

Living by Faith, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Corinthians 5:6ff.

B. “Live by faith, not by sight. . .” This is the essence of the Christian life. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

C. We believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

II. There are two ways to understand the term “living by faith” and both are necessary.

A. Living by faith means that we require faith to live like we require oxygen.

B. Living by faith also can be understood that we live in the realm of faith as opposed to the realm of sight.

1. We believe in spiritual things that we cannot see. (2 Corinthians 4:18; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6, 8)

a) Our focus and hope should be on the spiritual things that we cannot see, but that are eternal. (Romans 8:24)

b) We will never come to the point that we do not need to live by faith in some area of our lives. (Hebrews 11:13)

2. There is direct correlation between your hope of eternal life and your ability to have faith during the trials of temporal life. (Romans 8:18; Romans 5:2ff; 1 Peter 1:1-6; Hebrews 10:32ff)

a) The promise of eternal life gives us the strength and hope to withstand the trials of life because our inheritance is a “done deal.”

b) Sometimes we get comfortable with this life and are not in the habit of relying on future hope. When trials come, we don’t remember our hope and so we struggle with trials from a perspective based on this life.

c) Our challenge is to live by hope through faith in eternal things in easy seasons and in hard times. (Psalm 116:15; Psalm 16:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 4:18)

Application questions:

1. What are some techniques that you can use to refocus on hope in eternal things when trials come?

2. What are some things that can remind you to live by faith in eternal life when life is going well?

3. Think about a difficult season of your life from the past. Were you focused on this life or the next during that season? How did or how might have a focus on the hope of eternal life changed your experience of that season?
