

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 “Aiming To Please”

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

- **By sight** (δια εἰδους [*dia eidous*]). Rather, **by appearance**.¹
- Do you live By **Faith** or By **Appearances**?
 - How will you choose to live?
 - Walk to the next point of Faith and wait on the Lord
- Phillip Brooks' **definition** of Faith was:
 - **Forsaking**
 - **All**
 - **I**
 - **Trust**
 - **Him**
- **“True faith goes into operation when there are no answers.”**
-- **Elisabeth Elliot**, missionary and author. *Men of Integrity*, Vol. 1, no. 2.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 But **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 diligently seek Him.

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

- Was Paul's aim based upon past performance?
1 Corinthians 15:9 **For I am the least of the apostles**, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
Ephesians 3:8 To me, **who am less than the least of all the saints**, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- We cannot disappoint God!
 - Disappointment based upon expectation of success but faced with failure
 - **God knows all things** – He cannot be surprised by our performance or failures.
- Paul's aim was based upon the hopeful expression of a life straightened out through obedience
 - **Paul's aim hit the bullseye.**
2 Timothy 4:6-8
6For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is

¹Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (2 Co 5:7). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

at hand.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- **“Faith is a flower that grows in the pathway of obedience.”**
- **4X Jesus says “O you of little faith” – not once with guile or disappointment**
Matthew 6:30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
Matthew 8:26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.
Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
Matthew 16:8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?”

Luke 19:17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; **because you were faithful in a very little**, have authority over ten cities.’