

Unreasonable Obedience

Lesson 2 – Walk by faith, not by sight

Series Overview

The obedience to which Jesus calls his followers goes beyond what feels _____ or even _____.

If we don't feel this tension, we either don't recognize the _____ of his commands

or we have become too _____ with them.

Jesus never commands anything he doesn't also _____ in His people,

because these commands are meant to drive us to _____ on Him.

Understanding Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 - "We walk by faith, not by sight"

Paul contrasts two ways of "walking" (which is another way of saying "_____")

We can live according to how things seem by _____, or

We can live according to _____.

A few verses prior to this, Paul states the same idea this way:

2 Corinthians 4:18 - *We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen*

This gets to the heart of what _____ means.

Faith is *not*: optimism that God won't let _____ things happen to you

Faith is *not*: making something happen by _____ it enough

Faith is *not*: acting or believing contrary to _____

Faith is *not*: a measure of _____ in God

Faith is *not*: receiving _____ from God in exchange for belief

Faith is: "*the assurance of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen*" (**Hebrews 11:1**)

Is faith then simply believing in something we don't see? *Where's the problem in that?*

Faith is not just believing the unseen, it is believing _____ what we don't see.

"Faith then gives us a sort of knowledge, for when we believe, our minds assent to something knowable; but not to something we see but to something he whom we believe sees." – Thomas Aquinas

What are some examples from Scripture of times when God's perspective was different from appearances?

How *not* to walk by faith

When Jesus was tempted by Satan, one temptation was to _____ God's promises (**Matthew 4:5-7**)

Walking by faith does *not* involve expecting God to act in response to our _____.

Walking by faith requires discernment between what God is _____ to do and what he has _____ to do.

Walking by Faith

Walking by faith means _____ and _____ to God's _____ of _____.

"Faith is my acceptance of God's fact." – Watchman Nee

What changes in our perception of reality does Paul mention in 2 Corinthians 5:16-17?

Scripture teaches us that God's promises are _____ for us to do all we _____ to do (**2 Peter 1:3-4**)

and that all he has promised will be _____ in Jesus (**2 Corinthians 1:20**).

So walking by faith requires a _____ of how God sees the _____

and of how God has promised to _____ in our _____.

At times, that knowledge will seem to _____ the reality we see with our _____ (**2 Cor 4:16-18**)

Another way to describing walking by sight is addressed in **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

"Faith will not lean to its own understanding of the appearance; faith will take God's word as a safe index to the reality, and will wait patiently till contrary appearances dissolve away with the coming of greater light." – Martin Luther

Walking by faith is a call to acknowledge that our present, human understanding of reality

is _____ and needs to be _____ by the divine perception (**1 Corinthians 13:12**)

Yes, we do see in part, but when we mistake the _____ for the _____, we steer off course.

Only God sees the _____ picture, and we must _____ on the direction he leads.

So what does it look like to walk by faith?

It means _____ what God has said

It means _____ what God has said

It means _____ with _____ to what God has said (see all of **Hebrews 11**)

What challenging things does God call you to do that require faith, not sight?

"A man who has faith must be prepared not only to be a martyr, but to be a fool. It is absurd to say that a man is ready to toil and die for his convictions when he is not even ready to wear a wreath round his head for them." - GK Chesterton

A Prayer for Those Wanting to Walk by Faith

Jesus teaches that it is not the _____ of our faith that matters (**Luke 17:5-6**)

It is the _____ of our faith – are we trusting _____ and trusting him _____?

So the prayer for one wishing to walk by faith not sight is more like what we see in **2 Kings 6:8-17**

How does Elisha pray for his servant?