

**“A New Walk Part III”**  
**By Jesse Rairdon**  
**Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Welcome to Christian Fellowship Great Lakes. If this is your first time, please come back; every Sunday's not the same. It's lively.

This month we've been doing a series, "A New Walk." The Scripture for the month, the man that was healed, speaking:

**John 5:11**      *He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.*

A new walk. A different walk.

Before we get into the message, I would like Brother Ed H to come up and lead in prayer specifically for the message, that I would get out of the way, and let God have His way. Amen?

**Ed H:** Please bow your heads for the word of prayer. Lord Jesus, we just thank You, Lord, for Your love, for the worship, and just being a great God, Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus, right now, we're going to hear a message, Lord, that's anointed of You, Lord; we ask, Lord, that You anoint our brother, Jesse, Lord. Lord, anoint him with wisdom, knowledge and understanding, Jesus; just speak through him, Lord. Lord, I ask that Jesse moves out of the way, Lord; that Your Spirit has full control over Jesse, Lord, as he speaks Your word, that You would speak through him, Lord. We ask, right now, Jesus, that You would anoint everybody here in the congregation that's going to be hearing that message. Lord, clean up our hearts, our minds, Lord; give us clarity, Jesus, to hear from You, Jesus. Lord, right now, Lord, we ask, Lord, in Your name, Jesus, we bind Satan and rebuke him, in Jesus' name. Lord, You've cast him out of here, Lord. Lord, we want to hear Your message, Lord, that You've prepared, Lord, that You speak through Your servant Jesse, Lord. We ask that the message we hear, Lord, that we'll hold onto it, Lord, that it will take root in our lives, Lord, that we'll learn from it. In Jesus' name, that this will be a start, that it will add to our faith, Lord. Lord, that it will help us understand more of Your love, Lord, the things that we need to hear, Lord, on how to have a better walk with You. Jesus, and that we would learn through Your word, Jesus, how much You love us, Lord Jesus. We love You, Lord, we thank You, Lord, we thank You for the message we're going to hear, and the things that we're going to receive from You today, Jesus, and from now on, for the rest of our lives. We thank You. We ask all these blessings, Jesus, in Your name. Amen.

Giving honor and glory to God, first of all, who is the Head of my life, who saved my soul, redeemed my soul. Surely, I was going down the wrong path, and only the blood of Jesus, *only* the blood of Jesus could save me. Anybody that saith so, let them say, amen.

We're going to cover five points today; maybe more, but these are just some things that God has been dealing with me about, even this morning. About two o'clock this morning, He said, "These are some things, too." The points that I had originally are:

Point #1- God Has a History Of Giving You Where He Sends You.

Point #2- We Need Joy In the Journey.

Point #3- We Need Patience to Endure to the End.

Point #4- If It Seems like You're off Track, Get Back on Track.

Point #5- We Need to Walk In Love.

I think, just because that's point number five, that doesn't mean that it's the least important.

## **Point #1 - God Has a History of Giving You Where He Sends You.**

He's not just going to send you anywhere, blindly, that He has not prepared for You to go. Every place you go, He already knows what you're going to go through.

**Joshua 1:1-9** *Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

God set them up for success. God set them up for victory. God set them up for a land, to give to them; just as He told Moses, He told, now their leader, Joshua, "This land I'm going to give to you. This promise hasn't faded. This promise is still real. Everywhere you walk, I'm going to give that to you. All the enemies that you think you have, that are going to try to stand before you, they're not going to stand up. I'm God; who are they? Did I not give that to you? But, there's a condition on that: You have to meditate on something. You have to be led. You have to walk with God." The Bible says, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) So, if Israel wasn't walking with God, would they get these things? No. "This book of the law," says verse number eight, "shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." We all want great jobs, good success, and all that stuff, money to pay the bills, money extra in the bank, nice car to drive, but we've got to put first things first. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). You ever been passed up for a job that you think you should've had? Maybe you need to seek first the kingdom of God, and see what's right where you're at, and minister to the people that you need to minister to, and then you can get onto the next place. It's really all about the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well. God will not take you to a place He hasn't already prepared you for, either. You're not just going to wonder, "How am I here? Why am I here?" He's already been preparing you; He's going to prepare your heart, He's going to prepare your mind, He's going to prepare you through the meditation in His Word, He's going to open up doors that no man can close. The world looks at success in what you wear, or what you have; God looks at success in who you see saved. Especially yourself, amen?

The Word of God says—some of these Scriptures I'm going to go through fast, so you could just make a note of them, and go back to them later. That's what you should do, for maintenance. Don't just take my word for it, go back and study the Word yourself.

