

# Living by Faith

## Introduction

1. Have you ever heard anyone say “The Bible doesn’t say I can’t” do this thing or that thing?
  - A. These words seem to be the rallying cry for many people who want to do their own thing.
    - 1) Brethren, this is shifting sand!
  - B. It is true that the Bible doesn’t explicitly say “I can’t” on many things.
    - 1) In fact, the Bible does not say one cannot add holy dancing to the worship service to our God.
    - 2) The Bible does not say explicitly that you can’t various principles of relaxation along with the Bible.
  - C. Those living by their own doctrine of “the Bible doesn’t say I can’t” is one reason the religious world is in the mess that it is in today.
    - 1) Those calling for “unity” are becoming more fractured daily.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that you all speak the same thing**, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you **be perfectly joined together** in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**2. We do not go along with the denominations on this is because the Bible clearly teaches that we must live by faith!**

**A. Faith eliminates division.**

**B. Faith provides confidence that God is pleased with what we do.**

**3. Bible teaching on faith is found in these passages:**

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **"THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."**

Galatians 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for **"THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."**

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

Hebrews 10:38 NOW **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH**; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM."

**4. What does it mean to "live by faith?"**

**A. It is to live as God has directed.**

**5. Knowing that we must live by faith in order to be pleasing to God, my task in this lesson is to show that "the Bible doesn't say I can't" doctrine destroys "living by faith!"**

**A. This lesson is needful because religious denominations dangle their "freedom to do whatever" in front of us.**

**B. We need this lesson because humans have an inclination to want to do things their own way in life.**

## Living by Faith Requires God's Word

Romans 10:17 So then **faith comes by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**.

1. **We can't believe in something, we can't trust in something without a word from God.**
2. **This passage reveals the true source of "living by faith."**
3. **It is also a commentary on what it means to "walk in the light."**

1 John 1:7 But **if we walk in the light as He is in the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

4. **It reveals what is wrong with the "but the Bible doesn't say I can't" doctrine.**
  - A. **We can't have instruments in worship because we can't do it by faith.**
  - B. **We can't have a universal pope in Rome because we can't do it by faith.**
  - C. **We can't preach to pray the "sinner's prayer" because we can't do it by faith.**
5. **If there is no word from God, then there is no faith!**

## Living by Faith Illustrated

- 1. A thorough examination of Hebrews 11 shows us what faith is all about. How one gets faith.**
  - A. Noah built an ark (v.7).**
  - B. Abraham left his home and went to Canaan (v. 8-10).**
  - C. Abraham offered up his only son Isaac (v. 17-19).**
  - D. The walls of Jericho (v. 30).**
  
- 2. These examples and the definition of faith, bring us to the conclusion: If God has specified something – then everything else is excluded.**
  - A. God said “preach the word,” “preach the gospel.”**

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

- 1) It would then be inappropriate to preach a philosophy, literature, another word, another gospel.**

## Living by Faith in What We Say

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God....

**1. Think about that. We are to speak – what God has spoken. Contrast that with:**

**A. “But God doesn’t say we can’t!”**

**B. “Join the church of your choice.”**

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of **the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Ephesians 4:4 There is **one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

**C. “But we’re all headed for the same place, just by different paths.”**

**2. Jude 3 says: “....contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”**

**A. Many “earnestly contend” for their supposed freedom.**

**B. Here is the test that every man should seriously ponder:**

**Matthew 21:25 “....From heaven or from men?....”**

## Living by Faith in What We Do

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1. **Doing something in the “name of the Lord Jesus” means by His own authority – that which only He has authorized.**
  - A. **What can we do “in the name of the Lord” and have it be honored by God?**
    - 1) **Can it be things that the Lord never taught?**
2. **If something is claimed to be in the “name of the Lord” and it has not been spoken by the Lord, then it is presumptuous.**
  - ◆ **Presumptuous: (of a person or their behavior) failing to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate.**

Deuteronomy 18:22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, **that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken**; the prophet has **spoken it presumptuously**; you shall not be afraid of him.

- A. **Pray the “sinner’s prayer.”**
- B. **Pray the “rosary.”**

**3. We are not permitted to do anything that is beyond what is written by God and available to us in scripture.**

1 Corinthians 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us **not to think beyond what is written**, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

**A. The ASV says:** “that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written.” **This is somewhat mirrored in the ESV, NIV, RSV, NRSV, and NASB.**

Deuteronomy 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, **that you may keep the commandments of the LORD** your God which I command you.

Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **Do not add to His words**, Lest He rebuke you, **and you be found a liar**.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **if anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and **if anyone takes away from the words** of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

## Conclusion

1. It is hoped that no one here has a “but God didn’t say we couldn’t” attitude.
2. If so, I encourage you to repent and leave that attitude and go forward, being resolved to:
  - A. Live by faith, recognizing that it requires a word from God.
  - B. Live by faith, in what you say, speaking as the oracles of God.
  - C. Live by faith, in what you do, doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus and not going beyond what is written.
3. If we all live by faith, then we will know that we’ve done what we can to eliminate division.
4. Finally, if we live by faith, we will know that God is pleased with how we live because we will be able to answer the question: “Is it from heaven or is it from men?”



