

2021: Faith over Fear in the New Year: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Every new year is an unknown future. The unknown is a cause of fear. Every year I pick a Bible verse to guide my year. My scripture for 2021 is 2 Corinthians 5:7: “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

First, I will explain 2 Cor. 5:7 in context.

The GR word for “walk” is a cool word: περιπατεω (*peripateo*). It means to walk around; to maintain a certain walk of life and conduct. The word is used in many other Bible verses as an action verb to describe the Christian life. The GR preposition “by” (*δια*) refers to a means or manner of something. So, faith is the means or manner of living for Christians.

“By sight” is the limitation of our physical senses. The GR word for “sight” refers to perception and external appearance. (For example, we wrongly judge people based on external appearance. We fail to perceive a person’s true motive or what is happening behind the scenes. These are the limitations of walking by sight alone.)

“Tent” and “earthly home” refers to our physical bodies. Tents are temporary homes. “Building from God” and “heavenly dwelling” refers to our resurrection bodies.

Hebrews 11:1 gives us the definition of faith: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* Walking around by faith means I have assurance and conviction that I have a “building from God”; that is, a resurrection body waiting for me. The Holy Spirit in my “tent” (my physical body) is the guarantee of my future resurrection body: verse 5: *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.* In this world under the curse of sin my “tent” needs food, rest, and is subject to disease and viruses and has an expiration date. But my “tent” is also a temple of the God’s Spirit: 1 Cor. 6:19: *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?* God’s Spirit in my tent is a guarantee of a future resurrection body. My physical tent requires sight and sound to safely walk around, but as a Christian I really live by faith in my tent.

While we are “at home in the body” and “away from the Lord” we walk around by faith. (GR at home = *endemeo*; GR away from home = *ekdemeo*) When we are “away from the body and at home with the Lord,” we may be having an ‘out of body’ experience in heaven or we are in heaven as a spirit or in a resurrection body. (Paul could be referring to his ‘out of body’ experience in heaven: 2 Cor. 12:1-4.) If we are at home with the Lord then we are not walking by faith anymore. Our faith has become sight.

“Not by sight” in fear refers to making judgments based solely on external appearances. Walking by sight is failure to perceive the invisible cause behind visible effects. Walking by sight fails to “see” what is happening “behind the scenes.” Walking by faith “sees” spiritual realities beyond what is visible; it knows there is spiritual warfare behind external events. If we only walk by sight and not by faith, then we have reason to live in fear. What we see and hear leads to fear.

Second, I now move from the context of the verse to a general guiding principle of the Christian life.

Why is it essential for Christians to walk by faith and not by sight in fear?

Walking by faith, not by sight, focuses on Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20: *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

We all live “in the flesh,” a tent (2 Cor. 5), but not in flesh alone. We live by faith, not by sight, in the Son of God. None of us has ever seen the Son of God like the 12 Apostles and Paul did. But we live by faith in the Son of God as we read and believe the Gospels and receive the Holy Spirit.

Every promise of God is believed and applied walking by faith, not by sight.

The New Testament Epistles have 49 verses that use the phrase “by faith.” Every promised spiritual blessing we receive through the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is activated by faith, and not by sight.

- We are justified by faith (Romans 3:28).
- We are declared righteous by faith (Romans 4:13).
- We receive God’s promised Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:14).

- We receive physical healing by faith (Gospels).
- We serve and do good works by faith (2 Thess. 1:11).
- We wait for Christ's return by faith (Galatians 5:5).

Walking by faith, not by sight, recognizes we are in spiritual warfare.

Why do Christians NOT walk by sight or make judgments based on the way events appear?

A mirage in the desert looks like water, but it is not. A world or national event or a circumstance in your life may look like a disaster, but it is not.

As Christians we believe in physical and spiritual realities. Physical realities are perceived and evaluated by sight. Spiritual realities are perceived and evaluated by the Word of God. There is a spiritual reality beyond the physical, behind what our eyes see. There is spiritual warfare going on around us.

Paul identified spiritual realities in Ephesians 6:10-13: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

We are not wrestling against flesh and blood, what we see walking by sight. We are wrestling against evil spiritual forces. When we are walking by faith we accept the Word of God's truth and we know this. There is no reason for fear because we are protected by the armor of God - if we put it on - and Psalm 91 says angels.

Here are two current examples of "schemes of the devil" or spiritual warfare and the necessity for Christians to walk by faith, not by sight in fear.

COVID19: Walk by Faith, not by Sight in Fear

Do you perceive the spiritual warfare behind COVID19? Do you perceive this pandemic by faith or by sight in fear?

