

## DOCTRINE OF WALKING

1. **Definition** – The verb “walk” is often used in the Bible in a technical sense to describe a **pattern of life** or a **function of life** and can be used for either a good or an evil life.
  - a. Walking does not describe a single incident of life but rather a pattern of living.
  - b. In the New Testament, walking is used for both the *modus vivendi* and the *modus operendi* of the Christian way of life.
  
2. **Etymology** –
  - a. περιπατέω – peripateo – (Gr. verb - to walk around, to walk about, to live or conduct one’s life in a certain manner.) (Col. 2:6; 4:5)
  - b. הָלַךְ - halak or יָלַךְ - yalak - (Heb. verbs – to walk; to go along, to follow any manner of life.) (Prov. 2:7; 3:23)
  
3. The **concept of walking** represents the pattern and function of the Christian way of life as one day at a time. (Col. 2:6; 4:5; with Eph. 5:15-18; Rom. 14:5, 6, 15 James 4:13-15)
  
4. The **mechanics of walking** are related to the intensification of the Angelic Conflict. (Rom. 13:13)
  - a. While walking, one foot is always in the air and we are momentarily off balance, but by placing this foot on the ground in front of us our balance is recovered.
  
  - b. Likewise, believers are off balance living in the **Devil’s world system**, “*kosmos diabolikus*.” (1 John 5:19; Eph. 6:11, 12, with Matt. 4:8, 9; Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Pet.5:8, 9) Both believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and unbelievers alike can lose stability through cosmic influence and/or control of their thoughts. Believers can “walk in darkness.” (1 John 1:6); however, believers can be stabilized by God’s grace provision of the filling of the Holy Spirit and the consistent intake of the word of God, Bible doctrine, even while living in the Devil’s world. (Eph. 5:16 with Eph. 6:11, 13; Col.2:5-7)
  
5. Walking is used to describe the **life-style of the unbelievers**, “...*walk no longer just as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,*...” (Eph. 4:17)
  
6. Walking is used to describe the method of operation of the **carnal or reversionistic** believer under the function of the old sin nature, the world system, and evil. (Phil. 3:18, 19; Eph. 4:17-19; Eph. 2:1, 2)
  
7. Walking is used to describe the **believer’s advance** to spiritual maturity. (Phil 3:15-17)

8. There are three positive spheres for the **believer's walk**:
  - a. In the sphere of the **Holy Spirit** - Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:2-4; Eph. 5:2, 18
  - b. In the sphere of **faith**, "faith-rest" – 2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 2:6; Eph. 5:15; Heb. 4:2
  - c. In the sphere of **Bible doctrine** – 3 John 3; Col. 4:5
  
9. **Associated walks** which describe the Christian way of life:
  - a. Walk in Christ Jesus (Col. 2:6)
  - b. Walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4)
  - c. Walk in love (the filling of the Holy Spirit) (Eph. 5:2)
  - d. Walk in the light (1 John 1:7)
  - e. Walk as children of the light (Eph. 5:8)
  - f. Walk according to the Spirit (Rom 8:5; Gal.5:16)
  - g. Walk worthy of your calling (Eph. 4:1)
  - h. Walk worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10)
  - i. Walk honestly as in the day (Rom. 13:13)
  - j. Walk as you ought (1 Thess. 4:1)
  - k. Walk circumspectly (Eph. 5:15)
  - l. Walk no longer as the Gentiles (unbelievers) also walk, in the futility of their mind (Eph. 4:17)
  - m. Walk in good works (Eph. 2:10)