

3. Faith - the Key to Victorious Living

www.victory.net.nz 11.09.2022

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Subtitle: We walk by faith – not by sight

We are currently studying God's Word on the subject of faith & how we can build strong faith in our lives to live victoriously in these challenging days.

- Our God-given faith is the substance & quality that helps us to stand strong and secure in Jesus Christ
- Faith is the master key that unlocks all of God's promises
- Faith is heaven's currency
- By faith we receive all that God has provided for us, and promised to us

1 John 5:4–5 (NIV) *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***

- Only believers in Jesus overcome the world & live victorious over it

Today we will talk about what it means to walk by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:6–7 (NKJV) *So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 **For we walk by faith, not by sight.***

1. Switching from “walking by sight” to “walking by faith”

We all know the saying: “Seeing is believing”, but the Bible calls us to “believe without seeing”.

- Once we become born again, we start to walk by faith instead of by sight
- This is not only true concerning our new body that awaits us in heaven, or concerning heaven itself, but concerning all of God's promises
- We don't yet see heaven with our physical eyes, but we believe in its existence
- We don't yet see our new resurrection body with our physical eyes, but we know we will have at the resurrection

- **Why? Because the written Word of God tells us about these things!**
- So the Word of God becomes our new guide & parameter for living instead of the things we can see, feel and touch
- **Walking by faith means walking by the Word of God**
- (Walking by faith includes being led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14))

Example:

- Driving with GPS guidance instead of driving by visual road recognition
- The more one uses & trusts a GPS device, the more detached one becomes from our visual realities

2. Faith is the substance of the things God has promised us, thingsthat we do not yet see

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) *Now **faith is the substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.***

Since walking by faith means walking by the Word of God, we confidently say:

- The Word of God is the substance of things hoped for
- The Word of God is the evidence & proof of the things not yet seen

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP) ***NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].***

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) *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.*

- God didn't make the visible earth from visible earth
- He made the visible earth from the invisible word of God
- God's word has creative power within itself, to bring itself to pass
- Whatever God commands by His word, it comes to pass
- Whatever we command by speaking God's word in faith, comes to pass

Another way to describe the same truth is found in Romans 10:17

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) *So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

- Hearing the Word of God produces faith in our heart
- Faith in our heart produces the things that God has promised
- So again, the Word of God produces and gives substance to the things God has promised us, the things that we do not yet see

Romans 10:8–10 (NKJV) ... *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

- How did you get saved?
- You got saved by saying exactly what the Word of God says!
- The Word of God says that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and made Him Lord of all
- You believed it in your heart
- Then you confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord with your mouth

So then, walking by faith includes:

- **Hearing** what the Word says
- **believing** in your heart what the Word says
- **confessing** with your mouth what the Word says

3. Our corresponding action makes our faith complete

James 2:14–17 (NLT) *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? **15** Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, **16** and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? **17** So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

James tells us that we need to add a corresponding action to our faith confessions otherwise it won't work.

James 2:21–22 (NLT) *Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God **by his actions** when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see, **his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.***

So then, walking by faith means:

- **Hearing** what the Word says
- **Believing** in your heart what the Word says
- **Confessing** with your mouth what the Word says
- **Doing** what the Word says

James 1:22–25 (NLT) *But **don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.** Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **23** For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. **24** You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. **25** But if you **look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.***