Every evening my wife watches the national and local news. I see and hear the increasing COVID19 numbers every day on the news. State officials and an unelected health department can enact mask mandates and lockdown in fear. But for me, I will not fear COVID19. I refuse to fear a virus that in my age range 51-70 has a 99.5% survival rate. (According to SSA I have a 1.4% chance of dying of something this year and only 0.5% chance of dying of COVID19 according to the CDC's case fatality rate.) I now personally know several people who got the virus and nobody who died of it. (My son and daughter contracted it and said it felt like a flu with fever, head and body ache. Sandie and I prayed for them. They took ibuprofen and rested. They're fine.)

[CDC facts September 2020: people in the age groups of 0 to 19 have a 99.997% chance of survival if they contract COVID-19, the age group of 20 to 49 a 99.98% chance, 50 to 69 years old 99.5% and 70 years old and above a 94.6% chance.]

We can walk by sight in fear, or we can live by faith and believe God's promise in Psalm 91. We can doubt God's promise and diminish the power of God's promise to work in our lives. Psalm 91 says, *"Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent (home or body). For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."*

Fear says, "There's so much evil in the world. Something evil must happen to me. What if God allows something evil to happen to me? The virus is everywhere. I may be in the 0.5% for whom it is fatal! If I go to church, then I might breathe it in. Or I may be asymptomatic and give it to others."

The fear of COVID19 will continue in 2021 even with a vaccine - the first dose is only 50% effective (a second dose gets you to 90%). In fact, we have already seen and heard the news - there are new strains of COVID19! A doctor said it is more transmissible, but it is less deadly. Then he said, "Fear is more powerful than science." I say, "The fake news and social media that propagate fear are more powerful than science."

When it comes to COVID19 I choose to walk by faith and facts/evidence, not by sight in fear.

Election 2020: Walk by Faith, not by Sight in Fear

Do you perceive the spiritual warfare behind the 2020 Presidential Election? Do you perceive this election by faith or by sight in fear?

The November 3 election was stolen by massive ballot fraud, rigged voting machines, and foreign countries. A preponderance of evidence has been presented, but the evidence has been rejected by corrupt state officials, politicians, judges, and even Supreme Court justices. Integrity in our elections is the foundation of our Constitutional Republic. If we do not have free, fair, and transparent elections, then we cannot trust our government. Therefore, our wonderful Constitutional Republic is facing its gravest threat since the Civil War.

This election fraud broke two of the 10 Commandments: "Thou shalt not steal!" and "Thou shalt not bear false witness!"

We walk by faith and understand that this is spiritual warfare. Satan wants to destroy America. What we see and hear may cause discouragement and fear. When it comes to Election 2020, I choose to walk by faith and evidence, not by sight in fear.

The next big event for Election 2020 is January 6 when Congress counts the electoral votes from each state and then Inauguration Day on the 20th. It will be a chaotic and fearful time between January 6-20. There will be violence. Be prepared for riots and an internet blackout. (The RV truck bomb at the AT&T building in Nashville on Christmas morning is just the beginning.) Walk by faith and not by sight in fear. Jesus Christ is in control. Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus Christ is sovereign over America. He is working out His plan according to His purpose.

These are two especially important events we must pray about today!

Be of Good Courage

5:6-10: So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Be of good courage! We have courageous confidence. What we see with our eyes does not discourage us. We walk by faith and faith produces courageous confidence. We even have confidence before the judgment seat of Christ because we know He loves us. Our appearance before Christ's judgment seat is about our service, not salvation.

What we see and hear in the news causes fear. Therefore, every morning we awake we have the choice to walk by faith or live in fear. Facing the unknown of 2021, we have the choice to walk by faith or by sight and live in fear. Walking by faith is the means or method of our living. It's how as Christians we live our lives in this world. Living in fear is to live consumed or driven by fear as fear possesses our mind and heart.

Walking by faith and not by sight receives the book of Revelation as true. God's Word assures us one day our faith will become sight! We will see Jesus Christ descend from heaven and reign during the Millennium.

Now we are going to pray. **Prayer is walking by faith and not by sight in fear.**

Pray for what? Pray for the truth to be revealed and accepted January 6. Pray for the deeds done in darkness to be revealed in the light of God's truth. Pray for the repentance of all who "love and practice lying" (Rev. 22:15). Pray for protection and preservation of our Constitutional Republic and our freedoms.

Study this website: [Know Truth Vote Truth | The Georgia Runoff Election](#)