

:: summary

If you've been around the Church for a while, you may have heard the often-quoted verse from 2 Corinthians 5:7, which says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." At face value, this might sound like questionable advice for getting around in the world. However, these words are not suggesting blind faith. In their context, these words describe an exciting reality: even though we don't see God with our own two eyes in physical form, we can still see Him by faith, which offers us something superior to eyesight – it offers us *insight* to learn how to love like Jesus and how to apply that love toward others.

:: discussion

Helen Keller famously addressed the difference between having sight and having vision, saying, "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." A similar distinction can be made for those who are in relationship with God, as walking with Him by sight yields a different way of life than walking with Him by "vision" or what Christians call faith.

How would you articulate the difference between living by sight versus living by faith? Which best describes your way of lifestyle as it is right now and why?

Read Acts 9:1-22

The man previously named Saul (later Paul) could see but had no vision for eternity as he persecuted Christians. Paul had all the reasons to have religious confidence as a Jew and believed he was serving God by sight, yet he was spiritually blind and sought to eliminate what he saw as a threat to his religion. On the road, Jesus took Paul's eyesight to give him *insight*, or an eternal perspective by which he could live by faith.

Is it possible for religion to get in the way of living by faith? How did Saul's religion lead the focus of his mind and how did Jesus' gift of insight transform his focus?

Read John 13:34-35

Like he did for Saul, Jesus wants to transform the focus of our lives so that we are no longer living by sight and basing our lifestyle on what we can see in front of us. He offers us *insight* so we can live with an eternal perspective by faith, expressed as we learn how to love like Jesus and apply that love toward others.

How might the practice of Christianity change if every Christian lived by faith and *insight*, focused on the common goal of fulfilling Jesus' command?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

As Saul now called Paul tells the church in Corinth, the barometer of a healthy spiritual life in the individual and the Church is our Christian love. Christian activity, even the exercise of spiritual gifts outside of Jesus' love is empty. Walking by faith and insight is to be compelled by and act in the love of Jesus.

As you consider the list of characteristics of Jesus' love, which trait or traits are most stand out to you and how could that trait or traits transform the way you express the love of Jesus in your walk of faith?

Life with God is not about walking with Him based on what we can or can't see in front of us – it's about walking with the insight of an eternal perspective that focuses our minds, hearts and lives on what we can't yet see, as we are compelled by Jesus' love to act and share the love of Christ with others.

