

**Introduction:**

- "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I **live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, NKJV)
- "For we **walk by faith**, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7, NKJV)
- "Then he touched their eyes and said, "**Because of your faith**, it will happen."" (Matthew 9:29, NLT)
- Faith vs. common sense. Faith governs the spiritual and common sense governs the natural (for some people.) What we need in more of in our lives is the walk and life of faith...to live a life with testimony because of faith
  - Dwight L. Moody said, "A little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul."
  - Charles Spurgeon said, "Faith obliterates time, annihilates distance, and brings future things at once into its possession."
  - "Faith Begins where the will of God is known." FF Bosworth
- Three things I want us to look at today concerning faith: Walking by faith, living by faith, because of faith.

**I. Live By Faith In This Flesh**

- A. Faith is absolutely necessary in the Christian life.
1. We are saved, born again, made alive in Christ by faith alone. Faith is absolutely necessary if one is to have a relationship with God. We are saved, justified, cleansed, and sanctified all by faith. Faith gives us access to our starting point with God.
  2. And if it takes faith to come into relationship with God. It will absolutely take faith to continue with Him. And if you want to live a life pleasing to God you will not be able to work yourself into that place. One thing is required: faith!
    - a) "**And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.**" (Hebrews 11:6, NLT) Believers should desire to please God and faith is the way to do it.
    - b) Living by faith is action based on belief and trust in God.
- B. "**My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**" (Galatians 2:20, NLT) NKJV - "the life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God." Note that Paul speaks of the born again man in this passage. In other words, "I quit living for myself when I became a Christian."
1. Ζωω, zao - live...the physical life of the body.
  2. Life involves self movement and ability. It has a vitality that enables its movement and Paul is saying, use that movement to be an expression of your faith. Use your life to be an expression of the kingdom. You are made alive, zao! Therefore, use your flesh to show that zao.

- C. Why is this life of faith important? Faith is where the promise of God and the work of God are made real to us. They following have to do with our salvation, our entrance into the Kingdom of God.
1. Eph 2:8-9 we are saved by faith.
  2. Romans 1:17 we live by faith or are given life by faith.
  3. Ro 4:13 we are made right with God by faith. Righteousness by faith.
  4. Romans 5:1 we are justified by faith. Made right in God's sight.
  5. 2 Cor 1:24 we stand firm by faith.
  6. Gal 3:14 we receive the promise of the Spirit by faith.
  7. 1 Tim 1:4 we do God's work by faith to build a genuine faith in others.

## II. Walk By Faith Not By Sight

- A. An exhortation to believers to walk by faith not by sight. If we are made alive by faith we are to walk by faith.
1. "Walking by Faith is simply being where God is and doing what God is doing."  
unknown.
  2. Walk: περιπατεω, *peripatéō* means "to walk around," and in a transferred sense "to live." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 804). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
    - a) Movement expresses life. Mark 2:9 Jesus tells the paralytic to "get up and walk." Jesus is calling the man to get up and express what has just happened to him.
    - b) Paul, in our passage, is calling for the believer to live life in such a way that our lives are an expression of what we believe. It also means that we have to focus on this expression of faith in our lives. So our movement in this world is an expression of Christ in us. We are moved by something that is unseen. No wonder the world thinks we are crazy. (It is interesting the Christianity takes the brunt of the worlds accusations...just sayin')
- B. Walk by faith is an exhortation to walk in the spirit vs. walk in the natural.
1. sight - means to walk by what is visible. In the natural things can be seen, felt, and smelled. The point is that we are to walk in a spiritual realm in which the invisible is more real than the natural. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 202). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
  2. The word walk in the bible often symbolizes the way we live, the way we act, and the way we conduct ourselves in this life.
    - a) This walk has reference to the fact that life is a journey, and the Christian is a person who is traveling to another country another place. A place not seen in the earth.
    - b) To walk by faith is to live in the confident expectation of things that are to come. The people of this world are influenced by the things that are seen. They live for wealth, power, and possessions. They live for the things, which this world can give.

- c) But the Christian looks beyond this world with a conviction that believes there is a better place. To be ignorant of faith is to be ignorant of God. Therefore the more we walk by faith the more we must know of God.
- C. A Christian should have their focus on the unseen and eternal realities. I am not talking about being so 'heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good.' I am talking about bringing unseen Kingdom realities into the earth.
  - 1. Believers are to be of the mind set that visible things are of small value because they are temporal and will pass away.
  - 2. On the contrary the invisible things are of great value because they will not pass away. They are eternal.
    - a) "...we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." (2 Cor 4:18, NLT)
    - b) "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand." (Colossians 3:1, NLT) How many believers actually do that?
    - c) To walk by faith is to walk by the values of the Kingdom of God.
  - 3. It does not mean we can't have nice things, drive nice cars, etc. It simple means that the Kingdom of God takes precedence over what is seen.
  - 4. Christians are to therefore regulate their passions, desires, fears, thoughts, actions, etc by the culture of the Kingdom. As we do we are walking by faith.
- D. "Walking by Faith is simply being where God is and doing what God is doing."
  - 1. Being led but the Spirit is a faith walk. Being led by the Word is a faith walk.

### III. Because of Faith

- A. A language lesson:
  - 1. Two blind men healed. "*Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of **your faith**, it will happen."*" (Matthew 9:29, NLT)
  - 2. κατά, kata - A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between two other nearby words. The word *preposition* means *positioned before*. A preposition will sit before a word (a noun or a pronoun) to show that word's relationship to another nearby word.
    - a) *According to* means 'as reported by' or 'as stated by' and refers to an opinion which is not the speaker's opinion. (according to NKJV) (because of NLT)
    - b) In this verse the healing of the blind eyes comes as a result of faith. Faith is made the basis of their healing.
  - 3. Other examples of the principle of faith:
    - a) In 9:22 woman with issue of blood is healed and Jesus says to her: "*But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; **your faith has made you well.**" And the woman was made well from that hour.*" (Matthew 9:22, NKJV) There is no preposition used here but the principal of faith is obvious from what Jesus says to her.
    - b) The Canaanite woman with demon possessed daughter. "*Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire."* And her

*daughter was healed from that very hour."* (Matthew 15:28, NKJV) Again we see the principle of faith at work.

- c) *"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you.""* (Mark 2:5, NKJV)
- d) All of these scripture encourage me to grow in faith. We all have issues that seem like mountains in our lives that we want moved.
- B. Jesus reveals the power of faith. *"Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and **it will happen**. But you must really believe **it will happen** and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours."* (Mark 11:22-24, NLT)
1. Look what faith will do! It will move a mountain.
  2. The key is to arrive at a place where God is trusted so greatly that all things become possible. It makes me realize more and more why so many were old with great faith. It takes time to build, be tested, and manifested.
  3. *"It will happen"* is said by Jesus two times in this short interaction with the disciples.

### Conclusion:

- To live by faith, you must be born again.
- To walk by faith, you must direct your life by the unseen realm.
- Because of your faith expect to see the unseen made manifest.
- On day six of the ill-fated mission of Apollo 13, the astronauts needed to make a critical course correction. If they failed, they might never return to Earth. To conserve power, they shut down the onboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a thirty-nine-second burn of the main engines. With no computer to guide them, they needed to come up with a way to stay on course during the burn. Astronaut Jim Lovell determined that if they could keep a fixed point in space in view through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually. That focal point turned out to be their destination—Earth. As shown in 1995's hit movie, *Apollo 13*, for thirty-nine agonizing seconds, Lovell focused on keeping the earth in view. By not losing sight of that reference point, the three astronauts avoided disaster. **APPLICATION:** Scripture reminds us that to finish our life mission successfully, we must fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). He is our point of reference, our focal point if we hope to fulfill our mission.