

STEPS

Have a Goal and Keep Going

The Lord gave me a word years ago: Sure, slow, steady steps equals God's success (as well as His purpose and plan accomplished). I have thought about this word many times. Any journey begins with the first step, and life is full of steps. There is a song we sing:

“We walk
by faith,
each step
we take...”

It is a fun, but powerful song because it affirms that everything in life has to do with steps. We go from faith to faith, from wisdom to wisdom, and there will be increase.

Have a Goal

Any journey begins with the first step. You cannot just sit here and get to New York. Of course, if you are *not* going to New York, then you wouldn't take steps towards it. The steps we would take to get there surely are not walking steps. The “steps” would be to plan a trip by train, car, bus, or airplane. In other words, there has to be a goal or a direction to our steps. Otherwise, we are just going around in circles – wandering, meandering, or loitering.

Watch babies' movements. They lie around and roll around, but then as they grow older they look around. They decide that because everybody else is stepping out, they need to do so. They make an attempt, and they soon realize that they can take steps.

Until you realize that you can take steps to go somewhere, you won't. The Lord has places for us to go, things for us to do, and people for us to see. We need to take the steps to do what God has directed us to do. Otherwise, we will go through life following the same old routine, and we will never come into what the Lord has.

Sometimes what appears to be backwards steps may be what I call stutter steps. It says in **Psalm 37** “The steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. Though they stumble, they will not be utterly cast down.” It is very important to understand that the Lord will be there to help us.

As you watch those little ones crawl and start to walk, you will notice they are going some place. They don't like sitting and laying around anymore because there are many exciting things out there, and so they go after those things. Likewise, if you don't have any goals or plans, or anything that is exciting to go after, you will just sit. You can give up and sit there, do the stutter step, or get on a treadmill. (I don't like to use the treadmill to exercise. To me it is too much like the rat on the wheel. Now they have come up with video screens so you look like you are going somewhere while you are walking in place.)

In their minds some people think they are going somewhere, even when they are not. Their steps are not moving them in any direction. There may be much action, motion, or talk, but not much change is happening in their lives.

We all have to take steps of faith. That means that we are going to move towards changing our lives, our situations, and our environment. We will do things that will break us out of the box of bondage that we have been in due to a myriad of reasons. Some bondages are of our own choosing, and some are an effect of circumstances around us. If God is true and what He says is true (and I happen to believe that He and His Word are true), then we need to take some steps in His direction.

Two Important Questions

Jesus went to the fellow who lay by the pool of Siloam. He asked him how long he had been sick, and the fellow answered, "All my life." Then Jesus asked him another important question, "Do you want to be well?" Since the man could not walk because he was born a cripple, every day someone took him out and put him by the pool. It was believed that an angel came and stirred the waters. Whoever was in the pool would be healed.

Jesus' questions were: 1) how long have you been this way; and 2) do you want to get well? You see, Jesus knew something. People who have been in such a situation have been that way for so long that they don't want to take the steps to get out of it. They have it rehearsed in their minds. In this case, the man absolutely thought this way. You can tell by his response when Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be well?" and he answered, "I have no one to put me into the pool." His response showed he was relying on others.

He was not taking the responsibility or initiative to get well. You might think, *He was a cripple; he couldn't walk*, but even a baby can crawl. Even many cripples can roll. But it is going to take effort.

Over the years I have dealt with hundreds and hundreds of people with the same kind of mentality. It doesn't matter whether it is a physical, mental, financial or relationship situation, their answer is similar to: "I have nobody to put me in the pool." There were people who brought the man out to the pool, so whose responsibility was it to get into the pool? You have heard the expression, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." You can put people into a position where they can receive, but they will have to be the ones to receive. Otherwise, they will keep the same thinking and do things the same way. They won't change. It doesn't matter what you do, you can't help them because they have to help themselves. Each step of faith has to be taken by the person himself. You can encourage, support, and love children, but they are the ones who have to take the first step. Nobody can take it for them. The key is they have to know that they can do it.

When Diana was working with the little ones to help them in the walking process, she used a shoestring. The children would take one end, and she would take the other end. That shoe string wasn't helping them walk, but it gave them confidence. (What is confidence? "Fide" is faith, and confidence is a coming together in faith.) With confidence people can start to take steps and so something. "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me." **Philippians 4:13** When you believe it and put faith to it, God Himself will step up and enable you to will and to do His good pleasure. **Philippians 2:13** "Work out your own salvation" **Philippians 2:12** means you have to work out the growth steps.

