

## Living The Triumphant Life – Walking By Faith

**2 Corinthians 5:7** declares, *“For we walk by faith and not by sight.”* If we are to live the **triumphant life** we must learn to walk by faith. Notice, it doesn't say, *“in faith.”* Implying that faith is a way of life; rather than something we simply step into! Hebrews 10:38 confirms this, *“Now the just shall live by faith.”* Therefore, faith is “living and active” - it's not a passive state which we abide in. **Romans 4:12** says, *“Who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had.”* We can walk in the same “steps of faith” that Abraham had! **Galatians 3:7** states, *“Know this, only those who are of faith are decedents of Abraham.”*

Faith, as a subject, has great diversity with many understandings, and also misunderstandings. We use the word “faith” so differently and with a variety of meanings. For example: *“What faith are you?”* Meaning what denomination or church affiliation do you have? *“Don't you have faith in me!”* Meaning, don't you trust me? And so on... Other views that are erroneous include: Faith is only given to special people. It is not really relevant to modern life; or it's a sort of power of positive thinking.

With this kind of reasoning we miss the most important point, and that is, God wants us to “walk in the steps of faith that Abraham had.” God wants us to **live by faith**, and it's like living with a new heart after a heart transplant. Just as a heart transplant patient has to take anti-rejection drugs because he is now living with a foreign object that's giving him life, likewise, we too have to take ‘anti-rejection thoughts and principles’ direct from the Word of God. Why is this necessary? Because **living by faith** is like living by something so foreign to our natural thinking that it requires anti-rejection medicine to ensure success! And this medicine is God's Word!

Most people don't look at faith as “living and active”, but rather as a habit or tradition; or something that they muster up when they are in trouble. Others only exercise faith when they are sick. But that's not what God's Word says we should do. We are to live by and walk by **faith** - and nothing else!

Faith is something beyond the five senses! Life becomes tedious if everything we experience is only received through the five senses. There is a sixth sense that needs to be experienced, and that is, FAITH. *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”* (**Hebrews 11:3**). Note, it's faith verses sight! The things which are seen through the five senses, verses the things which are framed by the Word of God!

Back to **2 Corinthians 5:7**, *“For we walk by faith and not by sight.”* Here, the apostle Paul is speaking to believers and he mentions a specific stance or action - walking! Walking implies the possession of life.

You can make a dead man sit or even stand in a certain position, but to walk necessitates the possession of life. In this instance, Paul is referring to the inward life. Therefore, the ungodly man does not walk at all. He is like a corpse. However, we can and do ‘walk’ - we walk in newness of life! We walk by the Spirit and walk by Faith!

The action of walking also implies “progress.” We are not just lifting our foot and then putting it down in the same place. We are always moving forward. We are meant to be going from faith in its beginnings to faith in its perfections. Moving from faith to assurance - from assurance to full assurance. Our faith must keep us moving forward, getting

stronger and stronger. Walking implies progress! Therefore, the genuine believer, when he is in a healthy state, may truthfully say... "I walk."

Remember, the whole of the Christian life which is implied in the term "walk" is influenced by the principle of **faith**. However, there are two ways of "walking" - *walking by faith* and *walking by sight* - and they are in total contrast. Most people naturally walk by sight. There is a popular saying that states, "Seeing is believing," therefore, people trust as far as they can see, and no further. The world system is always dependant upon its own view (sight). The highest degree of worldly wisdom seems to be; "see everything for yourself and do not be taken in by what you cannot see." Self-reliance is the name of this principle, and accordingly, the best and grandest thing that a man can do is to have faith in himself! The maxim is, "Know things for yourself. Take care of Number One. Make money - make it honestly if you can, but if not, make it anyhow."

However, we are expected to be the very opposite of this. We should say, *"I do not care about looking after the things that are seen and are temporal. They are like dissolving views, for there is nothing to them - they are but smoke and shadows. The things that are not seen influence me because they are eternal. They endure, remain, abide, and therefore they affect me because I have learned that I have, not mortality alone, but immortality, so I'm expecting to live forever. Therefore, I seek things which are like my own existence (the real me) - I seek the eternal!"* The principle of discerning and liking only what I can see, touch, and handle is the basic instinct of beasts and birds. But the principle of living by faith, upon what I cannot see, and upon something which I can believe, is one worthy of a child of God. As much as man is higher than the beast, so much (and yet more) is the life of faith superior to that of mere sight and feeling.

