

WALKING By FAITH

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In God's Word it is written that we are to live by faith, be overcome by faith, to be kept by the power of God, through faith; and we are to walk by faith. 2nd Corinthians 5:7, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

The moment we begin to change that plan and begin to walk by sight and feeling, instead of faith, Satan quickly has the advantage over us; it gives him that advantage the very moment we walk by sight and feeling. Many people start out to walk by faith, but they do not maintain that attitude.

It is necessary for us to take a real stand to claim our full inheritance in Christ in a more definite and whole-hearted way than ever before. Confess and forsake every sin—should there be any—surrender our lives without reserve to God, and on the authority of His Word alone, and according to Isaiah 55:7, which reads, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* and also in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* We are to believe we are pardoned and cleansed and are pure and clean in heart in God's sight. Then take a firm stand to surrender our bodies a living sacrifice and claim our inheritance on the authority of God's Word that we are cleansed from all sin, filled with God's Spirit and that we have become holy and acceptable unto God. Take the position as taught in Romans 6: 1-11, that we are really dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus; that we are crucified with Christ: Galatians 2:20, *“nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me.”*

Crown Jesus Christ as Lord of our life and believe in our hearts that God hath raised Him from the dead; for He is the same Christ that went into the grave;

and Hebrews 13:8, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”* This will be a real foundation that we are Christ's in deed and in truth; that we are children of God, a branch of the only true Vine, Jesus Christ Himself—a real branch; that we have been fully translated from darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son, having put off the old man and having put on the new man, Jesus Christ. That is a very important step. Our only hope of ever living a victorious life is to not only take that position with our whole hearts, but to always maintain it.

These Scriptures declare these things to be a fact, as we place these Scriptures between ourselves and our old condition; we can see ourselves no longer by sight and feeling, but see ourselves, through these Scriptures as pardoned and cleansed; a Spirit-filled person; a real Christian. This means to start walking by faith and keep these Scriptures between us and our former condition.

Satan's pleasure is to reverse that position, to get us back to seeing ourselves as we formerly were and to lose sight of these Scriptures. He does that by coming into our minds and making suggestions; first, perhaps suggestions of sin, then of anger, then evil thoughts; then he calls our attention to the fact that if we were really all we professed to be we would not have any such thoughts. He suggests that we would not dare to say that we are dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus; if we ever did so, it is no use doing it now.

There are many who will fall victim to that; but this is only one of his tactics, and we cannot afford to pay any attention to it whatever. When these suggestions come from Satan, we lose sight of the Scriptures and look at the pictures he presents. He works all his wiles in order to get us to change God's combination of keeping the Scriptures between us and our old condition; he desires to get the old condition between us and the Scriptures. The moment we allow him to do this, and let him argue with us, that moment—if we are not careful—he will bring us back to the place we started from; we will no longer claim or see ourselves dead indeed unto sin. The very moment we accept his suggestions and begin to see ourselves as we formerly were, we lose sight of these Scriptures; and it will take us right

back to where we were, living the former life, where we are not overcomers at all, not able to stand when people insult us; we will talk back; we will resent injury; and will not walk by faith, and will be far from living an overcoming life.

When Satan comes with these suggestions, we do not have to accept them, nor to lose sight of the Scriptures; the best thing is to get alone with God and again go over Isaiah 55:7 and 1st John 1:9 and confess and forsake our sins and choose to believe according to those Scriptures that He will abundantly pardon and cleanse us; then start out again to place these Scriptures between us and our condition, taking a fresh stand, take the attitude that, Thy Word says if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive them and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and I choose to believe that Word. Where we have been rebellious and unbelieving and have listened to Satan's lies, we confess it before Thee, and on the authority of God's Word in 1st John 1:9 we believe we are pardoned and cleansed; we are taking our stand right in Thy sight. Also, according to Romans 12:1, we are surrendering these bodies a living sacrifice and believe they are holy and acceptable in Thy sight; we are counting ourselves dead indeed unto sin and living in Christ Jesus all over again.

Even if we were compelled to do this many times in a day, taking a fresh stand on these promises, it would pay us in the end. We cannot afford, for a moment, to lose sight of that Word; we must see ourselves through that Word and never pay any attention to what we might see by these natural eyes, but we must see ourselves wholly through what God's Word says, always remembering what Paul says: *“We walk by faith, not by sight.”*

We cannot drive a stake and simply expect to walk around it, thinking in our mind that we are all right. The heart purity and cleansing we had yesterday will not do for today; the stand we took to walk by faith last week will not keep us today. It is necessary to take a fresh stand every morning. We cannot live on past experiences any more than we can live on food we have eaten a week ago.