Blessings for the Obedient

When temptation comes we have to be the ones who obey the word. The blessing goes to the obedient – the ones who do it, the ones who take the steps. They are the ones who see the increase. They are the ones who see the healings. *If I can just touch the hem of His garment, I'll be made whole*, the woman with the issue of blood thought. And what did she do? She took steps. She left her house and went out into the crowd, which was hard for her to do because she was in a weakened condition. With an issue of blood you have no strength. Then the social mores of the day was that she was unclean and was not supposed to be out around people. She went ahead and

took the steps and touched Jesus. When she touched Him, He felt power go out of Him. He didn't pray; He didn't do anything.

The fellow's response was, "I have nobody to put me in the pool," but the lady did it herself. She stepped out, and she believed God.

The bible records other instances where people took important steps, like when Moses and the people of Israel walked to the sea. They never would have gotten there if they had not left Egypt. It was a process, and there were obstacles. Many people are blown out by the obstacles. They want God to slide them down the shoot and get them right there, but it doesn't work like that. It never works like that. It never has.

"Whatever things you desire when you pray, believe you have received and you will see it." What do you have to do? – You have to act on what you believe. You have to take the steps of faith. We tell people they have to work their shoulders if they are having shoulder problems. They might express how badly it hurts, but they have to work it so that it will *not* hurt. Body parts atrophy if you don't use them. In addition, if you don't work the mind, it will deteriorate. Before long you can't remember anything, and you're not thinking straight. Then there are all kinds of additives that weaken the body or mind. You have heard stories about what drugs, alcohol, or filling the mind with unclean thoughts do. Television will do it too. Sit there, and before long, you are not even thinking. You are atrophying. Of course, if you do not exercise, your body will break down or wear down as well.

As the Israelites took those steps, they got to the sea, and only then did God give them the next step (which is the walk of faith). Many times you don't know what that next step is, so you ask the Lord. "Trust the Lord, and lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct the path." **Proverbs 3: 5, 6.** He will direct the next step.. Therefore, we need to be talking to Him. We need to have a plan. If we are sick, the goal will be health. We need to ask God, "How do you want me, Lord, to get from this condition to a condition of health? What do I need to do?"

Moses didn't know what to do. The sea was in front of them, and Pharaoh's army was coming up behind them (the devil was chasing them). God told

Moses to stretch forth his staff, so he stuck out his staff. It may sound foolish, but, then again, there was some history on that staff. It looked ridiculous in the physical realm, but when God is behind something, know that it is going to happen. Moses didn't know what would happen, but God told him to stretch out the staff. Then the sea stood up in parts, and they walked across on dry land. Steps.

I am sure the people were wondering about walking down the middle of two walls of water, but sometimes, I guess if you know you are going to die... (I always tell people one of the best things a doctor can tell you is that you are going to die because then you will start to believe God. Not everybody will, though. Some just resign themselves to it, and they lie down and die. It is a sad thing. It could be different.)

... The Israelites went across dry ground with the sea standing up on the sides. Do you think that would be scary? They might have been wondering if it was going to fall, but it didn't. What is more, they were motivated in their steps. (Sometimes we need a little heat coming up the backside.) Pharaoh's army thought they were going across on that dry land too as they chased the Israelites. However, all the children of Israel got across, and then the Lord closed down the sea on Pharaoh's army. Everyone drowned, and God got the victory that day as He always does when people walk in faith and take the steps.

Eventually the people got to the Promised Land. Again, they had to take the steps. **Deuteronomy 8** They never would have arrived if they had not moved in that direction.

Be It Done According to Your Faith

It isn't any fun to be broke, is it? To change that, start giving tithes and offerings, take the steps of faith, and do God's principles. Get a job. Get out there and start working. What is the result? You get some cash. Cash is a good thing, and from there God can multiply, bless, and make things happen.

You have to want to change your situation and come into what God has, or you will have what you are believing. "Be it done to you according to your faith." Many people say they have faith. They talk a real storm, but they are

not making any movement in the right direction (God's direction). Let's move ahead to change the situation.

For example, get off the streets, get a job, and find a place to live. The next thing to get is a vehicle. In the meantime, you ride the bus, you do what you need to do to get where you have to go, and you don't rely upon people. The bible says, "Don't trust in chariots and horses. Trust in the living God." Believe God to make a way, and He will. He will order the steps and direct the path. He will start to put things together. Then, interestingly, when you are believing God, He will put people in your life who will be a blessing to you too.

