

Walking By *faith*—so amazing

2024 THEME

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith, not by sight:**)

Our theme for 2024 is *Faith So Amazing*. The definition of faith, according to the Bible, is found in Heb. 11:1 “Now **faith is** the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- ❖ The exercise of faith contains assurance in God’s promises even if tangible evidence is lacking.
- ❖ The “things hoped for” rests in the expectation and waiting for fulfillment.

Original Word: ἐλπίζω **Transliteration:** elpizó

Definition: to expect, to hope (for) **Usage:** I hope, hope for, expect, trust.

elpízō (from *elpís*, "hope") – **to hope, actively waiting for God's fulfillment** about the faith He has inherited through the power of *His love* (cf. Gal 5:6 with Heb 11:1).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1679.htm>

Original Word: ὑπόστασις **Transliteration:** hupostasis

Definition: a support, substance, steadiness, assurance

Usage: (lit: an underlying), (a) confidence, assurance, (b) a giving substance (or reality) to, or a guaranteeing, (c) substance, reality.

Hypostasis – properly, (to possess) **standing under a guaranteed agreement ("title-deed")**; (figuratively) "*title*" to a promise or property, i.e. **a legitimate *claim* (because it literally is, "under a legal-standing") – entitling someone to what is guaranteed under the particular agreement.** For the believer, *hypóstasis* ("title of possession") is the Lord's guarantee to fulfill the His promises (cf. Heb 11:1 with Heb 11:6).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5287.htm>

❖ From God's perspective, without the exercise of faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him:

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must **believe that he is, and *that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

❖ A believer cannot separate the exercise of faith from pleasing God:

Original Word: εὐαρεστέω

Transliteration: euarestéō

Definition: to be well-pleasing

Usage: I give pleasure to, please (perhaps with the added idea of: rendering good service to).

euarestéō – to please (gratify) by *giving what is acceptable*. We only please the Lord by living *in faith* ("His inworked persuasions/preferences").

Accordingly, (*euarestéō*) and faith (*pístis*) are directly connected in the NT.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2100.htm>

❖ A life of faith is one in fellowship with God, possessing both faith and well-pleasing service to God.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable** unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and **acceptable**, and perfect, will of God.

❖ Consider the example of the Lord Jesus:

Jn. 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

❖ Believers are saved by grace through faith, becoming His workmanship and ordained to walk in a manner of good works, for His glory.

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith;**
and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God:**

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus unto good works, which God hath before
ordained that we should walk in them.**

Summary

- ❖ Throughout 2024, believers should express gratitude for God's grace by being well-pleasing, and acceptable to Him, which is our reasonable service.
- ❖ A simple formula to follow that is pleasing to God...the manner of a submissive life:
 - ✦ Study the Scriptures – 2 Tim. 2:15, Jn. 5:39, 46
 - ✦ Pray without ceasing – 1 Thess. 5:18, Jer. 33:3, Mt. 7:7, Jas. 4:16b

- ✦ Witness all the time, every where – Acts 1:8, Mark 16:20, Acts 8:4
- ✦ Faithfully attend church – Heb. 10:25
- ✦ Maintain the fruit of the spirit – Gal. 5:22-23
- ✦ Support world evangelism (missions) – Mt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:15, Lu. 24:47, Jn. 20:21
- ✦ Be faithful in giving – Mal. 3:8-11, Lu. 6:38, 2 Cor. 9:6-7

Conclusion

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 **Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ;** to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.