

STILL STUCK OR STILL MOVING?

ser4022, Faith in Action, Pt 2

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I. POINT OF INTRIGUE: (The Hook)

I've recently been spending a lot of time studying the book of Luke.

Luke 1:17 And he [John] will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to **GET READY** a people prepared for the Lord."

So are y'all ready this morning?

Are you ready for HIM?

Are you ready to stir up your faith?

I believe the Lord is about set it off this morning. [Let's pray!](#)

A. Our Sermon series for this month is "Faith in Action!" I'm fired up about this topic and message!

Paul said to Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...

We're all fighting the good fight just by being here today ... and we will all finish the race at some point, but how

we finish lies on this point—have I kept the faith? That's where the battle is. And victory in life often depends on that very thing. Have I kept the faith?

B. First, I would like to explore the definition and meaning of both *faith* and *action* to get a full understanding of this topic. I then want to look at an example of *faith in action* from the Bible to see how we can apply this to our own lives. Let's get right to work.

C. Faith is knowing that God is who He says He is and will do all He says He will do. The best Bible verse used to define faith is:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

I believe that the action lies in the substance portion of this verse because true faith, acts on things hoped for, based off our belief in Jesus.

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Today, I believe God wants to activate the kind of faith THAT WORKS!

The Hebrew word for faith is אמונה (*emunah*) and is an ACTION oriented word meaning "**support**". This is important because the Western concept of faith places the action on the one you have faith in, such as "**faith in God.**"

But the Hebrew word places the action on the one who "*supports God.*"

It is not knowing that God will act, but rather I will do what I can to support God, and that supports, my trust and belief in Him. That shows, I know who He says He is and will do all He says He will do.

D. Action- the fact or process of doing something, typically to achieve an aim.

I want to encourage you today to not give up in the process. It's not always our lack of faith that gets us into situations, but it is the strength of our faith that gets us out of them!

Faith is not passive. Most times, it's a call to action, a call to move.

Say with me, "Still stuck or still moving!"

Are you feeling stagnant in your walk with God? Maybe it's because you have been sitting still for too long, and I believe that God is calling us to move this morning, Church!

Look at your neighbor and tell them, "It's time to move!"

If we want to grow, we've got to go, we got to move!

Matthew 17:20

I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

We can see clearly here that faith calls us to move some things.

What do you say church? Are you ready to have a shift in your faith today and move?

Let's set it off!

II. OUR TEXT (The Book)

A. The Word that God gave me for today comes from the Book of Luke 8:40-56

Luke 8:40-56 ⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed