

# Walk by faith not by sight.

## Prayer.

Today's subject is **Walking by Faith and not by sight, But also I want to address feelings, especially spiritual feelings.** We should not forget our Lord has feelings, Feelings of Compassion for the Lost, "*Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*" **Isaiah speaks of our Lord,** He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. In the Garden He said, "*My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*" **the Holy Spirit has feelings.** "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption."

## Lets open to our Bible readings.

**Romans 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. [17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

**2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight;

- We all know the exhortations to walk By faith and not by sight.
- We know we look not at the things that are seen but rather the things unseen, because that which is seen is not lasting , but the things not seen are everlasting. We hope for that which we do not see and wait for it with patience.
- Remind yourself there is an eternity. Satan has done his utmost to erode this truth, getting people to focus upon the present, upon the here and now. Most young people today seldom think of eternity. They think how they can prosper and get ahead and live a good life now. So many churches preach your best life now... But your best life will be in heaven where there is no sin no thief to breaking and steal , no moth and no rust.

**Scripture is clear that the Just shall live by faith.** It would be foolish to base our salvation experience on our feelings. Even if we have great feelings of Joy. The one who lives by feelings will be happy, today, and unhappy tomorrow—and if our salvation depended upon our feelings, we would be lost one day and saved another, for they are as unreliable as the weather and go up and down like a thermometer! Warm feelings and joyful days are not the truest evidences of grace. A humble and repented will is a far more valuable possession. "*for by grace are ye saved through faith.*"

**No by faith we endure.** **Hebrews 11:27** By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

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(As seeing him who is invisible). To Moses he saw God more clearly than the fury and fierceness of Pharaoh. Moses saw Him who is invisible and drew on God with a mighty faith. The one who has set the Lord before Him will say, *I have set Jehovah always before Me; because He is at My right hand, I shall not be moved.*

True Faith always sees Him who is invisible, True faith rests in Him who is invisible, True faith is never moved.

We are instructed to live by faith, **but what if my faith is weak?** We thank God that even weak faith or **small faith is faith**, and that **weak faith is still true faith!** If you believe in Christ Jesus, though your faith is as a grain of mustard seed, it will save you, and it will, by-and-by, grow into something stronger.

**Some think that their faith is too little to make any difference.** But it is not great faith that we need for salvation, but even little faith is enough. Instead of being discouraged that your faith is so small and not very strong, rather praise God that you do have faith. Prize and value the little that you do have, and when the Lord sees, you are glad and thankful for the little, and are holding fast to the little, valuing the Little. He will multiply and increase it.

There are those who claim to have great faith, yet still they are worried and troubled. **The truth is when faith is weak, the rest will be weak.** Remember, “For we which have believed do enter into rest.” Rest is initially having peace with God now, and his love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, perceiving and knowing our reconciliation, justification, renovation (*I know I am a new creation in Christ*), adoption, (*those who realise they are adopted cry ABBA Father*) so as they rejoice in hope of the glory of God, its evidence, they have entered His rest.

**Hebrews 4:11** *Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.* This is not talking of Eternal rest one day in heaven. For we don't enter Eternal rest by our own labour, Salvation is a free gift.

**But this rest** “is the Gospel rest, the rest of leaning on the eternal arms of the Lord. that rest which believers **now enter into**, it is for this present time for them, many true believers are entered into it, yet their rest, peace, and joy in Christ, is not full; they enter by degrees into it, and it is by believing they enjoy more of it: and this is to be laboured for **by prayer, hearing the word, and attendance on ordinances; and this requires strength, and diligence.**

We know we are instructed to be diligent or to labour to enter that rest lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. **Hebrews 4:11 Let us make haste to enter.** So, from this exhortation I see there is something we can do to enter. It's not beyond my reach.

**There is a balance between feelings and faith.** When we don't feel God is nearby. When feelings droop like a plant in the midday heat when our head is hanging low like a plant that has no water. and everything seems hopeless. What is it we can do to revive and help our spiritual feelings and make us aware of God's presence once again.

Feelings are God Given, Even the Lord had feelings of Compassion. But as a Christian we don't make decisions based on feelings, we are not led by feelings. We don't trust feelings. We trust God's Grace.

How many, under the influence of excited feelings, have promised that they would never be ashamed of Christ! (*like Peter*). They have come away from the communion table, or the weighty sermon, or the Christian meeting, full of zeal and love, and ready to say to all who caution them against backsliding, "Is thy servant a dog that he should do this thing?" And yet in a few days these feelings have cooled down and passed away. A trial has come and they have fallen before it. They have forsaken Christ.

Let us not trust our feelings, let us never trust ourselves. But daily we pray *Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.* Psalms 119:117

We know very well that when faith seems weak that faith is greatly stirred by hearing Gods Word and thinking on Gods Word. **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

There is neither justification nor sanctification without faith. We "live by faith," "walk by faith," "overcome by faith." For this reason, we read of the "word of faith," the "fight of faith," the "work of faith," and we are of the "household of faith."

**If we are thirsty, John 7:37** In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst**, let him come unto me, and drink. **Thirst, that is the condition.** It was the opposite of what the chief priests and the Pharisees and the scribes did. They did not thirst. The Lord is a mighty flowing **river or life a river of blessing, a river of forgiveness.** Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

**We do not just put our feelings aside.** There is a balance - How can we serve a living God, a God who is full of mercy and compassion for us, and Full of Love towards us and be unmoved and unstirred and have dead feelings.

No, a living God stirs living feelings, Assurance, peace, Joy, Gratitude, and many others.

