
BEACON 26TH MARCH 2020



HOW CAN WE LIVE BY FAITH?

2 Corinthians 5:7 says we should “walk by faith and not by sight”. The bible talks in several places about living by faith. But what is faith? And how can we live by it? Is it to do with how we feel or is it more than that?

Hebrews 11:1 says “Faith is the assurance of what we hope for, the conviction of what we do not see.” Hebrews then goes on to show the faith hall of fame, demonstrations of people living by faith, living this out, throughout the scriptures. Jesus has the same definition. Whenever He says someone has “faith”, He means that they believed in who He was. An example of this is in Luke 8 where a woman who had been bleeding touched Jesus’ cloak and was healed. The reason she was healed was because of her faith, not the fact that she touched Jesus’ cloak.

She believed she would be healed because of the words of God, and those in Hebrews hall of fame followed the words of God, but what does God say about His word? In Matthew 24:35 the bible says “Heaven and earth pass away, but my words will never pass away.”, 1 Peter 1:25 says “The word of the Lord stands forever” and Isaiah 40:8 says “The grass withers, and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Our faith stands on something more lasting than how we feel which changes day by day or even moment by moment. It’s stronger than what we are experiencing and the situations we go through. It’s more enduring than anything we can see. Our faith stands on His word.

Faith is choosing to believe in God’s unchanging word no matter how we feel. But how do we actually do this?

Sometimes we feel things that aren’t in line with what the bible says we should feel. We worry when the bible says, “Don’t worry”. We feel unloved when the bible says, “You are loved”. We feel lonely when Jesus says, “I will always be with you”.

It's important that we don't beat ourselves up for feeling what we're feeling. We're made in the image of God and Jesus had deep feelings, so feeling isn't wrong. Instead we need to gently correct ourselves by reminding our hearts of God's words and God's assurance. We need to remember that we're being made into new beings, more like Christ and sometimes that means going through hard times, just like we are now. We need to make the choice to rely on what God says and not how we feel, however hard that seems. It means choosing to look to God and believe that what He has is best for us.

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Because of His word we know where we will end up and we know what the future holds. We might have to go over some speed bumps, but we know where the road goes in the end. As Andy brought us a couple of weeks ago from Corrie Ten Boom, she said, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Trusting in God's word also means following his commandments. This can be hard as sometimes what God wants us to do is not necessarily what we want to do, but it is what's best.

To follow his commandments means two things. It means following what the bible tells us to do as this is God's written word, but it also means hearing His voice in our day to day and being obedient to what he has to say. We should follow all that God has told us, by reading the words written down for us in the Bible.

Jesus said “my sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me” in John 10.

So we have to be open to hearing God. We need to spend time with Him and allow Him to talk to us and when He speaks, we need to be ready to obey. To be His hands and feet and mouthpiece. To go where He has asked us to go and stay where He has asked us to stay. Like I said, this won't always be easy, but it will always be right, and He'll give us the strength to do it. Philippians 4:13 says “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength”. This passage isn't talking about physical strength or strength to do what we want. It's talking about strength to stand firm in every situation, following God through whatever life throws us.

Living by faith is all about following God through it all, relying on His strength and trusting in and obeying His words, whether they're in the bible or directly from Him, whether it's easy or hard. We need to choose to spend time with Him, spending time reading His word and hearing from Him and then we need to choose to obey and follow where He leads.



Bekah Baker



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn