

Walking with God

“Walk with the King today, and be a blessing.”

Dr. Robert A. Cook

Dr. Bob Cook was one of my favorite radio Bible teachers. Even though he died 30 years ago, his radio talks are still being broadcast on Family Radio and other stations. He always ended his broadcasts with the above double admonition.

“Walk with the King today.” In other words, walk with Jesus. Which is the same as saying walk with God.

What does it mean to “walk with God”? When I ask myself that question, some passages of Scripture immediately come to mind. The first is this one:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)*

For me, walking with God means going where He wants me to go — letting Him “direct” my paths, as the New American Standard translation puts it. It means trusting Him to be my guide and help as I go about living my life.

Another passage is what Jesus said to His disciples after He promised to send them the Holy Spirit to be their Helper, their Comforter, their Advocate:



When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth... (John 16:13a)

Couple that with this one:

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8:14)

To walk with God is to desire, to ask for, and to accept the guidance of the Holy Spirit, all the time and in every aspect of your life.

You can't, of course. Jesus could, and did. But every other human being is flawed. All have sinned and fallen short of God's standard. The Bible says there is none righteous, not even one.

And being born again doesn't fix that problem. It's the beginning of the process of sanctification, not the completion of it.

The Apostle Paul wrote about this. Since we will certainly fail to live up to God's standard, should we just give up? No, no, no. We need to keep trying to do right. We need to pay better attention to the Holy Spirit's guidance. We need to push on toward the goal of becoming perfectly obedient to God. That is the essence of walking with God.

I'm writing this on Pentecost Sunday. Our pastor had a good illustration for the children's sermon today. He used a pair of work gloves. The gloves can't actually do any work unless there is a hand inside them, governing their movement. Likewise, we Christians need to have the Holy Spirit inside us if we want to be useful to God.

Which brings us to the second part of Dr. Cook's closing admonition: “and be a blessing.” What does that mean?

We all know what that means. It means to be helpful, instead of hurtful. It means giving to others, rather than taking from them. It means smiling and be pleasant, instead of complaining or being a grouch. It means making peace, rather than trouble.

In short, it means behaving toward others in a way that is loving, rather than selfish.

In our society today It has become normal to look for something to be outraged about. The news media always seems to try to make things worse. God's way, the blessing way, when there is a problem, is to try to do something to make the situation better, rather than making it worse.

Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. He Himself was a blessing wherever He went—even to the Pharisees, because He told them the truth.

Walk with the King today and every day (be filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit) **and be a blessing** (be like Jesus).

May you be blessed abundantly today and always!

Brother Roland



My Testimony

Eric Caswell

[Eric Caswell wanted to share his testimony, hoping that it might help others understand that, though life doesn't always go according to our plans, God has His own plan for each or our lives, and if we trust Him all will be well. For the sake of privacy I have changed the names of the other people he mentions. I've also done some editing, but I believe that his story is intact. —Brother Roland]

I never knew my real father. He left my mother and me before I was born. I don't even know his name or where he is. My grandfather was like a father to me. He and my grandmother took me to church. They were a big influence on me. My mother did not go to church then, though she does now.

When I was three years old I was diagnosed with acute leukemia cancer. I fought that battle until the age of eleven. The cancer played a huge role in my childhood. I went through a couple of major surgeries—one to remove part of my liver; and another to implant a "port-a-cath" in my chest, for giving me chemotherapy and other strong medications. I also had to endure multiple spinal taps in my lower back.

My mother is a Registered Nurse (RN), so she had a lot of medical knowledge. My leukemia was diagnosed by my pediatrician. He gave me weekly treatments, and once a month I traveled to the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia for a full week of treatment. So I spent a lot of time in hospitals.

My grandparents were very involved in my life, very supportive and influential, during my cancer years. I stayed with them off and on until I was fourteen.

When I was thirteen I began to get more involved in church. I also got very interested in music. I had a great uncle who was a good musician. He could play the banjo, guitar, mandolin, and harmonica. He taught me how to play the guitar. After a while I also became interested in learning to play drums. A young man at church, a college student, gave me basic drum lessons, and my grandparents bought me my first set of drums.



I practiced at home, and before long I started to play with the other musicians at church. I decided to embrace music as the main focus of my life.

At age fourteen I joined my school's band. I played the snare drum and the guitar. That same year I also

began taking drum lessons from a well known drummer named Terry McCurdy who led a Christian ministry and taught drums.

I felt good and confident about my music under Terry's teaching. He taught me a lot about all kinds of music—blues, jazz, and soul, as well as Christian music.

During this time my grandparents continued to be supportive. My grandfather spent a lot of time with me, and he taught me many things. He had taught me how to drive out on his property when I was only twelve. Those are still among my favorite memories of my younger years.

My grandfather passed away when I was twenty-one, but my grandmother is still living, in an assisted living facility. I know that when she passes from this life she will go to Heaven and be with God.

My mother remarried when I was fifteen, and she and my stepfather had two children together. My siblings are twenty and eighteen now, and it seems their lives are good. But after my stepfather came into my family, for the first three or four years I did not like him very much.

I had a hard time adjusting to everything that was going on then. Those teen years were rough for me, and very stressful. But I still had my interest in music. I found that playing the drums was something I could do, and focus on, and I got comfort from that.

