

Walking To Please God

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more” (1 Thess. 4:1).

Just what is it that pleases the boss? A leader in one of our state universities reports that those employees who take abundant and detailed notes when the boss speaks and volunteer for the difficult tasks which involve tireless labor and late hours, often gain their superior’s favor. While fellow workers may perceive a measure of insincerity in these actions, the boss usually notices the energy, enthusiasm, and drive and responds positively to it.

Is it possible for a human being to please God? We must agree that God is not pleased with everything we say and do. Concerning the children of Israel, although the Lord miraculously brought them out of Egypt, it is stated, “But with many of them was God not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness” (1 Cor. 10:5). We also read of those who oppose holy matters, antagonists who “please not God, and are contrary to all men” (1 Thess. 2:15).

While it is true that God is not always pleased with the human family, it is possible to please Him. We are informed that, “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Heb. 11:5). By examining a few texts in which this subject is mentioned, we can learn more about walking to please God.

Walking to please God involves a special people! Not just anyone can walk in a way that pleases God—only those who are the true people of God can live such a life. Those who are yet unregenerate, unsaved, are not in the Spirit, but of, in, and after the flesh. And according to the Roman Epistle, “So they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8). To walk in God’s paths, to please Him in any area, the Spirit of God must live and rule in us.

Walking to please God involves a single pursuit! We must not only have the Spirit of Jesus living and ruling in us to please God, but we must pursue to please Him at all times. It is impossible to please men and please God at the same time. Paul explained this to the saints in Galatia when he wrote, “If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10). Thus, we are called to constantly seek to please God and God alone.

Walking to please God involves a supernatural principle! First, the Spirit of God must live and rule in us. Furthermore, we must pursue the Lord’s pleasure and blessing. Finally, this pursuit must be done in faith, not in the confidence of the flesh. “But without faith, it is impossible to please Him” (Heb. 11:6). With the patriarch Enoch, may this be our testimony in this world. God grant it to be so!