

## 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* (way of life) and the *modus operandi* (method of operation) 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.) (Eph. 5:2; Col. 2:6; 4:5)
  - b. הִלַּךְ - 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. (Gen. 3:1-5, 13; Job 1:6-12; Dan. 12:2; Matt.25:41, 46; John 5:26-29; Eph. 4:27; Eph. 6:11,12; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9; Rev. 19:19-20; 20:10, 14, 15)
  - 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. Believers can be **off balance** simply by 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)
  - c. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are **off balance** when they commit personal sins and are said to “*walk in darkness.*” (1 John 1:6; Col. 2:6, 8)
  - d. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ can also lose their stability through cosmic influences (Col. 2:1, 2); whereas, unbelievers can lose stability through personal sins produced by their old sin natures (1 John 1:8, 10; 2:1) or cosmic or demonic control of their thoughts. (Rom. 8:5-8; 13:14; Phil. 3:18, 19; James 3:14-16; 1 John 2:14-17)
 

**Note:** Unbelievers can have some degree of stability when functioning under God’s laws of divine establishment: (1) Freedom; (2) Marriage (one man and one woman); (3) Family; (4) Human government; and (5) Nationalism (citizenship and patriotism) (Gen. 2:16, 24; 4:1; Gen. 9:3-8; 10:1-5; Rom. 13:1-10)

- e. However, believers can be stabilized by God's grace provision of the **filling of the Holy Spirit**, through **confession of sins** (Psalm 32:5; Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 11:31; Rom. 13:14) and the **consistent intake of the word of God**, Bible doctrine, even while living in the Devil's world. (Rom. 15:4, 5; 2 Cor. 19:3-5; Eph. 5:16 with Eph. 6:11, 13; Phil. 2:5; 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. 4:17-19; Col. 3:7; cf. 1 Cor. 3:3; 10:1-5)
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. (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19; again: Phil. 3:18, 19)
7. Walking is used to describe the **believer's advance** to spiritual maturity. (Phil. 3:15-17; cf. Col. 3:14; Heb. 6:1-2)
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. 2:5, 6; Eph. 5:15; Heb. 4:2
  - c. In the sphere of **Bible doctrine** - 3 John 3; Col. 4:5
9. Thirteen **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)