Notice the difference between the lady with the issue of blood who stepped out and the fellow who was lying on his mat at the pool. When Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be well?", the fellow's answer was, "I have no one to put me in the pool." Do you think the thought ever crossed his mind to flip over? We know it didn't cross his mind because of what he said. Every day someone would bring him out there, set him by the pool, and he would lie there all day until they came and got him in the evening. He had a great tan, but that wasn't going to do his life any good.

Your Spirit Responds

Jesus' response was to ignore all that. He told him, "Take up you mat and walk." What do you imagine went through the guy's head? I have told people a similar thing many times, and they look at me like, *You have to be kidding. I have this condition. I have this problem. I have this or that going on.* They start listing all the reasons why they cannot do it. There are a thousand and one reasons. People have been rehearsing them to themselves for a long time, which is why they don't do anything. They don't take any steps to change things. I believe the man's spirit responded before his head did.

One time we prayed with a paraplegic. It was impossible for him to sit up to do anything. The Lord told me to tell the fellow to sit up, and the guy sat up! What happened was his spirit responded before his head caught on. People might say, "What are you talking about, Pastor?" I'm talking about Peter walking on the water. His spirit responded, and he asked, "Master, can I come out there and walk on the water with you?" Jesus said, "Come on." Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water. Impossible steps. He was

the only one of the disciples that did it. People can fault Peter about a lot of things, but let me tell you, the guy had guts, he had courage, and he had faith. It might have been short term, but he was the only one to step out there, wasn't he? Nobody else asked the question. Nobody else even thought about asking the question. They were still afraid that there was a ghost walking on the water. Peter took the steps, and then his mind caught up, and he started looking at the circumstances, *Oh, what am I doing out here?* The waves were rolling, and the wind was blowing, and the sea was throwing the water around. He sunk.

Jesus came along, gave him a hand, and pulled him up. Jesus did not carry him back to the boat.

I dislike the account of the two sets of footprints in the sand. In the story, all of a sudden there is just one set of footprints. Then the person says, "God, where were you? You left me." And He answers, "No, I carried you." I am thinking the message isn't scriptural. In actuality, we are co-laborers with God. He wants us walking side by side, hand in hand, to get the job done. Peter walked on the water back to the boat with Jesus after Jesus said, "Where is your faith, Peter? Come on, kick it back in. You took those steps. You did it; do it again. Let's go."

"The steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. Though they stumble (or sink), they will not be utterly cast down (or drown)." "We will walk through the water, and we won't drown. We will walk through the fire, and we won't burn." God is with us. He is going to help us get through this life to finish the course.

David uses the phrase "cast down" which is part of a shepherd's vocabulary. When sheep are cast down, they have been flipped off their feet, and they cannot walk. It is actually impossible for sheep to get back up on their feet. This is an amazing reality. Fear comes on them, they panic and struggle, but they cannot get themselves back up. That is why the sheep need a shepherd. Without the shepherd they are going to die. The shepherd comes along and stands them back up.

All we can do is help somebody go to our Good Shepherd, Jesus: He is able to put sheep upright again. "Though they stumble they will not be utterly cast down" or terminated. The term utterly means completely and totally.

However, when we call upon the name of the Lord, He will help us. He will flip us back up on our feet. Then what do we have to do? – Get walking because no other sheep can help us get back up. The man at the pool was looking for somebody to do it for him.

God has put all good in you: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, meekness, and self-control. It is all in there, but it needs to be activated. Do you need to walk in love? Do you need to walk in joy? Do you need to walk in patience, kindness, meekness, gentleness, or self-control?

We do not walk the walk of faith by ourselves. We are together, but each one has to walk his own walk of faith. Each one has to walk the walk of love. We do it together, but we each have to do it. The bible says it is impossible to carry your own cares or somebody else's. "Cast all your cares upon Me, for I affectionately care for you and watch over you," the Lord says. That means He is going to lighten our load. Jesus said in **Matthew 11** "Come to me you who are weary or heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He says, "Yoke up with me." Two oxen are put into one yoke, and although they are both yoked up, there is only one lead ox. The Lord is the lead ox, the strong one. All we have to do is go along with him. Take the steps. Walk the walk, talk the talk, and carry the cross (which has to do with whatever your life is). Walk out the purpose and plan that God has for your life. No shortcuts.

Jesus said to the man, "Take up your bed and walk." The fellow took up his bed and walked.

