

Walking By Faith

The apostle Paul said, “We walk by faith and not by _____. ” What does he mean? Today we’re going to explore what it means to look at life through the _____ of faith. Romans 10:17 says that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the _____ of Christ.” We build our faith by _____ the Bible. God’s inspired Word demonstrates His holiness, His love, and His wisdom. We know the Bible is _____ because of its prophetic nature, its scientific foreknowledge, and its Divine character. The Bible is certainly _____ in its influence, its accuracy, and its beauty. The Bible is truly God’s Holy Word.

Hebrews 11:1-2 says, “Now faith is the assurance of things _____ for, the conviction of things not _____. For by it the people of old received their commendation.” This describes the _____ of faith that God desires from us. Faith is an assurance. The word “assurance” appeared in Greek business documents with the meaning “title deed.” Faith assures us that what we will _____ is what we hope for. Faith is a conviction. It’s the conviction or proof of things not _____. When saints of old had this assurance and conviction, God commended them, He vouched for them.

God would give “testimony” that they were faithful on the day of judgment. True faith is not a _____ in the dark with the absence of evidence. True faith isn’t a _____ optimism. It’s not a manufactured “hope so” _____. We demonstrate or live or walk our faith by _____ with a conviction based on evidence. The evidence for what we know gives us a _____ to act, even when there are things that we don’t know. Because we know God and His Word, and that they’re _____, we have the assurance of what we hope for and the evidence for things not seen. What we know to be true gives us ample evidence and reason to demonstrate our faith.

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to John 20:26-29. It talks about Thomas, who had shown his doubt for Jesus that He had resurrected from the dead, and had to see for himself. Then he sees Jesus.

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, and the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

Yes, there’s a _____ for those of us who can’t see Him today, but we still believe.

God sets the standard that distinguishes those who _____ Him from those who don’t; that standard is faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it’s _____ to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Through the ages when people trusted God for their strength, He stood by them and _____ them.

Consider Abraham. Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham _____ when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not _____ where he was going.” Because Abraham believed God, He willingly obeyed even when he didn’t know where God was _____ him. Verse 11 says, “By faith Sarah herself received _____ to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.” God blessed her because of her faith.

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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Man thinks seeing is believing, but _____ says believing is seeing. Faith works quite simply: God speaks and we _____ His Word. We trust Him and His Word completely and _____ on it. We act even when we don't fully _____ what or why. We act even when things seem impossible or very frightening. We act even when acting is _____. We do this because we believe God will _____ what is right and what is best. We know that God will keep His _____. Faith means we trust in God's wisdom rather than our own.

Solomon said, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not _____ on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your _____. Be not _____ in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from _____. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:5-8). God expects us to respect and honor what He _____. We may imagine that we're wise and know what's best; but when acting on our own wisdom goes _____ the will of God, we end up hurting ourselves spiritually.

Let me illustrate from 2 Kings 5. The captain of the Syrian army, Naaman the leper, came to Elisha, the man of God, to be _____ of leprosy. Elisha sent a messenger who told him to go and _____ in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed. Naaman left in a _____. He explained, "Behold, I _____ that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, _____ than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" Naaman thought the prophet would make a _____ and cure the leper. He simply _____ out a messenger. Some wise _____ urged Naaman to do what the prophet urged, and Naaman did. Second Kings 5:14 says, "So he went down and he dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was _____ like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." It wasn't until Naaman trusted and _____ the prophet that his flesh was restored. We must _____ to trust the Lord and not lean on our own understanding.

Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the universe was _____ by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible." Because God only speaks the truth, we understand that God created the universe just as He _____. Because God speaks the truth, we _____ what He says. We come to understand what is true, because we _____ the One who said it. We know that He only speaks the _____. Titus 1:2 describes God as the God who _____ lies, who cannot lie. Christian faith isn't wishful thinking; it's an inner conviction _____ on the truthfulness of God.

What can we know about God? We know He _____ us. He sent Jesus to _____ for our sins, so that we could _____ with Him forever. We know that He provides for us. Paul said, "And my God will supply every _____ of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We know, thirdly, He hears our _____, because He heard them many times before. The Lord Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8). We know, fourth, that God is _____ us. God said, "I will _____ leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5). We know He'll protect us because He promised, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted _____ your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of _____, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Time and again, I've found these promises to be true.