**Ezekiel 36:27** *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

So, He's not going to leave you alone; He's going to put His Spirit in you to kind of give you a guideline, to kind of help you walk along the way. Amen? So, the promise is there, and the way to get there is there.

**John 8:12** *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

Get into God's Word and meditate. That's where your light, that's where your path, that's where your directions going to go. Yeah, it's great to get advice and good counsel from friends, but the best counsel you're ever going to get is right from God. Other counsel is going to confirm that, if you've been with God and they've been with God. It's going to show. In the mouth of two or three witnesses is every word established (Matthew 18:16), so let God establish it first, and then others confirm it, amen?

Pastor Paine called, and did share some things with us, and one of the things that I really got, and recommended, and reminded me of, he recommends to a new Christians to read about 30 minutes a day in the Bible. Why? Is that in the Bible? Is that one of the commandments of God? No, it's just a good tool; a good guideline. I've done a lot more, myself. For the first three years—not everybody can do what I did, but—every waking moment, any time I had spare time, I had a small pocket Bible with Old and New Testament, I was in that Word. You know what? that gave me a foundation that is still leading and guiding my walk, even to this day. The things that I teach, the things that I share, the things that minister to me when I'm going through the struggles of my life, those things come back to my remembrance and I meditate on them, and I've got a direction, I've got a purpose, and I can get up and walk again.

## **Point #2- We Need Joy in the Journey.**

That's something else he brought up. These are a lot of good reminder things. A lot of us know these things, but, sometimes, we kind of let the joy go away, and walk around like someone's poked little holes in our joy-bucket. It's all kind of empty, all the time. The more people try to pour in, well, you know, it just gushes back out. We've got to get that joy and keep that joy; spread that joy. The only time that joy should be leaving is when we're sharing with others. Amen?

**Nehemiah 8:10** *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

You know what's going to keep you strong? that joy. That's kind of like gas in your tank; you want to check that—if you go on a long trip, you want to keep an eye on that gas tank; if it gets close to empty, you might want to pull over and get some gas in that tank. So, joy is like that fuel for the journey, it gives us strength to do the right things. Make sure you're doing it for the right reason, amen?

**Psalms 16:11** *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Get back into God's presence if you need joy. If the only time you're getting into God's presence is Sunday—yes, that's good, I'm glad you're doing that—but that's not the only time you should get into God's presence. There's a lot more time, fellowship opportunities, special time with God; just set aside everything else, even turn off the Christian radio station. Just sing unto God, worship God, meditate on His Word. You've got plenty of time. Sometimes you've got to steal away at work, even if you've got to take a bathroom break, you know? Talk to God. He's there. He's not ashamed if you've got to that place to speak to Him. Amen? You've got to break away; you've got to be in God's presence, that's where you really fill up the tank. You ever get lost, and you try to fill up at the gas station, and all the lights are off at the first gas station, and all the pumps are closed; or some of those 'cash only' places, and you're like, "Awww!" God's not like that; the lights aren't off, the lights are always on. You can always get that joy fill-up whenever you need to. Amen? David said, in his prayer of repentance, "Renew the right spirit within me," and "restore unto me the Joy of thy salvation." (Psalms 51:10-12) Restore; when you restore an old car, you're trying to bring it back to where it was. "God, I knew what it was where I had joy. Bring me back where I was." I understand, I have tasted of the Lord's joy, I've seen how good it is. Maybe stock up on the worship today, and the testimonies today. There's more things I think we need here today.

**John 16:24** *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

There again, ask and you shall receive. Brother Armand shared about his heart to teach children how to pray. The three basic things that I see in prayer, ask, seek, and knock; they're all action things. If you want that, you've got to really strive after it. It's not one of those things where it's like, "Oh, God I could really use a shot of joy. Amen. Have a nice day." Sometimes you've got to really pray it through, amen? So, if you need a Joy fill-up, ask God; He has more than enough. How much joy does God have? It's like going to the ocean and filling up a thimble, and saying, "I only have this much; it's the size of my container," but you could use a tanker truck. The ocean isn't bothered, it never runs out. You could keep filling up that tanker truck. Amen? Keep backing up that tanker truck; more joy. You decide how much joy you're going to have. Really, you do.

