

Biblical Counseling Center introduces **eCounselor's Weekly** guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

"Mother, May I?" by Ron Allchin

"*Mother, may I?*" was a childhood game that I would play with a group of friends. It was a frustrating game because if you weren't the friend of the person designated as *Mother* you couldn't win the game since *Mother* controlled the outcome of every round.



With two lines about 30 feet apart, *Mother* stood on one line and all other players stood on the other. *Mother* would command each player to take a certain number and kind of steps (baby steps, giant steps, etc.). Once commanded the person had to ask, "*Mother, May I?*" *Mother* could then say, "Yes you may" or "No you may not." If you didn't ask permission, you had to return to the starting line. She would then call on the next person. The first to cross her line got to be mother for the next round.

Our spiritual walk has similarities to the game.

The first and most obvious is that in our spiritual walk God desires for us to be progressing toward a goal of greater conformity to His Son. The word "walk" (step by step forward progress) is used repeatedly in Paul's (Eph) and John's (3 Jn) writings. It is obvious that God wants us to be moving forward.

A second similarity is that God also commands us to make certain steps. He doesn't want us to stay in the same place. For some it may be a baby step; for others it may be a giant step. Every time we are in the Word or sitting under Biblical preaching and teaching, God is asking us to make a step to progress forward in our life. Maybe God is asking you to take a step toward a consistent devotional life, prayer life, or giving life. Maybe He is commanding you to get some help on your anger or to better demonstrate your roles as father, mother or child. But this is true: He wants you to take a step!

Our spiritual walk has differences to the game.

We don't have to ask God's permission to take a step. If God is asking you to take a step in your spiritual walk, just take the step and watch God empower and bless you in your obedience for taking it.

God will never say, "No, you may not take a step" that He has commanded. When a step is based on His Word, you never have to worry about God not giving you permission or sending you back to the starting line for not asking. God is excited with us as we glorify Him through forward progress. He wants each of us to take a step, today.

Our Spiritual walk is not a game to God.

God isn't playing games with us. He loves us and wants us to make progress because it brings the greatest glory to Him and brings the blessings of God to our lives. God always wants to bless His children and He promises spiritual success and prosperity to those who walk according to His Truth (Josh 1:8).

What step is God asking you to take today? Is it a baby or giant step? Do you need someone to discuss that step with you? Do you need an accountability partner as you take that step?

This I say therefore and affirm it in the Lord, that you should no longer walk like the unbelievers walk...but walk in love...walk as children of light...walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise...." (Eph 4:17, 5:2,8,15)

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