

2 Corinthians 5:7 We Walk by Faith!

INTRO: There are only two ways to live! One way, most common is to live by sight- base everything on what we can see!

A.)The other way, **far less common**, is to live by faith, to base your life **ultimately and primarily** on what you cannot see!

B.)The way for the Christian is the way of faith!

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

C) **What is interesting is we exercise faith all the time**

For example, you go to a doctor whose *name you cannot pronounce* and whose *degrees you have never verified*. He gives you a *prescription you cannot read*.

You take it to a **pharmacist you have never seen before**.

He gives you a **chemical compound** you do not understand. Then you go home and take the pill according to the instructions on the bottle. All in trusting, sincere faith!

D) **Car/ Postman / even right now** : Architect, contractor, builders even the PEW sitting in right now

1) exercising faith

When It comes to Christ Our Faith is not some whimsical feeling / But Our faith has facts /knowledge

A) Romans 10:17 *Faith comes through hearing the Word* ;

Aa) More we study – more our faith grows

B)Two men are on a cruise ship looking over the edge / one looks out only sees miles ,miles of water/ **but the other sees fishing boat**

1) Difference? (One has a telescope)

C) Well The Bible is the telescope through which faith looks!

1)Increases vision perspective

When it came to heaven – that is exactly – the perspective that Paul Chose to look thru

A)Ch. 4:18 We do not look – examine – telescope is not pointed at the things which are seen -

B) Faith sees what the human eye cannot!

Here in 2 Corinthians Ch. 5 We have been talking about heaven – the hope of heaven

A) Started in Ch. 4:16 } Given Promises to look forward to! TRADE – our afflictions for glory

B) Worn out bodies for heavenly ones –

1) To seal the deal – God gave HS as a guarantee!

Right at the end of this discussion sandwiched between two verses that speak of our assurance

V,6,8 To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord { Looking forward to that

A) Paul makes this statement – “We walk by faith and not by sight.”

B) Now it does not take any serious student of the Bible long before their mind goes to Hebrews ch. 11

1) The great hall of faith – Chronicles Men and women who by faith did great things for God.

C) Only Chapter of the Bible still being written – You a person of faith.

D) We read there about:

Abel by faith worshipped in spirit and truth!

Enoch by faith had a walk that was pleasing to God

Noah by faith lived righteously and boldly as a last days believer.

Abraham: By faith Left his place of comfort to journey to a land he had never heard of, promised to him by a God He had never seen.

Sarah: who was strengthened by faith to have a Child at an old age

Moses: By faith forsook Egypt {The World and it's riches – choosing the suffer affliction than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

The list goes on and on: We could spend weeks discussing these lives – Great study { Web site

A) Today I want us to turn to Hebrews – God has a word for us - Focus one Paragraph – V.13-16

B) In V. 13-16 A summary statement – reveals what was involved in all their aspects of faith.

C) We want to note 4 things

#1 Faith's Vision: What and how faith sees

#2 Faith's Confession

#3 Faith's Refusal

#4 Faith's Reward

Rd V13-16

#1 Faith's vision V13 *Faith sees the promises afar off!*

A) It speaks of the vision to see what is up ahead! / It is The ability to see what God might want to do !

1) **Jonathan & Armour Barrier**

B) Faith is the Perception that factors God into the equation D.L. Moody says " **If God be you partner make your plans large!**"

C) I might get stressed out when I look at all the circumstances & Challenges before me but when I factor God into the equation /

1) I see things differently!

2) Example Jairus " *Don't be afraid just believe*

D) Looked him in the eye – look at me and believe(*factor Lord in*)

D) Now I will admit I have times feel like that other father Matt 17 “Lord I believe believe / Help my unbelief”

E) Because faith factors God into the equation

" *The eye of faith sees what the human eye can't* "

Faith sees the Promises afar off.

Faith sees with a confidence.

Note they didn't just see the promises afar off – *but V.13 they were assured of them*

A) Assurance = Confident

B) Example Abe was 100yrs old Sarah was 90 Romans 4:21 " *Abraham was fully persuaded that what God promised He was able to perform!*"

C) Abe was not looking at his own limitations but he was looking at the Lord & kept high his Expectation / trusting in the Lord / His promise.

