



The Walk of Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

Evangelist Doug Lowery

INTRODUCTION

There have been classic sermon titles: “Payday Someday” (R.G. Lee); and “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (Jonathan Edwards). And, there have been catchy titles that draw interest and curiosity. A Scottish preacher advertised his message, “God isn’t Dead—He’s Just Sick” He said, “Thank you all for coming, now I’m going to tell you what God is sick of.” Our title isn’t catchy—nor is it a classic, but it is critical and is certainly a current need. In these turbulent and trying times of financial recession, moral decay, political corruption, we must walk by faith.

The unsaved of this world walk completely by sight, by their senses, by their own wisdom, and depend completely on themselves to get through life! I don’t know how the unsaved do it!! The believer, on the other hand, walks and lives by faith—in the unseen. (Hebrews 11:1) The Christian seeks God’s wisdom and direction in His Word and realizes that he needs to abide in Christ and be filled with God’s Holy Spirit to make it through life! What a contrast.

Faith in God makes great optimists. Over in Burma, Adoniram Judson was lying in a foul jail with 32 lbs. of chains on his ankles, his feet bound to a bamboo pole. A fellow prisoner said with a sneer on his face, “Dr. Judson, what about the prospect of the conversion of the heathen?” His instant reply was, “The prospects are just as bright as the promises of God.” George Muller said, “Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power

ends.” Whittier said, “The steps of faith fall on the seeming void and find the rock beneath.”

This is our message—the walk of faith! It seems to be a scary walk, but it’s actually a solid and secure walk. The more we walk by faith and not by sight, the more we should see that walking by sight is the scarier of the two! Just before we pray, turn to Hebrews 11. Let’s be reminded of God’s definition of faith there in verse 1.

PRAYER

1. The Walk of Faith is Mandatory! Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith (along with biblical repentance/ Acts 17:30 & 20:21) is mandatory for salvation—Ephesians 2:8 and 9; John 3:18. And, it is required if we are to please God as believers. Faith is a key ingredient (1 Corinthians 13:13; 2 Peter 1:5-9) in the sanctification process.

While in Hebrews 11—note some verses that talk about not being able to see with the physical eye, but yet seeing with the “eye of faith”:

- We see the truth of creation v. 3
- Noah had never seen rain, but he still built the ark v. 7
- O.T. saints saw God’s promises and embraced them v. 13 (They didn’t see the Messiah in their life time, but they knew He would come; we may not see the rapture occur in our lifetime—but it is our blessed hope and we know He will come!)
- Moses saw the Invisible One v. 27

In this great Hall of Faith chapter—Hebrews 11—we see “BY FAITH” 16 times and “THROUGH FAITH” 5 times

Senator Barak Obama (during his run for President in 2008) came up with a campaign slogan that was heard by crowds of thousands everywhere

he went—“Yes we can!” I’m not going to digress by going into politics; I just want to make this brief point. Though “yes we can” is an upbeat and positive slogan, it is also completely man-centered and symptomatic of today’s humanistic spirit. We need to come back to a dependence upon God in our land! We are in great trouble in our nation today, and it’s not a Democratic or a Republican problem, it is a sin problem! What is taking place in Washington is not a laughing matter, but I just read a quote the other day by the humorist Will Rogers that really tickled my funny bone. Though he has been dead since 1935, this Cherokee-American cowboy hit the nail on the head when he said, **“I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.” John Adams (of all people) said, “In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a congress.”**

Now, back to the topic of faith! The wandering Jews questioned God’s provision when they asked, “Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?!” (Psalm 78:19) The correct answer: **“Yes He Can!”** That needs to be our slogan!

Yes, God Can Because—

He is Almighty in Power

He is Bound to His Promises

He is in Control—the God of Providence

He is the Deliverer—the God of Protection

He is Eternal in His Presence

He is Faithful in His Provision

He is Good to His People

(Great project: find several references for each of these 7 points. We all need to stay encouraged by the Word of God!)

2. The Walk of Faith is a Manifestation of the Spirit!

Galatians 5:22-23

The Holy Spirit wants to help us pray (Romans 8:29), fill us (Ephesians 5:18), empower us for witnessing and service (Acts 1:8), guide us (Romans 8:14), teach us (John 14:26), and comfort us (John 14:16)—yet we walk in the power of our own flesh and live as if we didn’t need the assistance of



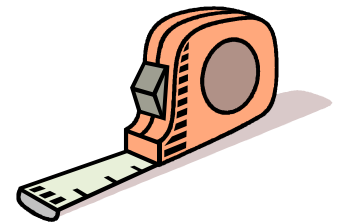
the blessed Holy Spirit!

We need to walk in the Spirit if we want to walk in faith!! The context here in Galatians 5 is dealing with the contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit and the inner battle between our sinful flesh and the Holy Spirit. But, the promise is there in verse 16, *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”* Walking in the Spirit is essential to the walk of faith! When the Christian lives day after day in doubt, it is a sure sign that he or she is walking in the flesh and is not filled with the Spirit or walking in the Spirit!

**Our topic is faith, but let me say,
When we walk in the Spirit, we also walk the walk of love, the walk of joy, the walk of peace, the walk of long-suffering, the walk of gentleness, the walk of goodness, the walk of meekness and the walk of temperance!
 “Walk in the Spirit!”**

3. The Walk of Faith is Measureable!

How Does Your Faith Measure Up?



