

Week 3: A Step of Faith

Welcome

Series Review

- **Week 1:** Often the best way to see forward, is to Look Back. God is **Faithful**.
- **Week 2:** You are not alone; I am always present. God is **Present**.

Illustrate: In the summer of 1859, a French daredevil named Charles Blondin walked across the Niagara Falls on a tightrope. The rope was 1,100 feet long and hung 160 feet above the falls. Blondin performed this feat over and over, always adding new tricks like walking on stilts or cooking an omelet midway. On time, Blondin pushed a wheelbarrow across the rope. When he reached the other side, the cheering crowd went wild. Blondin then turned to his fans and asked them a question: "Do you believe I can push a person across the falls in this wheelbarrow?" The crowd roared, "Yes! We believe you can do it!" Blondin smiled and asked, "Okay then, who will get in?" The crowd immediately fell completely silent.

Talk is cheap. James says it this way, **"Faith without works is dead." James 2:26b**

Finally, one brave man stepped forward to get in the wheelbarrow. It was Blondin's manager, Harry Colcord. Instead of a wheelbarrow ride, he climbed onto Blondin's shoulders, and Blondin successfully carried him piggyback across the falls.

How does Israel enter the promise land? One step of faith at a time!

Read: Joshua 3:6-13, Why doesn't God part the waters first?

We often discover what we truly believe by watching our own behavior. This is known as **Self-Perception Theory**. **Faith is informed by truth but it is strengthened through obedience.**

When you step into the "wheelbarrow or into the river," your brain sees your faith in action. That action reinforces your faith, giving you the courage to take the next step. As you take these small steps of faith, over time you realize what God invites us to do, is also what works. That is why it is true. That is why it originates with God. He created us, knows what is best for us, and invites us to walk that path. As we walk that path, we see the wisdom and blessing of God and our faith, our ability to trust Him moving forward grows. Each act of obedience strengthens the next until faith becomes conviction, character. As God proves Himself faithful through each step of obedience, abstract beliefs become unshakable confidence born from experience. This kind of lived faith also gives you credibility. People may listen to what you say, but they follow what you do. When your words and actions align, and your life is in order, you build trust, demonstrate integrity, and become someone others naturally respect and are willing to follow. This is what it looks like, what it means to follow Christ, to walk with God.

Spending time with Jesus- Tina- do I believe?

1. Workplace Integrity

- **My Belief:** *"God honors those who act with honesty and integrity."*
- **The Raging River:** Your boss pressures you to falsify a report, exaggerate numbers to a client, or cut corners illegally to protect profits.
- **The Step of Faith:** Refusing to compromise even if it cost you your job.

2. Generosity

- **My Belief:** *"Everything I have belongs to God, He is my provider."*
- **The Raging River:** Finances are tight and I live in a consumer culture.
- **The Step of Faith:** I'm going to give God the first 10% on auto pay

3. Forgiveness

- **My Belief:** *"God has forgiven me for so much and when I forgive, I am free."*
- **The Raging River:** A spouse walks out, a business partner betrays your trust, or a close friend spreads an ugly rumor.
- **The Step of Faith:** Choose to forgive, will not seek revenge, will pray for their well-being. Forgiveness is not reconciliation.

4. Truth-in-Love Conversation

- **My Belief:** *"We are called to share the truth in love."*
- **The Raging River:** You see a close Christian friend or family member sliding into a destructive habit, an affair, or a toxic pattern of behavior that is ruining their life.
- **The Step of Faith:** Arranging a private meeting to gently but directly confront them.

5. Ministry Call

- **My Belief:** *"God's plan for my life is better than my plans."*
- **The Raging River:** You have a comfortable, predictable life, but you feel God pulling you to launch a new ministry, volunteer in a difficult inner-city program, go on a short-term mission trip, or quit a secure job to pursue a kingdom-focused calling.
- **The Step of Faith:** Saying "yes" and take the first step.

6. Sharing Your Faith

- **My Belief:** Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all the nations.
- **The Raging River:** You are surrounded by people at work, at home, at the gym, in your neighborhood who are not following Jesus.
- **The Step of Faith:** Telling people what Jesus has done for you.

James 1:22-25, James 2:14-26, Every follower of Jesus is faced with situations that test what they believe. Every time we take a step, every time we choose to obey, our faith grows. Every time we pull back, stay on the shore, our faith is weakened.

1. God does not ask us to take a blind leap of faith.

Explain: My step of faith is in response to God's character, God's promise, God's instruction, and our history. Faith is not presumption. Faith is not wishful thinking. Faith is not self-centered. Faith is trusting God.

- **God does what He says-** I am giving them the land I promised.
- **God made a promise-** I will be with you
- **God gave Joshua clear instruction-** Cross the Jordan, stand in the water

Monthly Practice: Spiritual Gifts

- Joshua has 40 years of training before God invited him to take such a bold step.
- **The Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11–19)** Jesus does not heal the ten men instantly on the spot. Instead, He commands them, *"Go, show yourselves to the priests."* Under Levitical law, you only went to the priest *after* you were already clean to be pronounced healed. **Step- Luke 17:14** explicitly notes: *"And as they went, they were cleansed."* They had to walk down the road looking, feeling, and suffering like lepers, acting on a future promise before they saw a single physical change. The miracle was activated in the walking.
- **Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7–16)** During a severe drought, a starving widow has only enough flour and oil left to make one final meal for herself and her son before they die. Elijah asks her to make a small loaf of bread for *him* first. **Step:** She had to physically give away her last remaining security based purely on Elijah's prophetic word that her jars would not run dry. She had to empty her jar in faith before God permanently filled it.
- **Peter Walking on the Water (Matthew 14:22–33)** In the middle of a violent storm, Peter sees Jesus, walking on the water and asks to come out to Him. Jesus gives a one-word invitation: *"Come."* **Step-** Peter had to physically climb over the edge of the boat and place his weight onto a fluid, crashing wave. The water only held Peter up *after* he abandoned the safety of the boat. Safety keeps you in the boat; the supernatural requires a step.
- **The Blind Man at the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1–7)** Jesus spits on the ground, makes mud with the saliva, and applies it to a man born blind. He then tells him, *"Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam."* The man had to navigate the busy streets of Jerusalem with mud caked over his eyes, entirely unable to see, trusting Jesus' instructions. John 9:7 says, *"So he went and washed, and came back seeing."* Jesus left the miracle incomplete at the first location. The man had to take a blind journey of obedience to receive his sight

Argue: Romans 10:17

Apply: God does not want you to take a blind leap. He wants you to put your faith in the truth. The character, promises and invitation of God.

Argue: Hebrews 11:6, Without faith, it is impossible to please God. For those who come to Him must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Invitation:

- Because He is faithful
- Because He is present
- Step into the water!