

WALKING BY FAITH

In **2 Cor. 5:7**, Paul said, *“we walk by faith and not by sight.”* This is in contrast to the Judaist teachers who were glorying in the flesh and trying to broaden the Jewish system by compelling Gentiles to be circumcised and follow the law. The contrast between faith and sight obviously implies that faith involves a conviction of things not seen, just as **Hebrews 11:1** says.

In His infinite wisdom, God chose faith as a key requirement of establishing a relationship with Him. By believing in Jesus through the gospel, we can overcome the world and be pleasing to Him. **Romans 10:17** says, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

God has graciously given the means by which we can believe in His Son. God’s word is a solid foundation for faith. “Faith” includes obedience in the beginning, the middle, and the end of Romans (**10:16; 1:5, 16:26**). Jesus included obedience as part of the foundation of faith in **Matthew 7:21-27**.

Now I would like for us to make another application of Paul’s simple but profound statement in **2 Cor. 5:7**. By contrasting faith with the fleshly-minded Judaist teachers troubling the Corinthians, Paul indicts not only the physical sense of sight but all physical senses as a false foundation for faith. In the current religious world around us, this problem is more widespread than you may first realize.

Those who appeal to a feeling within them as proof of their salvation without offering any testimony agreeing with the Spirit’s testimony of the gospel are actually walking by feeling and not faith. It is often based on emotion rather than conviction of the word. Satan will make sure feelings change so that their faith changes. Jesus said that reception of the word based on emotion rather than depth of faith will result in defeat when circumstances become more challenging (**Mark 4:16-17**). These believers are the most excited at first, but their faith is based on the strength of the feeling instead of historical fact.

When our faith is based on the death of Jesus for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead on third day all in fulfillment of scripture (**1 Cor. 15:1-4**), then it will not wane even when Satan makes our lives miserable. Troubles don’t change historical facts on which our faith rests!