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The Proof and Pattern for Knowing God **1 John 2:3-6**

Thank you for being here this morning as we continue our study of assurance of salvation from the book of 1 John. The title for our lesson this morning from 1 John 2:3-6 is the proof and the pattern for knowing God. This morning we want to consider what the Bible says about someone who really comes to know God personally and the difference knowing God makes in our daily lives. We are going to be reminded this morning that when God saves us we go from living a self centered life to a Scripture centered life.

What do we know about salvation? What do we know about being born again? One thing we know about salvation is that God's Spirit uses God's Word to do God's work. **1 Peter 1:23 says that we are born again through the living and abiding Word of God.** God's Spirit uses God's Word to convict people of their sin and to convert people to Christ.

One thing I love doing is reading about how God uses His Word to save sinners. I love learning about what verses God uses to help people see their need for Christ and what Christ did to save them. Since we are talking about the proof of knowing God this morning, I want to begin with how a man named Charles Spurgeon came to know the Lord and I want to read a portion of his last sermon before he went to be with the Lord.

Charles Spurgeon was born in a Christian home. His mother Eliza was nineteen years old when Charles was born. He remembers as a little boy hearing his mom pray for him and for his salvation. She read the Scriptures and prayed with Charles and her other kids every day. Sunday night was a special time when she would gather all her children together and have a special study of Scripture. She was spoken of as 'remarkable for her godliness, usefulness and humility.' Spurgeon's dad also loved the Lord and was a committed evangelist.

As we all know it's possible to be raised with godly parents and reject the gospel. It is possible to be around the gospel and not turn from sin and trust Christ. That was true for Spurgeon until he was 15 years old.

Like I said earlier Spurgeon grew up under the influence of godly people and he grew up reading the Puritans. **When he was 10-11 years old Spurgeon began to feel the weight of his sin.** He talks about his heart being fallow and covered with weeds and how God began to plough it up. He said that as a youngster "The Ten Commandments were those ten black horses, and the justice of God, like a ploughshare, tore my spirit. I was condemned, undone, destroyed, lost, helpless, hopeless. I thought hell was before me."

Let me slow down and ask you - Is that a bad thing or a good thing? Is conviction of sin a good thing or a bad thing? Conviction of sin is a great thing. Why? Jesus says in Mark 2:17, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." **The first step in becoming a Christian is conviction of sin.** Only sinners see their need for a Savior.

Spurgeon spent five years as a youngster under deep conviction. He even remembers considering embracing atheism as a way to get out from the sense of his guilt. Then, when he was 15 years old, on January 6, 1850 Spurgeon got up on a Sunday morning and set out to attend a local church service in London, England at a local congregational chapel. But the weather was so bad he couldn't get there so he turned down artillery street and walked into a church he had never been to before.

He walked into a primitive methodist church and he sat down in a small crowd of about 15 people. The main preacher wasn't there that morning so another man stood up to preach. The man who stood up to preach spoke from Isaiah 45:22, "**Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.**" Spurgeon sat there and listened to this man and hope began to dawn on his sullen soul.

As the man preached on Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" he told the people that it was a simple text to obey. **"It (Isaiah 45:22) says, "Look. Now that does not take a deal of effort.**

It ain't lifting your foot or your finger; it is just "look." Well, a man need not go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man need not be worth a thousand a year to look. Anyone can look; a child can look. But this is what the text says. Then it says, "Look unto Me." **'Ay,' said he, in broad Essex, 'many of ye are looking to yourselves. No use looking there. You'll never find comfort in yourselves.'** Then the good man followed up his text in this way: **'Look unto Me: I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hanging on the Cross. Look: I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend; I am sitting at the Father's right hand. O, look to Me! Look to Me!'**

After about 10 minutes of teaching on Isaiah 45:22 the preacher made eye contact with young Charles Spurgeon. He called him out. He told Spurgeon, "Young man, you look very miserable." Spurgeon remembers thinking at the time, "Well, I did; but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made on my personal appearance from the pulpit before. However, it was a good blow struck."

The preacher continued speaking directly to Spurgeon, "And you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you do not obey my text. But if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved.' Then he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist can, 'Young man, look to Jesus Christ.'

The Holy Spirit used that verse to cause Charles Spurgeon to be born again. He wrote, **"I saw at once the way of salvation. I know not what else he said – I did not take much notice of it – I was so possessed with that one thought. Like as when the brazen serpent was lifted up, the people only looked and were healed, so it was with me. I had been waiting to do fifty things, but when I heard that word, 'Look!' what a charming word it seemed to me.** Oh I could have looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away. There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that instant, and sung with the most enthusiastic of them, of the precious blood of Christ, and the simple faith which alone looks to him."

