



## Walk Humbly with Your God

**Bottom Line:** The Christian life must be marked by a humble and consistent commitment to commune with God.

### **What is something that you strive to do every day? Why is this so important to you?**

So to recap, God has told the Israelites what He requires of them: 1) to do justice, dictating how they interact with the world, 2) to love mercy, dictating how they should interact with each other, and now 3) to walk humbly with God, dictating how they should interact with God.

### **Read Ephesians 2:2 and Colossians 3:5-7. Compare these with Galatians 5:16 and Romans 8:4. Taking a clue from these verses, what do you think it means to “walk humbly with God?”**

When the Bible speaks of walking in this way, it often refers to a lifestyle. And that’s certainly the point of what God is saying in Micah 6:8. He is desiring His people to live a lifestyle of communion with Him—obeying Him, pursuing Him, loving Him, and glorifying Him. They are to do so “humbly”, meaning that they are to take great care to remain contrite and reverent before Him.

### **So the question before us is a simple, but profound one: how do we commune with God?**

You may have said things like prayer, Bible study, fasting, etc. And these are correct answers. We call these the “spiritual disciplines.” The disciplines are activities that we engage in that allow us to commune with God in a deep and special way. It’s through engaging in the spiritual disciplines that we are able to get the most out of our “walk” with God.

### **What comes to your mind when you think of the word “discipline?”**

It’s unfortunate that the word “discipline” has such a negative connotation in our society today. We immediately think of discipline as boring, lifeless routine. But when we understand exactly what the outcome of the spiritual disciplines is, we realize this is far from the truth.

### **Discuss this quote from Elisabeth Elliott: “Freedom and discipline have come to be regarded as mutually exclusive, when in fact freedom is not at all the opposite, but the final *reward* of discipline.” Do you agree?**

Discipline may be thought of as punishment. It may also be thought of as persistent commitment. But do you ever connect the word discipline with “freedom?” The biblical understanding of freedom is a bit different than the world’s. According to Scripture, true freedom is not found in being able to do whatever you want to do, true freedom is doing only the things that bring you the most joy. And the overwhelming consensus of the Bible is that enjoying the glory of God is what will secure our greatest joy (Psalm 37:4; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Mark 8:34-35; Romans 8:17-18). We were made to reflect the glory of God in the world (Isaiah 43:7), so when we put all this together we understand that it is godliness, or being like God, that truly fulfills us.

### **Read 1 Timothy 4:7. According to this verse, what is the intended result of our discipline?**

# MOVING FORWARD

together

The intended result of our discipline (or our “training”) is godliness. Through engaging in the disciplines, we come to see more of the glory of God. Through Bible reading we see the glory of God illustrated for us in the Old Testament narratives, the life of Jesus, and the wisdom of Paul’s letters. Through prayer and meditation we see the glory of God through contemplation of His attributes and His faithfulness to answer our prayers. Through fasting we see the glory of God in His ability to satisfy and sustain us in a way that nothing in this world can. Through godly stewardship of our resources we see the glory of God in His ability to provide for us and keep our desires on Him rather than the fading pleasures of the world. And through all of this, we are becoming more like Him: through “beholding the glory of the Lord, we are transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to the next” (2 Corinthians 3:18). When we understand the outcome of the disciplines, that they are meant to transform us, to make us *glorious*, then their value becomes more apparent.

**Discuss the value of the following disciplines. How do they help you see the glory of the Lord? How prominent of a role do they play in your life?**

- Worship
- Evangelism
- Serving
- Silence and Solitude

**Which of these disciplines do you need to grow in? How will you make them a more important part of your life?**

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**Reflection:** Read these aloud, using your discretion about which questions should be pondered and which questions should be discussed.

**It is impossible to walk with God if you are separated from Him by your sin (Isaiah 59:2). Although at times believers can feel distant from God, there is no genuine communion that an unsaved person can have with God. How fulfilling is your walk with God? Do you feel seen, heard, and loved by Him? Although this shouldn’t be taken as an absolute indicator of your position before God, feelings of distance and separation from God could be indicative of a lack of reconciliation with God. Search your heart and be honest with yourself. Have you truly repented of your sin, placed your faith in Christ, and been restored to a right relationship with God?**

**Are godliness, righteousness, holiness, and Christlikeness appealing goals to you? If not, why? Again, a lack of desire for these things could indicate some very serious spiritual issues. If they are, then what is one area of your life that you feel is preventing you from growing in godliness? What will you do to remove that hurdle? Is there a discipline we’ve discussed that you need to be more diligent to engage in? What steps will you take to incorporate that discipline into your daily, weekly, monthly routine?**