

Wow! September 7 and it feels like October outside! Lori and I were up in Avery county this weekend, and there was already yellows and reds on some of the leaves. Quite an early fall, it seems like!

I hope you're doing well and walking in God's blessing. You know, it takes a deliberate choice on our part to "walk" with God. Doug Terry came by the office today to visit. Before he left, he asked if I had time to go walking with him. I asked him for how long? He said, "an hour!" He wasn't out for a little stroll—he meant to really WALK! He loves the exercise it gives him and the energy and wellbeing it provides. Sadly, I had to decline as I didn't have an hour at that point in my day. But that's OK—perhaps I can take an hour long walk with Doug on a different day.

But that's Doug, not God. God calls me to walk with Him each and every day. Do I have time for Him, or do I find excuses? I'm not talking about a physical walk—I'm talking about the spiritual journey we're on, about being in step with God's plan and God's will. Enoch walked with God. Adam and Eve would walk with God in the garden in the cool of the evening. Walking isn't an unconscious act---we CHOOSE to walk, don't we? Passive faith really doesn't do us much good. Yes, there are times to wait upon the Lord, to rest in the Lord, to be still and know that He is God. But we are on a journey, and we are told to WALK with God as well. I sent an email a couple weeks ago about walking in the Spirit—how we keep our hearts and minds set on God's voice and leading. But today I want to encourage you in the ACT of walking—the physical, spiritual, emotional CHOICE to get up and walk and follow Jesus!

I encourage you today to ask yourself: am I deliberately, intentionally WALKING with the Lord? Am I choosing to spend time in prayer, to meditate on God's Word, to allow Him to speak to me and correct me where needed? Is He the one choosing where I direct my life, or am I guiding my footsteps? Am I walking with God, or floating along? Am I showing effort and desire to pursue God, to follow Him wherever He may lead?

If your answer is 'no,' then today's a good day to put on some walking shoes and start walking!

**Here are a few verses for you to meditate on today as you feed on God's Word:**

*Jeremiah 7:23 but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you.*

*Deuteronomy 5:33 Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.*

*1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

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## Stuff to remember:

~Tonight I finish the Bible study on the book of Galatians. We have other adult classes as well that will bless you. The youth are going to have a tremendous time of worship and Word with pastors Andy and Brinly, and Pastor Lori has a wonderful evening planned for our children. **Come be a part of all that we have for every age on Wednesday nights, starting at 7 p.m.**

~**Sunday at 6 p.m. is our annual “singing on the grounds.”** If the weather’s clear, we’ll be outside in the parsonage yard and playground, and if it’s raining, we’ll just move indoors. Our men’s team will be cooking the burgers, but help us with sides, drinks and deserts! Several of our church friends will be playing instruments, singing solo’s or duets or groups, there’s some comedy in there and all sorts of fun—the stage is open to all genders and ages, so let Bruce Phelps know if you’d like to perform. But whether you perform or not, **DO** come out for the fun, food and friendship. (oh, and bring lawn chairs if you like).

~**Our new member’s class starts this Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.** This is a 4 week class that goes over who we are as a church, our doctrines and vision, and how you fit in with us! Please sign up or let the office know if you are going to attend, so we can have enough materials.

~Finally, if you’ve been attending 6 months or less here at First Assembly, **we have a special time planned for you on Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>. We’re providing a great lunch for all the “newcomers” right after the service,** and you’ll get to know each other and the pastoral staff and church board better during this time. Do RSVP with the office, please, and let us know how many are in your party.

Have a blessed and terrific week in the Lord! I look forward to what our Savior has in store for us in the days and weeks ahead!

Pastor Daniel