

## “...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

**Scripture Block:** Pp 1:1-11

**Theme:** GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE

**Life verse:** Pp 1:9-11

**Today’s passage:** Pp 1:2

### Notes

### Application

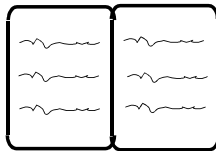
In our last few lessons, we have been investigating the grace of God as it relates to both our salvation and the Christian Way of Life. If it truly is a grace plan, then the Christian Way of Life is not about what we bring by way of talents, effort, etc.; but rather, what God provides. For what we “bring to the table” pales to insignificance in comparison to the provision of God, i.e. a new life, the enablement of the Spirit and the enduring Word of God.

By this point, you are no doubt ready to ask, “What then do we do? What are our obligations?” This is of course an important question. The Jews asked our Lord this very same question in Jn 6:29.

**Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”**

When Jesus tells them to believe (exercise faith), he is not telling them to do a work. Rather, he provides what must have been a shocking answer to their question. In essence, he is telling them the work that God requires is not a work at all—instead, it is to trust, and that trust must begin by trusting in the Savior!

Let me give you a simple model of God’s plan for the Christian Way of Life that focuses not on works, but on a faith- response to God.



**Grow in grace and knowledge**

**2 Pt 3:18**



**Faith is the victory**

**1Jn 5:4**

1. First, we are directed in 2Pt 3:18 to “grow in grace and knowledge.” We grow in knowledge through the study of the Word of God. To do so we must choose to study the Word, sit under teaching, meditate upon it, etc. Perhaps you are thinking, “Finally, here is something that I have to do!” It is true, you will be “doing”, but let me show you how this remains in the realm of grace, and at its core is a faith response on our part. We have been taught the Word is “God-breathed” as well as alive and

powerful. We have been taught the Word is the very mind of Christ and will never pass away. Are we going to trust this to be so, and as a result choose to “hide the word in our heart that we might not sin against thee”? Furthermore, it is only because of the human spirit that God gives us as part of salvation that we can understand spiritual truth. Most importantly of all, we have been given a teacher to “lead us into all truth” that is the truths of the Word of God. Can’t this best be described as God provides, and we respond? That would make the growth of the believer a grace provision of God.

2. So what’s up with the Nike athletic shoe? 1Jn 5:4 is a very important verse in terms of establishing the role of the believer in the plan of God. The previous verses lay out the requirement for us to obey the commands of God as well as the fact that the child of God has overcome the world. Sounds like a pretty tall order. However, 1Jn 5:4 makes clear the means by which we accomplish what God requires.

**“This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”**

The Greek word for victory is “nike”. When all is said and done, the requirement for the believer is to dependent upon God, for Jesus Christ is the victor and he has already won the victory. Ours is to depend upon him—through thick and thin. And lest you think the emphasis is on the “strength” of our faith, let me give you an illustration from the Old Testament. Shortly after the Israelites left Egypt, they came under attack by the Amalekites (Ex 17). While Joshua led a group in counterattack, Moses overlooked the battle holding his arms and staff toward heaven. This is analogous to us coming in contact with the promises in God’s Word and trusting in them. However, as the battle wore on, Moses arms grew fatigued and started to drop. As they did so, the Israelites began to lose the battle. So Aaron and Hur came alongside Moses and held his arms high and steady. As they did so, the Israelites continued to be victorious. This is to teach us that although we may start off well in terms of trusting the promises of God, the circumstances and attacks of this world may cause our faith to waiver. It is essential for us to know that the Christian Way of Life is not about our strength—not even the strength of our faith! For we are to keep our eyes on the Lord and through his Spirit he will come alongside and strengthen and buttress our faith in the face of every difficulty.

Two simple reminders: grow through the intake of the Word of God and depend upon the truth contained therein. It seems as if God is the provider and we are the recipient of his provision. In this way God gets the glory. What might be a good summary term for such a plan? Why don’t we call it grace!