When I turned sixteen my grandfather gave me my first vehicle, a Chevy pickup truck. That brought us even closer together, and when he passed away I suffered emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. It took a long time for me to get past that hurt, but with God's help I eventually did. I feel that I have let my grandfather down now by being in jail.



I can honestly say that my relationship with the church used to be really good. When I was younger I was heavily involved in church, My grandparents went to a Pentecostal church, and I went with them, so I grew up with Pentecostal beliefs and teaching. There were men of God who had great power and anointing from God, whom I looked up to, and who guided me.

I was really close to Jesus during that time. But after my grandfather died, I began to drift away from the church and from Jesus. I grew interested in other things, like working and looking for a better job.

At age 26 I was working in a hospital kitchen, and I soon began to notice some of the young women who worked in the cafeteria, and one in particular, Gail*. I asked some of our co-workers about her, and after a short while the others set us up to have a date.

(* Not her real name.)

That one bad choice led to others, and a short seven months later I learned that Gail was pregnant. Her mother found out and kicked her out. So I had a choice to make, and I chose to be with her and our baby. We found an apartment together. We were not married at that time.

Gail went and bought a brand new 2010 Chevrolet pickup truck, for me. That turned out to be an especially bad idea, because by the time our son was seven months old we were having problems, which finally led to the end of our relationship.

Gail did not like my family. She did not want my mother and the others to be involved in our lives. Because my family values were not hers, the result was a lot of pain.

Gail left when our son was two years old. With the help of my family I was able to gain full custody of him. My mother and stepfather have been raising him. He is now ten years old, and doing really well in school and in church.

I have not been a good father to my son. I have failed him by making bad choices, from the first one, getting involved with Gail, all the way to what landed in jail.

After Gail left I was in a relationship for three and a half years with a young lady named Valerie.* It was the first real relationship I had had. Valerie did a lot for me. Though she didn't go to church, she did, and still does, believe in God. She was faithful and hard-working, and she made sure all of our bills were paid. I know it's hard to find a woman like that.

(* Not her real name.)

I am ashamed to say that I did not treat Valerie as I should have. I wasn't close to God, and I wasn't faithful to Valerie. I began to look for a woman who was more like what I wanted—someone who would go to church; someone with more family values. Like Gail, Valerie did not want to be close to my family. And I didn't know how to deal with that. It made me depressed, and it made me drift even farther away from God.

Valerie and I broke up in 2017. I blamed myself. I knew that I needed to change, to somehow get back into church and closer to God. I started going to church again with my family.

But I still wanted to find a church-going woman, one who would go to church with me. Instead of asking God to help me find her, I decided to search for her on the Internet. I visited chat rooms, looking for someone who seemed nice and would talk with me.

I spent more and more time on the Internet, until one day I found her. A nice young lady, eighteen years old (she said). We started to chat, and soon I thought she was really interested in me.

A month or so later I got a message from this young lady saying she wasn't really eighteen, she was younger, only thirteen. She had lied to me, and caught me off-guard.



But that was another lie. I was actually caught in a Virginia undercover police sting. Two months later I was arrested. I was held for ninety days in Missouri, then transported to Virginia, where I am now. I have no idea how long I will be here.

Now I come to the point of my story.

I became a Christian when I was younger, during my teen years. At seventeen I began to realize how great and loving Jesus is. But in my twenties I drifted away from Jesus and God. I let other things have higher priority.

Just a few years ago, after Valerie and I broke up, my life was really upside-down. I was depressed, but trying to get better, and working on a healthier life style and diet. But I came to realize that I needed to come close to Jesus and God again.

God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, are my only hope, and they are the only hope for all mankind. With all that has happened on earth in the last few years, I know that God is our only hope—God, the Almighty Father, and Jesus, our Savior and Lord, are our only hope. Only their love can save us. And only their love can help me and make me better.

Eric Caswell

If you have a Bible question, or for address changes or to start or stop receiving the "Good News Guide," write

Brother Roland
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This puzzle contains phrases from several important Bible passages. We would all do well to look them up and memorize them. Enjoy the puzzle.

Puzzle:

G T K X H L E T G O O F T H E P A S T G N L O U Y N A X S Z H W
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D H L X I X I U D N G V R C G O L D X Y S E W P Q M Z A S Q T I
C S S B A I L S C O Q U M Q U N H D L O A Q O N E O W M S O C C
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Words:

*** First, Let Jesus save you**

FEAR THE LORD
SAY YES TO HIM
LET GO OF THE PAST
CONFESS ALL SINS
REPENT
ASK FORGIVENESS
BELIEVE IN JESUS
RECEIVE BY FAITH
YOU ARE SAVED
REJOICE

*** Then walk with King Jesus**

RELATIONSHIP
BE RECONCILED TO GOD
TRUST AND OBEY HIM
WALK THE WALK
A NEW CREATION
IN CHRIST
NOW NO CONDEMNATION
SPIRIT FILLED
LED BY THE SPIRIT
ALL SURRENDERED
AT PEACE WITH GOD
YOU HAVE SAID YES
GOD HAS BEGUN
GOOD WORK IN YOU

HE WILL FINISH IT
CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST
I NO LONGER LIVE
HE LIVES IN ME
SANCTIFIED
THROUGH AND THROUGH
GOD CALLS YOU
HE IS FAITHFUL
HE WILL DO IT
WORK OUT SALVATION
FEAR AND TREMBLING
A LIVING SACRIFICE
BE NOT WORLDLY
BE TRANSFORMED
YOUR MIND RENEWED