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# **We Are People Who Live By Faith**

## **2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**

### **Introduction**

1. Have you ever stopped to consider just how important faith is in our lives as Christians?
2. In 2 Corinthians 4:18, a passage we examined not so long ago, the apostle Paul, after addressing the fact that “our outer man is decaying” and that this “momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison” **added these words**, “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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3. Seven verses later in 2 Corinthians 5:7, he penned these words, “for we walk by faith, not by sight.”
4. You and I as Christians live our lives by faith in God’s Son (Galatians 2:20).

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20, NASB95)

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5. In Hebrews 11, the great chapter on faith, the writer makes this point in verse 6, “without faith it is impossible to please Him [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”
6. In the first verse of that chapter, he defines the faith of which he speaks, “Now

faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1, NASB95).

- a. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (NKJV).
- b. “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (NIV84).

7. As Christians, you and I make up what Paul called “the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” (Galatians 6:10, NASB95)

9. Are there times, however, that we neglect this aspect of our lives as Christians, times when we tend to set faith aside?
10. Tonight, I would like for us to ask ourselves two questions and seek the answer to each:
  - a. What is faith?
  - b. What does a life lived by faith look like?

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## I. What Is Faith?

### A. BELIEF

1. Let me take you back to Hebrews 11:6 one more time.
2. There, you and I are told that the person who “comes to God must believe that He is.”
3. Such belief has at its core two elements:
  - a. “Assurance of things hoped for”

- b. “Conviction of things not seen”

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- 4. For us, this assurance and conviction comes from God’s Word:
  - a. Near the end of his gospel, the apostle John wrote these words, “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30–31, NASB95)
  - b. Paul said that our faith comes from hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

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**B. CONFIDENCE**

- 1. When we have confidence in someone, we are willing to trust that person, to rely upon him or her.
- 2. As Christians, we place our confidence, our trust in God.
- 3. In Genesis 15:4-5, God promised Abraham a son from his own body and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of the heavens.
- 4. In the next verse, Genesis 15:6, God tells us that Abraham “believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”
- 5. Abraham had confidence in God’s promise, that it would come to pass.
- 6. Solomon said that we should “trust in the Lord with all [our] heart and not lean on [our] own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).
- 7. Peter said that you and I should “entrust [our] souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right” (1 Peter 4:19).

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**C. LOYALTY**

- 1. Loyalty makes us think of someone who is faithful and trustworthy.

2. As Christians, we demonstrate our loyalty to God through our faithfulness, our trustworthiness.
3. In 1 Corinthians 4:1, Paul referred to leaders in the church as “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”
4. In verse 2 he added, “it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy (they be found faithful).”
5. You and I are to be loyal or faithful to God.
6. In Revelation 2:10, Christ, through the apostle John, told the Christians in Smyrna, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

[As Christians, you and I are people who believe in God, have confidence in His promises, and are loyal in His service.]

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## **II. What Does A Life Lived By Faith Look Like?**

### **A. WE OWN HIM BEFORE OTHERS**

1. The words from a hymn by Isaac Watts which I shared with you last week perhaps say it best,

**I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,  
Nor to defend His cause;  
Maintain the honors of His Word.  
The glory of His cross.**

2. We regularly acknowledge Him before others.
3. Remember what Jesus said?

“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32, NASB95)

4. The apostle John put it this way, in 1 John 4:15.

“Whoever confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God” (1 John 4:15, NASB95).

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**B. WE DEMONSTRATE A CONTINUAL TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST**

1. Another hymn, this one penned in 1918 by James Wells brings out this aspect of our lives as Christians:

**I care not today what the morrow may bring,  
If shadow or sunshine or rain,  
The Lord I know ruleth o'er everything,  
And all of my worry is vain.**

**Living by faith, in Jesus above,  
Trusting, confiding in His great love:  
From all harm safe in His sheltering arm,  
I'm living by faith and feel no alarm.**

2. Jesus put it this way in His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:33-34).

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:33–34, NASB95)

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**C. WE ENJOY THE BLESSINGS WHICH COME FROM SUCH A LIFE**

1. The joy, peace and hope which are ours in Christ (Romans 15:13).

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13, NASB95)

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2. The confident access we have to God’s throne — the mercy and grace we find there.

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, NASB95).

**3. The comfort we receive from God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NASB95)

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**4. The peace He brings to our hearts (Philippians 4:6-7).**

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7, NASB95)

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**5. The knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love which both God, our Father, and Christ, our Lord have for us (Romans 8:35-39).**

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39, NASB95)

## Conclusion

1. What is so significant about your life as a Christian?
2. It is the fact that it is a life being constantly lived by faith?
  - a. A belief in who God is and what He has done on your behalf.
  - b. A confidence in God's ability to keep His promises.
  - c. A loyalty which we demonstrate by being faithful to God.
3. It is a life which is not afraid to confess Jesus before others and to continually trust Him for our care.
4. It is a life which enjoys the blessings of . . .
  - a. Joy, peace and hope
  - b. Comfort in difficult times.
  - c. Peace when our hearts are anxious.
  - d. A love from which nothing can ever separate us.
5. Do you, at present, enjoy such a life? If not, you can.
6. Will you turn away from the allurements of the world and turn to Christ.
7. Confess His name and be buried with Him in baptism.
8. Respond, tonight, to His invitation.