

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NIV

grow

deeper
in Christ

Walking with God...

WALKING WITH GOD is a spiritual practice which involves specifically focusing on what God has to teach you through your surroundings. Especially in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), you will notice that Jesus spent a lot of time teaching as he walked from village to village, from event to event.

As Jesus went, people often joined him. They gathered to hear him speak. Jesus used those times to teach his friends about the kingdom of God, about his Father, about themselves.

Jesus often taught significant life lessons using objects in the surroundings to illustrate the truth he was sharing, such as:

*The kingdom of God is like this:
Seeds falling on different kinds of ground,
Lamps hidden under baskets,
Lost sheep,
Lost coins.*

You can grow deeper in Christ today by intentionally taking a walk

with God. This is sometimes called a parable walk.

Begin your walk in an attitude of prayer

- 1) Ask Jesus to teach you.
- 2) Walk slowly and notice your surroundings.
- 3) When something catches your attention, stop and ask what God has for you there.
- 4) Linger long and let God's quiet voice tell you the secrets of the kingdom. When you sense God speaking, you may want to stop and take note of it.
- 5) Spend as much time there as you feel you need. When you are ready to move on, do so. Ask Jesus again to lead you, to teach you, to speak to you.

You can walk with God anywhere

Walk through an indoor space: home, church, work, shopping mall, grocery store. Pray for each space as you walk through it. Think about the

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You can walk with God anywhere

Walk through an indoor space: home, church, work, shopping mall, grocery store. Pray for each space as you walk through it. Think about the

people who occupy each space. What comes to your mind as you enter these spaces? While walking, think about how God might see this space. How do you see the heart of God for this space?

When you are outside, you might stop at a huge oak tree that is beginning to lose its leaves. What might God be saying here? Use all of your senses as you explore what God might want to convey to you through

this object. What might the tree symbolize in your life or faith journey?

This kind of prayer takes time. Slow down, quiet your spirit, and allow your heart to begin to listen. Give yourself at least half an hour. Listening for God's still small voice is a vital dimension of prayer.

"Jesus then began to speak to them in parables." —Mark 12:1

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