

## Living by faith and not by sight

Faith is part of everyday living. e.g., when you are ill, you go to a doctor whose name you can't pronounce. He gives you a prescription you cannot read. You take it to a pharmacist you have never seen. He gives you medication you do not understand --- and yet, you take it. Now, that is living by Faith! How much more can we trust a God whose name we can pronounce, a Son whom we do know, who gives us instructions that we obey. That's truly living by faith, not in the unknown, but in the One who knows what lies ahead.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

### 1) Living by sight

- Living by sight is living according to your senses – what you can see, touch, smell, hear, and taste
  - It lives by the motto “seeing is believing”
  - However, with the development of artificial intelligence we're not sure if seeing is believing anymore. There are numerous fake AI generated videos out there making it harder and harder to discern truth from falsehood
  - Some videos are made for fun and are harmless, yet others are false, accusatory, and distort Biblical truth, and destroy people's lives
- Besides living according to your senses, living by sight means living according to your human rationale and logic
  - Human logic goes something like this:
    - I'll obey God if all my securities are in place
    - I'll obey God if the salary is good enough
  - That's living by what's tangible – what you can see and feel
- Living by sight lives according to what is temporary rather than the eternal
  - We invest our time, energy, and money in what is temporary rather than what is eternal
- Living by sight opens us up for constant disappointment as we're investing in that which can be taken from us at any time.
- We often even spiritualise living by sight by asking questions such as “What would Jesus do?”
  - Some even use a type of induced psychosis by making Christians imagine Jesus physically walking amongst us
  - Psychosis is the state of imagining or believing something to be real that is not real
  - To induce is to succeed in persuading or leading someone to do something

### 2) Living by faith

- Living by faith means absolutely trusting God in and for every aspect of our lives because we believe in who He is, His character, His promises, His ability, and His works
  - It's putting aside all and any confidence in ourselves to be fully and utterly confident in Him
- It is to see Him who is unseen through the eyes of faith knowing that He exists and hears us when we call out to Him

- Thomas is often referred to as doubting Thomas, which is quite unfair on him as all the apostles doubted at first when they were told of the resurrection. They believed at the time that Jesus revealed Himself to Thomas as He had already revealed Himself to the rest of them.
  - John 20:26-29 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”
    - <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”
    - <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
  - Thomas had followed Jesus for three and a half years, yet still lived by sight and not by faith. He only believed when Jesus appeared to Him and he acknowledged the physical presence of Jesus
  - Jesus didn’t commend him for that faith by sight, rather He commended those who live by faith and not by sight – blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
- Some men of faith who lived by faith and not by sight
  - Noah built an ark even before there was any sight of rain
  - Abraham left his home to go to an unknown land with nothing, but His trust in God
  - Gideon defeated a Midianite army with only three hundred men just because God said so.
  - All these were living by faith and not by sight
  - All these defied human logic and reasoning, yet were successful in what they did as their actions weren’t based on human ideas or understanding, but on the Word of God
- How strong is your faith?
  - Would you have built an ark, or done something similar, because God had said so?
  - Would you have left your home to go to an unknown land with nothing but your trust in God?
  - Would you have taken on a task with far fewer resources than you would rationally have needed, because God said so?
- Living by faith is insane to the world, but is pleasing to God as it shows that our confidence is in Him and not in ourselves or the people or systems of this world.

### 3) The confidence of living by faith

- 2 Corinthians 5:6-9 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.
- Living by faith causes us to live with confidence that our lives are in God’s hands whatever happens to us and whatever our circumstances are
  - While we’re in this body we live completely for His glory not fearing what will happen as we know that our confidence lies in Him and not in ourselves
  - Having been saved by faith, we live by faith knowing that we have an eternal hope as the power of death over us has been broken by the resurrection of Jesus.
- We, therefore, live confidently in the body knowing that we need not fear anything as the root fear of death no longer has a hold on us
  - Hebrews 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- Those who live by sight don’t have this confidence as all they have is what they can see and feel
- Those who live by faith have a sure confidence as they have the promises of God in this life and the assurance of eternity before them