

Walk In Love

The Christian Walk - Part 1

Welcome back and here we go.

We just finished our *Grace* series and you guys dragged it out to 11 lessons! Good job. Now we continue with the application of using *Grace Principles* in our lives --- *walking*.

From... "Grace Notes - The Christian Walk"¹

Besides the examples of physical walking in the Bible, there are many references to two types of spiritual walking:

- Walking which is advancing in the Christian life through the use of divine power, and
- Walking in evil or controlled by the sin nature and using human energy, results in stagnation, retrogression or backsliding.

So, in walking, a Christian is either advancing or retreating. To advance, a believer must walk according to God's plan, stay in fellowship and grow in Christ. To retreat in the spiritual life is to reside in Satan's cosmic system.

Therefore, walking denotes many functions, both pro and con, in the spiritual life.

1a) Describe the *Christian Walk*.

1b) How are you doing?

There are many scriptures listed here that speak of the *Christian Walk*. Let's read a few.

Our first examples are detailing what we hope to learn from the study --- our function or functioning.

From..... "Grace Notes - The Christian Walk"

New Testament Words for Walking

The Greek word (**peripatew**) means to walk or to walk around. It is used for literal walking in Matt. 4:18. But **peripatew** is used primarily for the function of the plan of God in the church age in such passages as:

Rom. 6:4, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk (**peripatew**) in newness of life."

Gal. 5:16, 17, "But I say, walk (**peripatew**) by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."

Eph. 4:1, 2, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk (**peripatew**) in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,"

Eph. 5:1, 2, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk (**peripatew**) in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. “

2) What does it mean to you to “walk in love”?

Walking in love connotes the action of doing everything with the other person in mind. Everything Jesus did was with us in mind.

Walking in love, means I have a love for God which results in a love for others.

The greatest commandment is what --- Love God --- Love others --- fulfills commandments. We need the filling of the Spirit to accomplish this because as humans, we are unable to love.

3) How do you know when you are not walking in love?

One of the most important aspects of our walk is the awareness given to us by the Spirit. If you are out of step, you will know it. Sometimes in human emotion we react and are in the flesh, and it is not until later that we realize (discern) our actions were not in love. It is then our responsibility to get back to a loving mental attitude. At this point, we may need help resolving issues. We may need to apologize. We may need to reap what we have sown, accept results and outcomes. Having love for self and self care is central to healthy loving.

- Walking in love **is not** becoming a stepping stone.
- Walking in love **is** learning healthy boundaries.
- Walking in love **is** forgiving.
- Walking in love **is not** having to have my way.

4a) Walking in love **is** _____.

4b) Walking in love **is not** _____.

This week, as we prepare to grow in Christ through our studies, I expect you to become more aware of how you can improve. If you walk away from here and don't think about or attempt to use the information, it will do you no good presently. However, the information will never leave your soul. All Christian growth comes through learned systematic application of bible truth.

5) How can a person improve their walk?

6) Where will you improve this week?

¹Grace Notes is a ministry of [Austin Bible Church](https://www.gracenotes.info/), Austin, TX; <https://www.gracenotes.info/>

