

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:16-25, I John 1:9, Ephesians 5: 18-19
HYMN: Where He Leads I'll Follow

LIKE A DANCE

Do you like to watch dancing? I think you can find the best dancing either in old musicals or in modern Olympic ice dancing. Better yet, do we have any here who have enjoyed ballroom dancing themselves? I learned to ballroom dance in college. We had a wonderful time, and earned a credit- it was great! Later in life, when I joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, I fell in love with country dancing. We learned the two-step, line dances, the waltz and many others. I used to dance every night I could!

Recently, I heard something so interesting at a Bible conference. There is a verse in Galatians 5:25 which says, "If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." The Bible teacher pointed out that literally this means, keep in step *as in dancing*. I remembered that, and later thought it through, and I was amazed to see so many parallels between dancing and walking with the Lord! I'd like to share them with you now. (It's so neat how the Lord connects our past experiences with new things He teaches us, isn't it?!)

1. Good dancers always have the right connection. The lady places her left hand on the man's upper arm; the man places his right hand on the lady's shoulder blade. Without this connection, the man cannot properly communicate his lead, and the lady is left to trying to figure out what to do on her own- not good!



This is the same in our walk with the Lord- we, too, need to be rightly connected with the Lord through His Word. Without being in His Word, we are left to figure out our lives without Him- also not good!!

2. There is only one proper dance "alignment"- the man leads, the lady follows his lead. Some ladies do try to lead, but find themselves exhausted; the men also become frustrated because they can't do their leading!

For all of us who are in Christ, the Lord has the same rightful place in our lives. He is to lead; we are to follow His lead. When we try to take control of our lives and lead ourselves, we are in sin. We feel it, because we become exhausted with the burden and it does not go well with us. Only the Lord can properly lead us in the right way for our lives- that's why it's right.

3. Every dance is made up of steps. Every dancer has to learn each step to carry out the dance correctly. And of course, the two dance partners must do the same steps together; or there could be a painful accident!

We, too, have “steps” to learn as we walk with the Lord. We learn all we need to know by reading God’s Word, and each time we put into practice what we learn, we are in step with the Lord. Pretty neat, isn’t it?!

4. Even good dancers make mistakes. When a step is missed or a toe is stepped on, the dancers simply need to stop and start over again, where they left off.

When we get out of step with the Lord, or sin against Him, the best thing we can do is go right back to the Lord through confessing our sin and turning away from it. We need to do this as soon as we become aware that we have sinned, so that our close walk with the Lord can be restored. If we let sin “sit” in our heart, we drift even further from the near presence of the Lord, and fall into further sin. On the other hand, if we confess, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all of our unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Amen!

5. Every dance has music, of course, to dance to. Music seems to so captivate the dancers- they move perfectly in tune with the music- that we forget that they had to learn steps to do that!

Music has captivating power for us, as well. (You can attest to this whenever you have had a song that you just cannot seem to get out of your mind!) Because of this, the Lord has ordained music so that it could be used for its highest purpose- to sing praise to Him.

He gave a wonderful song to Moses and the people of Israel so that they would remember Him and all that He had done for them. He tells us to sing to Him, so that we will remember Him, too- this has many powerful effects on our soul, including being filled with His Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19).

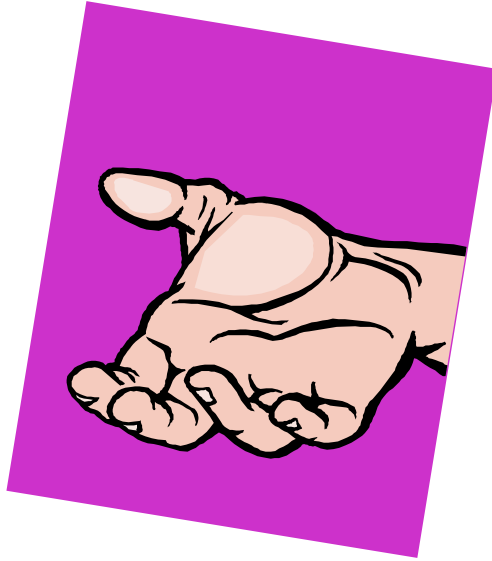
6. Good dancing is beautiful to watch, isn’t it? That kind of dancing doesn’t just happen; rather, the dancers spend many hours in practice.

It is the same with those who walk with the Lord. For those you know who have much grace and seem to know Him so well- they didn’t just happen, either. They have spent many days seeking Him and putting His Truths into practice. All of us can become more beautiful, spiritually, because we have the Spirit of God living in us, to help us each step of the way!

7. Lastly, every dance has a beginning; an invitation. The man extends his hand and invites; the lady stands up and accepts his hand.

The Lord does that for us as well. When He is drawing us to Himself, it is like He is extending His hand to us, to initiate an eternal covenant of love with us. Or, in the times when we, His own, feel so far from Him, we can even picture Him in our imagination extending His hand to us- to pick us up when we fall or bring us back when we have gone astray in sin.

Have you taken His hand? Is He is asking *you*, “May I have this dance?”



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