Satan tries to make us walk by sight and feeling and to lose sight of that Word; and he can work effectually if we do not keep the Word of God between us and

our condition, but if we look through the Word of God, he cannot pass that Word. The moment we walk by sight and feeling and do what he tells us, we will lose sight of that Word. As long as we keep the Word of God between us and our old condition, it will change our lives; it will transform us and make us a real child of God. The moment we lay that Word aside, we will go back into our old condition.

Paul says we are to walk by FAITH, not by sight. What we see through God's Word will effectually conquer Satan and destroy his works; all the difference is in the Word. It is the same with our healing; the very moment we put the Word of God between us and our physical condition, we are transformed from sickness into health, from weakness into strength.

When we lay aside that Word and begin to listen to Satan to see how weak we are, how we look, and how far from well we are, we look at our condition, take account of our symptoms and lose sight of the Word, lose sight of God's exceeding great and precious promises; that moment Satan can bring the condition we see upon us and keep it there.

However, if we say what God's Word says: "I am well and I believe I am well only because God's Word says so; because I asked for my healing in the name of Jesus and He said He would do it if I asked according to His will, so I know I am well."

The Word says in James 5:14-15 that the *"prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise them up, and if they have committed sins, they shall be forgiven them."* Therefore, I believe I am well because God's Word says so, although I feel much pain and see bad looks; I am determined to believe just what I see through God's Word.

Those who start out to walk by faith, and not sight, God's blessing will flow in through that Word; they will receive just what they see through that Word; that Word will change the whole situation. That Word set the foundations of this great world; it placed the sun, moon, and stars in their respective places; it brought forth man and woman; it brought forth vegetation, and the fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; God's Word accomplished it all.

It will transform anything today, even as it did at the beginning; for we are told that the earth was without form and void and God made this earth beautiful, what it is today except for sin and its results.

It is the same way with our homes. We pray for peace in the home and then lay the Word aside and count on what our loved ones are like, we look at their actions instead of the Word of God. We will think "When I see them acting better, I'll believe they have changed, perhaps they will be better when they get older." Such an attitude will never bring the victory. When we take the promise in God's Word that says that if a son of peace abides in any house His peace will enter that home—God's peace will abide there—and there will be perfect peace in that home. Satan will be cast out the moment we claim that peace, after asking for it in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are to see the ones who have made the disturbance transformed, because God's Word says so. We are not to wait to see the change, for that would be walking by sight—not FAITH. Satan always desires us to wait and see before we believe, but that is not God's plan of FAITH, that is walking by sight and feeling. We are to take the attitude that we see changed people, see Satan's power broken in our home; we see well people; we see ourselves healed, by looking into the Word of God.

The Word of God tells us how willing He is to save people and perfect them in His will and Word; this is an accomplished fact on the authority of that Word alone before we see or feel anything.

We may start out in taking a firm stand that we are free, dead indeed unto sin and living unto Jesus Christ; but we will never remain victorious in the wear and tear of life by the buffetings of our adversary, the devil, unless we take a fresh start every day, solemnly determined to stand upon and keep that Word between us and Satan and all of his wiles and power. As we do this we will realize, on the authority of God's Word, that there is a power in it that we have never experienced before; and we will find ourselves standing like a rock; we will experience the fact that we will not be tempted above what we are able, but that God will with every temptation make a way of escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13, *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is*

faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

All the mean things people say and do to us as well as every other dart of Satan will be quenched, they will not affect us at all. Paul said we were to walk by faith; not by sight. Satan's plan is to get us to walk by sight and not by faith.

That was Paul's fight of faith that he spoke of in 2nd Timothy; he said he had a good fight of faith. 2 Timothy 4:7, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

He kept the Word between him and everything which came against him. Paul meant to say that we are to persist; believe by God's grace, in dependence upon His Spirit; that we are His true children, because His Word says so, apart from all sight, feeling, or special revelation; we are to yield ourselves wholly unto God and claim that we are dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God; that sin shall not have dominion over us for we are not under the law but under GRACE. There is no power of the enemy, no disease, no burden, which can disturb us when we properly take that position and attitude.

2 Peter 1:4, *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature."*

We are not only to be partakers of these promises at the beginning of our lives but we are to continue to be partakers of the Divine nature. We must make our lives a living testimony of our profession of faith. The moment we lose sight of the promises and begin to walk by sight and feeling, instead of faith, we lose out. We are to stand, and maintain, on God's Word, and it will transform us at once into just what we see through that Word.



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