

January 5, 2020
WELCOME TO YOUR JOURNEY - Part 1
"Laying My Foundation"

The Great Commandment

Jesus: "37...'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38This is the great and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39 ESV)

The Great Commission

Jesus: "'19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV)

Gateway's Mission: to lead everyone to become more like Jesus.

We believe this lifestyle is God's design and plan for all human beings.

"Walking" is a common image in the Bible that speaks about our life with God.

Genesis 17:1-2, Deuteronomy 5:33, Deuteronomy 28:9, Psalms 86:11, Isaiah 2:5, Micah 6:8, John 8:12, Romans 6:4, 2 Corinthians 5:7, 1 John 1:7, Revelation 21:23-24

Walking implies a journey, because the Christian life is a journey.

Jesus and the Bible show us a number of practices or spiritual disciplines that God's people have always used to help them walk with God.

Two Points About the Journey:

1. No journey begins without a **first step**, a start.
2. These practices have to be *ongoing*.

THREE PRACTICES THAT WE TYPICALLY DO OURSELVES

1. Read The Bible Daily.

The Bible is our single most significant source for what God wants us to know and what Jesus did and taught.

The testimony of Scripture and of the Church down through the centuries is that the writing, reading and preaching of God's Word is *inspired* by God's own Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV): “¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Isaiah 40:8 (ESV): “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

2. Give Money Regularly For God’s Work.

One of the most defining characteristics of God is that God is a Giver.

John 3:16 (ESV): “For God so loved the world, that he *gave* his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (*emphasis added*)

Jesus: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (**Matthew 6:21** ESV)

“Your treasure” reveals the state of “your heart” and Who or what owns you!

The Biblical understanding is that *we* need to give more than the *church* needs to receive.

Philippians 4:16-17 (NIV): “¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.”

Philippians 4:17 (The Message): “Not that I’m looking for handouts, but I do want you to experience the blessing that issues from generosity.”

The Apostle Paul understood that giving is a spiritual practice that grows generosity in us and directly models and obeys what Jesus did and taught.

Acts 20:35 (ESV): “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV): “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper....”

The Biblical guide is the tithe – ten percent of one’s income – but the key is beginning to give something and then obeying what God tells you to do over time.

3. Pray Throughout Your Day.

Prayer is simply talking with God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV): “¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Acts 2:42 (NLT): “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”

Prayer was not an afterthought but a foundational part of the walk of every disciple of Jesus.

See Gateway’s Find It Page (www.gateway-community.org/find-it/) for more on Reading your Bible, Giving tools and classes, and 21 Days of Prayer.

Next Week: Life With Each Other

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at gateway-community.org/Find-it

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