

First Baptist Church
205 S. Grand St.
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Dear Church Family,

Have you ever felt God calling you to do something that is way outside of your comfort zone? Maybe you are like me and you would rather be in control. So, **stepping out in faith** when you don't have all the answers is a big "NOPE, not for me, thanks though". Or you jump fully in only to quickly realize you cannot control the outcome.

Letting go of control isn't easy. In fact, letting go and stepping out in faith is difficult and scary for most of us. Yet, God doesn't call us to take the easy road. He calls us to step out of our comfort zone and into faith at some point. God desires us to grow and mature our faith by helping us learn to trust and rely on him. Stepping out in faith means trusting God fully with whatever comes next. It means not necessarily knowing the next steps but knowing that God will guide and equip you to accomplish His will and purpose for your life. God knows the plans for your life. Oftentimes he will call us out of our comfort zone and to step out in faith.

***For we live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV***

Stepping out in faith can be scary. Sometimes God just shows up and calls us to respond. We read in Matthew about Peter walking on water. Can you imagine, Jesus walking up out of nowhere in the middle of a lake? It probably would have been terrifying. But Jesus tells them, "Take courage and don't be afraid." (Matthew 14:27). Peter does the unimaginable by stepping out in faith to walk towards Jesus. At first, he fully trusts that Jesus will lead and support him into the unknown. Then he got his feet wet and the wind started blowing. As a result, he lost faith and started to sink into the water. Lovingly, Jesus immediately reached out and took his hand (Matthew 14:31). Sometimes it is terrifying but we must trust in God to lead and guide us. We can't lose faith when things get hard. But when they do, we can turn to the Word to affirm what we sense to be a call to step out in faith and keep going forward.

***Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 NIV***

There are many times in our lives when God calls us to move. We just have to be willing to listen and respond. Yet most of the time we miss out on these opportunities because we are unwilling to move – or unwilling to let God move through us. When God calls you to move, you must trust Him no matter what. He will lavishly provide for us and give us wisdom.

Sometimes God will ask us to step out in faith without knowing the next step. As Christians, we can confidently take a chance on the One who never disappoints. He will guide us into the unknown. We listened to His call for us to step out of our comfort zone and step into faith.