

## **WALKING BY SIGHT, NOT BY FAITH**

In our lesson text, Judah, as a believer parent, is making good doctrinal decisions regarding the directive will of God with his adult children.

For example, he picked a believer wife for his firstborn son, ER (Gen.38:6) [patriarch authority]

When Er died without male heir, Judah made another good doctrinal decision of Levirate marriage to the second son, Onan to Tamar (Gen.38:7-10).

When Onan died, Judah made another good doctrinal decision of Levirate marriage of Shelah, his last son, to Tamar (Gen.38:11).

Judah had made good doctrinal decisions through difficult times on basis of the doctrinal principle of Rom.8:28.

Then something happened that threw him off his spiritual walk of faith.

(2 Cor.5:7) "For we walk by faith and not by sight."

(Gal.5:7) "You were running well; who (or what) hindered you from obeying the truth?"

What caused Judah to go against the directive will of God regarding the Levirate marriage of Shelah to Tamar?

What could cause Judah to think that walking by sight would be better than walking by faith?

<p><b>Today's lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of Walking by Sight and not Faith.</b></p>
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This lesson will address this problem and how to correct it.

(Heb.4:11) "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest (**faith rest technique/ faith cycle/ walking by faith**), so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience."

### **1. Walking by sight will get you nowhere related to the directive will of God in the plan of God.**

This is true for any believer. However, walking by faith will get you everywhere related to the directive will of God in the plan of God (Heb.11) [Geographical, Operational, and Mental Will]

For example, Judah had been walking by faith and fulfilling the directive will of Levirate marriage related to the messianic seed of the Abrahamic Covenant.

After burying two of his three sons, he stopped walking by faith and began walking by sight. Walking by faith wasn't working for him so he thought he would try sight.

### **Doctrinal principle learned from Job:**

**"False assumptions lead  
to false interpretations leading  
to false expectations which leads  
to false applications."**

## 2. To walk by sight meant Judah was abandoning walking by faith.

These are diabolically opposites. The change that has occurred in Judah is “not God’s will but my will be done!”

We can read how this change occurred in

(Gen.38:11) “Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, ‘Remain a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up’” **for he thought (inter-dialogue)**, ‘I am **afraid** that he too may die like his brothers.’ So Tamar went and lived in her father’s house.”

Judah’s motivation to walk by sight was **worldly fear** based on a false assumption. By this choice, Judah is working against the directive will of God.

At this point, the permissive will of God will begin implementing divine discipline (Heb.12:5-11). If Judah doesn’t not confess his sin and return to obedience to the directive will, God will implement His over-ruling will (1 John 1:9; Rom.12:2).

- What caused Judah to lose his spiritual momentum and to forsake the directive will of God?
- Why did he abandon walking by faith for sight?
- Why did he revert back to OMCD insecurities of fear, flight, and failure?
- What triggered it?

## 3. The obvious connection is the death and lost of his two sons. “Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.” (Gen.46:12b)

Sometimes the believer’s attitude is - “This is what I get for walking by faith.”

But knowing the background of this story, it is most likely the **attitude of self-inflicting guilt punishment** over the Joseph and Jacob incidents of Gen.37 - “God is paying me back (Gen.42:21-23,28; 44:16).”

Of course none of this is true. Once again, it is based on a false assumption.

What is Judah more fearful of losing in his life than God (Gen.38:11)? Is this illogical or logical thinking? It is illogical thinking. Nevertheless, he believes it (NV).

## 4. We call this Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking in the application of reversionism.

- **Why** didn’t he admit that his sons died the sin unto death based on their actions toward God? Their death had nothing to do with Judah or Tamar.
- **Why** didn’t he acknowledge that the key doctrine driving this entire episode was the messianic seed of Abrahamic covenant (Matt.1:1-3)? He is the tribe of the seed of Christ. This will be played out in the rest of Gen.38 and 49:8-12.
- **Why** is his only son more important than God’s only son? (OMCD thinking of reversionism)
  - Acknowledgement of the truth of God’s word would have set Judah free at any time he applied it by faith (John 8:32).

Judah will learn an important lesson about walking by faith. Yesterday’s walking by faith counts only for yesterday. This is why Paul put it in the present tense in 2 Cor.5:7 (peripateo/ **p.a.ind.1pl**).