

## BY FAITH OR BY SIGHT

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We need to spend quality time in God's word. The Word of God is a key part of our spiritual armour. Starting with The Belt of Truth.

There is a bad spiritual world out there ... so God has given us armour to help us.

### Ephesians 6:10-17 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

11 **Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Several ranks of evil spiritual beings)

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having **girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

15 and **having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

16 **above all, taking the shield of faith (which is the Word of God) with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.** *(Quench all of them. Fiery darts ... fiery arrows ... fiery missiles ... which satan fires at us. So if we want to be victors and not victims ... we have to put on the whole armour of God)*

17 **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

When it comes to living by faith ... it is more than just having knowledge.

### **James 2:14-20 (NKJV)**

14 **What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?** *(The answer implied is no!)*

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,  
16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

17 Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, (corresponding actions) is dead.**

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 **You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!** *(Just having knowledge is not sufficient!)*

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works (corresponding actions) is dead?**

Are we like everyone else? Or are we different (Not weird) ... walking by faith?

### **Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)**

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

36 **For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

37 "For yet a little while,

And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 **Now the just shall live by faith; (the righteous person will live by faith ... a WAY OF LIFE!!)**

But if anyone draws back,  
My soul has no pleasure in him."

**39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**

We have more than 5 senses. The physical senses shouldn't dictate how we live. If we just rely on our senses ... we will get distracted. We may even turn round and turn back. Faith is not one of the five physical senses. Faith is not feeling. Faith should be the key motivation for the things we do.

#### **Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)**

1 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** (*This is a definition*) **(FAITH IS HERE AND NOW. HOPE IS IN THE FUTURE!)**

#### **Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)**

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

God will do what He has said He will do.

#### **Romans 4:19-22 (NKJV)**

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. (*Abraham didn't look at his circumstances ... didn't consider the physical surroundings*)

20 **He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,**

21 and **being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.**

22 And therefore **"it was accounted to him for righteousness."** (*Made righteous by faith*)

**Romans 4:22 (NASB)**

**22 Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV)**

**16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.**

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

18 while **we do not look at the things which are seen, (temporary - subject to change) but at the things which are not seen.** (With the "eye of faith") (Eternal) For the things which are seen are temporary, (subject to change) but the things which are not seen are eternal.

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

**7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.** (Seeing the invisible)

Walking by faith is a way of life. We have to start on that journey ...where God's word becomes more real than our physical senses. Faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing the Word of God ... not by having heard! If we want faith ... it comes by hearing the Word of God ... which means putting some good time into the Word of God.

Here's George Müller's definition of faith:

***"Faith is the assurance that the things which God has said in His Word are true and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. This assurance, this reliance on God's Word, this confidence is faith".***

He had read his Bible through over 200 times. No surprise then if you have an element of faith. How many times have you read your Bible all the way through? Perhaps we don't have a Faith problem ...

just a Word problem. At the average speed of reading for 10 minutes per day ... you will be able to read the Bible all the way through in one year. By audio tape ...5 hours which equates to 12 minutes per day ... to get through the Bible in a year. All that's lacking is initiative. It's a lot better than nothing just reading it without studying it thoroughly.

### 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

*(How simple is that?)*

God will do what He says in His Word He will do ... and that comes by hearing ... and hearing ... The Word of God.

We can believe that we receive when we have asked. It may take a while before we see the evidence.

### Mark 11:20-24 (NKJV)

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.

23 For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever says** to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things **he says** will be done, he will have whatever **he says**. *(We must SPEAK if we want to change a situation. We must "SAY")*

24 **Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**

### Mark 11:24 (NASB)

24 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

### Mark 11:24 (Weymouth New Testament)

24 That is why I tell you, as to whatever you pray and make request for, if you believe that you have received it it shall be yours.

### Mark 11:24 (NIV)

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Most people don't have faith. They believe in doctrines.

### Matthew 8:5-13 (NKJV)

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, dreadfully tormented."

7 And **Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."**

8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. **But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.**

9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 **When Jesus heard it, He marvelled,** and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. (*The man had great faith!*)

#### Mark 4:35-41 (NKJV)

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (*The disciples were FULL OF FEAR ... they had NO FAITH!! What do we do in similar situations? Do we have on our shield of faith?*)

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Faith comes by hearing ... and hearing ... the Word of God.

#### Matthew 14:22-32 (NKJV)

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw *(Peter had a choice here ... and he made the wrong choice ... he took his eye off Jesus)* that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" *(Peter started out okay ... Probably like many of us. But ... he relied on his senses)*

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

We need patience and steadfastness.

### James 1:2-8 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy *(reckon, consider)* when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. *(The characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose. Be constant!)*

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 **But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, (*Doubting = Greek: Diakrino ... of two opinions*) for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.**

7 **For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (*Doubt and go without. Believe and receive.*)**

8 **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (*Be single-minded*)**

#### **Hebrews 6:11-12 (NKJV)**

11 **And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,**

12 **that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (*Through faith and patience!! The power twins!*)**

#### **Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)**

19 **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

20 **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,**

21 **and having a High Priest over the house of God,**

22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

One of the problems that we face is our own human reasoning ... like "Doubting Thomas". Blessed are those who have not seen ... and believe.

#### **Luke 5:17-26 (NKJV)**

17 **Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had**

come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.**

18 Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralysed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.

19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

20 **When He saw their faith,** He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

21 **And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"** *(These people reasoned themselves out of God's blessings ... because faith isn't about being able to prove things logically)*

22 **But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?"**

23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'?

24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralysed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26 **And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"** *(This wouldn't include the Pharisees. The experts "missed out"!)*

*Don't reason yourselves out of the Promises of God!!*

## **2 Kings 5:1-14 (NKJV)**

1 **Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honourable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valour, but a leper.**

2 And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

3 Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

5 Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. (*About \$3.8 million*)

6 Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

7 And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

8 So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

12 Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" *(At this stage he has almost reasoned himself out of healing ... relying on his own intellect ... his own judgement ... his own accurate logic)*

14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

The same applies to us today. We can start walking by faith as of today. It's a key part of our spiritual warfare. Remember: Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. Spend time in God's Word. So get to it!