Again, there is something exceedingly ignorant about believing only what we can see. What, then, shall we believe? Even in everyday life the man who walks by sight must be quite foolish.

I say this because most things in the world that are useful cannot be seen - at least not by the eyes. A man who will not believe in electricity will have trouble at when the sun goes down. He lives in the midst of great inventions and yet he cannot account for most things in it because he will not believe in anything beyond what he sees. The wonders that surround him are all shut out from his mind. And this is most definitely the case with regard to spiritual matters.

If you only walk by sight, and only believe what you see, what do you believe? You believe that while you are living here it is a good thing to make the best you can of it. And that then you will die and be buried, and that will be the end of you! What a poor and miserable belief this is! But when you believe in what God reveals, and come to **walk by faith**, how your perception expands! Complex riddles are solved and the inexplicable is understood! Now you begin to comprehend things in a way which you never could have done had you walked only by sight. Now you can understand those trials and troubles that come to you! Now you can comprehend the complexity of your nature and the inward conflicts that you feel within you. You could never have done this on the principle of sight. But believing what God Word says, you are able to have fellowship with the only wise God - who leads you into all truth!

Note, walking by sight is such a deceptive way of walking. After all, the eyes do not see anything, it is the mind that sees through the eyes. The eyes in every man have some sort of defect in them - they need to be educated for a long time before they tell the truth. And even then, there are probably a thousand things about which they

do not always speak truthfully. The man who walks by his eyes alone will eventually go from bad to worse (because he discerns according to what his eyes see).

However, he who **walks by faith** can walk in the Son-light, for he walks with God, and therefore, his eyes are enlightened. Wherever he is God's light is still shining upon him! He trusts in the unseen and in the invisible, and his soul rejoices when present things are passing away. I don't wish to labour this point except to say one thing, namely, that those who walk by sight walk alone. Walking by sight is just this: "*I believe in myself.*" Whereas walking by faith is: "*I believe in God.*" If I walk by sight I walk by myself. If I walk by faith then there are two of us, and the second one is the Great "I Am!" Oh how glorious, how mighty is He! He is the All-in-All! He is the All-Sufficient One!

Sight follows its own path and eventually becomes bankrupt and is defeated. Faith walks alongside the King of Kings and there is no fear that Faith's bank will ever be broken. Sight builds the house from perishing materials, on selfish foundations, and what it does build rests on shifting sand and eventually crumbles. However, faith builds on the foundation laid in eternity - on the Rock that does not fail. Let me tell you, when you say, "*I will do so-and-so,*" you may feel very proud. But when you can say, "*God will do so-and-so, and I believe it,*" then you can boast as much as you like because there are two of you - walking and working together!

Remember, it is not "the sword of Gideon," but, "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon," and He can never be defeated. "***The life that I live I live not, but Christ lives in me,***" and this is the greatest advantage. In living by sight you have to acquire your own wisdom, your own judgment, your own strength to guide you. So when you get into trouble you must be your own deliverer, your own comforter, and your own helper. Or else, you must run to someone who is as weak as you are. And who can only send you deeper into mess you are already in.

Yet, when you **walk by faith**, should there seem to be a mistake, you have not made it. Should anything seem to go wrong, you did not steer the ship in that direction. And if the ship should run aground, you are not answerable and will not be blamed. It is your duty to be watchful and careful, and to believe that *all things work together for the good of those who love God and are the called according to His purpose*. But besides this, you know that nothing can go wrong while God is in the vessel. Yes, when Christ is on Lake there may come a stormy night, but every vessel gets safely to the other side. Hallelujah!

You have a choice to make right now! You can **walk by faith** and not see the storm, or you can walk by what you see and take the full brunt of the storm. You can go to ground, or you can keep your eyes on the Eternal God and walk above the storm. The genuine foundation upon which your faith should rest is this: "*God has said it, and that settles it!*" It is not, "I have experienced it," for your experiences often build on your fears. However, if "*God has said it,*" you can never be afraid! Faith repels fear. Faith makes you impervious (immune) to fear! Faith is now, and it is active! Faith sees and then does! Where is your faith?

**True faith** is "living and active", and it's something that God desires for us to live by and walk by, constantly.

- True Faith puts us in direct contact with God!
- True Faith erases the boredom of treadmill kind of life!

- True Faith causes us to do things we never thought possible!
- True Faith teaches us much about God! About who He is.
- True Faith is what God is really looking for in our lives!
- True faith starts small and grows as we mature!
- True Faith makes our expectations a reality!

True Faith causes us to live a triumphant life!