

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

There are some people who blame their walk with the Lord, or should I say, lack of walk with the Lord, on the pastor. Maybe you are one who thinks like that or know others who do. Well, here is my response to that.

“That makes about as much sense of your kids blaming you that they are failing in school because you are not doing their homework for them.”

I know that sounds ridiculous, because it is. But that’s exactly what you are saying when you are blaming someone else, be it your pastor, your parents, your spouse, your friends or anyone else for the way your walk with the Lord is. It would also be like me saying to another guy, *“Hey dude, my marriage is failing because you bought flowers for your wife, but you didn’t buy any for my wife too, so it’s your fault my marriage is failing.”* Which, once again sounds utterly ridiculous, because it’s up to me to buy my own wife flowers to show her that I love her, just like it’s your own responsibility to spend time with the Lord, and to be in His word and in prayer everyday. It’s not the responsibility of your pastor or anyone else to maintain the relationship between the Lord and you, that’s between Him and you.

So, are you struggling in your walk with the Lord? If you are, who are you blaming? Your pastor, the elders in the church, your spouse, your family, your kids, your friends, your coworkers, the dog, the weather, the holidays...?

If my marriage is failing, it’s up to me to make it right with my wife. I will not go to a friend and tell them to go talk to my wife and fix my marriage, or I would not go pay someone to go fix my marriage for me. NO, I have to make the effort to do so myself, and it MUST be ME doing it, because that shows my wife how much I really love her. But if I send someone else, that tells her that others things are more important to me, therefore, I am sending someone in my place instead.

The same is true with each and every one of us and our own relationship with the Lord. It’s up to you to determine how much of God you want in your life, just enough to get you to each Sunday so the pastor can fill you up with another message so you can go long on that one message all week, not spending any other time with the Lord.

Or are you filled with your relationship with the Lord, because you spend as much time as you can in His word and prayer daily, singing worship songs to Him throughout the day, everyday, and your relationship is so close that others can tell you are walking with God.

Just like you can tell that someone is married by the ring around their finger, but you can tell they are married and in love the way they talk about their spouse and how wonderful he or she is.

So let the engagement ring that the Lord has given to us as His bride, be fixed around your heart, and may others know that you have your own, personal relationship with the Lord, simply by the way you spend time with Him, and how you talk about Him!

- † **Psalm 26:2** *Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.*
- † **Jeremiah 17:9-10 (MSG)** *"The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out. But I, GOD, search the heart and examine the mind. I get to the heart of the human. I get to the root of things. I treat them as they really are, not as they pretend to be."*
- † **Deuteronomy 4:29** *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*