

## “Feelings”

II Corinthians 5:7-10 says, “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” We are living in a time when “faith” is really no more than an impression or feeling people have about “God.” Most of the time, the definition of faith is faulty, because it is not based upon the Word of God and the God of the Bible. Many people do that which is right in their own sight, and their God is really a product of their own subjective “spiritual” experiences. George Mueller made an observation on the matter that is pertinent at this point. He said,

*Faith has nothing to do with feelings or with impressions, with improbabilities or with outward experiences. If we desire to couple such things with faith, then we are no longer resting on the Word of God, because faith needs nothing of the kind. Faith rests on the naked Word of God. When we take Him at His Word, the heart is at peace.*

God and faith are not defined in mainstream Christendom by the Word of God any longer. As a Bible believing Christian, I must discern this and keep it in mind when I hear people speaking of faith and God to me.

The text tells us that the Christian does not walk by sight. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” In Psalm 119:105 David said, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. They are ordered by the Word. They are not ordered by feelings. As Christians we cannot afford to follow whims, impressions, moods, etc... God gave us a conscience. He gave us feelings and emotions. However, in no place in the Word of God has He told us that we are to rely on those. We must see that God’s Word will have to sanctify our emotions. A.B. Simpson once made an excellent observation saying, “When you cannot rejoice in feelings, circumstances or conditions, rejoice in the Lord.” Sometimes we will be dancing and leaping. We will be on the mountaintop with our Lord. However, there will also be times of valleys. Yet, Psalm 23:3-4 says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” Even in the valley,

when the feelings and emotions of ecstasy flee, we can rejoice in the Lord, because He will never leave us nor forsake us. His Word can be seen in the rod (correction) and staff (guidance and comfort) even in the valleys of life. The table spoken of in verse four denotes the breaking of bread in a meal. It is in this Laodicean Church age that the Lord is standing outside the door of the Church, knocking to see if any man will open and let Him come in to sup or dine with him. Even though the enemies of our soul daily beset us on every side, we can know the secret of sweet and blessed communion the Lord as He breaks His Word to us by His Spirit. He can cause our cup to overrun even in the time of drought if we will put our roots deep in His Word!

In Luke 24:17 we read of the Lord asking the two on the road to Emmaus, *“What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?”* They responded by saying that they were saddened because Jesus Christ, in whom they had trusted, was dead and would rise no more. At least this is what they thought. They were walking by sight. They had succumbed to feelings and the popular opinion. Christ’s response to their doubtings was one of rebuke for their lack of faith in the promise of God through the prophets. Then He began to expound to them the things which the Old Testament Scriptures prophesied concerning Himself. Beginning in verse 30 we find what happened next, saying, *“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”* Does the truth of the very Word chasten, rebuke and burn within your heart in these last days? The question is not so much, *“What feelings do you get from the Bible?”* but *“What has God’s Word dealt with your heart about, even this week?”* May God enable us to walk by faith and not by feeling that in all things we might be pleasing unto Him!