



Handout August 25, 2023

Walk By Faith II Corinthians 5:7

Okay, welcome back and here we go!

I can only tell you how grateful I am to serve in the House of the Lord. I like to say I have the best Boss in the world. Don't get me wrong, I work hard for God and am diligent in my service, but the reward is immense. When we opened, many of you know, we based our mission on a few scriptures:

Ephesians 4:11-13 'And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;'

1. It is our mission to _____ the _____!

Saints: that's you! That is one of our main goals. I believe we do a good job at that. Case in Point --- we just had 17 different speakers! For two months, we have heard from the actual Body of Christ here at Face of Grace and now *wow* were the messages on point, varied and relevant.

- Christie - the few supporting the many
- Edward - sexual sin & recovery
- Alma Lynn - serving & suffering
- David S. - humility
- Kara - a perfect heart
- Arturo - prayer
- Laurie - giving / tithing
- David N. - sound doctrine
- Helen - God's peace in storms
- Patti - importance of reading God's Word
- Sherri - Everyone But...
- Dominic Prayer - what's my problem
- Roy - study God's Word
- Dylan - Following Jesus
- Bill Garrison - Who Does God say I am?

So, ask me if I am proud! Yes. Proud of God's work in you. I mean all of you!

Hebrews 10:23-25 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.'

2. We do not _____ this _____!

You all love and support each other in ways that really blows my mind.

I have attended churches where, if the main speaker/pastor wasn't speaking, I would sometimes find myself not wanting to go. Here, we all show up, ready to hear what God has for each of us each week. Each of you has given the different speakers support and confidence.

Many of you have been under my teaching of the Grace Notes Doctrines for years. Some are new. I can only say stick with it. I have witnessed tremendous personal growth in so many!
Here's my chance to plug Monday and Tuesday's classes!

So how did we get here?

II Corinthians 5:7 'For we walk by faith, not by sight.'

3. We _____ by _____!

Let me tell you --- this hasn't been a bumpless ride!

There have been trials and opposition from the beginning. There were times when it looked like it may not happen. I had disagreements with our Benefactor. We actually decided not to move forward at one point! I suspect my pride played a big role in that!

But when it came down to it, the Spirit pushed and prompted, and I decided to *walk by faith* knowing what I had heard from God was true. So, we moved forward, searched many locations and God led us here!

The trials continued. Not everyone agreed on our ideas. Then the Pandemic hit. We had been open three months and then it became a ghost town. With mostly our startup money, low attendance, and little established giving, we did the next most sensible thing:

A Parking Lot SALE during COVID!

Now we have had three Parking Lot Sales, our giving is stable, our classes are well attended, our love for one another ---- complete!

4. Where are you _____ today?

I want you to know, just as we survived, so will you. God is working in all of your situations, as your Shepard. As the Pastor of this flock, I NEED you to know God loves you. He cares for you. He has a plan! Truly.

What is it? What's going on? Many things I already know. Many I don't.

Is it housing? Finances? Relationships? Work? Children? Past sins? Addiction? Trauma? Unforgiveness? Loss? Lies? What is it?

Hebrews 13:5-6 'Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"'

5. God is my _____.

What does that even mean? I mean seriously, I thought I was His helper... Ha!

Believe me, I don't do this for man's approval. I do it for God's. How do I know I have it? Look around. Look at what God has done with just a little bit of our faithfulness.

We've had Celebrations of Life, Weddings, parties, couples meeting, new babies....

And now we have a swim play date and an actual 3-day camping trip with a special picnic for non-campers!

AND, it was almost all lost over pride, lack of faith and fear.

Hebrews 11:32-39 'And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, '

6. I will not _____ my _____.

Say it out loud. Again.

What is it you have heard from God? Believe it --- walk in it! God is faithful.

Now, you be faithful. Keep believing, keep trusting, keep forgiving, keep loving. Keep coming back.

It works if you work it!

I need a Testimony and a Word of Encouragement for next week. Who will step up?

On Friday, September 8th, Roy will be leading the service --- his first time running the whole show!!!

All of you need to support him.

Monday Discipleship class - Philippians Lesson 6

Tuesday Bible Study - John, Chapter 9

Face of Grace
5407 Palm Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841
Mailing: PO Box 3975, Citrus Heights, CA 95611

FaceOfGrace27@gmail.com

<https://faceofgrace.biz>

916-993-8213