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Walking by Faith: A Journey Beyond Sight

In a world driven by tangible results and visible progress, we're often tempted to rely solely on what we can see, touch, and measure. But what if there's a deeper, more profound way to navigate life? What if we're called to something greater than mere sight?

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, presents us with a powerful challenge: "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). This simple yet profound statement invites us to reconsider how we approach our daily lives and spiritual journeys.

But what does it truly mean to walk by faith?

Walking by faith isn't about blind optimism or ignoring reality. Instead, it's about trusting in God's plan and purpose, even when circumstances seem bleak or confusing. It's about holding onto hope when all visible evidence points to despair.

Consider the metaphor Paul uses in this passage – comparing our earthly bodies to temporary tents and our heavenly bodies to permanent buildings. This imagery reminds us that our current struggles and limitations are temporary. We're journeying towards something far greater and more lasting.

This perspective shift changes everything. When we walk by faith, we're no longer at the mercy of our circumstances. We're no longer defined by what we can see or what others say about us. Instead, we're anchored in the promises of God and the hope of eternity.

But let's be honest – this isn't easy. Our natural inclination is to trust what we can see, to rely on our own understanding. Walking by faith requires a continual, intentional choice to trust God above all else.

So how do we practically apply this principle in our daily lives?

1. Trust in God's Plan: When faced with challenges, uncertainties, or setbacks, we must remember that God is working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). This doesn't mean everything will be easy or pleasant, but it does mean that even our struggles have purpose.

2. Seek God's Will: Instead of relying solely on our own wisdom or desires, we should actively seek God's guidance in our decisions. As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

3. Maintain an Eternal Perspective: It's easy to get caught up in the immediate concerns of this world. But when we keep our focus on our eternal home, it changes how we view our current circumstances. We begin to prioritize what truly matters in light of eternity.

Walking by faith also means understanding that our lives are part of a bigger story. Just as a recipe requires both sweet and bitter ingredients to create the perfect dish, our lives are composed of both joyful and painful experiences. Each element, whether pleasant or difficult, contributes to shaping us into who we're meant to be.

This truth should radically change how we view our trials. James 1:2-4 encourages us to "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

When we walk by faith, we can find purpose in our pain. We can trust that God is using even our most difficult experiences to refine us, to teach us, and to draw us closer to Him. As the Psalmist reflected, "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (Psalm 119:71).

This doesn't mean we should seek out suffering or resign ourselves to it. But it does mean we can approach our challenges with a different mindset. Instead of asking "Why is this happening to me?" we can ask, "What can I learn from this? How can God use this for His glory and my growth?"

Walking by faith also impacts how we view our relationship with God. It's not about earning His love or favor through our good works. Rather, it's about responding to His love by living in a way that reflects His character. As Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15).

This obedience isn't born out of fear or obligation, but out of love and gratitude. When we truly grasp the depth of God's love for us – a love so great that He sent His Son to die for us – it transforms how we live. We begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Walking by faith also means living with the awareness that one day, we will stand before God and give an account of our lives. This sobering reality should motivate us to live with intentionality and purpose. It should inspire us to be less focused on temporary pleasures or worldly success, and more concerned with what has eternal value.

In the end, walking by faith is about trust. It's about believing that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He has promised. It's about choosing to follow Him, even when the path is unclear or difficult. It's about living with the assurance that, as the hymn writer penned, "All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside?"

As we navigate life's ups and downs, may we remember that we are called to walk by faith, not by sight. May we trust in God's goodness, even when we can't see it. May we hold onto hope, even in the darkest valleys. And may we live each day with the joyful anticipation of the eternal home that awaits us.

For in the end, faith is not just about believing. It's about living – living in such a way that our lives bear witness to the unseen realities we profess. It's about allowing our trust in God to shape our choices, our attitudes, and our interactions with others.

So let us step out in faith today. Let us trust God's plan, seek His will, and keep our eyes fixed on eternity. For when we walk by faith, we discover a life far richer and more meaningful than anything we could have imagined on our own.

In Christ Alone,

Dr. Marcus D. Floyd, D.Min.

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