I said to the paraplegic fellow, "Sit up." He sat up and was on the edge of the bed. Then I said, "Now stand up." What did he do? He stood up. Soon thoughts came in, like, *I can't do this*. Then he fell. The devil who was in him showed up at that time to keep him down and to stop the whole process. However, the devil was cast out, and we proceeded ahead.

Peter walked on the water. Did Peter ever walk on the water again? – No, it is not recorded. He probably never did. Some things happen just to show that it can be done if it is needed to be done. This was the circumstance: Jesus didn't have a boat to get over to the disciples. It was late at night and nobody was out on the water except the disciples. He needed to get from

where he was to them (the shortest distance between two points is a straight line). He had to take steps to get to the boat. He walked on the water by the power of God and faith in God. He was a man just like us. He was a human being filled with the Holy Ghost, walking in the faith, hope and love. The same faith, hope, and love that we have. The same God. He was submitted to the same Father.

If Jesus did it, we can do it. We can do all things through Christ Jesus. Whatever God wants us to do, we can do through Christ Jesus who strengthens us. Whatever it is I need, He will give. God will give me strength sufficient for the day, wisdom sufficient for the day, finances, or right relationships when I put my trust in Him.

Do You Want to Be Well?

The man by the pool of Siloam took up his mat, packed up, and walked off. Do you realize he had to go to work then? I can't tell you how many times I have seen people get healed, but the next thing you know... For example, a young man in his twenties had a motorcycle crash, and he was maimed and crippled. He came in with canes and could hardly walk. The Lord touched him, and I told him to chase me, so he chased me around the auditorium. He was running pretty fast. He walked out of the place perfectly healed.

We didn't see him for maybe five or six weeks. Then some of the guys ran into him down at the gym and asked him why he had not come back to church. He said, "I don't want to give up my disability check." You either have a disability check, or you are healed. You cannot in good faith and conscience receive a disability check if you are healed and well. I've seen this many, many times. Too many times.

Another example was a lady who had been in a car crash. She shattered her arm and injured her eye. The doctors didn't know if they could save her eye. She could not bend her arm or do anything with it. When she came in, the Lord touched her. She started moving her arm around. Then the feeling in her hands began to return. The next week she came back, and she had the cast off. Everything was completely healed. We prayed over her eye and her eye was healed. The doctors said it was fine. We had it all on tape, and the program was aired on television.

After her family saw her on television, she called me up, and I got the message that she didn't want us to air the program anymore. I said, "Honey, there is a sign right out here that says when you walk into this building everything that God does is done to His glory. We have the rights to show it. You give up your rights not to show it." Still she said, "You can't show it," so I asked, "Why not?" Her answer was, "Well, my family all saw it." I would think somebody would be rejoicing and be happy about that. She was completely healed, had full function of her arm, and her eye was restored. Then she said, "Somebody might tell the insurance people that I'm healed now. I'll lose the settlement." I was thinking, *My God, lady, are you one of those people that goes out there and has something happen so you can get a check?* I told her, "We are airing it, and we'll air it again." I told my staff, "It's a great testimony to the glory of God. So let's just show it again." So we did. I don't know what happened to her, but I never saw her again. Come on, let's take the steps of integrity. Let's take the steps of faith. Let's take the steps of truth. How can you collect on an injury when you are healed?

An important question is "What do you want?" I have been asking it for years. Do you want to be healthy, or do you want a disability or welfare check? What do you want? Go for the health, friends. The problem is you have to go back to work and, gosh, it just wrecks your life. Other people would be praising God to be able to work. Lots of disabled people who are dealing with many issues do not want to stay disabled. They are trying to take the steps to get out of their hated condition. I wouldn't think that anyone would want to stay that way, but, unfortunately, there are some who do. God will help those who want to step out and change their situations, but they have to take those steps.

Different Kinds of Steps

There are steps of growing in faith too. Think about how you have increased in your faith since you started. Think about the increase in wisdom, peace, or confidence. When babies start taking steps, they flip over this way and that. When they fall down, they look at us to see how we will react because they will react the same way we do. If we leave them alone, they will get back up. Are we going to freak out when something happens? – no, we need to encourage them to get back up, and "let's go again." Let's make it happen.

Have you had a bad fall on your bike? It was that turn, wasn't it? You started to make the turn, and the next thing you know – crash. If you had trouble getting back up on the bike, it was because trauma set in. That is the problem with many people. They take a step and something happens. Then they don't want to go back and do it again. Pain.

