

WALKING BY FAITH WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID:

*Calling, Courage, and God's
Provision (Hebrews 11-12)*

by Forge

God often asks us to take steps we're not sure we can make. Fear talks loud, doubts creep in, and yet, God has made a way for us to move forward with courage. Walking by faith is about trusting God in the middle of the unknown. Hebrews 11 and 12 show us how ordinary people stepped forward and how God met them every step of the way.

WHAT DOES WALKING BY FAITH MEAN?

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." -Hebrews 11:1 ESV

A great example of faith in Hebrews 11 is Abraham: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." -Hebrews 11:8 ESV

Hebrews 12 then encourages us to persevere, showing how to keep moving forward when fear, doubt, or exhaustion try to slow us down.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

SIGNS YOU'RE ON GOD'S PATH

- 1 Recurring promptings:** Pay attention when a thought or nudge keeps coming back. God often speaks in repetition, drawing you toward what He wants. Don't ignore it.
- 2 Scripture alignment:** A true calling will never pull you away from Scripture or require you to compromise God's truth. If it aligns with His character and commands, that's a good sign you're on the right track.
- 3 Godly confirmation:** Talk with mature, trusted believers. They can help you discern whether what you're sensing is truly from God. Look for honest guidance, not just flattery.

THE INTERNAL BATTLE: FEAR VS. FAITH

Stepping out in faith rarely feels easy. Fear tends to rise up first, whispering doubts: You've never done this. You don't have the resources. You're not qualified. Then come the questions from the outside world: How will you manage this? What if you fail? What will others think? It can feel like a flood of "what-ifs," all trying to stop you before you even begin.

This is where Hebrews 11 anchors us: "And without faith it is impossible to please [God], for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him." -Hebrews 11:6 ESV

Walking by faith means you treat God's promise as more real than your fear. It means you refuse to let fear be your leader. God's calling leads. God's provision follows.

A TRUE STORY OF FIVE DOLLARS & A THOUSAND HILL

When I was 29, I boarded a plane for five weeks of speaking with no safety net. I opened my wallet on the tray table. Five dollars. I prayed honestly, "Lord, I don't know how this works."

In Pittsburgh, I broke my last five dollars on fries and water, trusting that God would provide. Two days later, a few students handed me an envelope—and inside was a five-dollar bill. My money had doubled. A few days after that, another envelope arrived. Another five dollars. Now, it had tripled!

On week five, while I was in Michigan, a couple drove by in a small Cadillac. The husband wept as he handed me an envelope with five \$100 bills. God's provision didn't show up early. It showed up right on time. That's walking by faith.

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe." -Hebrews 12:28 ESV

WALKING BY FAITH WHEN FEAR RE-ENTER

Romans 4 shows Abraham facing the facts: his body was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb was barren. Still, he did not waver. He trusted God's promise that he would have descendants—children through whom God would bless the nations. That is what walking by faith looks like. That is the rhythm of Hebrews 11. God's calling is upheld by God's provision.

At the Red Sea, Israel wanted to return to Egypt. That's the reflex of fear. Compromise shrinks God's plan to our size. Fear can be present, but it cannot lead. "Fear not, for I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10. ESV).

FOUR ANCHORS FOR PERSEVERANCE

- 1 Remember who God is** – Creator and Sustainer. Nothing is too hard for Him.
- 2 Remember His faithfulness to others** – Read Hebrews 11. Read biographies. God is the same today.
- 3 Remember the Scriptures** – Let truth wash off fear's lies. Hold onto His promises.
- 4 Remember your earlier days** – Write down God's past faithfulness. When fear is shouting at you, remember His faithfulness to you and let it anchor you.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO START WALKING BY FAITH

Name the call: Write down one thing you sense God asking you to do.

Take a small step: Send the invite, make the call, give the gift, start the study.

Build a truth list: Start with 2 verses. Repeat them daily. Add more in new seasons.

Ask for agreement: Share your step with one mature believer who will pray and confirm.

Celebrate provision: Keep a visible list of how God's provision shows up.

YOU ARE GOD'S PLAN A WHERE HE HAS PLACED YOU.
WALKING BY FAITH IS NOT RECKLESS; IT IS RESPONSIVE. GOD'S
CALLING LEADS. GOD'S PROVISION MEETS YOU ON THE ROAD.

Keep saying yes. Keep moving forward.