



## Annual Leaders Retreat

### **“Walk With You”**

Sis. Techie “Soar” M. Rodriguez, Elder-Founder, TLF

February 8-9, 2025

#### **I. IN RELATIONSHIP**

In this age, many people succumb to the deceptions of the evil one and the world. But God tells us, "Do not be afraid." He gives us the assurance of His Presence, His Strength, His help and His Power (Isaiah 41: 10). St. Paul tells us in Phil. 4: 13 that the grace that we received from the Lord is sufficient for us to face whatever challenges that may arise.

Having a personal relationship with God is profound. In Ezekiel 37: 27, God promises to dwell among His people. He also gave us the power to become His children if we accept Jesus (John 1: 12).

#### KEY ASPECTS IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- Communication
  - Trust
  - Obedience
  - Intimacy
  - Worship – “You shall be my people and I will be your God.”
- A. God's Delight: That we may get to know Him
- Psalm 34: 9, "Taste and see that the Lord is good..." This is an invitation for us to discover how good and kind our God is.
  - Jeremiah 9: 23 tells us that God wants us to understand and know Him, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness.
  - In John 15: 16, Jesus said, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you..."
- B. God desires to be close to us. He wants us to be whole, fulfilled, loved and guiltless. God wants to establish a close personal relationship of love with us.
- C. God invites us to share in His wisdom and perfect truth.
- D. God's desire: Restoration. God desires that all men should be saved. In Luke 19: 10 and John 3: 16 conveys the extent of God's love for us and His desire to save us through His only Son Jesus Christ.
- E. God reveals His ways. We cannot accomplish God's work in our own ways because God's thoughts and ways are infinitely greater than our thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55: 8-9). It is the Lord who must direct our steps (Prov. 16: 9).

- F. God delights in an intimate communion with us in prayer. We need to make it a habit to stand in God's presence and talk to Him intimately every day. Jesus Himself was a man of prayer. Likewise, the disciples devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1: 13 -14; Acts 2: 42ff; Acts 4:31).
- G. God delights to reveal Himself to us for others. In John 13: 35, Jesus says that our love for one another will show that we are His disciples.
- H. God delights to reveal His purpose. God uses the metaphor of the potter and the clay in Jeremiah 18: 1-6 and Romans 9: 21 to illustrate God's sovereignty over us. Our purpose in this life depends on the purpose for which we are created.

## II. WALKING WITH GOD

- A. Walking with God requires a choice. Life is made up of choices. Tomorrow is affected by the choices we make today. In Deut. 26:17, the Israelites accepted the Lord's agreement that He will be their God and they will walk in His ways. Likewise, we, too, must make a choice to walk in God's ways.
- B. Walking with God requires a direction. Matthew 7: 13 illustrates Jesus' "narrow road" that leads to eternal life. We must decide to walk that road, the path of God. Psalm 23: 3 tells us that the Lord guides us along the right paths.
- C. Walking with God means walking at God's pace. We must walk at the same speed God is walking.
  1. God's pace is not to be confused with God's purpose.
  2. God's pace varies at different times and for different reasons.
- D. To walk with God, we need quality and quantity time with God. In 1 Samuel 3: 1-14, Samuel did not recognize God's voice immediately because he was not yet familiar with His voice. Listening and responding to God is vital in establishing a personal relationship with God. We need to have a regular quiet time with God.
- E. We must walk consistently with God. Consistency brings us closer to God. In John 15: 4, Jesus uses the correlation of the vine and the branches to describe the relationship between Jesus and believers. We must consistently abide in Him.
 

Consistent characters in the Bible: Elisha, Daniel

Inconsistent characters: Abraham, Elijah, Gideon, David, Jonah
- F. We must learn to wait on God
 

We must learn to wait during "Stop" traffic signs. In the same way, we must patiently wait on God.
- G. Walking with God means to make progress.
 

Before we walk, we stand. Before we stand, we crawl, and, before we crawl, we must be born. Likewise, our walk with God is progressive. We must grow spiritually.
- H. We must walk With Jesus. Jesus walked on the water, as narrated in Matthew 14: 22-33. He said to the disciples, "Take courage, It is I, do not be afraid." When we walk with Jesus, we, too, need not be afraid.
- I. We need to keep on walking. We must continuously follow God, our Shepherd, as He guides us (Psalm 23: 3-4). If we keep walking with God, victory is ours.

