where they wash one another's feet, and the idea is that they are humbling themselves and whatever. But remember, the overarching example, what He was demonstrating for them, was to do; that is why He ends with that statement, "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." He is saying, "Look, I have been here with you all this time. I came from the Father to be an example to you so that you might walk as I have walked." That is why He was saying earlier, "The servant is not greater than the one who sent him"; and what did He say? "So send I you." He sends us into the world to walk, to do the things that we have observed in Him, that we have seen by Him as examples for us to live by, to do, to walk in.

I want this somehow to really impact our hearts and our minds that we are to really be careful to find ways to express by doing what the Lord has said. We are not to read the books or listen to messages and then sit around and just discuss them. If we are going to sit around and discuss the Word and what God is saying, let's start discussing what we are going to do about it, and how we are going to do that; and important also, when are we going to do it? There needs to be that in our hearts and in our minds. We need to be going after this idea that we should be walking one step after another. We should always know or find what our action statement is from what we just heard, from what we observed in Him, as they did during the Seder meal, the Last Supper. They watched Him and He said, "Look, do this, and

you are going to be happy if you do it.” I think a lot of what we are looking for in our walk with God is missing because we are not doing.

I want to read in Philippians 2, verses 12-13. It says, “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” Here is this idea that God is working in you. What is it that God is working in you? God is working in you to do. When you look up the Greek word *energeō* that is used here, it means *to do*. God is working in you to will and to do. You have to have your will set in order to do something in life; in this material world that we live in, to accomplish something requires your will. So there has to be a will. What is the will about? It is a will to do. It says that God Himself is working in us. He is looking to create in us this drive to will and do His good pleasure. Not to just learn about it, not to just know about it, not to read about it, not to talk about it, but to do it. And so, we have this drive that we are to not just be obedient in a sense of knowing things, but we are to be obedient, by definition, by doing the things that the Lord is showing and speaking to us.

I love this one out of John the second chapter, verse 5. This is talking about Mary, and we know that Mary had this in her heart where she wanted the Lord to use her to do whatever His will was. That is how she became the mother of Messiah. In John 2, verses 5-9, it says, “His mother said to the servants, ‘Whatever He says to you, do it.’” I think that is a great thing; that was really the heart of Mary. But she knew and she understood that whatever He said was to be done. It was not some action just to be observed. You were not just to watch Him do a miracle; you were to learn from what He did in a miracle and you were learning what to do in your relationship with Him from that. You go on with the story and it does convey all of that. It talks about the fact that,

There were six stone water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, “Fill the water pots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, ‘Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.’ So they took it to him. When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom.

That is interesting to me, because it just seems kind of like a neat story about this miracle; but put yourself in the place of these waiters being told by this lady at the wedding, “Hey, whatever He tells you to do, do it,” and their jobs are on the line. I mean, their heads can roll over this thing if they go serve water, or bad tasting wine, even. So there are times when we create steps of action to go do something, but it does not mean it is going to be easy; they may be difficult things. It may really test your faith to do certain things in a response to what God is teaching, but that is part of it. We have to look at what He is saying, and even if it is difficult, do it.

Go back to Abram. Abram had to leave his countrymen, he had to leave his father and his city, and go off not knowing where he was going. That was not an easy thing to do, yet he did that. That was his action step from hearing God speaking to him. So, again, when we look at this, it does not always mean that it is something easy to do. It may be something hard, but pray over it; wait upon the Lord for it; ask for strength. That is what it was talking about in the Scripture in Philippians. It says, “Look, God is working in you.” You say, “Why would God be working in me to go do something easy?” Well, He may not be. But He is working in you because what He is asking, or what is needed as a response to His Word or the teaching, may be a difficult thing to do; and so, you have to draw on His strength and His enabling in

order to go do that. So we bless this for our hearts to really get into this and have an understanding of it, so that we can become those who are moving, really, truly walking with God as we mature.

I want to read one other Scripture in Hebrews the thirteenth chapter. Verses 20-21 says, “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” So we see this fact that God is working in us. He is equipping us, enabling us to do. Not enabling us to learn, not enabling us to know, that is not enough; we do not want to know the teaching. Who really knows the teaching are those who are willing to do His will – then you know the teaching. That is John 7:17: “If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know the teaching.” So I think even in our understanding of what God is doing or speaking in the Scriptures, or through the teaching that we are receiving, or through our waiting upon the Lord to hear His voice, there is a totally different grasp of “the teaching” when we have the heart to do it. And we are not only having a heart but we are practicing this reality that when something comes to us, when we are taught, when we hear, when we observe, we then take the time to find what we personally are to do about it, and when we are to do that.

I bless this to our hearts. I hope this is something wonderful that helps you move forward in your walk with God, and I believe that it will.

Amen.