

Walk by Faith Not Sight

October 28, 2018

Just as the passions of the flesh war against the passions of the regenerated spirit, so does sight war against faith.

Galatians 5:17 ESV

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

- *The warfare between the flesh and the regenerated spirit is often spoken of and taught, but we need to be just as aware and just as on-guard in the warfare between sight and faith.*
- *If you live by and judge by the appearance of things in the natural, you will never see the spiritual; you will never be able to discern God at work.*

2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV

7 for we walk (peripateō - to make one's way, to progress, to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self) by faith, not by sight.

1 Samuel 16:6-7 ESV

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

2 Kings 6:15-17 ESV

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- *There was nothing wrong with the servants physical eyesight.*
- *Elisha's prayers were to open his spiritual eyes, to give him a spiritual vision that natural eyes cannot see - that is called "faith."*
- *The physical sight was diametrically opposed to the spiritual. The physical sight brought fear. The spiritual sight brought courage. The physical sight saw death, the spiritual sight saw life.*

Nehemiah 4:1-3 ESV

1 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews.

2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?"

3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building--if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

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.

1 Peter 1:1 ESV

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

- *Peter wrote this epistle late in his life, around AD 64-65, just before Nero's extreme persecution in AD 64-68.*
- *Historically, it is almost certain, that Peter was crucified in AD 64 in Rome, under the persecution of Christians by Nero.*
- *Peter was writing to encourage them in what they had suffered, and to prepare them for greater suffering to come.*

1 Peter 1:6-9 ESV

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:27-29 ESV

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."
28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Faith is born, grows and endures supernaturally.

Romans 10:14-18 ESV

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"
17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

- *If man cannot believe unless he hears the Gospel message preached, then everyone should believe, because the message has gone out to the ends of the world.*
- *But not everyone believes. So faith must be birthed in our spirits, not by physical hearing with the ears, but a spiritual hearing of the heart that is divinely given by the Holy Spirit.*
- *The Gospel must be preached, because without it people won't hear the message. But faith requires more than just audible hearing of the ears.*

John 6:41-44 ESV

41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves.

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Revelation 2:7 ESV

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Hebrews 11:1 ESV

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

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

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.

Blinded to the Spiritual by the Natural

Hebrews 3:7-11 ESV

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'

11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

God's Way of Faith - *"They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways."*

- *Will always seem foolish compared to, and in the eyes of, the world.*
- *The child of God must be brought to a place of utter dependence upon God, where all trust or glory in the flesh dies.*
- *The child of God must be brought to a place where all appeal and desire for the world dies, where God is the only One desired.*
- *The child of God must be brought to a place where he/she walks by faith, by what is unseen, instead of walking by the appearance of things.*

Hebrews 3:15-19 ESV

15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?

17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.