

Two Steps Forward
Walking to the next mile marker.

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One of the most exciting occurrences in the life of a child is when they take their first steps.

As a parent, we definitely hope to be there to witness it for our self because it is such a significant first mile marker in their growth or development. In the same way, every step forward in our walk as followers of Christ, I believe, blesses the heart of our heavenly Father.

Walking requires a series of steps. Just as we have two feet, they are two steps we must take simultaneously if we desire to follow Christ. The first step is to trust, and the second is to obey. "He who has an ear, let him hear or let him act on what he has heard."

Through our relationship with Jesus Christ, we have access to every spiritual blessing from above; however, what God has for us and what we have from God may not be the same. This is mainly caused by one's lack of spiritual desire, or a lack of faith, or one's living in disobedience toward God.

The lack of possessing spiritual blessings is directly related to one's lack of progress in their following Christ on the way that He called narrow which leads us to life. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me." This means Jesus has gone before us, and that He is leading us on the way.

He says, we must first, "Deny our self," meaning that we can get in our own way of making progress in our spiritual growth.

With self in the way, there is no "Bearing our cross." Self is unwilling to make sacrifices, endure afflictions, endure hardships, and yes, be willing to give up our life completely for the cause of Christ.

Conclusion: our self is the greatest hindrance to our spiritual growth. **If our faith is not growing, it's deteriorating.** "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"

Where are you on your spiritual journey today? Where are you headed in the days ahead?

One thing is certain, God doesn't want you to stay where you are.

What steps do we need to take? To follow Christ requires us to "walk in the light." Walking requires a series of steps. Just as we have two feet, they are two steps we must take together.

First is the step of faith; then second is the step of obedience.
Trust and obey! These steps are required if we are to follow Christ.

STEPS TOWARD DELIVERANCE.

Christians are not immune from the effects of sin in this world.

Christians suffer abuse – physical and mental; emotional distress; anxiety and depression. These experiences are real and can be debilitating.

However, the Christian does not have to live under the power of these indefinitely. One may feel hopeless, but that doesn't mean there is no hope, especially if you are a child of God.

- **More Than Conquerors.** Read: **Romans 8:35–39**

(2 Corinthians 10:3–5) Being human, we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. "taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

They are a lot of "authorities" that speak into our life. The authority of Christ trumps them all.

TRUST...OBEY!

STEPS TOWARD DEEPER KNOWLEDGE. Read: **Ephesians 1:18–21**

Hebrews 6:1 Let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ become mature in our understanding.

TRUST...OBEY!

STEPS TOWARD COMMITMENT. Read Mt. 6:33

- Committed to prayer.
- Committed to the house of the Lord.
- Committed to supporting the church with your presence (accountability).
 - “My church family matters.”
 - Things which pertain to God matters.

TRUST...OBEY!

STEPS TOWARD A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. Read James 4:7-10

This is where all steps begin. “Drawing near to God.”

TRUST...OBEY!

Where is God calling you to?

- To repentance of sin that is keeping you from following Christ?
- To be a Godly father or mother?
- To be a Godly husband or wife?
- To a place of trusting Him more?
- To putting God in His rightful place upon the throne in your life?
- To mend a relationship?
- To end an unhealthy relationship?

Take the first step today! Place your TRUST in Christ!

Then seek His strength and power in taking the next step of obedience.