

Moving Forward When the Path Makes No Sense

Series: It's Time to Move Forward

Text: Genesis 22:1–14; Acts 8:26–40; Proverbs 3:5–6

Introduction: When Faith and Logic Collide

Have you ever been in a place where God's direction just didn't make sense?

You prayed, you fasted, you sought confirmation — and still, what He told you to do *didn't line up with reason, timing, or comfort*.

You thought obedience would make life clearer — but instead, it made life *stranger*.

You expected open doors — but instead, you got a detour.

Let's be honest:

Faith is beautiful when it's poetic, but it's painful when it's practical.

Because there are moments when following God feels like walking through fog — you can't see the whole path, but He keeps saying, *"Trust Me."*

This sermon is for those who are walking in obedience but can't make sense of what God is doing.

Definition: Divine Disorientation

Divine Disorientation is the season where God's instructions don't match your understanding.

It's when your obedience seems to lead you away from what you prayed for — but right into what God prepared for.

Faith, at its core, is *trust without explanation*.

Inductive Setup: The Struggle of Not Knowing

Let's start where we all live — in the confusion of unanswered questions:

- "God, why would You lead me here?"
- "Why would You tell me to give up something You just gave me?"
- "Why does obedience feel like loss?"

We're going to walk with two people who obeyed God when the assignment made *no sense at all*: Abraham and Philip.

I. Abraham — When Obedience Feels Contradictory

Text: *Genesis 22:1–14*

God tells Abraham to do something unthinkable:

“Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and sacrifice him...”

Wait — this is the same son God *promised*.
The miracle child born after years of waiting.

Now God says, “Give him back.”
That makes no sense!

But here’s the paradox of faith: **God’s commands often contradict our comfort but never His character.**

Abraham didn’t understand — but he obeyed.
And as he climbed Mount Moriah, he discovered something that logic never could:

“On the mountain of the Lord it shall be provided.”

The provision wasn’t waiting at the bottom of the mountain — it was revealed in motion.

🔑 **Application:**

When God’s instruction doesn’t make sense, walk anyway.
Because revelation always comes *after* obedience, not before.

Scripture: *Hebrews 11:8 – “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out... not knowing where he was going.”*

II. Philip — When God Interrupts Your Direction

Text: *Acts 8:26–40*

Philip is in the middle of revival in Samaria.
Miracles are breaking out, crowds are being saved — everything is thriving.

And then God tells him,

“Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Wait, what?
Leave the crowd for a desert?

Sometimes God will call you from the *fruitful* to the *faithful* place —
from the crowd to the one.

Philip obeys without an explanation.
And on that empty desert road, he meets an Ethiopian official — a man who would carry the gospel to an entire nation.

Here’s the lesson:
When God reroutes you, it’s not rejection — it’s redirection toward greater impact.

Application:

God doesn't owe you the *why* before you obey.

If you wait to understand before you move, you'll miss your assignment.

Scripture: *Isaiah 55:9* — “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways.”

Transition: The Revelation in the Confusion

Every time the path makes no sense, God is inviting you to know Him more deeply.

Because clarity isn't the goal of faith — *trust is*.

You may not understand what God is doing, but you can still move forward knowing *who He is*.

III. Three Truths for When the Path Makes No Sense

1. God's Detours Are Divine Design.

- *Joseph didn't plan the pit or the prison*, but every detour moved him closer to the palace.
- Don't mistake delay for denial — sometimes God's direction includes detours that develop you.
- *Scripture: Genesis 50:20* — “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”

2. Obedience Opens What Understanding Cannot.

- Abraham didn't see the ram until he lifted the knife.
- Philip didn't see the Ethiopian until he took the road.
- Some things only become clear after you say yes.
- *Scripture: John 7:17* — “If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will know whether My teaching comes from God.”

3. God's Path May Be Mysterious, But It's Never Meaningless.

- Every confusing step has eternal purpose.
 - What feels senseless to you is strategic to Him.
 - *Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6* — “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding...”
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Conclusion: Trusting the God of the Nonsensical Path

Faith isn't about figuring God out — it's about following Him when nothing adds up.

He doesn't always make sense, but He always makes *something* — purpose, growth, testimony, strength.

Maybe God's not trying to make it make sense — maybe He's trying to make *you* more sensitive to His voice.

So keep walking, even if it's uphill.

Keep trusting, even when the road twists.

Because every confusing step is still ordered by a faithful God.

And one day, when you look back, the path that made no sense will reveal a purpose that couldn't have happened any other way.