

DAY 7 MOVING FORWARD

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All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

-2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

Thought: Where do you go from here? How do you continue to grow in this new life of faith?

The life of faith is just that, a life time. So where do you go from here? How do you continue to grow in the grace that God has given you? The answer is to continue listening to his voice.

I once heard a pastor say, "People often say 'I wish God would speak to me.' I say, 'Are you listening to the things he has already said?'"

When we open the Bible, we are doing just that -- listening to God speak into our lives. The Bible is the one book that reads you. When you open it up, it encourages you, con-

nects you, and guides you. It is more than a book. It is the very word of God. Sure he used ordinary men to write it down. He used a variety of languages and cultures and took a few centuries to bring it all together, but it is still all guided by his hand and placed into yours. It gives you a picture of who God is, who you are, and how grace will continually transform your life.

If you are looking for a good place to start, you can find some great reading plans online through things like youversion.com, the free YouVersion Bible app, or you could simply pick up one of the Gospels and start reading a chapter a day.

If you want to continue growing in your faith then get connected to a local church, spend time talking to God in prayer, and spend some regular time in his word (the Bible). Just fifteen minutes a day will help you continue to grow in this amazing gift of grace God has given you!

Story: Matthew 4:1-11 - The Temptation of Jesus.

Jesus leans on the word of God to strengthen him in the midst of his temptation. See how the time you spend in the Bible can be a source of strength when you need it the most.

WHAT'S NEXT

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I am so glad you have taken this seven day journey with us, but I want you to know that there is so much more to the life of faith than you can find in this short book.

The life of faith is just that - a journey. Every journey continues the same way it began, with a single step. You have seen what God has done over seven days, now think about what he can do over a lifetime! So what's next?

Have you been baptized? If not, feel free to contact one of the pastors at the church. They can talk you through baptism, answer any questions you may have, and even baptize you.

Do you want to dive a little deeper into understanding the life of faith? Talk to the pastors on staff about opportunities to learn the basics of the faith, and dive deeper into the Bible.

Don't forget one of the best ways to grow is to get connected with a local church. The church that gave you this book has a passion for seeing you connect with Jesus and grow in this new life of grace. The staff at that church wants to equip you with everything you need to grow in your new life of faith. Find out how you can get plugged into their church community, and you will find a great place to continue the journey of faith.

This may seem a little overwhelming. If it does, just keep this in mind: the journey of faith is taken one step at a time. Trust that God will guide each step you take, and simply take the next best step for you.

Pastor Matt Peeples.

-newto.faith-