As a young man, I used to have morning, evening, and weekend paper routes. Those Sunday papers were bears. I could carry only so many papers in my bags. Where I lived the weather was nasty: rain, snow, and sleet. I would have my rain gear on, but rain gear doesn't do any good when you are in that kind of weather. Those bags would flip into the spokes, and down I would go. By the time I got home I was just thanking God and thinking, *I don't ever want to go out there again*. However, the next morning at 3:30AM the alarm would ring and up we would get, and away we would go. We did it again and again and again. We stayed with it. Taking the steps.

Eventually the Israelites got to the Promised Land, and a whole lot of people will get to where God wants them to go. However, they have to take the steps. Sure, slow, steady steps equals God's success (His purpose and plan fulfilled and accomplished).

- Sure steps are based on God's principles. Live your life based on God's principles and promises.
- Steady means stay with it. Don't stop. Keep going. Don't get discouraged. Don't give up. **Joshua 1:6 and following** "Be strong and very courageous, for I, the Lord your God, go ahead of you to prepare the way." Don't be afraid. It takes courage to take that step, especially when you are stepping from sickness to health.

There was a reason why Jesus asked the guy how long he had been like he was. We ask that question too because the longer people have been in a certain condition, the more resolved to stay in their condition they are. Many times they actually forget how to walk. If it is a physical thing, they absolutely have to learn how to walk again. People in bed for over four days lose muscle tone and strength. Their muscles start to turn to flab. Then there is no strength or endurance. When they get up to walk a little bit, they are wiped out.

There are many people in relationships who think, *This is too hard*. Even the disciples asked for more faith in regard to relationships. The only time they said, “Lord, increase our faith” was when He was teaching about forgiveness. They thought *Man, this is impossible. We need more faith. Lord, increase our faith*. They had a desire but they were not believing for it. It is a lot easier just to say, “Adios” to someone.

If you mess up, get up. Dust yourself off, take the Lord’s hand, and go again. Don’t you dare sit down and give up. Don’t stop along the way. Remember the tortoise and the hare? The rabbit ran ahead, and the old tortoise continued with dut-ta-dut-ta-dut. “Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.” The rabbit was so confident in himself that he sat down. He was lulled into complacency and never finished the course. The tortoise kept on going with sure-slow-steady steps. He completed the race and won the prize.

Stay With It

One time someone asked me how I have been a success as a minister of God. My answer was, “I’ve learned how to keep going, come hell or high water, good times or hard times; I just keep going.” You have your goal, you have something in sight, you have the plan; just keep going. I don’t care how long it takes. You have to want it, though. Many say they want it, but they have no action that would indicate that. They might even have all the words. I have seen people who can quote the Word, say the right words, and talk faith, but they are not taking the steps to do something about it.

When people have financial problems, I ask them these questions: 1) Are you giving tithes and offerings? If not, I ask them how they can expect to be blessed when they are violating the principle about loving and honoring God first. 2) Are you working? If not, get a job. You have to do something. “The sluggard says there are lions in the streets” **Proverbs 26:13**, which means he can’t leave his house and go to work because there are lions, tigers, and bears out there. “I can’t do it; I’m too sick; I don’t feel good, etc.” There are a thousand and one excuses. You need to act on your faith. Get up and go to work and you will feel better. That is God’s principle.

You may be thinking that you do not want anyone else to get what you have. I think I have heard all of the excuses. The issue is how badly do you want it? Let’s say somebody has been supporting you. Would you like to support

them rather than they supporting you? Don't you think it is time to start paying something back? There comes a point when God will dry up the well. All the places where you got support are not going to be there to help you until you go to Him and take the steps He wants you to take.

This is a reality of faith. This is where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. Faith without works is dead, which means you need to take steps. The first thing you need to know is that you have some place to step to. Note, step *to* not step *from*. There has to be something better than where we are.

For instance, when you are losing weight, you will not lose all the weight at once. You will get upset and discouraged if you think you can because it won't happen. The key is losing in increments and staying with it. If you get on the scale every day, you will get discouraged.

When my children were small they would stand next to the measuring tape we put in the closet. We kept the tape in there to check their growth at different points. During a particular season one of my children kept going in the closet to stand and would ask, "Dad, have I grown?" I would answer, "No, not since yesterday. I haven't seen any." My little one got kind of sad, so I said, "What do you expect? You can't grow overnight. Daddy didn't grow overnight. You just eat what mom cooks, exercise and sleep, and you are going to grow up."

