

What does 2 Cor. 5:7 mean when it says, “...we walk by faith, not by sight”

- These words echo 2 Cor. 4:18: “...we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”
- These words presuppose two realms that are equally real; the visible, tangible realm and the invisible, intangible, eternal realm, the realm that is not temporal and passing away but the realm that is beyond time and will not pass away.
- To walk by faith is to realize that the physical, the material though significant, is not ultimate. It is to realize that its substantiality is not permanent but temporary and transitory. It is to know how to enjoy what is materially good without idolizing it, and without clinging to it as ultimate or absolutely necessary.
- To walk by faith is to walk by principle. It is to walk by divinely revealed truth regardless of the circumstances and regardless of the consequences even if the consequences mean death (Rev. 12:11: “they did not love their life even to death”).
- To walk by faith is to become ever more sensitive and conscience of spiritual verities.
- To walk by faith is to grow in ability to see the spiritual realm that lies beyond without ignoring the physical. It is the ability, as it were, to “see through” the physical, to see beyond the physical to that other very real immaterial, spiritual realm.
- To walk by faith is to learn to live with mystery. It is to live without the desired explanations that one’s heart clamors for. It is to learn to trust the Lord without getting explanations.
- To walk by faith is to accept uncomplainingly all the circumstances the Lord sends especially the unwanted and painful ones.
- To walk by faith is to know – not simply try to know – that there is good and right purpose in all painful, unwanted and even lethal situations without knowing what that purpose is. It is to realize that if I doubt this, I am casting aspersions on the wisdom and power and care of my loving Lord and Savior; it is to realize that I have become guilty of usurping His sovereign rule as King of kings.
- To walk by faith is to honestly acknowledge that the immediate reason or reasons for whatever is happening to me is for the most part simply unknown to me. It is to realize that I am wasting time and energy trying to manufacture reasons that will satisfy my pathetically limited understanding when what I need to do is simply trust in the Lord’s wise and loving providential arrangement of my affairs.