Amos, whose name means “Burden Bearer,” was from a small village of Tekoa, 12 miles south of Jerusalem, where he was a shepherd and keeper of sycamore trees (1:1; 7:14-15). Although he was not a prophet by profession (7:14), he became one when God called. Amos was a “country boy” being sent to prophesy against the high society of Israel. Amos is like a shooting star streaking through the Old Testament, appearing out of the fields of Tekoa, prophesying about the sins and doom of Israel and vanishing never to be heard again. His message can be divided into three main sections: Condemnation of Heathen Nations (1-2); Condemnation of Israel (3-6) and Future Prophecies (7-9).

Before disappearing, Amos leaves with us a simple, yet profound statement worthy of our consideration, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). The question is rhetorical: two cannot walk together unless they are in agreement. In this study we will consider what it means to be in agreement with God and walk together with Him for the purpose of answering the question: Am I walking with God?

We Must Walk On The Same Road As God

Our culture is one that proudly promotes going your own way and doing your own thing, but walking with God requires conformity to His will (Matthew 7:21). There are many who suggest that all are going to the same place, but taking different roads to get there, yet Jesus says there is only one way (John 14:6). Others simply refuse to walk the path that God has paved (Jeremiah 6:16). It is foolish to seek out your own path because God’s road is a better, smoother road (Isaiah 35:8) and it is a protected road (Isaiah 35:9-10). Enoch is specifically mentioned as “walking with God” (Genesis 5:22). Notice that it was Enoch who walked with God, not God walking with Enoch. David said the Lord led him in paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3), but it was up to David to follow the Lord, instead of the Lord going wherever David wanted to go. Amos said to walk together we must agree, but it is man’s responsibility to agree with the Lord, rather than saying, “If God does this or this, then I’ll walk with Him.”

We Must Walk In The Same Direction As God

If you have ever gone the wrong way on a one way street, you realize that just being on the right road is not enough; you must also go the right direction. A person can do a lot of walking, but unless he agrees to walk the way God is walking, he is going the wrong direction (Matthew 7:13-14) and is only walking away from God. “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (James 4:8). Again, walking in the same direction as God requires that we be in agreement with God, not in negotiations or conflict with Him. He KNOWS the way, we only think we know the way (John 14: 4-6; Proverbs 14:12). He is in the light, which means we cannot walk in the shadows/darkness (1 John 1:6-9).

We Must Walk At The Same Speed God Is Walking

If you have ever walked with a group of people (mall, amusement park, beach), you know that not everyone walks at the same speed; some are fast, some slow, some walk a steady pace. Not everyone who is walking with God will travel the same speed. Some are like the tortoise (slow and steady), while others are like the hare (fast and furious). Some grow rapidly, learn quickly and pass from babes in Christ to mature Christians who are able to teach others. Others need more time, attention and encouragement, and may still never reach the same levels of knowledge and abilities as others (Matthew 25:14-30). Sometimes we will want to move faster than God is wanting us to go. Jonah ran ahead of God by expecting, hoping and waiting for God to destroy Ninevah instead of sparing them, despite the fact that they repented of their sins (Jonah 4). We want to speed up the process when it comes to our personal growth, developing patience, converting the lost or bringing back the erring, but sometimes it just takes time. God doesn’t view time the same way we do (2 Peter 3:8), so we must “set our clock” by His.

We Must Walk Consistently With God

The biggest deterrent to weight loss is inconsistency; you cannot kill yourself in the gym and starve yourself in the kitchen for a week and then go back to normal the next. Walking with God is not an occasional, or even a weekly (Sunday Wednesday) thing, but a DAILY walk. A concert pianist once said, “If I miss my piano practice one day I know it, if I miss two days my friends know it, if I miss three days the whole world knows it.” Perhaps the biggest deterrent to my personal Christian growth, faith and living is due to inconsistency. “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23). What have you done today to show you walk with God? What will you do tomorrow?

Author Unknown from The Encourager
BIRTHDAY
Cleo Stone, 07-31.

ILL
Ralph Franklin was dismissed from Olathe Medical Center on Tuesday and returned to the Evergreen Center. J.D. James continues to recuperate at home. Betty James continues to be ill.

Those battling cancer: Cleo Stone and Leonard Purvis. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND
Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Ralph Franklin is in Room A10 at the Evergreen Center. Barbara James’ Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN
The Nemecheks returned from Abilene, KS on Monday night. The Marcums were attending a wedding last Sunday. Paula Stillwell was traveling back from Arkansas last Sunday morning. Susan Tigner was in Independence last Sunday. Chris Edwards was out of town on business last week. George Thomas was in Iowa on business part of last week.

FBS THANKS!
Our deepest thanks are extended to all of our teachers, helpers, students, drill leaders, time keepers and refreshment donors and workers who made our FBS a success. You all are appreciated!

POT LUCK DINNER
Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, August 7 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and great company!

ATTENDANCE
Sunday AM 33; Sunday PM 30; Monday 27; Tuesday 27; Wednesday 28; Thursday 27; Friday 33.

Those To Serve
July 31, 2011

BUILDING AND COMMUNION....................... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS......................... George Thomas
SONG LEADER.................................. Stanley Anderson
OPENING PRAYER ............................. John Carter
PRESIDE ........................................... John Dodson
ASSIST ........................................... Chris Edwards
ASSIST ........................................... Joel Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER ............................. Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER ......................... Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER ............................. Dave Parish
LORD’S SUPPER ............................... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY August 3rd

SONG LEADER ................................. Jeff Nemechek
INVITATION ................................. Joel Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday
Bible Study ......................... 9:30 AM
Morning Worship ................. 10:30 AM
Evening Worship ................. 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Ladies Bible Study .................... 10:00 AM
Bible Study ..................... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher
Phone: (913) 764-2325
E-mail: olathecofc@sbcglobal.net