

Seeing the Unseen

Sounds a bit impossible. But God calls us to see the unseen and He never gives us a command which He does not empower us to accomplish. Example: God never commanded me to jump over the Grand Canyon. I wish He would, then He would empower me to be able to do it, and it would be *so much fun!* And I would hold the long jump record forever!

Back to the topic: seeing the unseen. There are two ways we do that. First through what we often call the “eye of faith.” After all, the very definition of “faith” found in Hebrews 11:1 is, “Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen.” Did you catch it, “... not seen.” In verse 8, Abraham left not knowing where he was going, he couldn’t even see the next pit stop in his journey. But he obeyed God and followed the daily instructions of the journey.

We must do the same. Although we cannot see God’s plan for tomorrow, we follow “in His steps” as Peter says in 1 Peter 2:21. The *only* way we can follow Jesus is to put our feet in His footsteps day by day. “But I can’t see His footsteps!” you say? Ah... that is the point... you follow even though you cannot see. “But that’s nonsense,” you say? It is nonsense only if you cannot see with the eye of faith!

“OK, where do I get this faith? How do I develop it?” I’m glad you asked. God answers through Paul’s pen in Romans 10:17, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” As you read, you can not only understand (Ephesians 3:4), but you also “see” because reading and understanding give you the ability to see, through the eye of faith, exactly where to walk, “not as unwise but as wise,” (Ephesians 5:15).

In the great hall of faith, Hebrews chapter 11, we are called to see not only the footsteps forward, but the memory backward. It is not our own personal memory, but through faith in God’s word we “see” the great faith giants of the past, how they walked in faith in deeply challenging times. The call, through that walk down memory lane, is to build our faith to the point where we can see, understand, and walk in the same faith that created courage and discipline in those men and women of Hebrews 11.

By faith, we see the past, the great men of old, the birth of Jesus, the strength of the apostles, the faithfulness of the average Christians in spreading the good news, Acts 8:4. *As we read, we understand, we see, we share the memories of the first century and we then see the future, the “unseen” of tomorrow, next year and, by the grace of God, our eternity with Him.*

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