

Walking Daily With God (Part 1)

God wants each of us to have a personal relationship with Him. He wants us to walk close with Him daily—and not just when we’re assembled with other Christians.

Let’s consider the “why” and “how” of private devotionals.

Let’s begin with lyrics to an old song – “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”:

I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus keep me from all wrong.
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.
Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thru this world of toils and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking with close to Thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o’er, time for me will be no more,
Guide me gently, safely o’er to Thy Kingdom shore, to Thy shore.
Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

The refrain of that song explicitly encourages a daily walk with God. I believe a big part of walking with God includes having a **personal** or **private time of devotion** – just you and the Lord. I’m all for worshiping with others and having a period of prayer, praise, study, and reflection, but you also need time alone with God. As Jesus said, sometimes you need to go into your room so you can really be alone with God (cf. Matt. 6:6). When the Day of Judgment comes, you, as an individual, will stand before the Lord. Thus, you need to be walking with Him daily now.

Great men of God are known for engaging in private devotional:

- Isaac meditated in the field at evening (cf. Gen. 24:63)
- David prayed three times daily and meditated on his bed at night (cf. Psa. 55:17; 63:6)
- Daniel’s custom (from his youth) was to pray three times daily on his knees and give thanks to God (cf. Dan. 6:10).
- Jesus Christ sought solitary places early in the morning and late at night (cf. Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12), and He also counseled His disciples to pray in secret.

Do you take the time to engage in a daily, private devotional? Do you walk with God daily? We’ll consider the **why** and **how** of private devotionals in next week’s bulletin.

Donald