

✓ **The Walk of the Ransomed**
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Let's pray.

In October of 1972 I was a 19-year-old freshman in college. Through the ministry of Campus Crusade and a young man named Duane Conrad my heart was captured by my Lord and Savior Jesus. That whole saga about the circumstances surrounding my conversion is another story for another time. Suffice it to say that I fell in love with Jesus on that cool October evening and that I wanted to live my life from that moment on as a thank you to Him.

So, I began to read the gospel accounts of Jesus life and ministry. I started in Matthew, and I just devoured it. The more I read, the better I got to know Jesus. Oh, I wanted to be like Jesus. When I got to Matthew chapter 20, I read this passage:

✓ **Matthew 20:25-28**

²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be

great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Wow, that was the answer. That is how I can live my life as a thank you to Jesus! I will become a server. I will try and serve others.

As I continued to read the scriptures, I saw additional things that I should do to be like Jesus. Oh, to be like Jesus! I really didn't know how to do it I just wanted to do it.

A few years earlier when I was 14, Disney came out with a movie called The Jungle Book. There was a character in that movie called King Louie. King Louie was an orangutan, he was the king of the jungle. He wanted to be like Mowgli who was a human boy who grew up in the jungle raised by the animals. Now King Louie wanted be like Mowgli, and he sang a song called I Wanna Be Like You, which was sung by Louie Prima.

Here are the lyrics:

Oh, oobee doo
I wanna be like you-ooou-ou
I wanna walk like you
Talk like you, too-oo-oo

You'll see it's true-ue-ue
An ape like me oo-oo
Can learn to be hu-oo- oo-man too-oo-oo.

That is kind of what I thought I should do to be like Jesus. I could have just changed the lyrics a bit to fit:

Oh, oobee doo
I wanna be like you-ooou-ou
I wanna walk like you
Talk like you, too-oo-oo

You'll see it's true-ue-ue
A guy like me oo-oo
Can learn to be god-od-ly-ee too-oo-oo.

I was sure that was what I needed to do, in fact I began to make a To Do list as I continued to read the scriptures.

I read 1 Corinthians 13 which was the love chapter, and I found a whole bunch of suggestions of what to do to be more like Jesus.

In Galatians 5 I read about my sinful nature, the flesh, but in

✓ **Galatians 5:16** it said, ¹⁶ *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

NLT says, *So, I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."*

✓ Then if **Galatians 5:22-25** Paul writes: ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law!* ²⁴ *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

²⁵ *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

Oh, I was beginning to learn something new. What I need to do is "walk in the Spirit". Easy peasy! Right? I have spent all of my 50 years as a believer learning what it means to walk in the Spirit which is

✓ **The Walk of the Ransomed.**

Galatians 5:16 says, "...walk by the Spirit."

So how does one "walk by the spirit" or how can I be guided by the Spirit?

✓ **It is allowing the Holy Spirit to develop in me the fruit characteristic of His divine nature.**

The word “walk” in Greek, means to walk at large especially as proof of ability or to be occupied with or engage in.

✓ **Proof of Ability**

(Football family. Dad coach, brother QB, me water boy). (5th Grade first practice, QB, RB, Long Snapper, Punter)

8th grade musical (Audition solo)

So, I was trying to walk...but my walk still seemed to be a list of dos and don'ts. As I grew in my understanding of God's Word, as I studied God's Word and was disciplined by some wonderful pastors, I learned about the tense of this verb walk implies

✓ **Progression or Steady Progress in Grace.**

When I learned that it was a progression and a steady progress in grace a huge burden was lifted off of me. It wasn't so much about me doing, but it was about God doing and about me growing in grace progressively little by little, step by step. I was learning the Holy Spirit is

in my life and He both monitors what I'm doing, and He empowers me and enables me. He gives me practical godliness in my life.

✓ **Carnal Nature and Carnal Nurture**

I knew about the flesh or the carnal nature. It was very evident in my life and in the world around me. I understood that. I didn't understand anything about the carnal nurture. Some sins are driven by my carnal flesh, the carnal nature, but other sins are driven are by carnal nurture. By what I feed on. What is my nourishment? Carnal nurture depends on the way one is fed, or one is bred. If you grow up in an angry home, you were in a place where anger was bred into you.

As Christians we really cannot use how we were bred as an excuse for sin. I am amazed by Christians who are quick to be angry and they say, "I am Irish and so that is why I have anger issues, or I get my anger from my Italian heritage. That culture is part of your carnal nurture. You are now a citizen of heaven, and the Holy Spirit wants to inhibit that sin and enable you to manifest the characteristics of His divine nature.

Growth in Christ increases resistance to all that is uncharacteristic of Him. We become more internally motivated as our hearts learn to inhibit disobedience, instead of relying on our minds to memorize rules and wrestle to obey. Learning to walk in the spirit will bring a gradual movement from mental rules and disciplines to an obedience rooted in the heart's judgments and convictions as led by the Holy Spirit.

✓ **Were you called to serve or be served?**

That is the question the Lord often puts on my heart when I am being lazy, or I am reluctant to help someone in need. (Tim & Guitar, Andy & preaching)

✓ **Yield to Holy Spirit**

It took me years of being a Christian for me to begin to understand The Walk of the Ransomed. I tried to be a good man even as a Spirit filled man and it was so difficult. I would focus on my weaknesses and the sin that often easily entangled me and I would stumble. I wrestled with knowing what was right and then I wrestled with doing it right. The

Holy Spirit eventually gave me an understanding about my walking by His Spirit. My battle with obedience was with Him not so much about my sin. The Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in victory, if we will yield to the Holy Spirit. If His Spirit says go, we go. If He says wait, we wait. If we will listen to Him and then yield to Him, we will be blessed.

Remember that when we walk by His Spirit it is proof to the world that brings glory to the Father. Yielding to the Holy Spirit allows Jesus to be manifested in your life.

✓ **Manifest Christ**

We manifest Christ when we yield to the Holy Spirit. That is we allow the Holy Spirit to manifest the divine characteristics of Jesus in and through our lives. That is the fruit of the Spirit.

Closing Prayer

Benediction Closing Song

✓ **Lord Make Me Like You**

Lord, make me like You

Please make me like You

You are a servant, make me one too.

Oh, Lord I am willing

Do what You must do

To make me like you, Lord

Please make me like You.

(Repeat)

✓ **Whatever You do Lord,**

Please make me like You!