

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Walk by Faith, God's Guarantee

TUNE: Rock of Ages (TOPLADY)

Habakkuk 2:3-4; Romans 1:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1-6

♩ = 60

B♭ E♭/B♭ B♭ E♭ B♭ B♭/A Gm C♯m/E♭ B♭/F F⁷_{sus} F7 B♭_{sus} B♭

1. Walk by faith, God's guar - an - tee, Proof the heart can touch and see.
2. All the worlds, a - round, a - bove, Speak His pow - er, sing His love.
3. Ev - 'ry saint of ev - 'ry age, Ev - 'ry soul at ev - 'ry stage,

F F_{sus}/G F/A F7 B♭ C♯m⁷ B♭⁷/D B♭/D F7 B♭ B♭/F

Walk by faith, and you will know More than flesh can see or show.
By His Word all came to be, All we touch and feel and see.
Ev - 'ry heart and ev - 'ry tongue, All the prais - es ev - er sung

B♭ E♭/B♭ B♭ B♭/A E♭/G E♭ B♭ B♭_{sus}/C B♭/D E♭⁶ B♭/F F⁷_{sus} F7 B♭

Breathe a hope se - rene and sure: Know your life in Christ se - cure.
Heav'n and earth and all be - tween Help us trust the Hand un - seen.
Shout the truth with one ac - cord: Sim - ple faith will please our Lord!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Thomas Hastings; arr. by Ken Bible

TOPLADY
7.7.7.7.7.

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TOPICS: Creator; Faith; Living in Christ

LEAD-IN: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.*

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
(Hebrews 11:1-6, NASB)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

How to Be Sure about God

Genesis 1; Psalm 8; Isaiah 40:12-31; Hebrews 11:1-6

We cannot have a casual relationship with God. He claims to be Creator, sovereign Lord of all reality, Father, Redeemer, and Fountain of Life. If His claim is false, we should ignore Him along with all the other fakes and fictions in our world. If He is who He says He is, He is the reality that shapes every other reality. We owe Him everything, and more. There is no halfway. He is All-in-all, or He is nothing.

Since God is the ultimate question, how can we know that He exists? How can we be sure about Him? Our entire lifespan is a mere moment in time. We perceive and understand so little of reality, and He is by His very nature beyond our senses and imaginings. If we could completely encompass Him with our perceptions and expectations, we would be God, not Him.

Any objective observer of the human situation would come to this conclusion: understanding all reality is beyond human ability. It is beyond our perspective, beyond our brevity, beyond our wisdom, beyond the blindness and smallness of our self-centered pride. We can only know a Sovereign, transcendent God as He intentionally reveals Himself to us and as we respond by trusting Him.

That is the path to knowing God that is laid out in His Word, the Bible. What is our proof or evidence for the things we cannot see? Faith is our proof. Faith is our evidence. Faith is our assurance (Hebrews 11:1).

Creation itself nurtures this faith in what is beyond our senses. All its vastness, its matter, its detail, its pattern and order, came from nothing. It truly is a *creation*. Everything we see came from what we cannot see (Hebrews 11:3). Creation is but one of many testimonies God has provided, one of many signposts pointing to His reality (Other signposts include His written Word, His Spirit speaking within, the testimony of other human beings, and the man Christ Jesus).

But there is no objective proof that makes faith unnecessary. Our ultimate decision is always this: do we trust God or not? That decision is God's design. To come to Him, we must realize our smallness and dependence, then trust Him as our Creator, Father, and Lord. To know Him, we must humbly acknowledge Him for who He is and acknowledge ourselves for who we are. Until then, we are foolishly exalting our small selves above the greatness displayed all around us. That can never lead us to the truth. The truth begins with God, not with us. Certainty requires our humble, trusting commitment to Him.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* (Proverbs 9:10, NASB)

But further, how can we frail and flawed creatures ever hope to please such a God or fellowship with Him? We please Him the same way we come to know Him: by faith—that is, by humbly, simply, actively trusting Him (Hebrews 11:2, 4-6a).

*We are blind until we trust God.
He works His mightiest wonders right in front of us—
creation,
Jesus Christ, and
the glories of life in Him—
and we see nothing.
Trusting Him opens our eyes to His magnificence.*

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