

1 Thessalonians: Part 9

A Life of Faith

Chapter 2: Walk Worthy

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.

2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,

12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the



word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,

16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.

18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

20 For you are our glory and joy.

"1 Thessalonians 2 (New King James Version)." Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. Web. 3 Dec, 2014. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=1Th&c=2&p=0&rl=0&t=NKJV>>.

all Greek and Hebrew definitions are taken from: www.blueletterbible.org



I'm so glad you have returned for session 9! By now you are becoming very familiar with the book of 1 Thessalonians. Please take a moment to pray and ask God to open your heart to the truth of His word. I believe God will show you something crucial to your walk with Him during your study time today. After you have prayed, please sign your initials on the line _____.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 2 on pages 1-2. Make sure to mark and highlight anything that stands out to you.

Review time!

What in particular are mothers known for?

How about fathers?

Please go back and read verses 11 and 12 again.

What is the goal of all the exhorting, comforting and charging (verse 12)?

To *walk worthy* of the Lord. How does a Christian *walk worthy* of the Lord; is there a list of rules to keep, or actions to take? I must confess, I haven't often felt very worthy of anything in my lifetime, let alone being *worthy of walking* for the Lord. How can an imperfect, sin-prone woman like me walk worthy of the Lord? Let's focus our minds and hearts on God's Word and see what we can discover about *walking worthy* of the Lord.

The Greek word for *walk* used in this verse is *peripateō*, this rich Greek word translates as *to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities, to live, to pass one's life*.

Is His *way* your *way*? Do you speak, act, think, love, and work His way? How is your life *progressing*? Are you making progress with your weaknesses...your strengths? What opportunities has God brought your way lately?

Comment on one or more questions from the previous paragraph.

Peripateo also refers to, "the garment one is clothed in." Clothing has been important to women ever since the Garden of Eden. My mother was always concerned about dressing properly for every occasion. While we were not wealthy,



my mother and father always made sure we had pretty Easter, Christmas, and Sunday dresses (complete with hats and gloves!). What is the proper dress for a Christian? What do we pick up and put on each day? Garments of despair ... the filthy rags of our own righteousness? Or are we dressed in our radiant robe of righteousness provided for us by the cross of Christ?

Another definition for *peripateo* is, "to associate with one, to be one's companion, followers or votaries." Who we walk with on a daily basis will greatly affect the walk of our life. While we are walking out our life, others will notice. People *follow* us on Pinterest, twitter and Facebook, but is anyone following us to Jesus?

Please go back to the word *walk* in verse 12 and draw a footprint above it.

Now let's turn our attention to the word *worthy*.

In the original Greek, *worthy* is derived from the word *axios*, which means "weight, value, worth, befitting."

Please go back to the word *worthy* and draw a diamond above it.

Axios also means, "of persons and their deeds." From this definition we can infer walking worthy of the Lord involves our actions, thoughts and behavior.

Pretend someone had been following you for the last week. What evidence would they have found to show you were walking worthy of the Lord? I will ask myself the same question.

In addition, *axios* means to reflect God's *character and thoughts*.

Think of a situation or circumstance in which you are currently involved. How can you reflect God's character and thoughts in this situation?

"Walk worthy of the Lord" also means *of a manner of life in accordance with what the gospel declares*. What does the Gospel declare?

Please read Isaiah 61:1-4 and list what the Gospel declares.

Pick two of the items you listed above and record what God has



accomplished in your life.

Now let's look at other portions of Scripture which contain the phrase, "walk worthy of the Lord." Please read Colossians 1:10, and Ephesians 4:1-3 and respond to the following phrase.

One who walks worthy of the Lord ...

Notice God describes our relationship with Him as a *walk*. God could have said, "Live worthy of the Lord." Think of that for a moment. Why does God say *walk* worthy of the Lord? Why didn't He say *run* worthy, *jog* worthy, *leap* worthy, *strive* worthy, or *labor* worthy?

Generate a list of reasons as to why God describes our relationship with Him as a walk.

While I am a dedicated runner, I am also a big fan of walking. I enjoy walking by myself, but I really love walking with my husband and my sons. Why? Because walking allows for conversation, mentoring and relationship. The point of the walk is the talk. My youngest son especially likes to share his heart while strolling through the neighborhood.

Walking is also a long-term, lifetime sport. Most people will be able to walk throughout their entire life, but the majority of us will not be able to maintain a sprint pace for any length of time. Thankfully, Jesus calls us to walk with Him so He can mentor, disciple and conform us to His image. The point of the walk is His talk.

