
Continue Walking with the Lord

Continue walking with the Lord after being released from prison. That's good advice, but it may prove difficult to follow that good advice. Old friends, and even people who are not your friends, may make it easy to slip back into old habits and old ways. They may make it easy to do the kinds of things you did that got you into trouble in the first place. So, what can you do to keep walking with the Lord?

The first step is obvious. In order to continue walking with the Lord, you've got to get started walking with the Lord. If you've never received Jesus Christ as your Savior, then you need to begin before you can continue walking with Him.

Here are some suggestions that should help you to continue walking with the Lord:

1. Remember what you have believed. Jesus Christ saved you from your sin. He died on the cross, was buried, rose again in three days (according the ancient Jewish way of counting days), and by this he saved us from our sin (see 1Corinthians 15, especially verses 15:3-8).
2. Read the Bible and pray regularly. A devotional guide like *Our Daily Bread* can also be very helpful. You can get a free subscription by writing to Our Daily Bread Ministries, PO Box 2222, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-222.
3. Continue in fellowship with committed Christians. Every church has a personality of its own. Try to find a church that is slow to criticize others and welcomes people who share their experiences of walking with Christ.
 - a. Ask other Christians
 - b. Call churches on the phone
 - c. Contact Salvation Army or Teen Mission and ask for churches in your area.

One of the best things you can do to continue walking with Christ is to become part of a church where other believers will encourage you in your walk with Christ. Here is some advice from a man who made a strong commitment to a pastor and a church before he went to serve time in prison.

Finding a Church Home and Staying Rooted in Christ

Coming to know Christ, and picking up your cross, and following Him can at first seem scary. This is only because we put all kinds of demands on ourselves. Finding a church home is one of the most important aspects of living a Christian life.

On my quest to find a church home, I went to a number of churches. I had many questions to ask the pastors. At the time I was facing a lot of time in prison, and I really wanted to have a support system in place. After many churches, and many disappointments, I was lead by the Spirit, to a Bible-believing church that didn't feel threatened by me being in their midst.

I guess my advice to anyone going home from prison is they need to realize that we are Christians and of the family of God (and Christ), but we are human. And so are the people of the church. Put yourself in their shoes. What kind of questions would have?

After finding my church home I had an uphill battle, because the people of my church were not as happy to have me there as the pastor was. It was kind of a trial period, so to speak. I have come to realize that when people get into trouble they know how to seek God. But the people of my church wanted to know if I really was seeking God, or trying to use God, like so many others before me. I thank God that I didn't give up. Finding a good church home has helped me grow in knowing the Lord, and it has kept me rooted in His Word.

Remember, things are going to be hard at times. Just because you have come to know Christ doesn't exempt you from trials and the everyday journeys everyone faces in life. These trials will help you to grow in the saving grace of our Lord. Stay focused on Christ and know that Jesus will always be with you in this phase of your life.

Anonymous