Spurgeon later said, 'I thank God that I owe my conversion to Christ to an unknown person, who certainly was no minister in the ordinary acceptation of the term; but who could say this much, "Look unto Christ and be saved, all ye ends of the earth."

Spurgeon went back home through the sleet and snow a new creation in Christ. This change was immediately apparent to his family. He writes, "I remember standing before the fire, leaning on the mantelshelf, after I got home, and my mother spoke to me, and I heard her say outside the door, **"There is a change come over Charles."** She had not had half-a-dozen words with me; but she saw that I was not what I had been. I had been dull, melancholic, sorrowful, depressed; and when I had looked to Christ, the appearance of my face changed; I had a smile, a cheerful, happy, contented look at once, and she could see it; and a few words let her know that her melancholic boy had risen out of his despondency, and had become bright and cheerful.

Until her death 38 years later she was to see that happy transformation sustained in her first-born child. That night he waited for the other children to go to bed before telling his father what had happened. Six weeks later Spurgeon was routinely sharing the gospel with people in the community where he lived.

That's how Spurgeon was converted. Isaiah 45:22. **God used Isaiah 45:22 to cause Spurgeon to be born again through faith in Christ.** That was when he was 15 years old. As many of you know Spurgeon went on to be used mightily of God as a preacher of the Word. If you have never read a sermon from Charles Spurgeon pick one and read it. They're awesome.

I want to read an excerpt from Spurgeon's last sermon. I want to read this last sermon because it shows us what Spurgeon learned about his Savior over the course of his life. In his last sermon he described the difference between people who know Christ and people who don't know Christ. **"Those who have no master are slaves to themselves. Depend upon it, you will either serve Satan or Christ, either self or the Saviour. You will find sin, self, Satan, and the world to be hard masters; but if you**

wear the livery of Christ, you will find him so meek and lowly of heart that you will find rest unto your souls."

Then he gave his own personal testimony about what he had learned of Christ over the course of his Christian life. I love this testimony of what Spurgeon learned of Christ. **"He (Christ) is the most magnanimous of captains. There never was his like among the choicest of princes. He is always to be found in the thickest part of the battle. When the wind blows cold he always takes the bleak side of the hill. The heaviest end of the cross lies ever on his shoulders. If he bids us carry a burden, he carries it also. If there is anything that is gracious, generous, kind, and tender, yea lavish and superabundant in love, you always find it in him.** These 40 years and more have I served him, blessed be his name! and I have had nothing but love from him. I would be glad to continue yet another 40 years in the same dear service here below if so it pleased him. His service is life, peace, joy. Oh, that you would enter on it at once! God help you to enlist under the banner of Jesus even this day! Amen."

I hope at the very least that encourages you if you are a Christian and if you are here and you're not a Christian that Charles Spurgeon's conversion and personal testimony to the love of Christ would compel you to become one. Spurgeon was right. We either serve Satan or we serve Christ. There is no middle ground or safe place between Satan and Christ. 1 John 5:19, "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." There are only two kinds of people - Children of God who turn from sin and trust in Christ or people who live under the power of Satan. Much is at stake in this.

So, let me ask a basic question - Did coming to know Christ at a point in time event change Charles Spurgeon's life? Was he the same man after he left that primitive methodist chapel as he was when he walked into the church that morning? He was different. He went in a depressed unbeliever and he left a devoted believer. He went in sad and came out celebrating.

This morning we want to consider what it means to know God personally and the difference coming to know Christ at a point in time event changes how we live for the rest of our lives:

1 John 2:3-6

- 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
- 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,
- 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:
- 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

About 20 years ago I began taking classes at Southern Seminary in Louisville. Brianna and I moved from California to Kentucky. I served as a youth pastor at a church in Lexington and drove to Louisville on my day off to take classes. I chose my own classes in seminary. Brianna and I were somewhat newly married when I started, so what type classes do you think I chose to take? Do you think I chose the hardest classes first or the easiest classes? I chose the easiest classes because after being at church all day I wanted undistracted time with my bride.

I waited a long time to take Greek and Hebrew. I took Greek and Hebrew last. I don't remember a lot about those classes, but I do remember something about my Greek classes. **I learned in my Greek class that there is something called a perfect tense verb.** A verb is an action word, right? A Greek verb in the perfect tense describes a point in time event with abiding results. Stay with me here because this is really important to how we think about these verses.

