

“Walking By Faith and Not Sight”

2 Corinthians 5:7

INTRODUCTION:

A. Bible Readings:

1. **Romans 15:4** – “For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope.”
2. **1 Corinthians 10:6** – “Now these things became examples for us, so that we will not desire evil as they did.”
3. Read: **2 Kings 6:8-17**
 - a. v. **17** – “Then Elisha prayed, Lord, Please open his eyes and let him see . . .”
 - b. v. **16** – “For those who are with us outnumber those who are with them.”
 - c. The difference between Elisha and his servant was a difference between **FAITH** and **SIGHT**.
4. **2 Corinthians 5:7** – “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
 - a. This statement is found in Paul’s context of talking about a Christian’s future after death . . . And what a wonderful future that will be.
 - b. Being assured of that now, we can have the assurance to walk securely through the problems and difficulties of this life.
5. Definition of terms:
 - a. **“We”** – God’s faithful people – Christians – the church, etc.
 - b. **“Walk”** – to pursue a course of action or way of life . . . How one moves along during the course of his life.”
 - c. **“Faith”** – Believing and trusting God . . . Following His way and will daily.
 - d. **“Sight”** – Trusting in self and what can be perceived with the human senses.

B. What does walking by faith involve?

WALKING BY FAITH INVOLVES A CHANGE.

- A. A change in self. **2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things .”
 1. We call this:
 - a. Conversion
 - b. Becoming a Christian
 - c. Obeying the Gospel
 2. Christians are brand new people on the inside . . . And the inside controls the outside.

3. At the time of conversion, one does not merely turn over a new leaf . . . He begins a new life under a new Master.
 4. He forfeits an old destiny (Hell) and gains a new destiny (Heaven)
- B. Three basic changes must occur in Scriptural conversion:
1. The **HEART (affection)** must be changed from the love of sin to the love of God.
 2. The **LIFE (conduct)** of a person must be changed from sin to righteousness.
 3. The **STATE (relationship)** of man must be changed from the realm of Satan's rule to the realm of God's kingdom.
- C. How is this done? . . . Through obeying the Gospel of Christ!
1. **Hearing** the gospel – Brings faith and faith changes the heart.
 2. **Believing** the Gospel – Leads to repentance.
 3. **Repentance** of sins – Changes life.
 4. **Confession** of Christ – Changes one's allegiance.
 5. **Baptism** for the remission of sins – Changes one's state or relationship.
 - a. He is not guilty anymore.
 - b. He is not lost anymore.
 - c. He is saved from his past sins.
 - d. He is added to the Lord's church by the Lord Himself. Acts 2:47
- D. **Roman 10:17** – "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

WALKING BY FAITH INVOLVES KNOWING . . . BELIEVING AND OBEYING THE RIGHT THINGS.

- A. **Proverbs 14:12** – "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."
1. The path that seems right may offer many options and require few sacrifices.
 2. Easy choices should make us take a second look.
 3. The right choice often requires hard work and self-sacrifice.
 4. Don't be enticed by apparent shortcuts that seem right and popular but are not to be found in the pages of God's Holy Word . . . The Bible.
- B. **Obeying the right Book.**
- a. Not the writings of men . . . But the Bible. The mind of God in print.
 - b. Many human creeds . . . One Bible!
- C. **Obeying the right doctrine.**
1. **Matthew 15:9** – "And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

2. **1 Timothy 4:1** - "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."
3. **2 John 9** - "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."
4. **1 Timothy 4:6** - "If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished by the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed."

D. Worshiping in the right way.

WALKING BY FAITH INVOLVES MAINTAINING FOCUS.

A. Read: **Matthew 14:22-33**

1. So long as Peter was focused on Jesus, he was successfully walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee.
2. But when he began to focus on the winds and the waves, he began to sink.
3. What happened? He changed his focus . . . He lost His focus. His faith wavered when he realized what he was doing.
4. We will not be walking on water, but we may walk through tough situations in our Christian sojourn here.
 - a. If we focus on the waves of difficult circumstances around us and take our eyes off of the One Whom we serve, we, too, may begin to despair and sink.
 - b. In order to maintain your faith when situations are difficult, focus on the power of God rather than your own inadequacies.
 - c. **Hebrews 13:5** - "For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
5. Although we start out with good intentions, sometimes our faith falters.
 - a. This doesn't mean we have failed.
 - b. When Peter's faith faltered, he reached out to Christ, the only One who could help.
 1. He could have reached out to the boat . . . But it was too late to help.
 2. He could have reached out to the eleven . . . But they could not help.
 - c. Although he was afraid, he still looked to Christ . . . And Christ reached out to help him overcome his situation.
 - d. When you grow apprehensive about the troubles around you and begin to doubt your ability to see it through . . . Reach out to the Father who loved you so much that He gave His own Son to die for you.

B. Do Not . . .

1. Do not take your eyes off of God . . . There is not another.
2. Do not take your eyes off of the Bible . . . It is the only Book God has given.
3. Do not take your eyes off of the Gospel . . . It is God's power to salvation.

Romans 1:16

4. Do not take your eyes off of the Church . . . All the saved are in it.
5. Do not take your eye off of Worship . . . Our God must be worshipped.
6. Do not take your eyes off of faithfulness . . . The devil will lead you astray.
7. Do not take your eyes off of truth . . . Only it can make us free. **John 8:32**
8. Do not take your eye off of Heaven . . . It is the finish line for the race we are running.
9. Do not lose your focus . . . Keep your focus on the One who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. **John 14:6**

C. Do not ever loose your focus as a Christian.

1. The winds and waves of a religiously divided world will distract confuse you.
2. The winds and waves of man-made churches will distract and confuse you.
3. The winds and waves of human creeds and man-written religious doctrines will distract and confuse you.
4. The winds and waves of self-proclaimed religious leaders will distract and confuse you.
5. The winds and waves of Satan's efforts to reclaim your soul will distract and confuse you.
6. The winds and waves of large numbers believing and teach certain things will distract and confuse you.
7. The winds and waves of discouragement and disappointments will distract and confuse you.

D. Keep your eyes and faith focused on Your Heavenly Father.

CONCLUSION:

A. Walking by faith:

1. Involves a change.
2. Involves knowing, believing, and following the right things.
3. Involves maintaining focus.

B. Are you walking by sight? . . . Or, are you walking by faith. **Faith honors God . . . And God honors faith!**

C. Illustration: One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "**But I can see you and that's all that matters.**" God can see you . . . And that is all that matters. Have faith to do what is right!

C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**