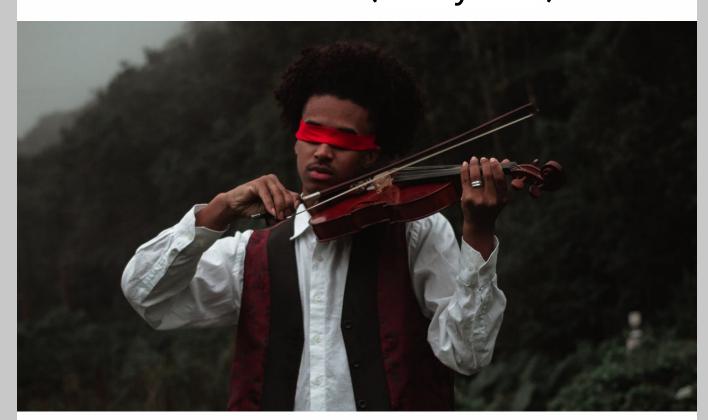




"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

## Children of God (Live by Faith)



**Greetings**, as we continue our series titled **Children of God**, we remember that last week we said that Children of God *Love*. Meaning that Love for others was a defining and essential characteristic of a Child of God. This week we discuss faith, our 2nd defining characteristic of a Child of God. Children of God, live by faith.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Imagine being in a romantic relationship and drawing near to your partner for a sweet embrace. Now, imagine that your partner pulls back as you draw nearer, how would you feel? You likely would not be very pleased with them. As Christians we are children of God in a spiritual love relationship with God, and God desires us to draw close to Him. The means by which we draw close is by faith. In our verse of the day, God tells us that "the Just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him". Since faith is required to please God, when we live by any means other than faith, we are pulling back from God's embrace, and this displeases God.

Faith comes by hearing the WORD of God. Sometimes when we speak of faith, we might imagine someone blindfolded walking in a dark room, trying to find their way. Another and likely better way to illustrate faith would be to imagine a musician whose eyes are closed, but their teacher calls out the music notes to them. They hear the notes being called out, they believe the words of their teacher, and they play what they hear. As they trust and play what their teacher tells them to play, the song comes out sounding as it is supposed to.

Walking by faith is not taking a chance -- such as rolling dice; walking by faith is trusting the words of God. Notice in our analogy of the blindfolded musician, the musician was not being led by their memory or their improvisation skills; they were being led by the words of their teacher. Likewise, faith does not come from within us and then transforms the world around us. Rather, faith comes from outside of us, from the spiritual WORD of God, and in our hearing, it transforms the world of believing inside of us. This means that faith does not come by following our heart and our dreams, or listening to what the majority decides, or from chasing a well timed opportunity. All of these things may at times lead to good outcomes, but they are not means of walking by faith. Faith comes by hearing the WORD of God (Romans 10:17). Children of God (Live by Faith).

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Living by faith means being led by the <u>voice of God</u>(*God's WORD*).

Our believing <u>does not change</u> God's word; instead,

God's WORD changes us and makes us believe.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for making us aware of the importance of faith. Help me to study your WORD so that I will know your voice, and draw closer to you; never pulling back by going through life in any way other than faith. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

## Your brother in Christ, WNL

\*\*\*This group email is sent to many individuals besides you. It is sent blind copy (BCC) to respect the privacy of our member's emails. \*\*\*



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