

HOW TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP

When God Calls You

by Dwight Robertson

Maybe you've sensed it for a while now: a pull, a persistent nudge, something God keeps bringing back to your mind. You've prayed about it, wrestled with it, maybe even said yes to it in your heart. . . but then comes the hard part—actually starting.

GOD WANTED ME TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP

When I was 29, I felt God calling a ministry into existence. He was asking me to take some early steps—five weeks of speaking in five different cities.

Before boarding the plane, I pulled out my wallet and laid it on the tray table. Five dollars. That was it. I prayed honestly, "God, it is not enough. I don't know what you're going to do with this."

This is the moment every calling comes down to: you know what God is asking, but you can't see how it works, and He's asking you to go anyway. Knowing how to take the first step when God calls you can be overwhelming, for sure.

THE FIRST STEP IS THE STEP YOU CAN SEE

Here's what I've learned: God shows you one step, and He waits for your obedience before He shows you the next one. That's the pattern of Scripture as well. Abraham went out "not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8, ESV). God's provision met him on the road, not where he was before. That's often how to take the first step when God calls you—learning to move in trust before you have the full map.

On that first ministry trip, I had no financial backing and no safety net. When we stopped at McDonald's, I ordered fries and water. It took everything in me to break that \$5 bill. I prayed over a tray of fries, "Lord, I don't know how you are going to do this. This is all I have."

PROVISION FOLLOWS OBEDIENCE

Two days into that first event, a couple of students handed me an envelope that included a \$5 bill. God had doubled what I started with! A few days later, another envelope with another \$5. God had tripled what I started with.

By week five, in Michigan, a couple drove around all day looking for me—getting lost twice, arguing on the way—because the husband felt God had told him I needed money. He stepped out of the car, tried to speak, and just wept. He handed me an envelope. Five \$100 bills.

No one knew my need. I had said nothing. But God, who "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, ESV), was working ahead of every step I took. Provision doesn't come before obedience; it comes because of it.

WHAT STOPS US AT THE STARTING LINE

Knowing how to take the first step when God calls you isn't about feeling ready; it's about moving in the direction God has shown you and trusting Him to make it clear and equip you for whatever is next along the way.

Proverbs 3:5–6 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths" (NASB).

The calling God gives you will almost always be bigger than what you can execute on your own. God routinely uses insufficient resources to make unmistakable provision.

STEP BY STEP IS HOW HE WORKS

If you're wondering **how to take the first step when God calls you**, start here:

Name it. Write down the one thing you believe God is asking you to do.

Pray it forward. Ask Him to show you what to do.

Take it. Do the one thing in front of you.

Watch for provision. God's provision rarely looks the way you expect.

God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.

STOP WAITING FOR THE FULL STAIRCASE.

TAKE THE STEP YOU CAN SEE. HE'LL SHOW YOU THE NEXT ONE.