We should never allow satan to dry up all our feelings making us lifeless and cold. When others weep, we weep with them. When we see people lost and running full speed to a lost eternity, we are moved and we pray and intercede for them with weeping supplications. Prayer that is cold and unfeeling usually has no conviction behind it. Its lifeless. The person with no feeling is unable to devote all their strength to Gods service there is no urgency gripping their hearts to

proclaim the truth to all of them who are lost. "Blessed is the man who *feareth* always." This leads us always to ask of the Lord's help.

What about our feelings of Love towards the Father. What about feelings of gratitude for what Jesus Christ accomplished upon the cross for us. The moving Truths of infinite Grace stirred in my soul. So feelings, even strong feelings would never be wrong here.

CH Spurgeon puts it like this *"The Holy Spirit can produce within your heart all those emotions you are seeking for, all those desires you gladly would feel, all the melting, and the moving, and the yearning, and the rejoicing, which are significant of the Grace of God."*

Even great men struggle with doubt and struggle with discouragement. But it seems these great men had a secret.

Martin Luther the great reformer had a favourite Psalm He would sing when faced with Difficulties. When his good friend and co-worker Philip Melancthon was very timid and distressed Luther would encourage Him and say *"Come," "let us sing the 98th psalm, and let Rome and hell do their worst."*

**How looking to God brings courage.** What does psalm 98 say, - Jehovah has made known His salvation. Even to the ends of the earth. The earth has seen salvation. Breakout and rejoice and sing.

Faith arose and feelings of assurance arose. That their work was not in vain. They were encouraged to press on.

How often in the Scriptures do we find good men imagining the worst, and yet hoping for the best! Just look at the situation in the days of Habakkuk, after surveying their condition, and finding every sign of prosperity destroyed, Lets read just how bad it was. **Habakkuk 3:17**

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: says, *"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."* The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

When we turn our focus upon God and upon Gods word. Faith arises. And our feelings are stirred, our hearts are melted, new desires are kindled in my heart.

May we say, whatever our circumstances, I will call thee to remembrance, and exercise confidence in the Lord. Only you, Lord, are *"my portion in the land of the living."* And in whatever situation, however troublesome and trying, may I always be found saying, *"I will remember thee."*

We have been granted great privileges, we have access to the royal throne, by the blood of Jesus. A place where there is rich help. **As seen in Psalms 104:15** And wine that maketh glad the heart

of man, (The wine of the gospel) and oil (the oil of grace) to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. "*And bread (Jesus, the bread of life) which strengtheneth man's heart.*"

Men have more courage after they are fed: many a depressed spirit has been comforted by a good substantial meal. How much more courage from feeding upon Jesus the bread of Life.

Both Faith and feelings greatly strengthened .

**Praise Him and give thanks-** by praise and thanks giving daily use the psalms and hymns for reflection.

Simply to reflect on his goodness and greatness and blessings toward us. As Luther did and as Habakuk did as David did, so must we do.

**Review in prayer before God, the great doctrines and issues of the faith,** name them one by one reflect on them, tell him you believe them with all your heart, and you depend upon them. Let's just look at 2 solid unchangeable truths.

1. **Reflect on the greatness of God-** Gods power is matchless. He divided the sea and they crossed over on dry ground. He causes the sun and moon to stand still. The mountains quake before Him and melt. His interest is in His chosen people. All these things were done for His people.

He was and He is to come the Bible says "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world." He said Before Abraham was I am. All things were made by Him and without Him was nothing made that was made. To our minds we can hardly grasp the concept of Eternity. He is Eternal, He is **Omnipresent**, He is **Omnipotent**, All power unstoppable **Omniscience** that means He knows everything, nothing is a mystery or nothing is hidden, This is how mighty our Lord is. In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Every beast of the forest is His, the Cattle of a thousand Hills are His, The World and all its fullness is His. How mighty He is not only does He possess it all But all these things He upholds by the Word of His power. Oh let our eyes be upon Him! Let us wait upon Him for He gives us our food in due season. He opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. In Him are hidden all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom. This is just a tiny look at the greatness of God. This is our God to whom we have been given access by the blood of Jesus to His throne where His ears are open to our petitions. This is the family to which we have been adopted. Just hearing of the greatness and goodness of our Lord is your heart not stirred with gratitude that you are His child. Is faith not stirred that nothing is too difficult for Him. Are you not stirred that in His wisdom and infinite knowledge His Judgements are always best.

Think just how much He did for us in Humbling Himself, The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. It would have been stepping very low if the Lord had taken on the nature of angels, but he stooped much lower and took on the nature of man. He came from heavens glory to be

born In a stable in a manger. He was not exempt from all the weakness of infancy. He stumbled before he could walk He lisped before He could speak. He humbled Himself and became a man showing His great love for the whole human race.

2. **Reflect upon that He died in your place took your punishment.** that He is working in you making you more and more like Him, that He will not forsake the work of His hands. That even if you are weak and tired a smouldering wick or bent reed He will not snuff you out He will not discard you. No, He will never leave you nor forsake you He will bring to completion the work He has begun in you. He will present you faultless before the Father.

When we reflect on the living God confidence comes. Let us call to remembrance what God has done for us in providence and grace what proofs we have received of his kindness, faithfulness, and power. It is our duty and privilege not only to notice God's appearances for us at the time, but to treasure them up in our mind, that we may rehearse them; for they were intended not only for our immediate relief, but in order to be strength against our future fainting's.

Let me close with these words-

To look to our God is the only way to live in this fallen world. To be reminded that this is not our home. That we are passing through that there will be a glorious day when we shall see Him face to face. To trust Him and to Obey For there is no other way.

*“When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
what a glory he sheds on our way!  
When we do his good will, he abodes with us still,  
and with all who will trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”*