D) Focus on our limitations we are in trouble

1) Factor God into the equation – Confidence

Faith sees the Promises afar off.

Faith sees with a confidence.

Faith sees with affection

A) Embrace is talking about a warm hearty welcome - **BEAR HUG** / Amanda

B) It speaks of taking something & pressing it to your heart !!! /

1) They grabbed a hold of the promises made by someone they couldn't see

2) **And by faith Pressed them to their HEARTS –**

C) Because faith focus is on the Person of God – His love –

1) Faith embraces His promises {Same as embracing Him – His word is trust worthy

So Faith sees the Promises afar off.

A) Assured of them, embraces them

B) That naturally leads to Pt #2 Faith's confession

1) They Confessed w/ the Mouth

C) True faith results in confession !

1) Women at the well- "*Come & see.....* "

D) The thief on the Cross ! - At some pt the rebuking stopped & he believed & confessed "
Remember me when you go into Kingdom

C) The bible exhorts us to confess the Lord!

Romans 10:9,10 "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Idea is Confession solidifies the belief in the heart.

Think about when you met your wife !

A) Saw her afar off - across campus ; church; room at work WOW! (My mom w/ my dad / boyfriend - no one go out)

B) Began to talk & you were **Assured** I think she likes me [Confidence

1) After Date or 2 or 3; 10 or 20 **Embraced!** goodnight hug

C) Then came Confession: Those 3 words *PassKetchup* / I love you!

D) As time went on Confession led to more action: flowers, dinners ,picnics, poems, love

songs, w/ each step love grows deepens

E) Then came the Big Confession *I want to marry you will you marry me*

1) Then came the big day! Pastor says will take this women to be your wife love serve honor cherishas long as youlive?

2) **Confession again : "*I will Yes definitely* "**

The order teaches us important practical lesson :

The promises of God are 1st viewed /

2nd rested on as reliable/

3rd delighted in/

4th confessed

Notice what they confessed!

They confessed they were strangers and pilgrims .

A) They confessed they were strangers – some of us are stranger than others

B) Literally the word Stranger means – foreigners!

1) In the ancient world the fate of the stranger was hard. 2) He was regarded with hatred and suspicion and contempt.

C) We call that racial profiling today- But the idea was – he stood out and didn't necessarily fit in.

C) The Word Pilgrim as used to describe a person who was staying there temporarily and who had his permanent home somewhere else.

1) In other words he was someone who was worried about getting comfortable.

Interesting question: Do we stand out or do we fit in?

A) As the world we live in gets more and more anti God and anti Jesus – are we still comfortable?

B) The Patriarchs lived as strangers in a strange land

C) That picture of the sojourner became a picture of the Christian life.

Tertullian said of the Christian: “ He knows that on earth he has a pilgrimage but that his dignity is in heaven. ”

Clement of Alexandria said: “ We have no fatherland on earth. ”

Augustine said: “ We are sojourners exiled from our fatherland. ”

Great Quote of the early Church " *It was not that the Christians were foolishly other-worldly, detaching themselves from the life and work of this world; but they always remembered that they were people on the way.*"

To me that is a great description of our lives – Realizing that we are on the way – means that we are not going to get to comfortable in any one local

**A)Our focus isn't going to be about how we can fit it
Or how we can be comfortable.**

B)On a trip your priorities are completely different

You take a Trip in the Car – stop at a pretty spot – or a good restaurant

C) I don't care how nice the spot is or how good the food –

1)You keep going because there is a **DESTINATION IN VIEW** not going to get comfortable

Interesting to me how these hard economic Times have a way of removing our temporal focus

A)Times like this are uncomfortable – but that can be good for us – reminds us – We are pp on the way!

B)We are not there yet! –

C)Hey are you uncomfortable and trying to get back to a place of being comfortable –

D)Maybe the Lord wants us to be uncomfortable.

#3 Faith Refusal. V.15

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

A)Because they knew they were pp on the way – headed to a destination In spite of everything these men never lost their vision and their hope.

B)However long that hope might be in coming true, its light always shone in their eyes.

1)However long the way might be, they never stopped tramping along it.