### **Point #3 - We Need Patience to Endure to the End.**

This is one that's really hard for me sometimes. Patience. I tell you what, I don't know how brothers work with me sometimes. Amen? Some of you really know.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

I think we all fight weariness a lot. Sometimes it's in our job, sometimes it's in our faith. It's e3asy to get weary. A good example of running a race with patience is a marathon runner. They don't just sprint out ahead, to the front, and keep running as fast as they can. They take their time, and pace themselves

and understand that they're in for the long haul. It's sort of like counting the cost to see if you really have it to make it to the end (Luke 14:28). If you're not a Christian today, you're not saved, washed in the blood of Jesus, still kind of considering this whole Jesus thing, count the cost, first. Are you really going to do it to the end? consider that first, because it's a long race, but he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved (Matthew 24:13). I tell you what, when you have that patience, and you have that understanding, you're going to make it. Patience is what keeps us in the race to win it. If you have no patience you will burn out quickly. How many times have you seen those Christians that are so on fire, they run, run, run, run, run, then hit a wall, and then they're done; you don't see them anymore? We all understand we're going to hit the wall sometimes. We've got to take those times of refreshing; we've got to take those times of renewing so that we can get back up again.

**Galatians 6:9** *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Don't get weary in giving people rides to church. Don't get weary in coming up here to play an instrument. Don't get weary in being an usher. Don't get weary in serving communion. Don't get weary in saying your prayers. Don't get weary in aching your children. Don't get weary in encouraging your neighbor. Don't get weary in doing things that are right. You shall reap, in due season, if you faint not.

#### **Point #4- If It Seems like You're off Track, Get Back on Track. -**

Have you ever been on a road-trip with a group of people, and all of the sudden, someone says, "I know a shortcut?" Now you're wandering around in the hills of nowhere, running out of gas, running out of joy. There's a lot of amsens to that. That must be true story. So how do you get back on track? First of all, you need to fill up your tank. Find the first gas station and get some more gas in that tank, and maybe find somewhere to get a map and find some guidance, because if everybody in your car is lost, all you're going to do is keep wandering around in circles and wind up in the same place. Then you could be in one of those movies, 'The Hills Have Eyes,' or something; stop here and you might not live.

This is how you get on track initially, in case you were wondering:

**Romans 6:4** *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

A new walk. A newness of life. I don't do the things I used to do before, because I have a new walk. If I get a pair of shoes, that are wearing down, especially on the sides, because I kind of walk on the sides of my feet a little bit—I don't know if I'm bowlegged, but that's what I do, the sides of my shoes wear out—but I'll get a pair of shoes and I'll wear those things all the way through, but, my wife, God bless her, she'll buy me a pair of shoes before I'll buy myself a pair of shoes, but I'll put those shoes on, and—oh man!—I've got a new walk. It's almost like I've got new feet. They feel good. That's how it is with Jesus. It's a new walk; you feel good. All them weights, all them worries, all them burdens are kind of lifted off. It's like, "Wooo! I can dance a little bit now." Amen? We all have been given a new walk. We are different, because we have a new lease on life. You've heard that saying, "You have a new lease on life?" I have a different way of thinking. No more stinking thinking. People say "I don't want to become a Christian, they might brainwash me." My brain was quite dirty, it needed a lot of washing. I don't know about yours, but mine needed a good washing.

I like the Scripture Sonia shared this morning—this is one of the additions we had to the sermon this morning:

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Amen. To get back on track, acknowledge God in all your ways. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Sometimes it's hard to trust people, but it's easy to trust God, because God's always looking out for the best for you. Sometimes people don't look out for the best for you, and they break that trust, amen? Doesn't mean you shouldn't still love them, but God's the One that's got your back the whole way through. He wants to see you in heaven, amen?

**Proverbs 16:25** *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Seemed like the right job; seemed like the right place to live, but I find myself totally out of the will of God. How did that happen? Go back to what Sonia was talking about, trust in the Lord with all your heart, in all your ways acknowledge Him. Even if you think it's a small way, a simpler way, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path. Amen? I've made bad decisions. I've made wrong decisions. Took a wrong turn and got lost before. Even in the county of Otter Tail, Minnesota—that's kind of a funny name, but that's where I kind of grew up in my teen-age years—but I got lost on those back roads. I had to call someone to get directions. They said, "Didn't you grow up in this area?" I said, "Yeah, but I never went back in these roads." I got directions to get back out, found my way to a main highway and get back in the right direction. Be careful who you get your instructions from. Be careful who you get your guidance from. You ever have a GPS that kept trying to turn you in the wrong direction? Maybe there was some construction going on there... One time I was so mad, I took and ripped it off and threw it in the backseat. My wife looked at me... It kept talking to me, but I knew it was giving me wrong directions. Sometimes you have to get that thing out of your sight, out of your mind, whatever is giving you wrong directions.

