

EXPERIENCING



(W A L K I N G W I T H G O D)



Pastor Calvin D. Williams

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1. How many of you are walking with God?

- When your relationship is as it ought to be, you will always be in fellowship with the father.

WALKING WITH GOD

God created the first man and woman, Adam, and Eve, for a love relationship with Himself. After Adam and Eve sinned, they heard God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. They hid from Him because of their fear and shame.

Try to sense the heart of a loving Father when He asked that question “Where are you?” (**Gen. 3:9**). God knew something had happened to their love relationship.

2. Are you in right relationship with God?

- When your relationship is as it ought to be, you will always be in fellowship with the father.

- You will remain in His presence, enjoying your love relationship with the God of the universe. When Adam and Eve were missing, something had gone terribly wrong.

QUIET TIME WITH GOD

- Early each day we should have an appointment with God.

3. What happens when the God who loves us comes to meet with us and we missed our appointment?

4. How does he feel when he asks, (Put your name here), where are you? and you're not there?

(Jeremiah 7:13) While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.

- This applies to our daily time with God.
- We should keep that time alone with God, not in order to have a relationship, but because I have a relationship.
- Because I have a close walk with my Lord, I want to meet with Him and spend time with Him.
- Time with God enriches and deepens the relationship I already have with Him.

5. 6Do you struggle to have time alone with God?

- I hear many people say, they really struggle trying to have time alone with God. If that is a problem you face, let me suggest something:
- Make the priority in your life to love Him with all your heart. Why?
- That will solve most of your problems with your quiet time.
- People who struggle to spend time with God don't have a scheduling problem; they have a love problem.

- You have a quiet time because you know Him and therefore love Him, not just because you want to learn more about Him. The apostle Paul said Christ's love compelled or constrained him.

(2 Corinthians 5:14) For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

6. Suppose you were dating someone you loved and intended to marry. What is the primary reason you would spend time with that person? **Check only one response.**

☐ Because I would want to find out about their likes and dislikes.

☐ Because I would want to find out about their family background.

☐ Because I would want to find out about their life goals and future plans.

☐ Because I would love them and enjoy being with them.

7. When two people love each other and plan to marry, they want to find out information about each other. But that is not the primary reason they date. They spend time together because they love each other and enjoy being together.

- Similarly, you will learn much about God, His Word, His purposes, and His ways as you spend time with Him.
- You will come to know Him as you experience Him working in and through your life.
- But learning about Him is not why you should want to have a quiet time with Him.
- The more you know Him and experience His love, the more you will love Him. The more you love Him, the more you will enjoy spending time fellowshiping with Him.

Just as Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day, set aside at least 30 minutes for a time to walk with God. If your location, physical condition, and weather permit, find a place outside to walk. Use this time to get out of your routine. You may even want to plan a special trip for part of a day to be alone with God. The place could be:

- In your neighborhood, a wooded area in the country, a city park, a beach, a garden, a mountain road, a lakeshore, or somewhere private.
- Spend time walking and talking with God. If the location permits, you may even want to talk out loud.
- Focus your thoughts on your heavenly Father's love for you and your love for Him.
- Praise Him for His love and mercy.
- Thank him for expressions of His love to you. Be specific. Express your love for Him through worship.

❖ After your walk, or in your journal or write about your feelings. Answer the following:

- *How did you feel as you walked and talked with God?*
- *What aspect of your love relationship with God did you become aware of?*
- *If this was a difficult or an emotionally uneasy time, why do you think it was?*
- *What happened that was meaningful or joyful?*

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

- ❖ When my relationship is as it ought to be, I will always be in fellowship with the father.
- ❖ I will make the priority in my life to love Him with all my heart.
- ❖ I will have my quiet time because I know Him and love Him, not just because I want to learn more about Him.