

Taking the Next Step: A Journey of Faith

In our walk with God, we often find ourselves at crossroads, facing decisions that require us to step out in faith. But what does it truly mean to have faith, and why is it sometimes so challenging to take that next step?

Faith, at its core, is trust and confidence in something or someone without proof. It's about leaving the known for the unknown, stepping away from our comfort zones and into the promises of God. This journey of faith is beautifully illustrated in the life of Abraham, who is often referred to as the father of our faith.

When God called Abraham to leave his homeland, He promised to make him a great nation, to bless him, and to make his name great. Abraham obeyed, stepping out into the unknown, not knowing where he was going. With every new step, every new day, and every new challenge, Abraham had to rely on his faith in God's promises.

As he walked through the sand and looked up at the stars at night, Abraham was reminded of God's promise to make his descendants as numerous as the grains of sand and the stars in the sky. This visual reminder strengthened his faith and propelled him forward.

Like Abraham, we too are called to step out in faith. But why is it so hard for some of us? Often, it's because we're leaving behind what's familiar and comfortable. We're stepping away from our security, our habits, maybe even our friends or the way we think. We're trading the known for the unknown.

Sometimes, we hesitate because we don't fully understand the totality of God's promises or the inheritance, He has for us. We may fear that stepping out in faith will make our lives harder rather than better. But the truth is, no one who has ever stepped into God's promises has found their life worse off.

The story of David and Goliath serves as another powerful example of stepping out in faith. David, a young shepherd, didn't set out to face a giant that day. He was simply running an errand for his father. But when he heard Goliath mocking God and saw the Israelite army cowering in fear, something stirred within him. David's previous experiences of God's faithfulness - in facing lions and bears - gave him the courage to step out in faith and face Goliath.

One decision, one step of faith, changed everything for David that day. He went from being an errand-running shepherd to becoming a national hero and eventually, the king of Israel.

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These stories remind us that faith isn't about knowing the outcome before we take the step. It's about taking the step without knowing the outcome. It's about trusting God enough to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," just as young Samuel did.

So, what does taking the next step of faith look like in our lives today?

For some, it might mean repentance and baptism. For others, it could be seeking the gift of the Holy Spirit. It might involve stepping into a new ministry or work that God is calling you to. Perhaps it's about leading your family into a closer walk with the Lord or leaning more deeply into God's promises.

Whatever that next step is for you, remember that you're not stepping out alone or in your own strength. You're stepping out in the name of the Lord, relying on His power and promises.

The Psalmist encourages us to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). When we step out in faith, we're tasting the goodness of God. We're exchanging our limited inheritance for God's unlimited one.

Consider Ruth, who left her homeland to follow her mother-in-law Naomi, declaring "Your people will be my people and your God my God." She had no idea that this step of faith would lead her to become part of the lineage of Christ.

Or think about Esther, who stepped into a beauty contest not knowing she would become the instrument of deliverance for her people.

These examples remind us that our small steps of faith can lead to outcomes far greater than we could ever imagine.

However, it's important to remember that faith without works is dead. It's not enough to simply believe; our faith must be accompanied by action. As James writes, "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds" (James 2:18).

So, where is your faith today? Is it tucked away in a closet, only coming out on Sundays? Or is it active, propelling you forward into God's promises?

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As we contemplate these truths, let's challenge ourselves to take the next step of faith. Let's put on our spiritual "tennis shoes," ready to run the race God has set before us. Whether it's repentance, baptism, seeking the Holy Spirit, or stepping into a new area of ministry, let's be willing to say, "Lord, I'm ready to take the next step."

Remember, you don't need to see the whole staircase. Just take the next step. Trust that as you do, God will illuminate the path ahead. He is faithful to complete the good work He has begun in you.

So today, let's cast aside our fears and hesitations. Let's step out of our comfort zones and into the amazing adventure God has for us. For it's in those steps of faith that we truly experience the power, love, and faithfulness of our God.

What's your next step of faith? Whatever it is, know that God is with you, cheering you on, ready to do exceedingly abundantly above all you could ask or imagine. Take that step today, and watch in awe as God unfolds His perfect plan in your life.