

Live by Faith, Not by Sight

Main Bible Verse:

(Hebrews 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Summary:

1. Doubt will steal the blessing and promise that God has prepared for us. Doubt is “not” believing; doubt is not trusting God; doubt will hinder us from seeking God. Jesus told Martha in John 11:40, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”
2. First, without faith it is impossible to please God. Second, anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists. Third, we must believe that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Hence, faith is essential for Christians for it is our foundation.
3. Faith does not rely on feelings. We must not let the slightest doubt into our heart. For doubt will hinder our faith thus not able to enter God’s promise.
4. We must build up our faith through everyday worship and God’s word toward a life of rapture. When our faith grows in God’s word, we will not be influenced by the world and our own feelings. This type of faith will help us to look up to God and not fall into the burden and weariness the Satan tried to entice us with.
5. How do we know that our faith is from God? We must check if we truly believe that God exists, believe that all things are graces of God, believe that God will definitely show us the way, and believe that God will solve all our problems. This is the type of faith we must seek when we worship God. We must remind ourselves daily that we have to continue to worship and continue to seek God so we may have such faith.
6. When our faith grow, God will call us. This calling will bring us into deeper faith. When God calls us to do His work, we will enter His grace and blessings. We will have a further understanding of God’s word and we will be strengthened to share the gospel and to help others.
7. (2 Corinthians 5:7) Thomas’ faith is the type of faith that based on sight. God did not say this type of faith is commendable. (John 20:24-26) However, God still showed mercy when Thomas failed to believe and based his faith on sight. Thomas trusted his own eyes that Jesus was crucified but he did not trust when Jesus said that He will be resurrected in three days. Therefore, Jesus revealed Himself to Thomas and taught him, so his faith could mature, and he may begin to live by faith.
8. Praise the Lord that we all are blessed to believe that Jesus is our savior even when we did not see. Without witnessing Jesus’ crucifixion, we all believed that Jesus is the word become flesh, our savior, and our messiah. (1 John 4:2)
9. When we trust in God, the light of God will enter our lives. When we trust in God, the Holy Spirit will become our counselor. The counselor is to help us to understand God’s word and to reveal everything to us so we may enter God’s blessings and promises. (John 14:26)
10. Where the Spirit goes, we must go. Therefore, it is extremely important to have the work of the Holy Spirit in our church. The church where we are being filled with the Holy Spirit is the spiritual home that God has blessed us with. We must daily be filled with the Holy Spirit in our church, speak in tongue, and to let the Holy Spirit guide us. (Acts 1:4-5)

11. (Ezekiel 1:20) The reason how Ezekiel was transformed from a priest into a prophet is because he understood the importance of living by faith and not by sight. He understood the importance of following the Holy Spirit. Where the Spirit would go, the living creature would go, and that is where we should go. This is the key to our success.
12. This is the key to Paul's success. Even when Paul encountered hardships and persecutions during his journey to share the gospel, he continued to trust in God's word and to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is the reason Paul was able to establish many churches and completed the kingdom commission God had entrusted him. He was able to help many disciples and shared the gospel to many nations.
13. (Matthew 16:17-19) This is the teaching of Jesus to Peter. Peter was able to know that Jesus is Christ, the son of God, for he does not rely on his flesh and blood. Peter was blessed that this was revealed to him by our Father in heaven. This is why it is very important to receive instructions from our heavenly Father.
14. Through His teaching to Peter, Jesus taught us that "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Our church is built on this Rock, Jesus. Therefore, has the authority to heal and to set us free. This rock will help us to re-establish our life, our marriage, our career, and our interpersonal relationships. The gate of Hades will never overcome the authority God has given to His churches. The church could cover us, heal us, help us understand that Jesus' blood will pardon our sins, and teach us how to enter God's blessings and promises.
15. If we have come to church, but still have weariness and burden, then we must review ourselves. Have we followed God's command, have we forgiven other people, have we stayed holy in our marriage, have we stolen from others or tricked them to benefit ourselves, or have we done things for our own glory? We must pray for God to empower us to live a godly life. When we depart from our sins, the Holy Spirit will be pleased to dwell within us and guide us.
16. (Psalms 100:1-5) How we begin our day, determines how our day goes. Every morning, we must shout for joy to the Lord. Praise God and thank Him for another wonderful day. When we do so, our day will be filled with joy. We will see God's protection and guidance.

Conclusion:

- (1 Samuel 17:45) David defeated Goliath. (Acts 9:13-19) Ananias followed God's instruction and laid his hand on Saul. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and became the great apostle Paul. All these are examples of people who lived by faith and not by sight. When they follow God's word by faith, they became part of God's wonderful work. We must come to church and learn to live a life of worship, to learn God's word and to learn to act upon God's word, and to learn to live by faith and not by sight.