

Forward in Faith

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Scripture References

1 John 5:4 (KJV, NLT, CJB, MSG)	Psalm 78:41-42
Deuteronomy 30:19	Psalm 103:2
Exodus 14:13-15	Ephesians 3:20 (AMPC)
John 5:1-8	Luke 8:22-25
Revelation 12:11	Psalm 34:6
Psalms 23:1	Proverbs 28:20a
Philippians 3:13-14 (TPT)	2 Timothy 1:7
Exodus 3:7-8	Hebrews 6:11-12,15 (TPT)
Exodus 14:17-18 (MSG)	

A. Our Faith Overcomes the World

1. "For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith." (1 John 5:4 NLT)
2. "And this is what victoriously overcomes the world: our trust." (1 John 5:4 CJB)
3. "The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. (1 John 5:4b MSG)
4. Faith that overcomes is forward, directed and energetic. It is never passive, retreating or backward. It is always reaching to obtain a specific target or goal.
5. It is God's will, and it must be our decision, to move forward and choose life. (Deuteronomy 30:19; Exodus 14:13-15)
6. Going forward begins in our hearts. (John 5:1-8)
 - a. Before the lame man could rise up on the outside, which was Jesus' will for him, he had to rise up on the inside.
 - b. The same is true for us. We must see ourselves not retreating but moving forward and overcoming whatever the enemy has placed in our way.
 - c. We are not the overcome, but we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. (Revelation 12:11)
 - d. When we have faith in the blood of Jesus, boldness rises up on the inside of us and we are able then to take our steps of faith and move forward on the outside.
 - e. Once we see it on the inside, we then begin to speak it. Speak to yourself. Speak to your condition. Speak to your situation. Say, "No lack is going to hold me back because the Lord is my shepherd, I will not lack." (Psalm 23:1 - paraphrased)
 - f. Refuse to think and say, "I am trapped in an unchangeable situation. It's always been this way and it will always be that way." Instead rise up on the inside and say, "No, I won't have it that way. I'm going to have it God's way!"
7. Everything God has in store for us is already prepared for us.
 - a. There are things that lie ahead that have our name on it. In order for us to take possession of all that God has for us, we must not quit. We must move forward. (Philippians 3:13-14 TPT)

- b. Look at the Israelites, they had to move forward in order for them to possess the land that God had already prepared for them. (Exodus 3:7-8)
 - c. God has a place of rich fulfillment and provision for you!
 - d. Just like He did with the Israelites, God wants to display His glory in our lives so that others will stand up and take notice. Just don't give up – keep moving forward. (Exodus 14:17-18 MSG)
 - e. In the process of time, the children of Israel forgot all that the Lord had done for them by moaning and complaining in the wilderness. They complained about not having enough. Giving in to fear and complaining will paralyze us. It will prevent us from moving forward into our divine destinations and breakthroughs. (Psalm 78:41-42)
 - f. We can't move forward if we are looking back.
 - g. We are to always be thankful, remembering all that the Lord has done for us and brought us through. Always remember His benefits. (Psalm 103:2)
 - h. Our mind is the battle ground of faith. It's where the lies of the enemy come. We are not to entertain anything contrary to the Word of God in our minds.
 - i. God is able to carry out His purpose in our lives above and beyond what we can think of or dream. (Ephesians 3:20 AMP)
 - j. There will be walls, storms, temptations and tribulations trying to keep us from going forward, but even in the midst of these things we can have God's perfect peace and promise of deliverance. (Luke 8:22-25; Psalm 34:6)
 - k. God has never and will never let us down.
8. How do we show God that we're moving forward?
- a. Stay faithful to God, to His Word and to what He has put in our hearts. "A faithful man shall abound with blessings." (Proverbs 28:20a)
 - b. Stay focused on His promises. Stay in the Word. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.
 - c. Stay in faith and don't let fear creep back into your life. (2 Timothy 1:7)
 - d. Stay faithful to your church.
 - e. Stay where God plants you.
 - f. Stay faithful in your giving.
9. Don't let go of your dreams. We must keep our vision stirred up corporately as a church, and our individual dreams as well. Make plans for a bright future. (Hebrews 6:11,15 TPT)

All scripture references are in the King James Version (KJV) unless indicated.

NLT: New Living Translation
 CJB: Complete Jewish Bible
 AMPC: Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

MSG: The Message
 TPT: The Passion Translation