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What Faith Is

What you believe is the foundation to the Christian Life.

Galatians 3:11b - The righteous will live by faith.

Il Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight

- As Christians we are called to live our lives by faith and not by what we see!
- The life of Faith is living in the world of the senses, but choosing to be governed by what you believe.
- Sense Knowledge Evidence vs Faith or what you Believe
- On the other side of the life of faith is direct contact with an omnipotent God who loves us!

Faith – A firm persuasion, or what you believe, or life governing, decision making persuasions.

What governs our lives determines **what we believe**, **what we believe** determines our actions, and **how we act** determines the outcome of our lives.

<u>Acts 27:9-12</u> – ⁹ Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, ¹⁰ saying, "Men, **I perceive** that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives." ¹¹ Nevertheless the centurion was **more persuaded** by **the helmsman and the owner of the ship** than by the things **spoken by Paul**. *NKJV*

- They believed the owner of the ship more than Paul, and set sail.
- Paul believed what he perceived without evidence and acted upon his belief.
- The owners of the ship believed what they saw and acted upon that.
- Living by the senses will produce "shipwreck" every time. We cannot live by our senses.
- What are we called to use to develop our persuasions?

<u>Romans 10:17</u> - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *NKJV*

- The Word of God is the basis for the life of faith.
- It must become your final authority.
- It is why "Satan comes immediately to steal it in wayside, test it in stony and choke it in thorny ground."

<u>Mark 4:14-20</u> – ¹⁴ The sower **sows the word**. ¹⁵ And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and **takes away the word** that was sown in their hearts.

¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises **for the word's sake**, immediately they stumble. ¹⁸ Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in **choke the word**, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰ But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who **hear the word**, **accept it**, and **bear fruit**: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." *NKJV*

It is what Jesus used to combat Satan's attack. His senses were attacked and He chose to "live by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

<u>Matthew 4:1-11</u> – ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." ⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For **it is written**: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! **For it is written**, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. *NKJV*

The Life of Faith is lived by letting your life be governed by "It is written"!