What is the final outcome of walking worthy of the Lord (end of verse 12)?

Please go back to page 1 and draw a small castle above the word *kingdom*, and a cloud above the word *glory*.

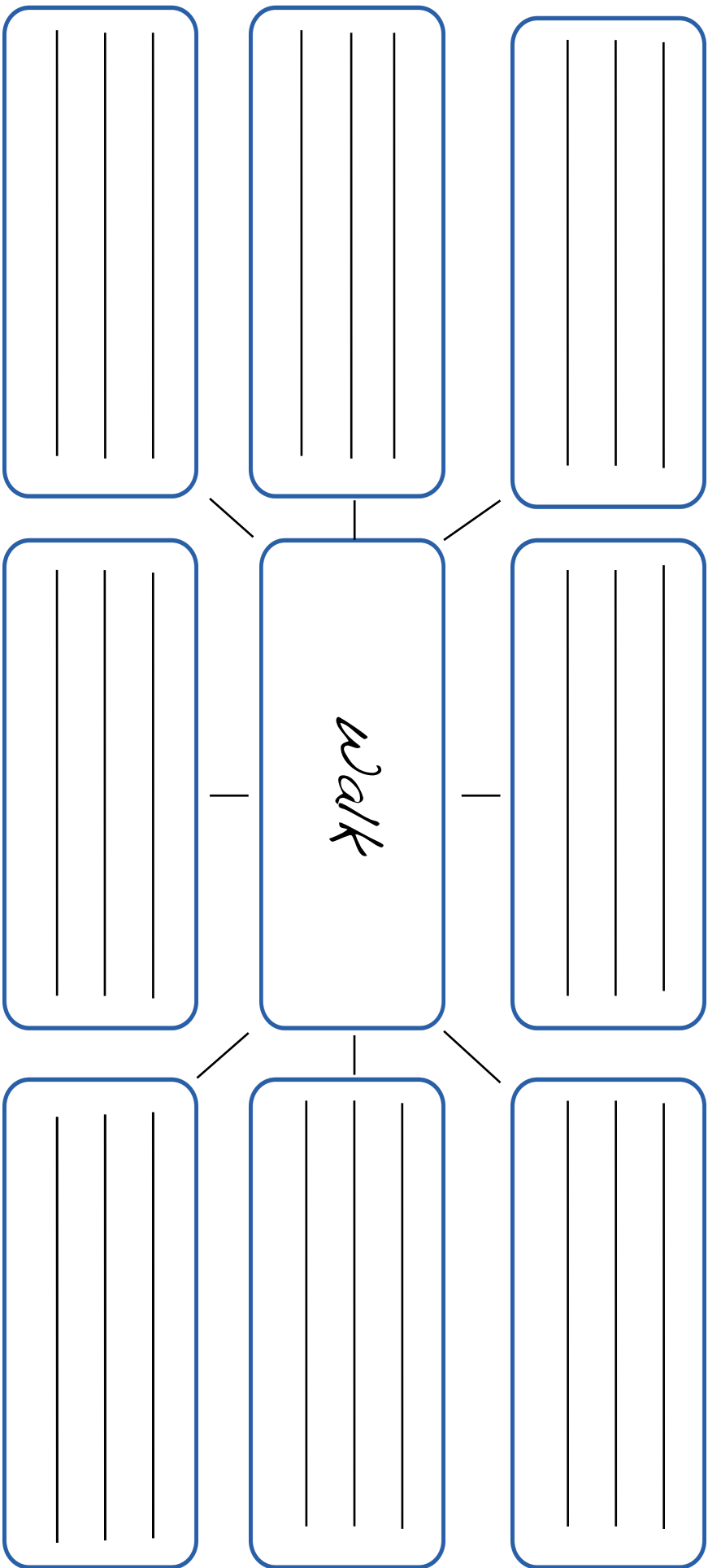
Now take a moment to consider the concept of walking. On the next page, please fill out the graphic organizer on walking.

Graphic Organizer:

In each empty space, write a synonym for **walk**. Then describe how each synonym applies to a certain season of your walk with God. For Example:



leap: *I had to take a leap of faith with God when I quit my job to follow His leading.*





Please read verse 12 one more time and record any final thoughts on walking with the Lord.

Thank you for joining me today for Bible study. Walk in His peace.

by Mary Kane
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