A perfect tense Greek verb is a word that shows us something that happens at a point in time event with abiding results. **It helps me to picture a dot and a line going out from the dot.** Can you picture that? The dot is when the word happens at a point in time and then there are abiding results from that point forward. Are we okay? Have you had coffee?

Look at 1 John 2:3, the first part of the verse. **Notice there are two knows in the first part of verse 3.** They are two different Greek words that come from the same Greek root word - To know. The first know is in the present tense and the second know is in the perfect tense. The first know

describes cognitive knowledge. It's a recognizable fact. The second know is intimate knowledge. The second know is personal. The second know is in the perfect tense. A point in time event when a sinner comes to know Christ personally - not just know about Him, but know Him personally.

The rest of verse 3 down through verse 6 shows us the abiding results of coming to know Christ, really know Christ, at a point in time event. Most of us in this room can look back on our lives and think of a time in our lives when we think we came to know Christ. We may not know the exact day or hour of the day but we can think back to a time when we heard the gospel and turned from sin and trusted in Christ to save us. **Being born again, becoming a Christian, is not a process - It's a point in time event.**

How does the new birth work? How are sinners born again? Paul describes it this way in **Ephesians 1:13-14, "In him (Christ) you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."** Becoming a Christian comes down to two things - Hearing and believing the gospel. Galatians 3:1-5 says the same thing.

A pastor named David Hegg describes first faith in Christ this way, **"It is a gift to us from God, which comes to us as God the Spirit rides into our minds on the wings of the gospel. He opens our deaf spiritual ears and blind spiritual eyes to the truth of our sin and, as well, to Christ's loving offer of forgiveness. We turn from the sin and turn to the Saviour, and we are granted all the benefits of the death and righteousness of Christ."**

To be saved we have to trust the truth about the true Christ and call on Him to save us from our sins. Romans 10:13, "For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." I love how Jerry Bridges puts it, **"Faith involves both a renunciation and a reliance. First, we must renounce any trust in our own performance as the basis of our acceptance before God. Second, we must place our reliance entirely on the perfect obedience and sin-bearing death of Christ as the sole basis of our standing before God—on our best days as well as our worst."**

Coming to know Christ personally is a point in time event. Again, it is not a process. It's not a cooperative effort between us and God. No. Becoming a Christian is a miracle. It's something God does in our hearts and when He does it there are abiding results that stick around for the rest of our lives. How do you know that at a point in time event you really came to know Christ? What are the abiding results of knowing Christ?

The rest of 1 John 2:3 down through verse 6 provides us with evidences of salvation. Spurgeon explains it this way, "The first thing about a Christian is initiation into Christ. The next thing is imitation of Christ." The first part of verse 3 describes initiation into Christ and the middle of verse 3 down through verse 6 describes imitation of Christ. Remember we are saved by Christ in order to become more and more like Christ.

I think these verses are absolutely essential for anyone who professes to know Christ to think through. John's goal is not to beat us up, but to build us up! His goal is to give us certainty of our salvation by showing us what happened when we came to know Christ.

In 1 John 2:3-6 we see two abiding results of coming to know Christ. I want is to think through these verses under two simple headings:

1. The Proof of Knowing God - 1 John 2:3-5

1 John 2:3b-6 (I'll read all of verse 3 so you get the flow)

- 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him (<At a point in time) if we keep his commandments (<The abiding results of coming to know Christ).
- 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,
- 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

Notice the word keep. It shows up in all three verses. Someone who really comes to know Christ at a point in time event keeps God's Word as a pattern for the rest of their lives. Rick Kress, "**Keep speaks of watchful care, both externally and internally. This is heart obedience, not just external compliance. It is in the *present tense*, which means this**

watchful care is a way of life. The habit or pattern of this person's life is obedience to Christ's commandments."

The first thing we see at the end of verse 3 is that evidence of genuine salvation is found in a new desire to submit your will to God's Word. Someone who really comes to know Christ at a point in time event lives different than they did before. How? They love the Word of God and they seek to learn it and live it for the rest of their lives. That's the first proof that you came to know Christ - You want to live for Him and not for yourself.

This is not only taught in 1 John. This is taught throughout the whole Bible. The new birth changes people from living a disobedient life to living an obedient life. As a new pattern. 1 Peter 1:1-2, "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

In verse 3, John describes what's true for someone who really comes to know God by knowing Christ at a point in time event. A new pattern or lifestyle of obedience. Rick Kress summarizes it well when he writes, "True knowledge of God (not just head knowledge *about* God) produces a heart to obey."

What are these commandments Christian's keep as a way of life? Notice the connection in these verses between commandments and truth in verses 3-4 and His word in verse 5. These are not just the ten commandments. This is not just the golden rule - Do unto others as you would have them do to you. This is the whole Bible, friend.

