

Walking by Faith (Part 4) – Seeing what is not visible

Heb 10:35-39

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For in just a very little while,

“He who is coming will come and will not delay.

³⁸ But my righteous one will live by faith.

And if he shrinks back,

I will not be pleased with him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

The whole of our relationship with God is based on faith.

The whole of our walk with Him is based on faith.

We are saved by faith

- When we respond God’s revelation of His free gift of grace given to us in Jesus Christ

He wants us to bring that faith into every single aspect of our lives, every day

- Into our work,
- into our families,
- into every relationship
- and into every circumstance

To walk by faith means to:

- Seek to please Him
 - ▶ core motivation of faith
 - ▶ Is not transactional

- Seek Him
 - ▶ to see Him, to hear His word
- Live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God
- Walk with Him
 - ▶ Attitude of heart – posture in life
 - ▶ His agenda, not mine – wants to do His will
 - ▶ walk in His ways,
 - ▶ where we can see His face
 - ▶ and know that the light of His countenance shines on us
- Walk in the Spirit
 - ▶ empowered (can't do it without Him),
 - ▶ led by Him...
 - Continually filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Not quenching the Holy Spirit
 - Not grieving the Holy Spirit

Numbers 6:22-27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. ²⁷“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Faith starts with God

- It puts Him first
 - ▶ seeks to do only that which proceeds from faith,
 - ▶ is in response to His word
- It puts Him at the centre
- It approaches God with meekness
 - ▶ surrender to His will

John 8:28-30

28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, **for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.**" 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

Mt 11:25–30

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest.** ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, **for I am gentle (meek) and lowly in heart,** and you will find **rest** for your souls. ³⁰ For **my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**"

Walking by faith is where we find the rest God promises us

We can:

- Be patient,
- endure,
- persevere

Because:

- We see (by faith) the one we have put our trust in
- We see (by faith) what we are hoping for,
- what is promised,
- what is not yet visible

Heb 10:35-39

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I will not be pleased with him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe (*have faith*) and are saved.

Heb 11:1–3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the **conviction of things not seen**.

² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that **what is seen was not made out of things that are visible**.

Faith ‘sees’:

- What cannot be seen (perceived) with our natural senses
 - ▶ That which is invisible
 - ▶ God, who is invisible
 - ▶ Things that are not yet visible

Heb 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who seek him**.

Heb 11:24-28

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for **he was looking to the reward**. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for **he endured as seeing him who is invisible**. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

Heb 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events **as yet unseen**, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

The 'seeing' is a sure belief

It is a trust in Him who is faithful

It has substance – is like 'evidence'

We act on it with confidence and humility

Faith 'sees':

- That which we do not see yet – is not yet visible
 - ▶ but we know (by faith) that we will see it
- That which is not yet but which we know will come to pass
 - ▶ even if we do not see it ourselves
- That which we will only see fully in the next age

Heb 11:8-11

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going**.⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.¹⁰ For he was **looking forward to** the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she **considered him faithful** who had promised.

Heb 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having **seen them and greeted them from afar**, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Heb 11:20-22

By faith Isaac **invoked future blessings** on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, **blessed** each of the sons of Joseph, **bowing in worship** over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, **made mention of the exodus** of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Faith 'sees':

- In spite of the current reality
 - ▶ walking by faith not by sight – 2 Cor 4:7
 - ▶ Abraham
 - ▶ Sarah
 - ▶ Isaac
 - ▶ Jacob
 - ▶ Joseph

Heb 11:39-40

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Application:

God speaking about a **new season** – about gearing up for change

- Hear
- Respond
 - ▶ Believe
 - ▶ Action
 - Faith
 - Patience

Venue

- Seek God
- Hear
- Respond
 - ▶ Believe
 - ▶ Action

Personal:

Circumstances

Promises

2 Co 4:13–5:9

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

⁵ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

The promises of God:

- Are of such a nature that they cannot be gained without the working of His power
- We cannot receive them by our own works
- but He never intended that they would be gained without us working with Him, in faith.
- We bring what He asks of us,
- but that is still never enough
- We still need Him to make up, with His power, what we are lacking

The one we walk with is El Shaddai – the Almighty, who makes up what we lack by His power and being

1 John 3:21-22 – a promise

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;
22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments
and do what pleases him