

2 Corinthians 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Analysis

For we walk by faith, not by sight—Paul provides theological grounding for verse 6's tension. *Dia pisteōs peripatoumen* (διὰ πίστεως περιπατοῦμεν, "through faith we walk") versus *dia eidous* (διὰ εἶδους, "through sight/appearance"). *Eidos* (εἶδος) means visible form, outward appearance—what can be empirically verified. *Pistis* (πίστις, "faith") is confident trust in God's unseen promises, particularly resurrection hope.

This parenthetical statement explains why absence from the Lord doesn't diminish confidence. Faith bridges the gap between present reality and promised glory. The verb *peripateō* (περιπατέω, "walk") indicates ongoing lifestyle, not isolated acts—our entire life orientation is faith-governed, not appearance-governed. This counters both demand for empirical proof and despair over present suffering. Faith perceives eternal realities invisible to natural sight (Hebrews 11:1), making it superior, not inferior, to physical vision.

Historical Context

First-century culture highly valued visible honor, status, and power. Paul's opponents in Corinth boasted in appearance (v. 12)—eloquence, impressive presence, worldly credentials. Paul stakes apostolic authority on invisible realities: resurrection hope, internal transformation, God's coming vindication. This was profoundly counter-cultural and required constant reinforcement.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What specific "visible" realities tempt you to doubt invisible spiritual promises—how do you combat this with faith?
2. How is walking by faith different from blind optimism or wishful thinking—what makes Christian faith reasonable?
3. In what areas of life are you tempted to demand visible proof rather than trust God's word—finances, relationships, ministry?

Interlinear Text

διὰ	πίστεως	γὰρ	περιπατοῦμεν	οὐ	διὰ	εἶδους·
by	faith	(For	we walk	not	by	sight
G1223	G4102	G1063	G4043	G3756	G1223	G1491

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:18 (Parallel theme): While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 Peter 1:8 (Faith): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Hebrews 10:38 (Faith): Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Galatians 2:20 (Faith): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 5:9 (Faith): Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (Parallel theme): For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

2 Corinthians 1:24 (Faith): Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

Deuteronomy 12:9 (Parallel theme): For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

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