You can trust God in the _____ moments, because God keeps His promises. Faith isn't a fair-weather friend; God's truths are still true in _____ circumstance. In his last days in prison, Paul said, "for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to _____ what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul could place His soul in the hands of the Father, knowing the Father would take _____ of Him. Someone wrote:

Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I commit my spirit into Your hands.
All I am and have I yield to You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You know what's best and what I should do, So I leave my soul within Your hands.
Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I cast all my burdens into Your hands,
All my stress and pain I give to You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You know what's best and what I should do, So I cast my cares into Your hands.
Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I cast all my sins into Your hands,
All I've said and done I bring to You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You have told me what I must do, So I cast my sins into Your hands.
Into Your hands, Father, into Your hands, I commit my spirit into Your hands.
My life on earth I leave for You. Your love and grace will bear me through,
For You have a place I'm going to, So I leave my soul within Your hands.

We can trust God's Word, because the truth found in the Bible arises from the _____ of God Himself. God is entirely reliable, completely trustworthy, and utterly honest. So, whatever God says is truly trustworthy. Whatever God commands should be _____. Whatever God promises He will fulfill. Whatever God condemns, you can believe is _____; and whatever God teaches is _____. Faith is not simply believing that God can—it's knowing that God will.

You can trust God because God is always _____. Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should _____ his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" God doesn't tease or joke, and He means what He says. We must take God seriously at all times.

You can trust God because He _____ you. Everything He says and does is for your _____ interest. First John 4:9-10 says, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might _____ through him. And in this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and _____ his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." When we go through something painful, we want a loved one around to _____ us and help us. We trust the people that we have come to know that they love us. God is _____ of our trust.

God wants us to have an _____ faith. The Lord Jesus said, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Some older versions use "believe" in both places, but the words are _____. The phrase "does not obey" actually reflects what the passage _____ in the original language.

Abraham is the "father of all who believe" and he demonstrated his faith with obedience. First, Abraham believed God when he didn't know _____ God wanted him to go. By faith Abraham lived in the land of promise and he _____ "for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

Second, Abraham and Sarah obeyed when he didn't know how God would _____ his promise. Hebrews 11:11-12 says, "By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him _____ who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

Third, Abraham obeyed when he didn't know _____ God would fulfill His promise. Hebrews 11:13-16 says, "These all _____ in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from _____, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak [such things] make it clear that they're _____ a homeland. And if they'd been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is,

they desire a _____ country, that is, a heavenly one. And therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has _____ for them a city.”

Fourth, Abraham obeyed even when he didn’t know _____ God gave the commandment. Hebrews 11:17-19 says, “By faith Abraham, when he was _____, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’ He considered that God was _____ even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”

When we believe God, we _____ on our faith. That’s why we’re speaking about these matters. “Faith keeps the man who keeps the faith.” Faith keeps us as we keep it. We _____ by faith. We’re _____ by an active faith, not a dead one. Faith, to be any good, must demonstrate itself.

The Bible says, “But prove yourselves _____ of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does” (James 1:22_25). Are you a doer? Are you somebody who shows his faith? Who shows what you are, and how you love the Lord? Do you serve Him? Do you walk by faith?

We need to possess _____ than a simple faith in the Lord; we need an obedient faith that possesses us. Many play with _____ but never give themselves to the Lord. We must make the Lord the _____ and focus of our hearts and lives. We must recognize God’s Word is true and has _____ over us. Paul said, “I’ve been _____ with Christ. It’s no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Do you have that kind of faith that leads you to die to your desires and live for the Lord? Are you crucified with Christ?

Faith will lead you to forsake your _____ and live righteously. If you believe, you’ll _____ Jesus as the Christ and be _____. The Lord Jesus said , “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Believe and obey today.

Hebrews 3:12-14 warns Christians, “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For if we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.” Yes, you can stop believing in Christ if you allow sin to harden your heart against God. Don’t be deceived by sin. Have faith; there’s hope! Don’t quit trusting the Lord, and don’t fall away. Build up your faith and never let it go.