

# Walking by Faith: How God Leads Us Through Life's Challenges

Faith isn't just a Sunday morning concept—it's a daily walk that requires trust, patience, and surrender to God's timing. Whether you're facing a major life decision, considering a mission trip, starting a new job, or stepping into ministry, understanding how God leads us can transform your approach to life's uncertainties.

## Why Does God Call Us to Take Steps of Faith?

Steps of faith directed by God are necessary for maturity in your walk with Him. When God moves in your life, it's to see His glory displayed through you. These moments aren't just about personal growth—they're about witnessing God's handiwork in real time, giving you a testimony that God is real and actively working in your life.

Walking by faith doesn't mean you have everything figured out. That's the whole point. You're trusting the Lord and giving God room to work as He sees fit, one step at a time.

## How Does God Lead Us in Life?

God's guidance follows a consistent pattern that we can recognize and trust. Here are four key elements of how God leads us through life's challenges and opportunities.

### 1. A Desire That Starts in the Heart

God's leading often begins with a desire for change, direction, or adventure with Him. This isn't a fleeting feeling—it's something that grips your heart and won't let go. Sometimes this desire starts years before through natural means, preparing your heart for what's to come.

As Philippians 2:13 reminds us: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good pleasure." When God plants a desire in your heart, it sits in a waiting room. You can't force it—you must be ready for when God wants to take the next step.

### 2. A Design is Laid Out

If God is leading you in a step of faith, you need to consider what's required to see it come about. This involves practical planning while remaining dependent on God's provision. Sometimes you need to identify the key elements necessary for God's will to unfold.

This might include spiritual momentum—sensing God's movement in your heart and circumstances. It could involve practical resources or the right people with the necessary skills and abilities. The key is recognizing that God orchestrates all these elements in His perfect timing.

### **3. Direction from God's Word**

When you step out in faith, you'll face obstacles and challenges. The enemy will try to wear you down through various battles. During these times, God provides direction through His Word, giving you specific verses and promises that sustain you through the difficulties.

Key verses that provide strength during faith journeys include:

- "A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense. Through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables." - Proverbs 24:3-4
- "May he grant you your heart's desire and make all your plans succeed." - Psalm 20:4
- "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly." - Psalm 84:11

### **4. Details That Show God's Hand**

Throughout your faith journey, you'll witness practical details that clearly demonstrate God's involvement. These "fingerprints of God" serve as confirmations that this is His work, not just human effort. They often come in the form of unexpected provision, divine timing, or circumstances that could only be orchestrated by God.

## **What Should You Do When Facing Battles?**

When you take steps of faith, expect opposition. The enemy wants to discourage you and make you doubt God's leading. During these battles, remember that God has already warned you and prepared you.

Key truths to remember during difficult seasons:

- Battles will turn to blessings in God's timing
- "Return to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you." - Psalm 116:7
- "Be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded." - 2 Chronicles 15:7
- "They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them." - Psalm 112:7

## **How Do You Know It's God's Work?**

When God is truly leading, you'll see His handiwork in ways that go beyond human explanation. Provision will come from unexpected sources. The right people will appear at exactly the right time. Resources will become available in ways you never could have planned.

These confirmations serve as reminders that God is in control and that He provides in unique ways. Just as He provided for the Israelites in the wilderness, He continues to provide for His people today in ways that clearly display His faithfulness.

## What Is God's Ultimate Purpose?

God's ultimate purpose in leading us through faith journeys is to demonstrate His goodness and faithfulness. Like Solomon's temple dedication in 2 Chronicles 7:1-3, God wants His presence to fill the places and situations where we've stepped out in faith.

"When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple... When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, 'For he is good, for his mercy endures forever.'" - 2 Chronicles 7:1, 3

Three things happened: God showed He heard their prayers and accepted their sacrifices, His presence filled the place, and the people fell down in worship, declaring His goodness and enduring mercy.

## Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where God might be calling you to take a step of faith. It might be in your relationships, career, ministry, or personal growth. Instead of trying to figure everything out on your own, commit to walking forward one step at a time, trusting God to provide what you need when you need it.

Remember that walking by faith means giving God room to work in ways you never could have planned or imagined. His timing is perfect, His provision is sufficient, and His faithfulness endures forever.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What desire has God been placing in my heart that I've been hesitant to act on?
- Am I trying to control the outcome instead of trusting God's timing and provision?
- How can I better recognize and celebrate God's "fingerprints" in my daily life?
- What step of faith is God calling me to take this week, even if I don't have all the answers?

God wants to work in your life and family using the same principles He's always used. Trust Him, step forward in faith, and watch for His handiwork along the way. His mercy truly does endure forever.