

Daily Devotional

Date: April 8, 2005

(Contributed by Rusty Bolton)

Theme: Walking the Walk

Text: 1 John 2:3-6

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But, if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Thought: The sum and substance of the God-centered life is the certain knowledge that we have come to know him. Knowing him, loving him and having an intimate personal walk with him is the essence of the Christian life. It is the way we were designed and it fits and feels good.

The beloved Apostle John tells us how to "know that we have come to know him." He tells us that the inevitable, unstoppable sign of this intimate relationship is obedience. Not just a feeling we feel. Not just a doctrine we know. Obedience.

Paul Harvey has a sign in his office that reads, "If you don't live it, you don't believe it." Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "If you lack faith, act as faith would act and faith will come."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus not only to be my savior, but also to be my friend. Thank you for the close intimate walk that we have together. May the essence of our loving relationship always show by the way I walk the walk.

Reflection:

How does the thought of having Jesus as a close friend make you feel?

Why do you think obedience is a reflection of that relationship?

Is obedience a way to have faith, or a result of having faith, or both?

What do you think of Paul Harvey's office sign?

What do you think about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's statement?

Where, and how, does your walk reflect your relationship with Jesus? Where, and how, does it help build your relationship?