

## By Faith? Or, By Sight?

**II Corinthians 5:7**, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." This passage is much more abused than it is understood. Some come away with the understanding that we can just rely on our feelings for guidance. Others conclude that there are exceptions to God's laws. "Your interpretation is just as good as my interpretation," is often times heard. All along claiming to be walking by faith.

### What Does It Mean To Walk By Faith?

Walking by faith means that we have to walk by God's Word. Paul said, "**So faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ**" (Rom. 10:17). If we go beyond God's Word, we do not walk by faith (II John 9). The example of Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2) is a powerful example of walking by sight. They used fire but they didn't get the fire from where God specified. They reasoned that any fire would be alright. They offered "**strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.**" (vs. 1). They lost their lives because of their lack of faith.

Walking by faith means walking in the trust of God. Abraham is a good example of this kind of trust. Hebrews 11:17-19 talks of Abraham offering up his son, Isaac. He knew the promise was to come through his son Isaac but yet God told Abraham to offer him up. Abraham didn't understand why but he "**considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead**" (vs. 19). He didn't rely on his understanding (or his own sight). He walked in the trust of God (by faith).

Walking by faith describes the life of the one who fears God. We cannot please God outside of our faith (Heb. 11:6).

### Pressure To Walk By Sight

Walking by sight is relying upon our own senses. Thomas had this problem when it came to seeing the resurrected Christ (John 20:24ff).

Walking by sight involves us replacing the Word of Christ with:

1. Human Wisdom: Naaman the leper reasoned this way. "**Are not the rivers of Damascus better than all Israel?**" (II Kings 5:12). "**For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe**" (I Cor. 1:21). We cannot come to God through the wisdom of the world. It is through the message (the gospel, Rom. 1:16) preached that we are saved.

2. Human Experience: Many people reason, "We've always done it this way." Such is not sound reasoning and is based on walking by sight.

3. Human Feelings, or Emotions: Jesus didn't come to make all of us feel warm and fuzzy on the inside. He came to set a "man against his father and a daughter against her mother." (Matt. 10:35) "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."(vs. 36).

Walking by sight is very alluring and we dare not underestimate its cleverness. In order to please God, however, we must walk by faith.

– Shane Williams