Many times I have seen people disappointed and discouraged spiritually, because they were thinking, *I should be there by now, and I should have this kind of faith or be able to do this and that*. If you ask me, I would tell you to shut up and forget about it. Let me watch your growth. You cannot see your own growth anyway until it becomes obvious. You will not see it. Just do the right things. Feed on the Word. Honor God. Be obedient to the Word. Fellowship with the brothers and sisters, and you will grow. Spiritually you will grow.

You do not need special attention because it is not going to help you. If you give love, you will receive love. God knows we are here. We don't have to send up a flare. What is He looking for? Some faith steps. I tell the people who come to church with a physical ailment to do what they could not do before (or what they think they cannot do). I tell them to do something that

hurt them or gave them great pain. When they do it, something starts to happen: the pain disappears or diminishes. When they start to “work it,” I tell them to work it more because anointing is like grease. You have to get it in there, act on it, work it, and the next thing you know healing happens.

A Test of Faith

Years ago the Lord was teaching me about faith and healing. One day when I was extremely sick I had a true test. My head was pounding, I was dizzy, and I felt weak. Stuff was coming out of both ends of my body (it wasn't nice).

As I was resting on the bed about one o'clock in the afternoon, the Lord spoke to me, “Son, what are you doing?”

I explained, “I'm lying here, Father, confessing my healing.” There was a pause, and it got quiet. The Lord likes you to listen to yourself. There was a moment there, like *Selah* (pause, meditate, and think on this).

Then He asked, “Well, do you believe you are healed?”

I answered, “Yes.”

He asked, “What would you normally be doing this time of the day?”

I replied, “I certainly wouldn't be lying here.”

He got quiet again, and then He spoke, “Son, if you really believe you are healed, then why don't you get out of bed and do what you would normally be doing?”

I would have been out about God's business some place, so I got up out of bed. I fell into the closet and knocked the door off the hinge. It was one of those slider things. Once I got myself out of the closet, I crawled my way over to the bathroom. Sometimes you feel better when you flip a little water on your face, comb your hair, brush your teeth, or do something to make you feel a little better – clean up a little bit. I thought I was doing good. At least I wasn't in my PJ's. At least I was dressed.

I went out to the kitchen and told Diana, “I’m going to go visit some people in the nursing home.” She looked at me and said, “‘bout time.” And I replied, “Thank you for the encouragement.” (You know, I had been teaching her about walking by faith in the area of finances. We didn’t know where we were going to get two nickels to rub together. She had asked, “Do you think when we go to the grocery store, they will just give us a loaf of bread?” I answered, “You never know until you get over there.”) She was coming back to me with faith then, and I loved it. Everyone has to be encouraged. You really don’t want to hear “Oh, you poor thing. I don’t know if you can go out there and do that.” No, man, give me the truth. “You can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you.”

Philippians 4:13 Get up and get going.

When I went out to the nursing home that day, those little folks loved me and ministered to me better than I did to them. By the time I got home I was perfectly whole. I ate a wonderful dinner. I had no problem eating the whole thing, and there was no trace of sickness.

The Lord was showing me to *act* on the Word. This is very important. If you don’t take the steps of faith, you are never going anywhere. You can talk and think about all kinds of things, and you can wait for people to carry you. However, until you take up your bed and walk, nothing is going to happen. The guy by the pool of Siloam could have been lying out there for the rest of his life, but on that day, in that moment, something in him decided he was going get up and walk. He didn’t think about it. If he had thought about, he probably would have stayed there until the day he died. In addition, he didn’t open his mouth and speak unbelief anymore like, “I don’t have anybody here to put me in the pool.”

Be it done to you according to your faith. I have seen people go from one rehab to another, one house after another, one hospital after another. There are no cures out there. The lady with the issue of blood spent all her money on the physicians, and nobody could help her. She lost all that she had. I have seen that so many times. If somebody would look to the living God who is alive, He could do something.

You either believe God or you don’t. If you don’t, I cannot help you. There is nothing I can do, so don’t try to get me to do something. I have seen thousands of people get healed over the years – same principles, same Word.

Some take it and run with it, some choose not to. They think, *Well, I have this, I have that.*

A Living Testimony

The following testimony shows how God did something wonderful for someone.

My best friend, actually the guy who led me to the Lord several years ago, was working in an unsafe industrial environment and one of the machines broke – sprayed him in the face with some carcinogenic chemicals. He developed a really rare form of sinus cancer. They operated on him several times including one time where they physically took his brain out of his skull. They gave him a report that he had an inoperable tumor. They could give him chemotherapy to keep the growth down and lengthen the time he had to live, but it would cost him the vision in his left eye. He refused to receive that report and was very active.

