



Walking with God 2 WALKING BY FAITH



To walk WITH God, we have to walk LIKE God ... GO where He's GOING and DO what He's DOING.

God loves LOVE, FAITH, SPIRIT ... That's WHO He IS + WHAT He DOES ... Those places are HOTBEDS of divine activity.

* Ephesians 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 1:17, Galatians 5:16
→ How and why are those places hotbeds of divine / supernatural activity?

Hebrews 11:6 → Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God
Galatians 5:6 → The ONLY THING THAT COUNTS is faith expressing itself through love.

STARTING POINT: The walk of faith is a journey characterised by a SUCCESSION of DECISIONS made to DO IT GOD'S WAY.

* Life is a journey of 1000 steps ... Each step is movement, decision, direction, based on an impulse or value / reaction / intention

Each of those decisions will be based on:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| * FAITH or FEAR | * LOVE or SELFISHNESS |
| * WORD or WHIM | * LIGHT or DARK |
| * SPIRIT or FLESH | * TRUTH or LIES |

The FIRST COLUMN will produce a VERY DIFFERENT LIFE!
Reality = Every step we face each of those factors and consciously or unconsciously we'll lean one way.
→ Which column pleases God? Looks like Jesus? Is where Holy Spirit is taking you?
→ Which way do you tend to lean as you look down each of those pairs? Which column more closely resembles your life / your decision-making plan?

If we want to walk by faith, we have to learn to look PREDOMINANTLY through the EYE of FAITH.

(Remember the difference between Pharisees' legalistic eye + Jesus the unshakeable)
→ What is your dominant eye? Is it the eye of fear / emotion / impulse / insecurity / scepticism / criticism OR Is it the eye of faith, great big God, possibility? For you is it promises or problems? Promptings or prejudices? Strong biblical convictions or powerful emotional impulses? Is there any eye that's too strong in your life?

* What you FEED becomes STRONG; what you NEGLECT becomes WEAK. (Remember the Native American parable of the two wolves)
* In Kingdom, people who surround themselves with -ve, worldly, fear, flesh, emotion become weak. People who fill themselves with praise, prayer, promises become strong + bear fruit.
→ Do you agree? If so, why is that?

READ Mark 9:14-29 with James 1:5-8

→ Can you sympathise with the disciples or father in this story? Is it okay to have doubts and unbelief? What's the difference between doubt and unbelief?

* The trouble is, lots of people do nothing but FEED their UNBELIEF. What you fill yourself with, surround yourself by, talk about, dwell on endlessly, eventually you become ... it takes you over. You can hear it in their conversations → What they talk about ... How they talk about it ... How often they talk about it. So, people begin to walk by _____ (fill in the gap, but certainly not FAITH)
→ If you could summarise your walk in one statement, what would it be? I walk by ???

HOW DO WE FEED OUR FAITH?

1. FILL yourself with the WORD of faith (Rom 10:17, Joshua 1:6-9)
 2. DISQUALIFY anything NOT of faith (Rom 14:23, 2 Cor 10:5)
 3. SURROUND yourself with PEOPLE of faith (Prov 27:17)
- How do you score on those? Any room for growth? Anything the Lord calling you to?

2 'DOMINANT EYE' VERSES

Romans 8:37 → MORE than CONQUERORS
That's your INHERITANCE, POSITION, DESTINY

* We must learn to look at every situation, conversation, mountain through that eye. Circumstances, difficult people, fears will rise up; the Enemy will throw his junk at you, but to walk with God / by faith, we must learn to see thru that eye
→ Are you more than a conqueror or does it feel like you're losing? Do you behave as a victor or victim? What's the difference? Why is this lens so important?

Romans 12:17-21 → Overcome EVIL with GOOD.

It takes faith to do that. It's so tempting to fix it ourselves → Take action, let rip, make sure everyone knows, seek revenge ... To grab hold of it with our hands rather than trusting it to God's hands

- * We must STARVE fleshly, emotional temptations for revenge, fixing + fussing.
- * Walking by faith involves DIGGING in and DOING what the WORD says, whatever.

FAITH PEOPLE LOOK & SMELL DIFFERENT

1. **POSITIVE not NEGATIVE** → You can't work with -ve people ... they corrupt the atmosphere.
2. **SOLUTION not PROBLEM** → **Mark 11:23** ... Don't talk about mountain, talk to it ... tell it what to do.
3. **PRAYERS not COMPLAINERS** → Moaning + groaning feed unbelief like nothing else; far better option = pick a promise + pray the change (**Phil 4:6-8**).
4. **OPTIMISTIC not PESSIMISTIC** → Believe best of people, always trust God to pull through, their impossibilities become God's possibilities.
5. **GOD not CONTROL** → If you try to control everything you become bottle-neck, constraining factor. Are we trusting or manipulating? Faith, fuss or fix? We need to cede control to God.
6. **PROMISES not OPINIONS** → "I'm not moved by what I see / feel / fear / circumstances, naysayers, enemy garbage, but only by what I believe + discern."

→ What if we looked like column 1? (We meaning you AND we meaning us as a church) What would that do in us? Around us? Would that change what comes out of us?