

On October 14, 2012 Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner stood more than 24 miles above the surface of the Earth. Felix was not only about to break the World Record for the highest freefall, and be the first skydiver to break the sound barrier at more than 833mph...but he would also be a witness in the case of Round Earth v. Flat Earth...

The other day I came across a video of that moment...I'm watching it and again I'm reminded of the tension I felt as he stands on the edge of the capsule about to jump...

Then with the whole world watching he says...

**Sometimes you have to be up really high to understand how small you are...**

So true...that is until I think about how small I felt last Sunday afternoon during that storm...

Or then begin to think about those people in my prayer journal...those that I'm praying for...many of which are a part of our family...

I'm praying for multiple couples...husbands and wives who are hurting as they watch their marriage falling apart...move further every day from the dream they once had for their life

I'm praying for parents who are heart-broken...as they surrender the dreams they once had for their children for one reason or another...

I'm praying for friends who are frustrated w/ their jobs...who are frustrated with their bosses, and those who are searching for a job...all whom are not just struggling to figure out their next step...but also the courage to embrace that next step.

I'm praying for a couple who is struggling to have children

And I'm praying for children who are struggling to believe what God says about them more than what a bully says about them.

I'm praying for a friend who feels like believing in God got him nothing...and is now determined to figure it out on his own.

I'm praying for adult children who are watching one or both parents struggle w/ some sort of addiction.

I'm praying for friends and family, here at Fellowship, who have been recently diagnosed w/ cancer and are asking...is this the end?

When I think about them...I realize I don't have to be very high to feel very small.

You know what does feel small...to tell flipantly tell someone...in that moment...all they need to do is Trust God? While that may be true...more than a reminder to "trust God" they need a model to show them how to Trust God.

This morning...as we continue our look at the Book of Proverbs by looking on this Father's Day at the guidelines offered a son by his Father so that he might pursue the life he was made for...more than the life He thinks he wants.

Turn with me to Proverbs 3:1-2;5-6...

**Proverbs 3:1-2; 5-6**

**My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,  
for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity (v.1-2)...  
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight. (v.5-6)**

Trust in the Lord...with all your heart.  
What does it mean to Trust in the Lord?

I believe we find a clue earlier in Proverbs 3, in verse 1, when Solomon writes...

**Proverbs 3:1**

**My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments.**

Here we see 2 components...

1. Not forget my teachings
2. Keep My Commandments

Now those who know me, especially those who have been through Repurposed...know I love a good white board. So let me see if I can illustrate for you their relationship using a 2x2 Chart.

DRAW using a 2x2 Chart

I'm going to draw these 2 essentials of Trust...but for ease and memorability I'm going to call  
Not forgetting my teachings = Revelation  
Keeping my Commands = Our Response

**TRUST = Revelation + Right Response**

Now when I talk about Revelation...I'm really talking about an **invitation**...an invitation to know God more personally, or intimately... God reveals himself to us in many way...as Henry Blackaby says in Experiencing God,

**GOD SPEAKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE BIBLE, PRAYER, CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE CHURCH TO REVEAL HIMSELF, HIS PURPOSES, AND HIS WAYS.” — Henry T. Blackaby, [Experiencing God](#)**

When I talk about **Right Response** I'm talking about our response to God's revelation of Himself. This morning it is most tangibly illustrated in our worship through music and giving this morning. Your worship represents your response, to that which God has revealed Himself to be...

Those that received a revelation and rightly respond...I'll call a

1. So for those who receive invitation through revelation and rightly respond...I'll call a Follower.

This is the invitation of Jesus to his disciple...

**Come Follow Me...(Mt. 4:19)**

**Or Paul telling the Corinthians, "Follow Me, as I Follows Christ.**

Trusting in the Lord w/ all your heart is at its root being a Follower.

I think...I'm right in saying we all want to find ourselves in the Follower, trusting God w/ all our heart, but the truth is far too many of us trust God w/ only some of our heart...or are still learning how to trust God.

2. Its easy to see if Reject God and have a Rebellious Respond...simply put...you play the part of the fool...the ultimate fool.

In fact, when Solomon rights to his son in verse 7 to **Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. (v.7)**...this Fool type does the opposite.

We'll talk more about this next week as Proverbs has much to say about the Fool, but suffice to say the fool is Rejecting both God's Instruction and Direction...

3. If you Received a Revelation from God, but do not Rightly Respond...you're a type of Fool...that I'll call the Philosopher.

I can relate to this quadrant...

In fact...if you've been through Repurposed then you may have heard me share how one of my gifts God graced me w/ was the ability to cram 4 years of college into 6.5yrs. I guess you could say I struggled in the "academic environment."

If I'm honest...I didn't like that about myself.

And so leaning on my own understanding...I began to think my significance was tied to my knowledge. I began to think I was accepted/or rejected based on my knowledge.

So you can imagine how that might impact me as a pastor. In fact...the last time I took stood up here for something other than announcements was nearly 5 years ago. I remember standing up here, and like a good pastor...presenting myself as a man who has heard from God, who has a Word from God for you...and all the while in the back of my head I was aware that there was very little God honoring in the way I loved my wife and my kids that week.

I was short w/ them because all my energy was spent trying to write the perfect sermon...to impress you w/ my knowledge. Honestly, and I'm saddened by this...that day my message wasn't really even for

you...it was all about me. As I look back, it was more about me manipulating you so that I might be gain your approval... I wanted to be accepted by you because I was an expert...

You know what is scary about this...I'm not the only pastor who struggles w/ this. In fact, of done really well...this person's expertise will earn them large following, and it will can be the means to build and lead a really large church...one that I'd like to attend.

