

It's Not By Sight II Corinthians 5:1-7

1. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God an house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens.
2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.
3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.
4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.
5. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.
6. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord.
7. **For we walk by faith, not by sight:**

How many of you have ever heard a song on the radio or heard someone singing a song or humming a tune that for whatever the reason got stuck in your head? Over and over again the song just kept on ringing in your head. Don't you just hate when that happens?

Well that's what happens too many of us when our faith is challenged. Only it's not a song that we hear over and over again, it is a phrase. And that phrase is I can't see.... I can't see how I can keep going since my loved one passed, I can't see how I can keep up with these kids all by myself, I can't see how I can get along with my boss, or my neighbor, or that so-called friend who did me wrong. I can't see how I can pay my bills and give my tithes also. I can't see, I can't see, I *just can't see!* Well I don't know what it is that you can't see, but I've got news for you; **It's Not By Sight!**

All too often we are confronted with issues that challenge our faith. We know what the right response should be, but I can't see somehow gets in the way. Faith's greatest enemy is I can't see. We get stuck between a rock and a hard place, I can't see, The mountain seem too traitorous, I can't see, The river too wide, I can't see. We forget what real faith is. Okay you say **what is real faith?** I'm glad you asked. Jesus what is real faith? Well the best way to explain it is to give you an example. If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you. Now that's real faith! What is real faith?

The writer of the Book of Hebrews says “Now faith is the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen.” The emphasis is on the last phrase (not seen). **It’s Not By Sight!** Faith does not depend upon sight. In fact, faith defies all of our physical senses but one. You can’t taste it, you can’t touch it, you can’t smell it, and you know you can’t see it. The only sense that faith relies on is hearing. Paul tell us in Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Faith depends on hearing the word of God.). **It’s Not By Sight!**

When God told Noah to build an arc because it was going to rain, Noah built the arc. He had never seen rain, felt rain, never had he smelled the freshness after the rain, but God said it was going to rain and So Noah, because of his faith, built the Arc. For 120 years he worked on that arc and every day he preached its going to rain. Can you imagine preaching about an event that you had never seen for 120 years with people mocking you? You do know what the people said don’t you? I can’t see. There was a bumper sticker once that read God said it, I believe it and that settles it. Well, If God said it whether or not you believe it is irrelevant it’s settled any way. That’s real faith! And Real

Faith IS Not By Sight!

And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel and of the prophets:

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, and out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turn to flight the armies of the aliens. Now that’s Real Faith! But without faith it is impossible to please God. “For he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews11:6

THAT’S REAL FAITH and Its Not By Sight.

In our text, Paul presents an argument that only faith can comprehend. In Paul’s effort to provide the church at Corinth strong encouragement as well as a better understanding of what their expectations as followers of Christ should be, he declares what the Holy Spirit has revealed to him about this life and the life to come:

1. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God an house not

made by hands, eternal in the heavens.

If our tent, that earthly body which is now our home--is taken down

2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.

In this present frame we sigh with deep longing desiring to cover my earthly raiment with the robes of my heavenly mansion.

3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

Since I am sure that once so covered I shall not be naked at the hour of death.

4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

As long as we are clothed in this temporary dwelling we have a painful longing, not desiring to put off our earthly clothing, but to put over it our heavenly raiment. Not because we just want to get rid of these clothes, but because we want to know the full cover of the permanent house that will be ours.

5. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

God Himself has shaped us for this very end and has also given us his spirit as a pledge or first installment of future

bliss.

6. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord.

Come what may then, I am confident knowing that while our home is in the body, we are absent from our home with the Lord.

For which cause we faint not. But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of Glory

While we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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