

What Does it Mean to “Walk Worthy”?

Air Dates: January 17-21, 2022

Day One

The theme we have chosen to focus on this month is “walking worthy.” This comes from several Bible passages that admonish us as Christ-followers to walk worthy of the Lord. But you may ask, what does it mean to walk worthy of the Lord. Well, think about it this way:

If I want to walk worthy of—let’s say—my parents, then I’m going to be a very honest person, a hard worker, a truly humble and generous person who cares about others, because that’s the way my parents lived their lives. Then my life would honor them—as we say, it would make them proud of me.

So, to walk worthy of the Lord is to make him proud of us—right? To hear him say, “Well done.” Here’s what the Bible says in Colossians 1:9-12:

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

This passage says walking worthy of the Lord means that you will do good works, reaching out and helping others. In addition, you will be continually increasing your knowledge of God as a student of the Word. And you will joyfully persevere even when things are tough and you will overflow with thankfulness.

I like the way Ed Elliott describes walking worthy:

“The ‘Worthy Walk’ commanded in Scripture is unlike any other journey you will travel. Working from the inside out, this journey starts with who we are then moves to what we do. To walk worthy, one must first understand and appreciate the great price God paid to redeem us. . . our redemption cost God His greatest treasure in heaven. The price He paid is indicative of how He sees us — with great value. The world may not attach much value to you. However, when you know your worth in God’s eyes, you will see yourself differently. It will be reflected in how you live your life.”
medium.com/@edelliott

I like that—walking worthy is walking from the inside out.

Day Two

You’ve heard the cliché that our walk should match our talk. And that’s a pretty good way to describe what it means to walk worthy of the Lord. I think this was what James was saying in the second chapter of his letter:

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder” (James 2:14-19).

One of our primary objectives here at The Christian Working Woman is to hopefully inspire and help you live out your faith wherever you work—on the job. And walking worthy of the Lord on the job is making certain that our walk matches our talk—that we demonstrate our faith by our deeds.

I think of a woman who was a dear friend, LaVerne—now with Jesus—who worked with a very contentious and spiteful coworker. This coworker did everything she could to make LaVerne look bad to management—and for awhile she was successful at doing that. Naturally LaVerne was angry at the injustices done to her, but as she prayed about it, God just kept saying to her, “Wait, just wait for me to take care of this.” She waited—two years she waited, really struggling with the lies this person told about her. But then this coworker became very sick and was hospitalized for weeks. That’s when management realized that LaVerne was doing the work; she was the one doing good and they saw the coworker for who she was. LaVerne earned awards for the quality of her work. But she had to wait on God.

LaVerne walked the talk—she walked worthy of the Lord even in a very tough work environment. I’m quite sure she has heard Jesus say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Walking worthy of the Lord is our standard, and the result is well worth the effort.

Day Three

If you live up north, like I do, you develop a real love for evergreen trees, because in the midst of winter when everything else is bare and brown, that evergreen tree is still tall and green, giving color and life to the otherwise bleak winter scene. Jeremiah liked evergreens too. And he made a beautiful analogy for us using the evergreens. It’s found in Jeremiah 17:7-8:

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Evergreen Christians are Christians who walk worthy of the Lord. One whose roots are so firmly entrenched in the Lord, that nothing turns your leaves brown or keeps you from bearing fruit. It’s learning to trust God so completely that whatever heat comes your way, you will have absolutely no fear! To come to the place where no amount of heat could turn your leaves dry, because your faith in God is rooted so deeply.

Of course, a tree like this doesn’t grow overnight. It takes time to get those roots down deep into that water supply. If you’re ever going to be an evergreen Christian, it will take time and discipline to get your roots firmly entrenched in God’s water supply.

Are you in a situation that seems rather dry or cold or barren? Perhaps you’re facing some unknowns on your job or even in your family. As you go through this experience, you have two choices: To worry and fear, and thereby shrivel up and get dry and brown. Or to trust God and push your roots deeper and deeper into that spring of living water, Jesus Christ. The only thing that makes sense is to trust God.

To walk worthy of the Lord, we need to be evergreen Christians, don't we? People who bear fruit and stay green regardless of the circumstances. You can do it if your roots are firmly entrenched in Jesus Christ, deeper every day.

Day Four

Many times we go to work feeling really positive and up, but we leave in a negative, complaining mood. What are the things in your working world that cause you to have a bad attitude? No question that maintaining a good attitude is one part of walking worthy.

If we're going to be the positive people that we should be as Christians in the working world, then we're going to have to fight the things in our world that tend to bring us into negative territory. What are those things that ruin your whole attitude?

It can be co-workers or management who irritate you, who cause you unnecessary problems, who don't do their share of the work, or who are very negative people themselves. You probably have some of those people in your life.

Or perhaps there are times when you have an impossible amount of work to accomplish, or difficult deadlines or pressures, or unrealistic expectations, and that certainly can bring you into negative territory. Perhaps it's your environment—the temperature is not right, or it's drab and dreary, or noisy and hectic. Whatever these things are which tend to make you negative rather than positive, you need to identify them.

Then, take a look at those things and ask yourselves three questions

1. Can I confront this situation and try to change it? I find that most people gripe and complain, without making the first effort to find a solution. They give up without trying. I don't think you have grounds for complaint unless you've at least tried to find a solution.
2. Is there some way I can compensate for this situation? For example, if you have a dreary office, how can you perk it up? Maybe plants and photos will help.
3. Ask yourself what goes with your territory. Every job, every industry, every profession has certain aspects which simply go with the territory, and those you must learn to accept without allowing them to bring you down.

Think about the things that make you negative and ask God to give you the grace and wisdom to rise above them and be the positive person you need to be for his glory. That is a huge part of what it means to walk worthy of the Lord.

Day Five

A prayer I often pray for my extended family—the young people coming up behind us—is that they will walk worthy of the Lord; walk worthy of their heritage and the truth they've been taught from God's Word.

Walking worthy of the Lord is evidenced in our lives especially when things are not easy. You are probably familiar with the term "playing hurt," which is a description of an athlete who gets back in the game and gives it his or her best, even though they are hurt or injured. Well, as Christ-followers who desire to walk worthy of the Lord, there are times when we have to "play hurt."

What do you want to do when you've been hurt? Suppose someone has trampled on your feelings or been very cruel to you. If you're like me, it makes you want to go to the sidelines and lick your wounds,

doesn't it? It throws you into a pity-party, and your first reaction is to walk out of the game and say, "Forget it. Who needs this!"

But walking worthy of the Lord would motivate you to "play hurt"—to hold your tongue, refuse to indulge in self-pity, and continue to stay in the game. Jesus is looking for people with perseverance; people who play in spite of the pain; people who stay in the game even though they might want to go sit on the bench for awhile.

While in prison for preaching the Gospel, the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus: "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1). He defined himself not as a prisoner of the Romans, but a prisoner for the Lord. He walked worthy of his calling under the worst kind of circumstances.

Can you think of any effective servant of God who hasn't had to play hurt? I can't. Are you hurt today? If that describes you, are you going to go sit on the sidelines and lick your wounds, or will you choose to walk worthy of the Lord? Ask God to give you the grace and strength to play hurt, so that you can keep on keepin' on for Jesus.