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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Hebrews 11:8-16
Lesson #28
Walking by faith
07/21/2024

1

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

11:8-16
Faith not Sight
 (What does it mean to walk by faith?)

2


**Do we walk by faith
 or by sight and feeling?**



“Faith is believing something you know isn’t true.”

3

Walking by sight has deep roots in the human story.



Genesis 3:6
 “When the woman **saw** that the tree **was good for food**, and that it was **a delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she **took from its fruit and ate;**”

Worldly behavior is driven by faith, hope, and love based on sensual perceptions and expectations.

4

Hebrews 11:1
 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the **conviction of things not seen.**”
 (In the Scriptures “faith” = Christian faith)

The theme / challenge of Hebrews 11
Walk by faith, not sight!

2 Corinthians 4:18
 “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.”

5

Faith is NOT walking by sight.

- Abel - Gen.4:1-4 Offered the “firstlings”*
- Enoch - Gen.5:21-24 Walked with God*
- Noah - Gen.6:13-22 Trusted God’s warning*
- Abraham - Gen.12:1-4 Followed God’s call*
- Sarah - Gen.18:11-14 United with Abram’s faith*
- Isaac - Gen.22:1-10 Offered up as sacrifice*
- Isaac - Gen.27:27-29, 39- Blessed his sons*
- Joseph - Gen.50:24- Spoke of Exodus at death*
- Moses - Ex.2:2, 1:16,22- Saw self as an alien*
- Exodus - Ex.14:22-29 Exodus from captivity*
- Joshua - Josh.6:15- walls of Jericho come down*
- Rehab - Josh.6:15- welcomed the spies*
- Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, etc.*

6

Genesis 12
 “1 Now the Lord said to Abram, go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; ...
 3 ... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 17
 “7 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you ...”

7

Galatians 3
 “6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.
 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.
 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham” ...
 16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “and to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “and to your seed,” that is, Christ.”

8

Hebrews 11
 “8 **By faith** Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he **went out, not knowing where** he was going. 9 **By faith** he **lived as an alien** in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 **By faith** even Sarah herself **received ability** to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore there was born of one man, (and him as good as dead at that), as many descendants, *as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*”

9

Hebrews 11
 “13 All these **died in faith, without receiving the promises**, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire **a better country, that is a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”

10

Paraphrase of Hebrews 11:8-16
 “Abraham and his descendants, Isaac and Jacob, stepped out in faith, following God’s call to a promised land that was beyond this earth. They did not know the details but they knew it was heavenly and from God, it would involve many people, including gentiles. They lived as aliens in Palestine as they waited. Sarah also exercised faith in that promise of God as she gave birth to a son long after it was naturally possible. Even after all these people died, faith in the promise continued. Seeing such faith, God was pleased to affirm them as they waited for the heavenly (not the earthly) home which He had prepared for them.”

11

The faith of Abraham
was stepping out of his comfort zone believing God’s promise.

Are we walking by faith or sight?

12

Walking by sight

1. Standing on the **wrong promises**.

NOTE: The second temptation of Christ (Matt.4:5-7)

Matthew 4:5-7

“7 Jesus said to him, On the other hand, it is written, **‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’**”

Colossians 2:18

“Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, **taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,**”

13

Walking by sight

1. Standing on the **wrong promises**.

Psalms 37:4

“Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Do we really know the true desire of our heart?

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that **we should walk in them.**”

14

The TRUE desire of our heart



My superficial hope as shaped by the world?

Maintain my self-protective shield?

Faith that a loving God would grant what I want?

To be reconciled to God, my neighbor, and myself!

15

Walking by sight

2. Counting on the fulfillment of God’s promised blessing to humanity, in **our timing**.

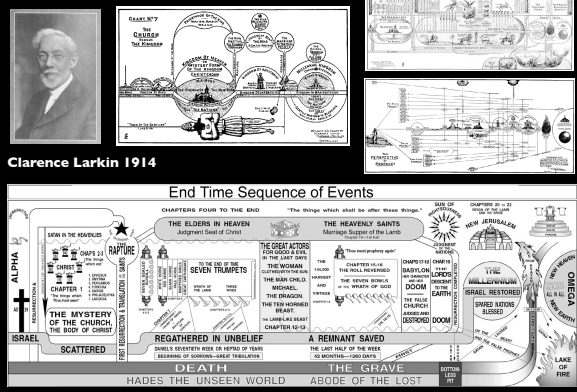
Luke 17

“22 And He said to the disciples, “The days shall come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. 23 **And they will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after them.**”

- “End times speculations” may illustrate this.

16

Dispensational charts



17

Predicted dates of Christ’s return and the END

70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1995
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1996 (Dec.13)
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1997 '8
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1998 '15
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1999 '36
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb.4)	2000 '59
806	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1966	2001 '17
806	1588	1801	1900	1967 (Aug.20)	2002 '6
848	1600	1805	1901	1969 (Aug.9)1972	2003 '6
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1973	2004
992	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1974	2005 '3
995	(Feb. 1)	1832	1911	1975	2006 (Feb.12)
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1976	2007 '4
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1977	2008 (Mar. 21)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1978	2009
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1980 (April.1)	2010
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1981 (June 28)	2011 (Dec.31)
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1982 (Mar.10)	2012 (Dec.21)
1290	1688	1849	1934	1983	2017
1306	1689	1851	1935	1984 (Oct.2)	2021
1325	1694	1856	1936	1985 (Mar.25)	2022
1367	1697	1862	1938	1986	2023
1370	1700	1863	1941	1987 (Apr.29)	2025
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1988 (Sep.15)	2026
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1989 (Sept.30)	2033
1504	1719 (April 5)	1869	1947	1990 (April 23)	2035
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1991 (Mar.31)	2037
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952	1992 (April 26)	2040
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)	1993 (Nov.14)	2050
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953	1994 (Sept.29)	

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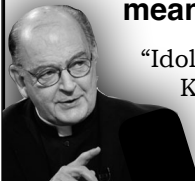
Walking by sight

3. Counting on the fulfillment of God's promised blessing to humanity, in **our way**.

John 14

"² ... I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself;..."

- **Social utopia through secular means may illustrate this.**



"Idolatry is trying to bring in God's Kingdom before its time and without its King."

Richard John Neuhaus

19

Walking by sight

4. Applying **Old Covenant (earthly promises)** to the New Covenant context.

1 Corinthians 4:8

"You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and I would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you."

- **"Health and wealth" doctrine in some circles may illustrate this.**

20

Walking by sight

5. Reading God's Word **out of context**.

Voting "according to the Bible"?

Ecclesiastes 10:2

"A wise man's heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him toward the left."

Proverbs 4:27

"Do not turn to the right nor to the left. Turn your foot from evil."



21

The Bible is **NOT** an encyclopedia of proof texts that should be read as though it represents **one single genre**.



22

Matthew 4

"² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to Him . . ."



At the heart of worldliness is not only a misplaced faith, hope, & love but also a worldly wisdom that makes perfect sense of this misplacement.

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Hebrews

Next week
11:17-22



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