He is the music director of his church up in Idaho. He was faithful and continued to perform his ministry. In fact, there was a time where he was playing music and people thought he was crying because the music was so beautiful. He was actually crying because the pain was so bad. We sent him the healing book and several tapes and prayed for him, and I stood in for him in prayer with Pastor Randy.

He received an MRI report about a month ago – no signs of cancer and no deterioration is in his vision. Additionally, he had approached the company about trying to get his medical bills paid. He initially approached them without any legal counsel, just man-to-man, and they laughed at him. At one point they even tried to challenge the disability that he was receiving because, of course, he couldn't work. He just received a judgment yesterday in his favor and all of his medical bills will be paid, and he will receive an additional amount for everything he has gone through.

Glory to God. Steps.

What about your dad? What was his condition?

My dad all of his life has been what they call bipolar.

There is no cure. You go to therapy all your life.

He was extreme. He has seen several psychiatrists and they prescribed a bunch of different drugs.

That's all they do. Drugs.

He attempted suicide many times, and he spoke to Pastor Randy, and Pastor Randy counseled him.

How long?

About half an hour. And since then he's had no problems.

Give glory to God. How long ago was that?

About two years ago.

Two years ago. Going on about his life. How many hours of counseling?

Oh, weeks in the psych wards after attempted suicides. Thousands of dollars probably.

How long did it take for us to do that?

Half an hour.

Half an hour. Thank you, Jesus.

Why would that take only half an hour? Actually, it didn't take that long. We spent about eight minutes on the bipolar stuff. I just looked at him and told him, "You don't have that in Jesus' name." We talked about life around the half-hour time. Steps.

Did he come to get something? Yes, he came to receive. He came to get rid of his bipolar condition, whatever that means. I wonder sometimes whether people's double mindedness is bipolar. No, it's different. A clear mind is *not* of the devil. A clear mind is of God. We are not born of a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound, well-balanced, disciplined mind **2 Timothy**

1:7 (Amplified bible). The double minded person is unstable in all his ways. Such people cannot expect to receive anything from God.

What is the step you have to take if you are double minded? You have to decide what you are going to have. I had to make a decision when I was lying there on the bed because it was nothing new for me to be sick. I had spent 21 years in and out of hospitals with all kinds of ailments. At one point I was in bed for over six and a half months, not being allowed to see the sun. One thing after another. When I was born, they said I had polio. Now I can run as fast as the next guy. Nothing ever stopped me because I didn't know any differently. When I was a kid I had to wear those orthopedic braces. I made funny movements just like Forest Gump, but I am no cripple (you will have whatever you are believing you will have) –not in my mind, not in my body, not in my spirit. The Lord did not destine us for that. It is amazing how many times we have seen God heal. It isn't a figment of our imagination. Ask people how much a healing is worth. They cannot give their tithes and offerings, but they will receive an 89 thousand dollar healing.

This man's dad had the bipolar condition all his life. He was born that way. He was healed in thirty minutes, eight minutes of which were on the bipolar problem. Actually the healing took about ten seconds, and now he is free. He came to be free. "Be it done to you according to your faith." When did he believe he was going to get this healing?

Actually, after I told him that he could.

Many people do not realize something good can happen, especially if they have had a certain condition for a long time. We are often taught to help people be comfortable with their condition. A guy asked me one time, "Why are you giving those people hope? You should be helping them to cope with their situation." I said, "My God is not a God of cope. My God is a God of hope," and hope belongs to faith. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." If you are not hoping for anything, and you don't have any plans or goals, you have nothing. You are heading towards nothing. You are not taking steps towards anything. You will probably sit down and say, "This is my lot in life; I guess I'll just have to have it." Either be happy with it and make the best of it, or sit there and feel miserable the rest of your life. "Poor me. I have been dealt the wrong cards."

Have you ever had a poker hand that you needed to throw in? People think, *Man, this is the life I was dealt. God, You gave me a raw deal. If I had been born to rich parents and had some good looks and great abilities, I might make it in life.* Many people have had such a background and did not do a thing with their lives.

What kind of steps are you taking? Where are you heading with your life? What are your goals? Have you sought God? He has something for you.

The testimony continues:

You told him [your dad] that he could be well. He could get rid of this bipolar condition. His son told his dad that. How old was he at the time?

Probably 65.

For sixty-five years he had the condition. He didn't know anything different. He didn't know how to act different. He didn't know what it was like to be free.

