

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

Subject for the Old Union Baptist Minister's School, Bowling Green, Kentucky,
March 28, 29, 30, 2001.

" For we walk by faith^a and not by sight."
II Corinthians 5:7

INTRODUCTION

When the apostle Paul wrote the above words he said in the verse above that, " Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that while we are home in the body we are absent from the Lord." So he said "For we walk by faith and not by sight." But he doesn't leave out the fact that the time will come when we will be absent from the body and present with the Lord. Since we can't see the Lord face to face we must be content to walk and work by faith.

FAITH REACHES OUT TO THE UNSEEN

" While we look not at the things which are seen but the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Cor. 4:18. How do we look at that which is Spiritual? We cannot discern that which is eternal and Spiritual with our natural members, they are spiritually discerned. I Cor. 2:9 So the apostle ^{LOOKING} is by faith.

" By faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible." Hebrews 11:27. Moses had never seen the Lord in person, this many hundreds of years before the Christ came. But Moses believed that He would come, in fact he wrote about Him. See John 5:45 All the Lambs that were slain and blood shed in the Law pointed to the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world.

FAITH IS TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD

Jesus was preaching and teaching on the shore of the sea of Galilee, and the people pressed on Him to hear the Word. Fishing boats were standing by and one of them being Simon's. He prayed Simon to thrust out from the land, and He sat down and spoke to the people from the boat. "When He had left speaking, He said to Simon, launch out into the deep and let down the net for a draught; Peter said, Master, we have tailed all night and have taking nothing, Neverthe less, I will let down the net, and when he had this done they inclosed a grear multitude of fish, and the net brake." Simon Peter looked back to the failure the night before, as we are prone to do. But he took the Lord at His Wrd, and sucess came. Luke 5:1-6

When the apostle Paul had the vision at Troas, a man of Macedonia saying to him, come over to Macedonia and help us. "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for the to preach the Gospel unto them." The apostle took the Lord at His Word, speaking in this vision, And great success came, Especially at Philippi. Acts 16;

FAITH EXHIBITED AND VINDICATED

There are many example of men of faith in the Bible, especially in the bood of Hebrews. Noah, " By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear prepare an ark for the saving of his house."

Hebrews 11:7; Noah exhibited faith by building an ark. His faith was vindicated when he and his house wre delivered from the flood; Moses, " He forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured, as seening Him who is invisible." He gave up all the pleasures and treasures of Egypt to suffer affliction with the people of God. His faith was vindicated and rewardied when he and the children of Israel marched out of Egypt with a high hand, freedd from bondage

THE END OF THE JOURNEY

" Then Abraham gave up the ghost, died in a good old age, an old man, full of years; and was gathered to his people. And his sons Isaah and Ishmael burried him in the cave of Machpelah," genesis 25:8,9.

The man Abraham after such a long life, who had been ^{GIVEN} such great promises had to come to the end, just as all of us have to do.

" For I am now ready to be offered, the time of my departure is a hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Hensforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all who love His appearing." II Timothy 4:6-8

The apostle Paul, a man who had been greatly used of the Lord, but he as all of us must do, come to the end of the journey.

" And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord lay not this sin to their charge, and when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:59

This man Stephen, was full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Act.6:5, came to the end. But he gave his life for the great message that he had just preached, recorded in Acts chapter 6.