My own understanding...kept me from realizing the Gospel truth "He spared no expense to reconcile us to himself through Christ Jesus our Lord.

I wonder if you can relate to the Foolish Philosopher...impressing others w/ your knowledge, words, and expertise...

4. If you Reject God's Revelation but seemingly "Rightly Respond", I'd suggest you're a type of Fool I'll call a Phony.

The Phony looks just like a Follower...as they known for love of others and making a difference. They pump their fist at the end of the concert when the lead singer of their favorite band says, Be good to yourself. Be good to others...but this person is an imposter.

The Phony has lots of stories and experiences, but ultimately his "understanding" of the world produces stress as he hopes his "good works" make straight his path. Like the Philosopher, the Phony is also a manipulator, though his is in trying to manipulate God's blessing.

Jesus addressed the Phonies when he said in Matthew 7...

#### **Matt 7:21-23**

**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many<sup>[n]</sup> miracles?'<sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME...'**

I wonder...as we look at this chart... Where do you see your heart?

Do you find it Trusting the Lord completely? Do you find yourself whole-heartedly acknowledging Him in all your ways...or are you Hedging your bet by putting a little here or here...?

#### **How do you get to where you Trust God in all your ways?**

Honestly the thought seems as daunting as jumping off a platform 24mi from the ground.

But what we all missed when we consider Felix Baumgartner's jump...was the first jump.

I mean like the first jump off the curb. The first jump from the second step...and then the top step. With every jump Felix was preparing himself for his next moment.

I know it's easy to dream of a straight, up and to the right climb, but I think it's more helpful to think about it like we would a muscle we want to develop. Muscles are developed intentionally over time...over countless repetitions.

It's like David, Solomon's Father, who grew up a lowly and lonely shepherd boy, who stood before a Giant who for days had tormented the people of God...and did so w/ no armor and sling.

How does one find themselves in such a moment that requires whole-hearted trust?

Perhaps all those days David spent watching sheep, alone...just firing his slingshot at imaginary targets...prepared him for something bigger in his future.

And so I think our path looks really more like this...

Draw Loops

And this is the message of Solomon to his son. Trust is a muscle developed over time, and the more you learn to Trust in the Lord over your own understanding...the more straight your path will be.

So, How do we develop our Trust in the Lord Muscle?

If Revelation and Response are the 2 ingredients of Trust  
Then I want to offer you a questions for each to serve as your tools in building trust...

The question of Revelation is...What is God saying to me?

We live in an age in which distraction is king...and so it is soooo important that we train ourselves to recognize the voice of God...

By reading our Bible...through prayer...or allowing God to speak to us through Spiritual Practices like Silence and Solitude...

The question of Right Response follows that of Revelation, and it is...What am I going to do about it?

If God is truly speaking to me...am I going to lean on my understanding...Or am I going to trust Him w/ all my heart...

If so...then I must identify my courageous next step...writing it down, share it w/ a friend...and then JUMP!

Now...I'm aware, if your one of my friends who I mentioned earlier that I'm praying for...  
Or if you find yourself in a similar season...all that we've talked about to this point probably hasn't done much for you...

I think one of the reasons it's hard to trust God w/ all our heart...is you really need to be disciple into it. I mean you have to have someone who you want to Follow, someone you trust who shows you how to trust... Ultimately we want trust the Lord w/ all our heart but what we often need is someone to show us the way...

In fact you're probably feeling the way my daughter did at Six Flags before her first ride on the world's largest wooden rollercoaster...The Texas Giant!!!

She knew she wanted to ride it, and she knew it would be fun...in fact she could see it on the faces of everyone as they got off the ride. But still all she could see it that big drop...  
She wanted me to ride w/ her and of course I told her she'd be fine...even pointing out how the people who got on the rollercoaster...all made it back... But that wasn't enough...

So we got on, sitting side by side...making our way to the top...(click-click-click...)  
and just when then we got to the top, I see her look over at me...as if to say "Are we really going to be okay?"  
And with the peace of knowing I was right beside her...she held her breath...and raised her hands.

My guess is for those of you feeling "small"...but the thought of borrowing trust from someone else who has it...that would be a gift.

You see this morning, I'm up here not speaking to my friends who are feeling "small" or struggling to trust...but instead on behalf of them.

I'm asking you who are not in "one of those seasons" to build your trust muscle, by courageously taking your next step...so that you might journey alongside someone who needs to borrow from your trust.

This is why Paul essentially says to the Corinthians, Follow Timothy, who Follows me, as I follow Christ...  
He's reminding them they don't have to worry about the drop because they have a passenger in their roller coaster...

And that's why when we talk about Fellowship's we don't say our mission is "to live out your God-given Purpose in Christ Everyday" But instead it is to "Call each other...to live out our God-given purpose in Christ every day.

That in calling each other we would be in relationships, resistant to doing life on our own, and giving each other the courage Trust in the Lord...

I want us to take a moment and watch a story of one of our own who is on that journey...

Joshua Samuels video

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I love Joshua's story...I love it for the ups and downs...  
I love it for the failures and success...  
I love it because he's taking his next step, w/ no certainty of the step that follows...

Most of all, I love it because what he says about you...  
What he says about us...Fellowship Dallas.

That over his time at Fellowship Dallas he says, I saw God do 2 things as I trusted him and took a step of faith... (1) He healed my heart... (2) And He gave me a great ministry, He gave me purpose...

And that's my prayer for us...Fellowship Dallas.

That for those of you who are in "one of those seasons" ...

That in Fellowship...you will find a family of Followers...

A family who every day call each other to trade the fear and uncertain of their own understanding...for trusting God with all their heart. A place where people walk in on a crooked path...but leave taking courageous steps on a path made straight.

Let's Pray...