Commandments in these verses means God's will found throughout God's Word. You are a whole Bible person.

So, think back to the time when you think you came to know Christ. Here is how you can have cognitive knowledge that you really entered into a personal relationship with God through Christ at a point in time event - are you ready? **You no longer live a self centered life. You live a Scripture centered life. Your new focus in life is glorifying God by knowing Him better and doing what He says in the power of the Spirit.**

We know John's not writing about sinless perfection because he just walked us through the difference between someone who has fellowship with God and someone who doesn't in 1 John 1:5-2:2. God is light and the light of His Word constantly shows us our sinfulness and how far we have to go to be more like Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:5-2:2 shows us what people who are born again do with their sin. **1 John 2:3-6 shows us what born again people do with their Bible.**

What is true for people who really come to know the Lord is not true for people who say they know the Lord, but they really don't. 1 John 2:4 is another verse where John calls out people in and around these churches who claimed to know God, but their lifestyle contradicted their claim. 1 John 2:4, "Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him." John primarily has false teachers in view who were telling these people they knew God, but their conduct contradicted their profession.

The claim here is one of ongoing abiding fellowship with God. The claim that someone has become a Christian. What does John say about someone like this whose life is marked by not keeping His commandments? Not only is this person's statement a lie - God actually calls this person a liar. This person is a liar in his character because his or her conduct contradicts their claim.

Rick Kress, "No one, no matter what he may say about knowing Christ or being a Christian, who has no desire to know God's Word – the Bible – can be assured he has eternal life. In fact, God's word challenges him and calls him a liar."

Why is John being so direct? Because this is what love for the people of God looks like when they are under attack from false teachers. John doesn't want anyone to be deceived about their spiritual condition. Too much is at stake in this. Who really knows the Lord and who says they do when they don't is a big deal. Eternity is at stake. God's glory is at stake.

An abiding result of coming to know Christ at a point in time event is that you have a new heart given to you by God that wants to obey (Read Hebrews 10 about the blessings of the new covenant and how God both

forgives our sin and changes our heart). Look at how John describes what our obedience also demonstrates in verse 5, "but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him." Love of God could be interpreted as love for God or God's love for us.

It is true that loving Christ is what motivates believers to obey Christ. Jesus made this clear the night before the cross in the upper room. John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:21, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." John 14:23-24, "Jesus answered! him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

Clearly love for Christ motivates obedience to Christ. You don't follow someone you don't love. You don't follow someone you don't trust. You don't follow someone who you think doesn't have your best interest in mind. Loving Christ more leads to a greater desire for obedience and more obedience leads to a greater love for the Lord because He manifests more of Himself to you as you learn to love and obey Him. The light gets brighter in your heart.

But I take love in 1 John 2:5 not to mean our love for God but His love for us. Our ongoing desire to obey God flows from knowing how much we are loved by God. How much are we loved by God? Perfectly. Later in 1 John we read in 1 John 4:18 that God's perfect love casts out fear. **Your ongoing desire for obedience is proof that the love of God has been shed abroad in your heart.** Our ongoing obedience shows that God's love has been and is being perfected in our hearts. Ongoing obedience is the result of knowing how loved you are by God.

What does that mean? If you are struggling to do what God says you need to slow down and spend more concentrated time thinking about your privileges in Christ. Focus on what happened when you really came to

know Christ. Spend more time thinking about God's personal love for you and what it means to be in Christ.

John's point in verse 5 is that someone who is striving to keep God's Word on a daily basis demonstrates the love of God has been perfected in their hearts. Remember Paul writes about his own motivation to live for Christ in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."

1 John 2:3-5 shows us the proof for knowing God.

1 John 2:6 shows us:

2. The Pattern for knowing God - 1 John 2:6

1 John 2:6 points us to the ultimate pattern for knowing God, "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." The he at the end of this verse is a reference to Christ. To abide means to remain. It means to be in union with Christ like the vine and the branches. Remember John 15:4 where Jesus told the disciples the night before the cross, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

Another translation of verse 6 says if we claim to live in Him. Do you claim to live in Christ this morning? Is that the most important thing about you - who Christ is and who you are in Him? I hope so. If you really came to know Christ at a point in time event, Christ is everything to you. Paul describes Christ as our life in Colossians 3 and says that Christ is all and in all. So what?

People who have genuine fellowship with Christ, people who abide in Him want to be more like Him. Jesus is our great God and Savior. He is also our example when it comes to keeping God's commandments.

Jesus doesn't only tell us what to do - He shows us how to do it.

