

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by **faith**, not by **sight**.

Faith = *reliance (trust/confidence) in attitude and action*

Functional faith is very often bound to our senses (x5) and our understanding.

Paul's Context:

- **Perplexed & Persecuted**
- **Facing death**

2 Corinthians 4:16, 18

Therefore, **we do not give up** (= *lose heart*). Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being **renewed day by day** ... ¹⁸ So we do not **focus** on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Faith = *reliance (trust/confidence) in attitude and action based on what God has revealed (Creation; Word; Christ)*

Romans 1:20 (NLT)

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can **clearly see** His invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Hebrews 1:2a

In these last days, **He has spoken to us by his Son** ...

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

... faith comes from **hearing**, and hearing through the **word** of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by **faith**, not by **sight**.

Faith = **connects us to God and His best; not just **someday but everyday****

Matt: saved by faith but walk (~live) by Matt

Scenario #1: Spiritual Uninterested Spouse

- **Frustration at disinterest & behavior**
- **Drop hints in hopes of change or hints of guilt & shame**
- **Put Bible verses all around the house**

Scenario #2: Off to Work

- **Necessity (~money) more than opportunity**
- **All on me and all up to me (secular)**
- **People: means to an end or just part of the job**
- **Problems: foul attitude OR time to move on?**

The Faith We Often Walk With:

- **Awareness of only the immediate & visible**
- **Strong pull toward the impulsive and/or “the gut”**

Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, “**Increase** our faith.”

I need **help to have **faith in God**.**

Judges 7:1-3

Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the troops who were with him, got up early and camped beside the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them, below the hill of Moreh, in the valley. ²The Lord said to Gideon, “You have **too many troops** for Me to hand the Midianites over to them, or else Israel might **elevate themselves over Me** and say, ‘I saved myself.’ ³Now announce to the troops, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand of the troops turned back, but ten thousand remained.

Judges 7:12

Now the Midianites, Amalekites, and all the people of the east had settled down in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and their camels were as **innumerable** as the sand on the seashore.

Do we *really* want to trust God?

Our situation speaks

Our understanding of our situation speaks

Our emotions speak

Our pride/flesh/ego speaks

AND ...

God speaks.

God simultaneously invites us to **trust Him without **reservation** and to partner with Him in **responsibility**.**

God’s role is **decisive. Our role is **important but secondary**.**

→ God will get the **glory** even as we receive the **victory**.

Shift from SEEN to UNSEEN

Judges 7:4-8

Then the Lord said to Gideon, “There are **still too many** troops. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. If I say to you, ‘This one can go with you,’ he can go. But if I say about anyone, ‘This one cannot go with you,’ he cannot go.”⁵ So he brought the troops down to the water, and the Lord said to Gideon, “Separate everyone who laps water with his tongue like a dog. Do the same with everyone who kneels to drink.”⁶ The number of those who lapped with their hands to their mouths was three hundred men, and all the rest of the troops knelt to drink water.⁷ The Lord said to Gideon, “**I will deliver you with the three hundred men** who lapped and hand the Midianites over to you. But everyone else is to go home.”⁸ So Gideon sent all the Israelites to their tents but **kept the three hundred troops**, who took the provisions and their rams’ horns. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

At this point, faith feels like work ... and in a sense it is!

John 6:29 (NLT)

Jesus told them, “This is the **only work** God wants from you: **Believe** in the One He has sent.”

Shift to a PROMISE from God that is greater than my PERCEPTION & my POWER.

Situation

Trust (specific)

Empowered to act

Praise or pardon ...?

Scenario 1: Disinterested spouse?

Scenario 2: Off to work ...?

Judges 7:9-11, 13-14

That night the Lord said to him, “Get up and attack the camp, for I have handed it over to you.¹⁰ **But if you are afraid** to attack the camp, go down with Purah your servant.¹¹ Listen to what **they say**, and then you will be **encouraged** to attack the camp.” So he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the troops who were in the camp ...¹³ When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling his friend about a dream. He said, “Listen, I had a dream: a loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp, struck a tent, and it fell. The loaf turned the tent upside down so that it collapsed.”

¹⁴ His friend answered, “This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. **God has handed the entire Midianite camp over to him.**”

God is working WITH the faith Gideon has to increase his faith even more.

→ Pura and Providence

We need all need the **right** encouragement.

- Go with your gut.
- Do what makes you happy.

We need **encouragement** to act on the word we have already received!

→ God says it so that settles it!

SHIFT #3: Amplify **God** in our **echo chambers**

Judges 7:15

When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he **bowed in worship**. He returned to Israel's camp and said, "**Get up**, for the **Lord has handed** the Midianite camp over to you."

God is the **controlling preoccupation** of Gideon.

Worship: the right response to God as He has revealed Himself

- His glory
- His sovereignty
- His holiness
- Our weakness/dependence

Walking by faith in and to ...??

- Fire the **imposters**
- **Ask** for help
- Receive His **word**
- Be positioned for **encouragement** (echo)
- **Worship and walk** forward by faith