

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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For The Week of 05.17.10

"WALKING BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT"

2 Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight *or* appearance. AMP

One of my favorite movies of all time is a recent release a while back called "National Treasure". If you are not familiar with this movie Nicholas Cage has been looking his entire life for a treasure of historic artifacts. Throughout the movie he finds one clue that leads to another clue until finally at the end of the movie they find this incredible treasure of things collected throughout history.

At one point of the movie they find out that there are clues on the back of the Declaration of Independence. One of the clues is hidden and cannot be fully seen without the use of a set of special glasses which they find. Once these glasses are put on they are able to see a clue on the back of the document, which happened to be there all along. This is much the same as to how we walk by faith. No, there is not a special set of glasses that we can use in the natural, but the truth is walking by faith is being able to see through the inner eye, the eyes of our spirit revealing to us what has always been there.

Take a look at our foundation verse this week as I have shared with you the Amplified version of this verse. Notice as the Amplified points out to walk by faith means that we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or beliefs as they relate to God, not to the natural world. We have the ability as believers to see what is not seen. It cannot be done through the natural eye, it must be done through our spirit, where faith comes from. The word "regulate" is defined as bringing into conformity with rules or principles, to adjust by rule, method or established mode. Let's examine this last part of the definition first in light of the example I shared above.

The method by which these treasure hunters were able to see something that was invisible to the naked eye, yet was always there, was this special set of glasses that were made for this very purpose. This does not do away with what is seen in the natural, but what it does do is changes one's focus from what can only be seen in the natural and now the focus is what can only be seen through those glasses. Did you get that? You see when you walk by faith it is not that the natural circumstances don't exist, but your focus goes from being governed by what you see in

the natural to what you see through the eye of faith. This then releases the power of God to change the natural. What is available through the redeeming work of Christ cannot be seen through the natural eye initially. It's there, but it must be seen through the eyes of faith to change what is seen in the natural.

Rom. 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom. 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Rom. 8:8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

What does it mean to be carnal? Many think of being carnal as only relating to being sinful. That would no doubt be included. But the true root definition of being carnal simply means you are walking by your five physical senses, not by faith. If you are living your life only through seeing things from a natural perspective you are living carnal, you are not walking by faith. This will obviously in many cases cause one to sin. But when we are walking by faith we are being spiritually minded, not carnally minded. We are seeing things through a special set of eyes, which is seeing through the spirit man within. Notice verse eight above tells us that those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Hebrews 11:6 says it is impossible to please God without faith.

What pleases God is seeing His kids walking in the full benefits of what His Son came and died and paid a price for us to experience. It takes walking by faith to do that, thus those who are in the flesh are not walking by faith, they are being regulated by or seeing things only through natural means. When you walk by faith you are in fact seeing life through a special set of spiritual glasses so to speak. You can as the apostle Paul said look at adversity staring you in the face and say that they are nothing more than light afflictions. Remember when you are walking by faith, seeing through they eye of the Spirit, your focus changes. As it does it changes what you then see around you. So what does it take to walk by faith? It is so simple most pass it off as something they already know, but yet many are not doing it.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We know that Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Here in Romans 12 we are told to present our bodies, referring to the carnal man, as a living sacrifice, acceptable to God. When we do this we begin to see through the eye of faith, not the carnal man. But how we do this is found in verse two. We must renew

our minds so that we can go through the transformation process of no longer walking by sight, but instead now walking by faith. Remember the first part of the definition of the word "regulate" that we looked at earlier means to bring into conformity with rules or principles. What does Paul say here in verse two about conformity?

He tells us that we should no longer be conformed to this world. What Paul is telling us many actually miss the meaning of. Who do you know that is in the world and not born again that is living by faith and not by sight? I am not talking about people who are a little out there if you know what I mean who claim to see things no one else sees. We are talking about being able to see with the eye of faith what God has said before it ever comes into being in the natural. Those in the world are living solely by their five physical senses because not being born again they don't have the ability through their spirit and the help of the Holy Spirit, to see through the eye of faith.

To not be conformed to the world here begins through walking by faith, not by sight. God has given every born again child of God the ability to change how they see things in this life. When He created Adam and Eve they walked by faith not by sight. Their primary focus was on the realm of the Spirit which is why they were able to hear God's footsteps as He came walking in the cool of the day. But now as they had sinned and fallen to a state of being carnal, they became focused on their nakedness and feeling ashamed. It was not an issue before the fall because faith focuses on what God sees, not what carnal man sees.

Rom. 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. AMP

Look at this verse here in the Amplified translation. When we take the time to renew our minds through God's Word it changes our ideals and our attitudes. An ideal is what one envisions. God's Word when studied, consumed, and seen through the spirit (the heart) not the head will change your minds view and what you envision. Your focus changes. You begin to see what was always already there that you can now lay hold of by faith. This is what brings us into the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Everything God paid for through His Son Jesus Christ is God's good and acceptable and perfect will of God for us.

The more time we take to renew our minds through God's Word allowing the Holy Spirit to open our understanding to His truth, the more we begin to put on our spiritual glasses. Our focus begins to be more on what God has said and not on what we can see around us. What is

already available for us in the spirit realm we begin to lay hold of. Then our actions and lifestyle begins to change including our words which have a major impact on what we experience in life. These things begin to change because we become more aware of what God's Word reveals to us. We can walk by faith and not by sight for this is the way God intended for us to live. As we do our lives will never be the same.