



September 20, 2026 | **Dr. Jimmy Stewart**

Sermon: Walking By Faith

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:6-9, Hebrews 11:6, 13:7; Psalm 119:90; Proverbs 12:22

Summary: First Baptist Church Gulfport did not reach its 130th anniversary because every season was easy or outcome visible. We are here because generations of believers who have come before us trusted the Lord, obeyed His Word, and continued His mission. Buildings were damaged and three times destroyed, circumstances changed, culture shifted, people have come and gone and obstacles arose—but the church of the Lord Jesus Christ continues. Not only in Gulfport but around the world!!! Now it is our turn to carry the baton and continue the legacy of walking by faith. Its our turn to depend upon the Holy Spirit. Its our turn to make disciples of coming generations. Its our responsibility to amplify hope here, there and everywhere, pointing people toward eternal victory found only in Jesus.

Spotlight: Today we celebrate 130 years of faithfulness by remembering those who walked before us, renewing our own walk with Christ, and trusting God's faithfulness for generations still to come.

LSU has its Victory Hill walk. Ole Miss has its Walk of Champions. MSU has its DAWG walk. USM has its Eagle walk. Even William Carey has its Crusader Walk albeit of a slightly different nature!

FBG has its walk too - We have our Faith Walk!
We have been walking by faith and not by sight for 130 years.

130 years of Gospel Ministry

- Almost 110 years in downtown GPT (Under trees, in Hotel Lobbies, Railway Boxcars, Sanctuaries small and large)
- 3 years post Katrina at GHS (Auditorium, Gym, Cafeteria)
- Since August of 2008, Right Here on 605

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

1. REMEMBER THE FAITH OF THOSE WHO WALKED BEFORE US!

How did we get here? Those who came before us walked by Faith.

Hebrews 13:7 NLT

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

By God's Grace and **For God's Glory** we are the church we are today!

Walking by Faith, Trusting Without Seeing (Lean not on your sight - your own understanding!)

- Abram didn't know exactly where he was going or exactly how God was going to fulfill His promises.
- Joseph knew that slavery and prison were not his destiny.
- Job learned that God can do whatever God desires and designs to do because He is God!

God gives us "spiritual insight" in the stories of the scripture. He gives us "spiritual insight" through the work of the Holy Spirit!

2. **RECOGNIZE** GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!

Psalm 119:90 NLT

Your faithfulness extends to every generation.

- God provides.
- God protects.
- God restores.
- God calls.
- God sends.
- God sustains.
- Jesus saves.

3. **REFUSE** TO LET SIGHT OVERRIDE FAITH

Where are we going? We must continue to Walk by Faith

When will we arrive?

How will we get there?

Some warnings about the future . . .

- Don't become disillusioned by comparing to others!
- Don't become discouraged by what happens around you or even to you!
- Don't become disheartened by rejection or suffering or trial!
- Don't become distracted by the work of the enemy.
- Don't become disobedient to the Word!
- Continue above all else to walk by faith and not by sight!

Don't become prideful. Too often members and even churches with history become prideful.

If you are to boast, boast in the Lord - **Psalm 34:2 Jeremiah 9:24**

Continue dependence on the Lord and His Spirit to lead you

- There is a promised land and it is not geographical it is eternal.
- There is a victory that is coming and no earthly defeat can change the outcome or minimize its impact.
- There is a savior who is preparing a place for you and his desire is for you to point others to Him.
- There is a messiah who is coming again riding a great white horse, carrying the sword

4. **RECOMMIT** TO WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT!

What is your role? You must Walk by Faith

Become more *engaged* in disciple making

Become more *openly demonstrative* in your faith (expressive, forthcoming, open)

Why walk by faith? It delights the Lord and pleases Him!

Hebrews 11:6 NLT

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Proverbs 12:22 ESV

Those who act faithfully are the Lord's delight.

The Greek word translated "walk" describes the way a person conducts everyday life. Paul is not merely describing a dramatic moment of faith. Nor is he referring to how many steps you take in a given day! He is describing a continuing manner of life. Faith is not reserved for times of hurricanes, fires, relocations, building campaigns, or spiritual crises. We walk by faith in ordinary obedience:

- Raising our families
- Sharing the gospel
- Serving the church
- Giving generously
- Loving our neighbors
- Making disciples
- Facing the future with courage and hope

The apostle Paul, speaks of the common actions of life. It is as if he said, 'I not only leap walls by faith, but I walk by faith; I not only break through enemy strongholds by faith, but I go and do my business by faith.' I mean, can you perform the common actions of the household, and the daily duties which fall to your lot, in the spirit of faith? This is what the apostle means. He does not speak about running, or jumping, or fighting by faith, but about walking by faith; and he means to tell you that the ordinary life of a Christian is different from the life of another man; that he has learned to introduce faith into everything he does. **Charles Spurgeon**

- God **provides**.
- God **protects**.
- God **restores**.
- God **calls**.
- God **sends**.
- God **sustains**.
- We **walk by faith** and not by sight!
- Jesus **saves**.

Life-Application Questions:

1. Who helped establish the faith foundation upon which I am standing, and how can I honor those who have influenced me? Who helped establish the faith foundation of this church?
2. What has God asked me to do that I have postponed because I cannot yet see how everything will work out?
3. Am I depending more upon familiar methods and visible resources than upon the Holy Spirit?
4. Where have comparison, disappointment, rejection, or discouragement weakened my commitment to Christ's mission?
5. What does walking by faith need to look like in my life during this season and beyond?
6. Whom am I personally helping to know Jesus, grow as His disciple, and become involved in His mission in a local church?
7. If future generations follow the faith I am demonstrating today, where will my example lead them?