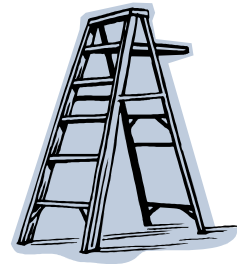
Full of Faith and the Holy Spirit

So Great Faith

Great Is Thy Faith

Little faith

No faith



Start climbing up the rungs of faith’s ladder.

No faith Mark 4

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still.
 And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Little faith Matthew 6

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 14

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Great Is Thy Faith

Matthew 15

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

So Great Faith

Matthew 8

9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

10 When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Full of faith & the Holy Spirit Acts 6:5

This describes those seven men chosen by the congregation to serve the tables of the widows, and assist the apostles. **May the pastors and deacons of the churches of our land be full of faith and the Holy Spirit!! May the members of our churches be full of faith and the Holy Spirit.**

Have faith in God.

Mark 11:22

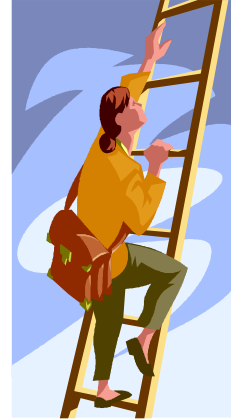
A prayer we all need to pray is found in Luke 17:5:
“Lord, increase our faith.”

None of us have the faith we should have all the time! May we all move ahead and move up the “faith ladder.”

*Have faith in God, Have faith in God;
 For without faith He is impossible to please.
 Have faith in God, Have faith in God—
 May He find us often on our knees.*

*For He is able to do great things,
 Far above what we could ask or think.
 Have faith in God, have faith in God
 For without faith He is impossible to please.*

Bible chorus by Doug Lowery



4. The Walk of Faith is Mountain - Moving!

Matthew 17:19-21

- 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?
 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.
 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

We stayed in the home of Dr. Mark Wilson during a multiple-day meeting. He told an amazing story of when he was single and attended Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Paterson, New Jersey, where Clarence Sexton was the pastor at the time (Brother Sexton is now in Powell, TN).

The church was growing because of their evangelism and outreach, and they needed more parking space. Because of the dense population and the scarcity of available land, all they could purchase was a hill near the church. A hill does not make the best parking lot! Someone had the idea—“This is the Garden State. Maybe this soil is rich in nutrients. Let’s test it to see if it could be sold.” After testing the soil and finding it to be rich soil, they brought in equipment and started filling dump trucks and selling the soil to farmers and large greenhouses across New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Within a short time, the hill was now a flat parking lot and they raised enough money to pay for the land, have the whole area paved and paint the lines on this large area! God didn’t move a mountain, but He did move a hill!! A hill was moved and paid for by faith!!



Sometimes we need to be reminded of what God can do and has done! Hebrews 11 provides a picture gallery of Old Testament saints who had great faith. With your mind’s



eye go through this whole chapter and picture these miraculous scenes before you as if you were walking through an art gallery! **Two things that have Donna and I picture the scenes of the Bible: The Holy Land Experience in Orlando and The Creation Museum on the OH/ KY border.**

Many mountains to move in our lives today:

- The mountain of temptation—of all kinds
- The mountains of fear, anxiety and worry
- The mountain of relationship conflicts
- The mountain of financial pressures
- The mountain of addictions and sinful habits



Remember that nothing is impossible when you put your trust in God—nothing is impossible when you’re leaning on His Word. Harken to the voice of God to thee, “Is there anything too hard for me?” Then, put your trust in God alone and rest upon His Word. For everything, yes everything, O everything is possible with God!

Jeremiah predicted the captivity of his people, but he also believed that God would return them to Israel—so much that he bought

property in Jer. 32:8 and 9, delivered the deed to Baruch to be stored in a safe place. He knew that God would return His people to the land. Jeremiah 32:17—*Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and earth by thy great power and outstretched arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*

Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains you can't tunnel through? God specializes in things that are impossible. And He can do what no other Power can do!

5. The Walk of Faith must be Maintained!

You don't go out and buy a car and only put gas in it. A brand new home may be maintenance-free for a few short years, but then things start to need be repaired or replaced. The same is true of our faith. You don't just come to Christ the day you're saved and then never need that faith maintained and increased.

How Is Our Faith Maintained & Increased?

- By keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ!! Hebrews 12:1, 2 When we run the Christian race, we must keep looking unto Jesus—the Author and Finisher (think of Him as standing at the finish line!) of our faith.



- By keeping our minds filled with God's thoughts (Psalm 119:9-11; Psalm 139:17, 18), thinking the thoughts God would have us think (Philippians 4:8), and by casting down imaginations and every thought that is contrary to Scripture and bringing our thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2nd Corinthians 10:4 and 5)

- 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
- 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- By keeping our memories filled with all of the past blessings of God and the many answers to prayer. Ps 103:2 *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits*: There are things we are to forget (Philippians 3:13)—like our sinful past, our past failures and the sins that others commit against us; but, we should never forget the blessings of God poured out in our lives.
- By keeping our hearts free of unbelief **through prayer** (Mark 9:24 *And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*) and **persistent watchfulness** (Hebrews 3:12 and 13).

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

*Have faith in God, Have faith in God;
For without faith He is impossible to please.
Have faith in God, Have faith in God—
May He find us often on our knees.
For He is able to do great things,
Far above what we could ask or think.
Have faith in God, have faith in God
For without faith He is impossible to please.*

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What is your slogan for walking through this life? Yes I can! Or Yes God can! May God help all of us to walk by faith, and not by sight!!