

That Which Comes By Faith

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Faith is a topic that on the surface is easy to understand, but sometimes it is hard to put into our life. To define faith, we would simply say that faith is an absolute confidence in God (Hebrews 11:1-6, John 3:16). But this is not all that faith is; faith is actually an absolute confidence in what God said (Romans 10:17, Matthew 7:21-23). Yet even this is not enough to truly define faith. Faith is an absolute confidence and action in what God said (James 2:14-26, John 3:36).

In 2 Corinthians 5:7 Paul says that we walk by faith, not by sight. "Walking" refers to the way we live our lives; sight refers to our senses or understanding. Thus Paul is saying that we live our lives not by our understanding, but by obedience to what God has said. Walking by Faith is not easy; it is something we have to train ourselves to do.

When we say "by faith" we mean: 1. God has said it; 2. I have acted in accordance; 3. Our confidence is not by sight. Let us consider three examples of things that come by faith:

1. The answers to prayers
2. The indwelling of God's Spirit
3. Our salvation

Prayers are Answered by Faith

We know that when it comes to prayer, God has said He would hear prayers from us if they are in His will (1 John 5:14) and if we are in Christ (John 16:23). Our obedience is that we have been faithful to him, so that nothing hinders our prayers (1 Peter 3:7). It is the righteous man whose prayers are effective (James 5:16). So then we see this is a work done in faith; the answer is not by sight. Jesus said that our prayers are answered in faith in belief in Matthew 21:22.

Spirit Indwells by Faith

God promised His Spirit to dwell in believers (Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:19). It comes not to all, but those who are His in obedience (beginning with Acts 2:38) and in conduct (1 Corinthians 6:18-19). Thus the indwelling of the Spirit is by faith, as we are told in Ephesians 3:17 and Colossians 3:16.

Our Salvation is by Faith

The Word reveals that God offered Salvation to all (1 Timothy 2:4). While it is a free gift, we must still act in obedience to receive it (Romans 6:17). Thus salvation comes by Faith. If so, then the manifestation of our salvation is in Faith, and not by sight. This is what John says in 1 John 5:13.

We must be careful that we do not lose “Sight” of Faith trying to find manifestations of these promises y our own understanding. If anything is “of Faith”, we do not look for other manifestations, and our confidence is because God has told us. If we require sensual validation, we are not walking by faith.