I haven't included all of the quotes I have used in this lesson, but I did include this one by James Montgomery Boice. I think his description of what it means to follow Christ's example is helpful and I think we should probably spent some time with a cup of coffee and our Bible's open this week and see if we see our own reflection in this quote:

"To walk as Christ walked is to live by an example. It is to follow him, to be his disciple. Such a discipleship is personal, active, and costly. It is *personal* because it cannot be passed off to another. Indeed, we are to find ourselves with Christ, as Peter did following the resurrection. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" When Peter replied, "Yes," he was told, "Feed my sheep." This was repeated three times, and it began to irritate Peter. So to escape Christ's careful probing, he turned to John, the beloved disciple, who was apparently standing some distance away, and asked, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus replied, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" In other words, there was no escaping the call to a personal discipleship for Peter. To walk as Christ walked is also *active* because the Lord himself is active. To be inactive is to be left behind. Finally, it is *costly* as well, because the path that Jesus walked is the path to crucifixion. It leads to glory, but before that it leads to the cross. Such a path can be walked only by the one who has died to self and who has deliberately taken up the cross of Christ to follow him."

What are some ways in which Christ walked that we read about in the gospels?

Jesus walked in sacrificial love (John 13). Jesus walked the path of suffering (1 Peter 2:21-23). Jesus walked as a servant (Mark 10:45). Jesus walked knowing and using the Word of God to address Satan's temptations (Matthew 4). Jesus walked with a passion for preaching the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:23-25). Jesus walked in obedience (John 8:29 says he always did what pleased the Father). Mark 1:35 shows that Jesus was a man of prayer. Ultimately, Jesus walked in submission to God the Father. We can emulate how Jesus lived as a Man because we have the same Spirit in us that He had to obey God the Father.

What's the proof and pattern for knowing God? How do we know that we came to know God by knowing Christ at a point in time event in our lives?

The first proof is seen in a new pattern of obedience. Our ongoing obedience is not the cause of our salvation. It's the proof of it. Someone who claims to know Christ and does not seek to walk according to His will in His word as a way of life is a liar. God calls that person a liar. We also learn that ongoing obedience is the proof that God's love is being perfected in us. How do we keep going in the right direction? We keep looking to Christ as our example.

I began this lesson talking about the conversion of Charles Spurgeon and what he learned about Christ throughout his Christian life. Charles Spurgeon was a great preacher whose sermons have been and are still being used to save and sanctify sinners. Charles Spurgeon clearly came to know Christ at a point in time event in his life and there were adding results. But does that mean Charles Spurgeon never struggled? He did struggle. People who come to know Christ at a point in time event still have to work through life in a fallen world.

The depression that Spurgeon was saved out of was something he routinely wrestled with throughout his life and ministry. Maybe you are here and you are going through a time of depression or discouragement right now. I encourage you to pick up a book called *Spurgeon's Sorrows* by Zach Eswine. He shows how Spurgeon was honest about his depression and how he worked through it. Spurgeon is quoted saying, "I am the subject of depression of spirit so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to." Wow. That's from the prince of preachers.

He says in another sermon, "You may be surrounded with all the comforts of life, and yet be in wretchedness more gloomy than death, if the spirits be depressed. You may have no outward cause, whatever for sorrow, and yet if the mind be dejected, the brightest sunshine will not relieve your gloom. At such a time, you may be vexed with cares, haunted with dread, and scared with things that distract you."

What's the point? Coming to know Christ does not lead to an easy way of life. But it always leads to a changed life. Spurgeon knew that his ultimate delight came from communing with his Savior and seeking to emulate His example. He started by looking to Jesus to be saved and he kept looking to Jesus for the rest of his life, even though sometimes it felt like he was in spiritual quicksand and it was hard to move forward.

In a sermon titled Sweet Stimulants for the Fainting Soul, he writes about how his sorrows deepened his intimacy with God, "I have found that there is a sweetness in bitterness not to be found in honey; a safety with Christ in a storm which may be lost in a calm. It is good for me that I have been afflicted."

Trials actually increased his own dependence on Christ and love for Christ, "I have been seriously ill, and sadly depressed, and I fear I have rebelled, and therefore I look anew to him and I tell you that he is fairer in my eyes tonight and he was at first."

Please don't leave this room thinking that coming to know Christ leads to an easy way of life or that there won't be personal struggles. There will be for all of us. But we have the good Shepherd who never calls us to walk a path He did not walk before us. So, when we struggle, a great thing to remember is that you're not alone. Your Savior will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). Go to Him in your time of need and He will give you the grace you need (Hebrews 4:14-16). Let's pray.