



# Spirit of Grace Herald

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## Spirit of Grace Ministries

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## We Walk by Faith!

One of the more frequently quoted declarations by the apostle Paul has to do with faith and sight. Paul, after announcing that when we are alive here on earth we are “in the body” and “absent from the Lord,” then goes on to make that famous declaration: “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Let us consider these two ways of walking.

What does Paul mean by “we walk...?” This does not have to do with placing one foot ahead of the other or hiking in the woods or taking a morning walk every day for health purposes. When Paul talks about us walking by faith, he is talking about how we live from day to day. Our “walk” is our day-to-day way of living. So when Paul says that we “walk” by faith he is declaring that we live, day to day, by faith and not by sight.

What is it to walk by sight? It is to live with full knowledge of all that our lives will entail. If you are walking down a city street with a good pair of eyes, you are seeing all that is in front of you. If the cross-light is red, no problem. You see it plainly and stop and wait for the light to turn green. If a child is carelessly riding his bike, paying no attention to anything, and is about to run you down, you sidestep the bike and avoid an accident. If a friend is coming toward you, you recognize him and stop for a chat. Your eyes are giving you all sorts of information on your little twenty-

minute walk, helping you to avoid dangers, recognize situations, and order your walk properly.

But suppose you were blind. You might use a blind person’s cane and be able to determine whether there was any immediately blockage a couple of feet in front of you, but that would be about it. To successfully navigate a busy city street, most of us would need a friend to help guide us in our walk. There are some blind people skilled enough to be able to maneuver around the city a bit, especially in the area near their home, but put them almost anywhere else and they would be in trouble. But if you have a seeing friend who is willing to go with you, a blind person can get around almost as easily as a seeing person. Whereas a seeing person depends upon his or her own eyes, a blind person could get around quite nicely by depending upon his friend’s eyes and directions. In this case he is not walking by his own sight; he is walking by the sight of another.



The Bible tells us that we do not walk by sight. This means that we cannot possibly see with perfect clarity even what is around us, and we especially cannot see what is in the future. In the final months of 2019 almost none of us was paying any serious attention to COVID 19. We had no idea what 2020 would bring. We never expected that our entire country would go around with masks on or that we would be keeping six feet away from people in the grocery stores, or that a virus would

be the number one topic in the news almost all year long. Nearly all of us entered 2020 completely oblivious as to what lay ahead. We could not have imagined many of America’s restaurants, churches, malls, and stores sitting vacant for months, or having to scrounge desperately for toilet paper in the stores and worrying that we might not be able to find any more for a long time.

Today we know precisely what the year 2020 held for us and for our nation. We know this because we have lived it. 2020 is in the history books, and hindsight is, of course, 20-20. What we do not know is what the year 2021 will bring. We have hope that the vaccines will work, that most of our stores and businesses will open and thrive, and that we personally will prosper and stay healthy. We hope for these things, but we do not know them. As it was at the beginning of 2020, so it is at the beginning of 2021. We still walk by faith and not by sight.

# WE WALK BY FAITH

To walk by faith is to go through our lives with confidence that our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, holds our hand, holds our lives, walks with us, and leads us safely. We do not know what is ahead, but He surely does. And He is able to warn us of things to avoid, to counsel us about the proper way to conduct our lives, to open doors for us that none can close, and to encourage us when all seems dark and confusing around us.

2020 has been a very tough time for our nation and for many of us individually. Over 400,000 people have died, and many others have lost their jobs or their businesses. But of one thing we can be sure: Jesus Christ has never abdicated His position, not only as Lord of Heaven and earth, but also as the Faithful One who leads, upholds, and directs His people. And we will trust Him. We will be confident that the One who led us through 2020 will continue to lead us through 2021. And when another year rolls around and we are taking stock of our lives in early 2022, the Lord allowing, we will find that He is still faithful, He is still good, He still leads and guides, and loves and encourages His people. And once again we will do as we always have since being born into the family of God through faith in Jesus – we will walk by faith and not by sight. He is with us. We will not endure on this earth forever, of course. One day He will take us home, which is far better. For to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.



## 2021—AFRICAN MINISTRY CONTINUES



Though COVID 19 has kept us from being in Africa personally for most of 2020, we will continue to minister in Africa. We are planning another mission by proxy in March, and we hope that after that we can once again travel there and minister personally to the beautiful people of Africa!

Through Food Distribution, through Free Medical Clinics, through the Evangelistic Preaching of Jesus Christ, and through Teaching the Word of God, WE WILL NOT FORGET THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA.