**Psalms 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Did you ever stumble around in the darkness, and, all of the sudden, you add some light to the picture, and you can kind of see a little better? Here's a good quote I heard recently this week: "Slippery morals will cause you get off the path." "Slippery morals will cause you get off the path." So, sometimes, when you think a little bit of error in judgment is okay... It's like that ice on your driveway, and you have a little bit of steep slope, and you're trying to climb up it, and you're slipping, slipping, slipping... You've got to get rid of those slippery morals. Put them out. Amen? Read and study God's word, He speaks to us in His Word and from His Word. When I find myself off track, I pray and get into the Word.

**Proverbs 4:18** *But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

If you find your path getting darker and darker and you're kind of not understanding where, why, or what you're doing, you might not be on the right path. The path of the just—when you're letting God lead you and you're trusting in Him, is getting brighter and brighter. It's getting lighter and lighter; you have more understanding. You're like, "Oh, wow. Now I understand it even more. I'm not clueless anymore." Amen?

## **Point #5- We Need to Walk in Love**

**Ephesians Chapter 5:1-2** *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

It's easy to say "I LOVE YOU." The words just kind of roll off your lips. Those that have been married a long time, it's kind of easy, "Oh, I love you," "I love you, "I love you." If you stop showing it in your actions, sooner or later, that person is going to wonder if you really love them or not. If all I did was say I love my wife, and I didn't prove it in my actions; I didn't try to seek and understand what really pleases her and makes her happy and show her why I love her, eventually, our love is going to grow cold. There's a book we read before we got married, it's called "The Five Love Languages," it slips my mind the name of the author (Editor's note: Gary Chapman) but I recommend all those that plan to get married, and maybe if you just plan to work with people and want to understand love better, it's called "The Five Love Languages." It's kind of cool; look it up. Understand that sometimes we speak different languages in love. Sometimes we receive and give love differently, based, sometimes, on how we were raised. So if someone else receives love by acts of service, but you give love by words of affirmation, that's different; you're not talking the same language. You've kind of got to get on the same page. God's love totally encompasses all that; it's a totally different kind of love. So, we are to love each other as God loves us, and walk in that love.

Phil was sharing with me a testimony about the military, he shared with me Friday night that one of his co-workers came up to him and said, "You know, Phil, you don't just say the words, 'I love you,' or, 'I care about you,' you mean it. You always follow up with us. You always check on us and see how we're doing." So, Phil you are bearing that fruit, already, in your testimony at work and in your life. The boss came to the office and shared with everybody in the office, "This is a man of God." That doesn't happen all the time at work. So, you're bearing fruit. That's the kind of fruit, that's the kind of love—we've got to have that kind of care for everybody we come in contact with.

You can do everything else right and miss the mark on love. We can do everything else right, we can go through the motions, we can come to church, we can give people rides to church, we can do everything that seems right, and miss the mark on love.

When we sin, does God hold it against us? After we have repented and He has forgiven us, does He kind of hold it against us? No? So why do we do that to one another? Why do we hold so many things against one another? Why do we have division amongst each other? I, one time, I got a call from Pastor Paine. It was one of those calls we don't really want to hear. I had offended Parrish so much that he couldn't even speak to me any more that day. It was long before he became a fellowship leader and everything, but, we got past that, didn't we, Parrish? I forgot about that until just today, because when you move one, you move on. If we would have held that against one another, we wouldn't be able to work with one another. Yeah, we'd have smiled and come to church, and said all those nice things to one another, and greeted one another with a handshake, said, "God bless you," but if that bitterness is still there, it's still there. So, if you have that with someone here today, maybe you can resolve it, because you're going to miss the mark; you're not in a good walk; you need to get back on track. Amen? Give the Lord a praise. Sometimes offenses can have a real effect. We've got to work through those things together, amen? Especially those of us who have been on the road a while together, amen?

**1 Peter 1:22** *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

Unfeigned means un-faked. People can tell if you hug them, and didn't really hug them for real. If you just hug them out of obligation, "Yeah, I've got to hug this brother or sister because they're my brother or sister." People can tell the love; they can feel the love. Most of all, it's already going to be

known, because, when you're in need, they're going to be the first person to drop whatever they're doing and be there for you. They're not going to leave you out in the cold; they're not going to—they'll rearrange their schedule, they'll do whatever they've got to do to help you get where you need to go, or do what you need to do, or stop and pray with you, or take some time to fast for you.

**1 John Chapter 4:7-21** *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

Amen. I think that spoke for itself, so I'm going to leave the message right there. God bless you.

