

Introduction:

Faith is an important and often addressed subject in the Bible. One well known passage is **2 Corinthians 5.7** *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”* Christianity is a religion of faith. This fact is often ridiculed by its skeptics. **Hebrews 11:3** *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.* They say we are involved in fantasy or wishful thinking. Faith is a part of our daily lives whether you are a Christian or not. We start and drive our car based on faith, go to work with the faith we will get paid, plant a crop believing there will be rain and a harvest. So why is it incredible we have faith in believing in God? In this lesson we will look at “faith.”

I) The Importance of Faith

A) Without it we cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

1. Occasionally someone will make the argument of doing what the Bible says even if you don't have any faith. Ex. Be baptized, pray, etc.
2. God has never been pleased with outward ceremonialism or superstition.

B) We are condemned without it.

Mark 16:16 *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*

1. Some want to be saved without being baptized while some want to be baptized without faith. I.e., infant baptism
2. The infant has no faith as it knows nothing about God or sin at this point.

C) One overcomes the world with it.

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

1. Earlier John speaks of the things of this world- lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life.
2. He also says the things of this world are passing away.
3. By faith we can overcome these things and its temporary nature.

D) We are justified by faith

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. How can man, a sinner, become justified, innocent before a just God.
2. By faith in Christ, by having our sins washed away by His blood.

II) What Does It Mean to Walk By Faith?

A) Walk has to do with the way we live.

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

1. Have you ever just started out your house walking with no idea of where you are going?
2. Eventually we have to make us our minds of where we are going or else we would never make it back home.
3. Our walk is the result of how we live each day.

B) By faith

1. To trust and believe in God.

Exodus 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

2. Some did not trust God and took more manna, some went out on the Sabbath Day to gather manna. Neither were walking by faith.
3. Today, do we trust God or not?

C) Faith comes by hearing the word of God, *Romans 10.17*

Acts 4:4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

1. Where there is no word of God, there cannot be any faith.
2. No walking by faith- a person may be doing some godly things because of societal standards, or they are just a good person, but that is not walking by faith.

III) What Is It To Walk By Opinion?

A) Illustration of Nicodemus

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

1. Was Nicodemus a Pharisee? Yes. God's word says so.
2. Was Nicodemus a "ruler of the Jews"? Yes, God's word says so.
3. Did Nicodemus come to Jesus by night? Yes, God's word says so.
4. What time of night did Nicodemus come to Jesus? Matter of opinion.
5. How tall was Nicodemus? No idea.
6. Why did Nicodemus come by night? Does the Bible tell us? No.

Any answer I give is just my opinion.

B) Walking by opinion is to walk by things

1. Not revealed in the Bible or to reject what is in the Bible.
2. Opinion is not a substitute for faith.

IV) Examples of Walking By Faith

A) Noah in building the ark.

Genesis 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

1. The wood to be used was gopher wood, the number of floors, number of doors, number of windows, were matters of faith.
2. Changing any of those things was sin no matter how strong of opinion Noah had.

B) Joshua in the overthrow of Jericho.

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

Hebrews 11:30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.*

1. Literally Joshua and Israel were walking by faith.
2. Walking by faith is doing what God says to do.

C) Modern application

1. Baptism

- a. Is immersion, being buried, going down into the water.

Acts 8:36 *Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"* **37** *Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* **38** *So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.* **39** *Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.*

- b. For the remission of sins

Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

- c. Sprinkling or pour water on a person is not done by faith but opinion.
- d. Baptizing someone into a local fellowship is not by faith but opinion.

2. Singing in worship

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in*

all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- a. I can sing by faith (based on God's word"
- b. I cannot play an instrument by faith (not in God's word).

Conclusion:

The Bible is all sufficient in religion. ***2 Peter 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*** Faith demands we study the word of God, accept it as God's word, and do the word of God.