

THE BIBLE VIEW

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That First Step

Bill Brinkworth

After Moses received his orders from God to lead Israel out of bondage, his faith was quickly tested. So that the soon-to-be leader could prove to those he would guide that he was sent by God, he was asked to perform a very strange miracle.

Moses was asked to take his ordinary walking staff and cast it to the ground. When he did, the wooden stick turned into a dangerous, slithering serpent. His flesh and common sense took control, and he fled. Fear drove the man far from what appeared to him to be danger.

"And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it." Exodus 4:3

Fear was not what God wanted Moses to demonstrate to the people he was to lead. God wanted Israel to get the clear message that God was with the humble man, and that through his leadership, "impossible" things would be possible.

Moses' next step of faith was far above common reasoning. He was commanded to grab the hissing, frightening snake by the tail.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:” Ex. 4:4

“What? What a dumb thing to do!” surely had to go through Moses' skeptical mind. However, he did what he was commanded to do. This is when his life surely changed. Beyond all common sense, he grabbed the reptile by the tail, and it supernaturally returned back to what it was, an old stick that he may have picked up off the wilderness ground.

That first step of faith was far beyond anything he would normally do, but doing it altered the way he would see challenges and “impossibilities” for the rest of his life. It was an important step of obedience.

Today, one's first step of real faith may be far from what normally makes sense and is just as frightening as Moses' action was, but it too may be life altering. It is one's trust in an unseen God that will soon make Him a reality in one's life and will start a life of obedience to God's commandments.

Obedience to what is commanded is essential. Heeding what the Holy Spirit whispers to one's heart is the beginning of a God-led life. Be it obedience to trust Christ as Saviour, to be baptized, to start tithing, to witness to others, to

faithfully read one's Bible, to pray, or to cease a particular sin is paramount to one's spiritual growth. It may seem like grabbing a serpent by the tail, but one's faith will never grow unless one makes steps of faith.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

"You don't have to see all the stairs. Just take the first step!"

Exercise Faith

Oxeaden

As a weak limb grows stronger by exercise, so will your faith be strengthened by the very effort you make in stretching it out towards things unseen. How was it with him who had the withered hand? When Jesus said to him, "... Stretch forth thine hand, ..." did the invalid reply, "I have no power to do so?"

No! He made a great effort to thrust it forth; and in the act of so doing, Jesus gave the needed strength (Mat. 12:10-13).

Now I say to you; go and do thou likewise. Stretch out the poor, weak hand of faith, and the more you do so, the stronger it will become.

“Stress makes you believe that everything has to happen now! Faith can assure you that everything will happen in God's perfect timing!” — *Spurgeon*

God Makes the Funder!”

Author Unknown, 1894

Birdie was only four years old, but she had already been taught that God loved her, and always took care of her. One day there was a thunderstorm, and Birdie's sisters and mother stopped their sewing, and drew their chairs into the middle of the room, pale and trembling with fear.

Birdie stood close by the window, watching the storm with bright eyes. “Oh, mamma! Isn't that buful!” she exclaimed, clapping her hands with delight, as a vivid flash of lightning burst from the black clouds.

As the thunder pealed and rattled over their heads, her mother said, “It is God's voice, Birdie,” as her own voice trembled.

“He talks very loud, don't He, mamma? S'pose it's so deaf Betsey can hear, and the other deaf folks.”

“O, Birdie, dear, come straight away from that window,” said one of her sisters, whose cheeks were whitened by fear.

“What for?” asked Birdie. “Oh, because the lightning is so sharp, and it thunders so loud.” Birdie shook her head, and looking over her shoulder with a happy smile on her face, rattled out, “If it funders, let it funder! ‘Tis God that makes it funder, and He'll take care of me. I ain't a bit afraid to hear God talk, Maizy.”

The room got very quiet as conviction set in to the rest of the family, that their trusting faith was not as strong as the little child's.

“Faith is an inside job that works its way out!”

In Your Hour of Need

Deb McCoy

Are circumstances controlling your emotions?
Are your emotions dictating your actions?
Chose today to trust in Jesus,
To walk in the Spirit we have assurance that He will
always hear us.

Believe in His promises, and your faith will grow stronger,
Peace will be in abundance, and you need not worry any
longer.

Difficulties may have thrown you off course,
Replace all doubt and discouragement with God's Word
as your power source.

Know that the temptations you face,
Are equipping you to experience God's grace.

So, when troubles come, set your sights above,
Your loving Heavenly Father will care for you and shower
you with His love.

***“People put their faith in what teachers, politicians,
and doctors say. And they know they are not always
right. Why is it so hard to put one’s trust in an
always-right, all knowing God?”***

“I Will Not be Moved!”

Cecil, 1743-1810

A seaman once said to me, "In fierce storms we have but one task. We keep the ship in a certain position. We cannot act in any way but this way. We fix her bow to the wind, and in this way, we weather the storm."

This should be a picture of the Christian. He endeavors to put himself in a certain position. His hope and help are from God. He will not be moved by circumstances. He is faithful.

“... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning ...” (Psalm 30:5)

The person who has learned this piece of heavenly navigation shall weather the storms of life, for he trusts a faithful God; and he shall find Him faithful. This confidence has supported thousands in perilous situations, where others would have given up all in despair.

“Faith is the firm persuasion and expectation, knowing that God will perform all the He has promised to the believer in Christ; and this persuasion is so strong and complete that it assures the believer of possession, even NOW, of those things for which we exercise faith.” — *Oliver B. Greene*