

## Steps of Faith

It was in the year 1985 that my favorite movie of all time came out into the theaters. It was called “Back to the Future” and it starred Michael J. Fox. I was just a teenager when I saw it and it was fun to go see movies with my friends. The story of this movie was built around a young man who traveled back in time 30 years and it was full of fun and adventure as he explored his parents youth and then had to find a way to get back into his time. A few years later they came out with part two of this adventure, only this time he traveled into the future to the year 2015 and he was able to see what the world looked like. It was so impressive to watch everyone traveling around in flying cars and all the other things that the future might hold. I knew back then it was just a movie however for a young man the future seemed like such a long way off that anything could be possible.

That is why I can hardly believe that we are already celebrating 2014 and I trust that this is going to be an incredible year for each of us as we pursue God's will. I am much older today than I was when I first sat in that movie theater wide eyed and eating popcorn and drinking coca cola all those years ago. The future seemed so amazing and as if it was all going to happen. Surly, the world would have flying cars in every person's drive way and everyone would be happy.

All of these years have snuck by quickly and silently. Hour after hours and day after day have slipped by and all of a sudden I am in the future and I am wondering where my flying car is. My car doesn't fly but wow, time really does fly. If you asked me back then how long it would take for this year to arrive I would have told you it will take forever and it sure came a lot quicker than I expected. They told me that years would eventually go by me fast but I see that to be true now. I had expected the future to be different when I got here.

When I was young in the faith of serving God I had the same opinions about my future. I had dreams and desires to change the world and I knew that God had desires for His blessings in my life. I expected prosperity to be over abundant and for supernatural experiences to be plenteous and I had an idea that if I just waited until the future showed up then all of the greatness of God would be there. One day I will have everything God has promised and I will be completely free of all weaknesses.

For many years I had this idealistic view of how faith was suppose to operate in my life. I would listen to incredible testimonies of victories from a few people and of how God showed up and rescued them from their death bed experiences. I would also hear preachers talk about the goodness of God and I would get excited about all the wonderful things my future had for me. Then after a while of living life I began to ask God where it was. My focus was in the wrong place.

Where is my abundance of finances and my dreams? Why haven't they arrived yet? Many people have these types of questions when it comes to unanswered prayers and like I was, discouraged in my hope of victory. Many times when we look at faith and at answered prayers we place our hope in the future. We put our victory as a dramatic conclusion in a Hollywood movie where God comes in at the last moment and everything comes into place. This type of believing only creates discouragement instead of encouraging us that God truly is involved with us.

God's heart with us and with our needs is to work with us each day and when we look way off into the future we might miss what amazing things are happening right in front of us. It says in psalm 50:15, “**Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.**” When we call upon God it is in that exact moment that He gets involved and I want to encourage you today to remind yourself to look at how God is with you each day and not just in the future.

I had a man come up to me with a testimony of a healing. He said that he had a cyst in his back that had bothered him for over thirty years. He shared with me that in a service he had received prayer of agreement that the cyst was dead. The next day he woke up and it was still there and it was also beginning to ooze out puss. He said that he and his wife would confess every day what was prayed for, that that cyst was dead.

Now, here is the strength of his testimony, it is that he held on to that truth of God's Word even though the situation didn't change the exact moment that they prayed. Too many people give up instead of seeing that at that moment of prayer God jumped right into their circumstances. This man had his hope in the right place and God's Word was true and in one year and six months it came to pass. He said that the cyst had slowly shrunk until it completely disappeared. What I want us to realize today is that Faith is not about somewhere in the future it is about right now, it is about day to day relationship with our Heavenly Father. God is already involved in every prayer that you ever prayed and He is in the middle of your life at this very moment and not just in the future. It is so important that we understand that walking in faith involves every day and step by step.

Matt 6:9-11 *“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. **Give us this day our daily bread.**”* It is clear that even in our prayer the Lord wants us to see how He desires to be involved not just in the miracle but in our everyday life to get us to that miracle. God loves to be involved with us every single moment not just in the finish and when we are discouraged. It is important for us to remember that God is with you right now.

God is there with us when we are going through the process of growing into holiness and love and trying to overcome our weaknesses. Maybe you do really good and then have a bad moment and maybe fail. It is in these moments that if we are looking in the wrong place you might say, “Where is my victory?” and feel like you are a failure. However, if we put our focus on the truth then even in our struggles we can see that God is right there with us. In fact God wants to be involved with our every step, look at Psalm 37:23 *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.”*

I am expecting this next year to be a great one for me and for you! As we stand and believe for incredible things let's not place our eyes on years in the future for a dramatic rescue from God but let's look to how He is with us each step of the way, every single day, on a path to our victories. You are not alone because God is with you right now and every step that you take this year He is with you.

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