C) Note also it says they didn't even call the old to mind!

1)Minding the things of the past can be a big **DISTRACTION/** distracting you from Pursuing that place where God is leading you !

In flying there is what is called *the point of no return*. When the airplane has reached that point *it cannot go back*.

Its fuel supply has reached such a level that there is nothing left but to go on.

Christian life – life that says not going to look back

Forgetting what lies behind – looking forward..... press on upward call of God in Christ.

A) One of the tragedies of life is the number of people who turn back just a little too soon.

Ebo Don't quit and I will do what you cannot do!

B) One of the sad things seeing today: A lot of people quitting Once running hard for Jesus – now – barely a crawl –

1) Some have quit running altogether – Sad breaks my heart

C) Satan loves to get us to look back

1) Old life / Old relationship/ old friends

D) **Ebo Deception** – Pulls the deception back and lets you see the mess you have made.

There are times when we are tempted to look back/ old life – especially in the mist of Trials

A) The Proplem is we forget what it was really like !

B) Remember the kicks / not he kick backs

C) Israel in wilderness /remembering Egypt *We had it so good* they were slaves)

D) Moses had the right perspective –

V. 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

On our 1st trip to Maui – plane was over booked – AA airlines was trying to get people to give up their seats go the next day

A) Offering 1200 voucher - hotel in LA – free meals for the night & morning

B) **We didn't even considerate it** – we were so anxious to get to Maui – and although we had

never been there – **we didn't want to miss one day**

We joked – we'd take the voucher if they offered it on the way home

C) That is how it is w/ us – This world offers us Temporal pleasures –

1) a night in LA – lose a day in Paradise I don't think so

" Unbeliever this world is as good as it gets; all down hill from here / believer this is the worst it gets....."

Don't Look Back

Jesus said Luke 9:62

"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

You ask anyone who has ever backslid – gone back to the Old life They will tell you they regretted it immensely

A)Pain / Scars / horrible consequences

B)The Lord has so much for us & if we hang in there we will see His Plan unfold in our lives

1)Keep your eye on the Prize!

C) So Faith' Vision / Faith's confession/ Faith's Refusal / #4 Faith's Reward Heb 11:16

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

A)Covenant: Called Himself the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

B)God was not ashamed to be identified with them.

1)Hebrews 2:11 tells us that Jesus is not ashamed to be identified with us – Calls us his Bros/ Sisters

1 John 3:1-3

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The Lord loves us – He longs to be with us!

A)Prepared a place for us in Heaven – He can't wait for us to get there.

B)Reward: Hear Him say Well done

Now maybe as I have been talking today – you have been thinking: I have already blown it.

A)Times my faith has been weak – Times I have looked back – gone back

B)Is there any hope for me?

C)Answer is absolutely left – Because you see all these that we have been talking about –

1)Heros of the faith – their faith faltered as well.

They didn't have perfect faith: They didn't always keep their eye on the prize.

A)Remember Abe's detour to Egypt – Sarah lie sister

- Picked up Hagar – Help God out –

B)Even Samson is in this list v.32

C)They were pp made of clay like us – weak flesh – but we read in Hebrews 6:15 –

Abraham patiently endured to receive the promise – { NOT TRUE

D)Key: That is the perspective this side of Calvary

This side of the Cross – He endured

1)Forgiven / forgotten

Same thing is true for you and for me!

A)God is compassionate and The mercies of God are new every morning! Lamentations 3:23

B)When we are faithless – God remains faithful

C)I have my moments: My biggest trial over the last 3 years on going - - this Building Project

Big step of faith – God made it clear – opened doors did miracles – Now Stalled . 800K

A)I don't understand – times frustrated – mad at God – pp mad at me – my fault { My fault the economy tanked

B)Problem is we are invested – 30K per month

1)Mortgage on this building – rents etc

C)If we could just get it together – our total payment after built first phase slightly higher

than now

1)We wait – We pray -

Wise council – Pastors conference – Don't do anything until God Changes the course

A)God hasn't Changed the course

B)Every day I lay the thing on the Altar –

**C)But I have had my moments – Lord what are you doing – Faith has faltered at times
The Blood of Jesus covers us!**