

This verse, read with its passage from 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (TPT) gave me some insights into what faith can *look* like as we age. What a great passage to be spoken and celebrated as we embrace our beloved Christian brothers and sisters near end of life

We are convinced that even if these bodies we live in are folded up at death like tents, we will still have a God-built home that no human hands have built, which will last forever in the heavenly realm. We inwardly sigh as we live in these physical "tents," longing to put on a new body for our life in heaven, in the belief that once we put on our new "clothing" we won't find ourselves "naked." So, while living in this "tent," we groan under its burden, not because we want to die but because we want these new bodies. We crave for all that is mortal to be swallowed up by eternal life. And this is not empty hope, for God himself is the one who has prepared us for this wonderful destiny. And to confirm this promise, he has given us the Holy Spirit, like an engagement ring, as a guarantee. That's why we're always full of courage. Even while we're at home in the body, we're homesick to be with the Master —

For we live by faith, not by what we see with our eyes.

We live with a joyful confidence, yet at the same time we take delight in the thought of leaving our bodies behind to be at home with the Lord. So whether we live or die we make it our life's passion to live our lives pleasing to him. For one day we will all be openly revealed before Christ on his throne so that each of us will be duly recompensed for our actions done in life, whether good or worthless.



What is faith, anyway?

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Living and *walking* by faith is *one step at a time*, confidently **trusting** the Lord along life's journey in the here-and-now and assurance about our future heavenly home as Christ-followers.

Faith is first believing and then seeing.

When I believe all God said in His Word is truth, I'll see life – and death - through His lens of love and a life worth living.

Some people say, "I'll believe it when I see it." But faith says, "I'll

see it when I believe it."

When I believe God wrote 66 love letters to passionately pursue me, I'll see His heart of love and sacrifice for all mankind and I'll saturate my soul with the reading of them.

When I believe God has my best interest at heart, I'll see the stumbling blocks of life as stepping stones, the obstacles of life as opportunities, and the wounds of life as a witness to His sovereignty.

When I believe God has a glorious home for me when my life on earth is over, I'll see His strength. courage, hope, and assurance radiate through my aging body and bones.

When I believe God is in control and I am not, I'll see each interruption as an opportunity.

But our faith will fade when we fear and start living by sight, by signs, by senses or by feelings and philosophies of the world. It's a slow fade, like that of a frog in a kettle of warm water. When the heat is slowly turned up, we succumb to a slippery slope that's hard to crawl out of . Not spending time in God's Word and with His people leaves us weak and vulnerable. As the saying goes, "One week without God leaves one weak."

As the passage reveals, our life's passion should be to live a life of faith which pleases God.

I think of my senior friend who became completely blind seven years ago after having perfect vision his entire life. If one can imagine what life must be like when you can't tell night from day or what trouble your next step will bring. How vulnerable and fearful a blind man can become unless his faith is grounded and growing in the truth God's Word. It's a daily surrendering of his fears laid out before the Lord. I've heard his prayers. They are priceless. He longs for the Lord, but until then, He lives with the motto: *Only one life twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.*

I end with the lyrics and <u>link</u> to a well-known Michael W Smith worship song sung, sung by a blind boy. It will open the eyes of your heart. Link - <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjYeUN2zWqI</u>

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You. I want to see You. (x2)

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, (x2)

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, l want to see You. I want to see You. (x8)