



I want to share with you some of the thoughts I spoke about this past Sunday at W@9. Our theme was to "Walk the Walk." It's so sad to see that as followers of Jesus we have forgotten how to walk in his footsteps. You see to walk as Jesus walked and to live like Jesus lived means that we must have a new outlook on life. Jesus came to comfort the widow and the fatherless. He came to minister to the homeless and to welcome the outcasts. He healed the sick and took care of those in need. He fed the hungry and he freed the oppressed. He lifted up the broken and brought peace to those who were hurting. He forgave the prisoner and he pursued the lost in order for them to believe.

This is the type of blueprint we need our lives and for our church. We are not in the construction business, we don't need to build bigger churches, no, we need to build churches that reflect the character of Jesus to world that is in search of hope. I don't believe that people have given up on Jesus, even though stats show us the decline in church attendance. I just think they have given up on church and what it has become in so many instances. If you and I lived lives that were more like the way Jesus lived then our churches would be overflowing because people would see authenticity, love, support, hope and salvation lived out before their very eyes. I know when we talk about the "BIG E" word, evangelism, we come up with excuse after excuse why we can't do it. It's just not me, I'm not that type of person, I don't want to offend anyone. My friends when we don't

share our faith, when we stop evangelizing, we actually offend God! Why do I say that? Well, throughout the New Testament we are told to "GO" and share the Gospel. This is one thing that God has commanded us as his followers to do and we tend to let him down so badly.

We are not good at pursuing the lost and helping them believe because if we where our church would be displaying "FULL HOUSE" signs every week. The lost are not worried if we are Presbyterian or Methodist, Baptist or Episcopalian, they aren't interested in labels, they are interested in finding a way to survive the day, to find have purpose, acceptance, to know love, to be in a community that will support and care for them and their family.

Jesus hasn't lose his appeal, but for sure we as Christians seem to have lost our appeal to those watching in. They aren't tuning into our channel anymore, so to speak, they are scrolling on by, looking for something that really meets their needs. We have to get back to being Prime time viewing and with that comes Prime time commitment. Sadly we have even lost our appeal to the members within our churches. We need to stop this, we need to turn the tide and we need to live lives that attract others to Jesus. We need people to get excited about their faith. We have to stop putting God second, third or 23rd in our lives and make him NUMBER 1. If others don't see that in you and me then why on earth would they want any part of it? If our children and grandchildren don't see our commitment and our love of Jesus, why should they be interested in church or God?

Today many Christians are walking the walk of the world and not walking the walk that Gods calls them to. We can't take vacations from God and expect to pick up where we left off. Time away from God results in a stunted spiritual growth. When we stop growing, we become less and less like Jesus. Here is my challenge to us all. Will you join me in this new walk together - let's call it our Power Walk. A walk powered by the Holy Spirit, that is focused on us becoming more like Jesus and sends us to pursue the lost. If we can buy into it, we will see growth in our own lives and we will see growth in the numbers of people coming to church. We are called to Go. So, my prayer today is that all us will get a Spiritual Makeover that helps us to look more like Jesus day by day, through our words, our actions and the way we live our lives. Let's take this challenge to "Go and Grow" and let's see results that will have an eternal impact on those around us.