A 26 year old gal came up to me one day, and said, "Pastor, I've been sitting here and listening to the Word, and I have come to the conclusion that I have spent my whole life in a dysfunctional family. I didn't even know what a functional family was until I came here, and I saw what could be. That's what I want, and I'm not going to have this dysfunctional stuff in my life anymore. I said, "Hallelujah."

Why did you tell your dad with that kind of confidence, "Dad, you can get healed of this?"

I see it every time I come to church. Somebody gets something from God.

I have never been in a service where somebody didn't get something. I do three, four, five services a week, depending on what is going on. We have done services about 35 years, and I have never seen a service where God didn't do something. That gives you a confidence, doesn't it? I do not understand when people say to me that it is going to take awhile.

Four and a Half Inches

A lady from San Francisco heard what God was doing through the ministry and came down here. She had a five inch heel on a special shoe because one leg was five inches shorter than the other. In a minute and a half God grew her leg out four and a half inches. How He did it I do not know. I don't have a clue. I just believe in miracles. I know that God can do impossible things.

However, it felt like somebody stabbed me in the heart after I asked the woman, "Ma'am why did you stop believing?" She looked at me and said, "You know, Pastor, sometimes things take a while to happen." I exclaimed, "Ma'am, it just grew out four and a half inches in one and a half minutes! Don't you think we can go another two minutes and finish it up?" She answered again, "Oh, Pastor, some things take a while to happen." I was thinking *Oh, God, come on, let's finish this up. Let's wrap this thing.* And I encouraged her, "Come on, come on; just let it work a little bit longer here." She said, "Nope, I'm very thankful for what's happened, but you know, some things take a while to happen."

It was not what she was believing that made anything happen in the first place. A gift of God was operating. The woman wasn't believing for anything except, "You know, some things take a while to happen." I don't doubt that, I don't question that, but there does come a point, like, *when* is it going to happen? Let's expect something.

When Jesus told the guy, "Take up your bed and walk," Jesus meant *now*. There comes a point when people have to move out of hoping into faith. The real God-like kind of faith says it is done right now, and I will see the results of it in Jesus' name. We have to move out of the hoping realm, but praise God for the hope because many people do not have any.

When this guy's son said, "Dad, you can be healed of this," hope sprung up in him through the Spirit of God. He'd had that condition for 65 years. (Jesus asked the parents of the young girl, "How long has she had it?") I have seen a lot of things in 45 years. All of a sudden the hope springs up, and then the faith is right there. The dad came expecting to be healed. I could have said anything to him, but I just like to say, "Jesus." I like to give the credit where it belongs, and the glory to God since God did it. Whatever was causing the condition came out of him, and he is now happily going about his life. Every one else in his family is happy as well.

When people are miserable, they can make everybody else around them miserable. That is just the way it works. Why does it happen for some and not others? Quite frankly, the Word is very clear. Some people are taking steps of faith, and others are not. Some are hoping. You see, hoping is not faith. We have to make the adjustment, and then take the steps towards the goal that God has, and we will see the results.

The way the Holy Spirit interpreted **Numbers 23:19** to me is, “It is impossible that what people consider impossible not happen when you act on My Word.” What does the **Numbers 23:19** say? “God is not a man that He should lie, nor the Son of Man that He is going to repent (change his mind about it). Has He not said it, and will He not do it? Has He not promised, and will He not fulfill?” It has to happen. In other words, all things are possible with God when you act on His Word. When people are self-diagnosing, self-medicating and doing their own little program, they do not have a clue what they are doing, and it creates more problems.

Have you tried to solve your relationship problems on your own? When you got into the light, you probably saw that everything you were doing was not working. When you had a few intelligent God adjustments, it was like a piece of cake. Easy. Jesus says, “Yoke up with me; my burden is light and easy.” People say it is so hard being a Christian, but I say, “Then you must be hooked up to the wrong ox. If you are not yoked up with God, you must be yoked up with somebody else.”

Some people get together and talk about unbelief, how hard things are and whatnot. How bitter. Ladies, stay away from rebellious women because you will end up picking up their bitterness. Get rid of that bitterness instead. Get around somebody who has gotten rid of it. I think everybody has a little of it, but it only takes a little to mess up your life. Let’s all get rid of it. If you were dealt a bad hand, ask for another one.

I played a little poker – not for money, but for chips or beans. If I didn’t like my hand, I just threw it in and asked for a new one. If you don’t like your life, ask God for a different one. Change things. Start to take the steps.

The way to drop those 100 pounds is with the first ounce. You have to start somewhere. Watch as those babies start getting excited about walking, and the next thing you know they are running.