- J. Walk like Jesus in humility. James 4: 6 states “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
- K. Walk in the light.
  - Walk in obedience.
  - Walk following God's plan.
  - Walk trustworthy in your service to God.
  - Walk your talk.
  - Walk uprightly.
  - Walk with Jesus. He is the Way (John 14:6).

### **III. I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND**

What does the “Hand of God” mean?

1. The creative hand of God – We are the workmanship of God Himself. We were created in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1: 27).
2. The remembering hand of God – God assures us that He will never forget us in Isaiah 49: 14-16.
3. God's hand holds the future (Ps. 31: 16). We do not know what tomorrow will be like; only God knows (James 4: 13-15). Matthew 6: 34 reminds us not to worry about tomorrow. God is always in control.
4. The providing hand of God - Our God is a caring Shepherd who provides for our needs (Psalm 23: 1).
5. The moulding hand of God – God moulds us and develops us according to His purpose, just as a potter moulds the clay (Jeremiah 18: 1-17). He builds patience, meekness and long suffering.
6. The keeping hand of God - We are blessed, watched over and protected by our caring Father (Numbers 6: 24).
7. The directing hand of God - The Lord directs and leads the way we should go (Isaiah 48: 17).
8. The protecting hand of God - In Isaiah 51: 16, the Lord says “...” I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand.” God keeps us safe, even in the face of enemies.
9. The mighty hand of God – Psalm 118: 16 states “...the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things.”
10. The uniting hand of God - His uniting hand brings people together for worship, service and fellowships (Psalm 133: 1). United we stand, together we shall rise.
11. The other hand of God: my hand – In Exodus 4: 2, the Lord asked Moses “What is in your hand?” God used Moses’ staff to do great things. God uses ordinary things to do extraordinary work. God will also use mundane things in our life for His purpose. If we abandon ourselves in the mighty hand of God, He will lift us up. Let us put our hands in the hand of God.

### **IV. I WANNA HEAR YOU SPEAK**

In 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, the Lord called to Samuel three times, but Samuel did not recognize the voice of the Lord. He was not familiar yet with the voice of the Lord.

God is fully capable of saving us. However, our sins separate us from Him, thus, disrupting channels of communication with Him. Our wrongdoings and iniquities isolate us from God, and, as a consequence, God will not hear our prayers (Isaiah 59: 1-2).

In Psalm 81: 13-14, God promises to restore His people if we will listen to Him and follow His ways.

People are not good at listening. Thus, in Psalm 95: 7, the psalmist reminds us "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

How do I know if it's God and not just me?

1. It is confirmed. Is the voice you hear consistent with the Scriptures?
2. It seems audible.

Ways Jesus used to minister others:

1. Jesus was willing to listen to understand other people's perspective (Luke 24: 17-20).
2. Jesus gives His undivided attention.
3. The Lord listened to other's emotions, ideas and implications (Example - Wedding at Cana).
4. Jesus was willing to listen without interrupting. The Lord learned how to listen to His heavenly Father every morning in prayer.
5. Jesus spent a great deal of time listening to people who were hurting (Mark 1: 33-34).

THREE TESTS TO DISCERN THE VOICES:

#### 1) CONCRETE TEST

What does the Word of God say about the situation? The Bible is our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. It is our source of guidance for how we should live. The Scripture is inspired by God Himself (2 Timothy 3: 16).

#### 2) CHARACTER TEST

Many people seek only counselors whose words are appealing. However, the wise seek only godly counsel, even though it contains no flattery and is often hard. When we need to get some advice, test the person's character, if he lives according to God's ways. Check if the fruits of the Holy Spirit are being manifested in his/her life.

#### 3) CONSCIENCE TEST

Check carefully the advice you are getting, if it is in conformity with your conscience or if you are bothered and uncomfortable with it. The conscience is like an angel on our shoulder, urging us to do what is right. However, there is also a little devil on the opposite shoulder, who misleads us. We need to make sure that the advice we are getting doesn't lead to bondage and destruction.

**Scribes Ministry:**

Transcribed by: Teresita Florentino