2 Corinthians 5:7, “For we walk by faith, and not by sight.”

Faith means: *pistis* in Greek *confidence, faith, trust, reliance on*

(1) firm belief in something for which there is no proof
(2) having complete trust
(3) belief and trust in and loyalty to God

"Walking" speaks of how we live our lives, conduct ourselves, and use the time and opportunities God has ordained for us.

**Walking by sight** speaks of choosing to live based upon how things naturally appear, feel, and seem at first glance.

Those who walk by sight rely upon fleshly *instincts* and *temporal* pleasures to make decisions.

They are concerned with the present rather than the eternal and with blending in with the world rather than with keeping the commands of Christ.

Walking by sight is selfish, shallow, and according to scripture, a totally *insensible* way to live.

Walking by faith, on the other hand, makes sense if we understand what faith is and the profound glory of what it accomplishes and gives back to us in return.

**Six Characteristic of What It Means To Walk By Faith**

I. Walking by Faith Is **Believing** When I Don’t See It

"*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*" *(Hebrews 11:1)*

Faith is **visualizing the future in advance**.

It is seeing the future in the present and believing when I don’t see it. Some things have to be *believed* before they can be seen. The world says, "**Seeing is believing.**" God says, "**Believing is seeing.**"
II. Walking by Faith Is **Obeying** When I Don’t Understand It

*It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going*  
(*Hebrews 11:8*)

Abraham is a classic example of obeying when he didn’t understand. He was about 75 years old, and God asked him to give up all his security.

God said, ”I want you to leave. Pick up everything and get ready for the greatest adventure of your life.” God gave Abraham **no details**.

III. Walking by Faith Is **Giving** When I Don’t Have It

**Giving** and **faith** go together hand and hand. God uses money to test our **faithfulness**. God watches the giving of a Christian.

"if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? *(Luke 16:11)*

IV. Walking by Faith Is **Persisting** When I Don’t Feel Like It

"How do you develop persistence? How do you develop the kind of persistence that keeps you in a position when God has put you there, when every bone in your body says, "Quit!" Where do you get that kind of persistence?"

V. Walking by Faith Is **Thanking** Before I Receive It

"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.42 "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." *(John 11:41-42, NKJV)*

"Changing One Life at a Time with the Word of God"
Walking by Faith

A good illustration for this is Joshua. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after the people had marched around them for seven days.

What were they doing seven times a day for seven days? They were **Thanking** and **Praising** God in advance.

Faith doesn’t mean you believe God can do something. He can do it whether you believe it or not. Faith doesn’t mean believing He will do something. That’s hope. You hope He will.

Faith is believing that he’s **doing it**, that he already **done it**, and that the answer is **already on the way**.

"*When you pray believe that you have received it and then you’ll be given what you’ve asked for.*" *(Mark 11:24)*

VI. Walking by Faith Is **Trusting** If I Don’t Get It

Walking in faith does not **exempt** you from problems.

**Real faith** is developed (1) in the valleys of your situation (2) when the situation looks impossible, (3) when things look hopeless (4) when the tide has turned against you (5) when you’re tempted to ask yourself, "Why is this happening to me?"

** Faith is trusting that if you don’t get it, God has a better plan -- a far, far better plan in store for you.**

IF ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER?

- Am I walking by faith?
- Am I believing when I don’t see it?
- Obeying when I don’t understand it?
- Giving when I don’t have it?
- Persisting when I don’t feel like it?
- Thanking before I receive it?
- Trusting if I don’t get it?
Hebrews 11:1-2 gives the definition of faith, saying, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Faith is being absolutely convinced and assured that what we hope for and believe in according to the promises of God in the Scripture is indeed going to come to pass.

Faith is more than just empty hoping or thinking positively.

It is an assurance and confidence that pierces to the depth of our souls that what God has said is true because God is for real and His promises are sure. As Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

Even though in this life God and heaven are unseen, those who believe God and His Word still choose to adjust their lives in light of eternal priorities.

They choose not to walk by what is only visible to them now but rather based upon an unwavering belief of what they will see later.

They are confident in their coming reward and in God’s ability and faithfulness to keep His Word.

We don't just walk by faith until we get the sight we really desired. We walk by faith, period. When sight comes, we praise God and keep walking by faith.

Those who "walk by sight" depend for authority upon what they experience

Those who "walk by sight" manage materialism with anxiety

The word "WALK" has a very wide meaning, to rove, to go along advancing, to go at the ordinary pace, not to run, to move about
or to depart, to be dismissed, to act, conduct oneself, or live in a specified way, to go through, to lead, drive.

The word can mean a lot of things. Walk by faith may mean the route chosen as a sphere of action on one's life

The phrase of "Walk by Faith" is spiritual and not physical. Most Christians normally walk by sight for our eyes show us the way. Christians are told to walk by faith and not by sight. Spiritually speaking, Christians are to follow Jesus Christ in their behavior and not follow their natural, instinctive desires which may lead to outrageous outcomes.

Faith is one of the most important elements of our relationship with God

What is Faith?
• Webster’s New World Dictionary defines faith as “unquestioning belief or complete trust or confidence.”

Like life, walking is a continuous process.

To walk by faith is a practical responsibility. It results from believing in His character and His works as revealed in His Word to the extent that we must trust Him and submit to His commands in every area of life.

His character is a major reason why we must continue to seek Him: so that our knowledge of Him is continually sharpened and refined to inform our imitation of Him in our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:7 gives a reminder and exhortation that believers are to "walk by faith, not by sight"