

Living by Faith

Romans 1:8-17

I trust that you have been praying about the pledge you believe God is speaking to you about in our capital campaign.

Again, this is going to take great faith as we move forward in reaching our community for Christ and build a building that will enable to us to better serve them.

When God gives the vision, He has the provisions.

1. Living by faith starts with salvation.

Step one in living by faith involves salvation.

This is our biggest faith need – salvation.

We have been talking about faith and the need to have faith in order to please God, but without faith, there can be no salvation.

But God has given us a chance for salvation through faith.

As Paul reminds in **Ephesians 2:8-9** ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Everyone needs salvation and God has seen our need and He has provided for this need with the gospel.

In the gospel, God's righteousness is revealed and those who believe by faith are saved from their sins.

If we are going to live by faith, then we need to make sure we have faith that results in salvation.

2. Living by faith requires trust.

We have to get to the point where we trust in God more than anything else.

It is very easy to let other things get in between us and God.

One of the biggest obstacles we have to living by faith is materialism.

I believe that materialism has become a god to many here in America.

We want more and more stuff and we believe the more we can have, the better off we will be.

The opposite is often the truth, the more we have the less happy / content we will be.

Economic problems – there are many attempts to explain why things are so bad but I believe one of the main reasons is that God wants to get our attention.

He is trying to get His people to stop trusting in anything other than Him.

We have become self-sufficient here and we need to remember that God has give us all what we need

God wants us to trust Him.

We have to believe that God is able to take care of us and our needs.

We need to have Eyes of Faith to see that God can and will take care of His children in spite of challenges that we face.

3. Living by faith requires commitment.

If we are going to live by faith, it is going to take commitment on our part.

We are going to have to discipline ourselves, train ourselves on how to walk by faith.

It should get to the point that living by faith becomes a habit.

We need to train ourselves to believe.

This happens one step at a time.

Like a baby learning to walk, one step at a time.

The more we exercise our faith, the stronger it will grow.

How does this happen?

Bible study – learning what God’s Word says.

Prayer – learning to communicate with God.

Sharing the gospel – telling others about Christ’s work on the cross for mankind.

Good stewardship – learning to take care of all that God has given to us.

Not money just about money but it does include money.

Tithing is a matter of faith and I believe many suffer financial woes because they refuse to tithe.

Malachi 3:10 ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Good stewardship involves our time as well.

How we use our time is a big question that we need to answer.

Work – giving a full day’s effort / working as unto the Lord?

Spending time with the family / relaxation?

Spending time serving God and others?

Spending time in Bible study and prayer?

God wants us to be good stewards of all He has entrusted to us.

To whom much has been given, much will be expected.

We have been entrusted with a lot in America let us be faithful with what we have.

4. Living by faith can be a great testimony to the world.

Paul commends the Roman believers for their faith and he mentions that their faith is known all over the world.

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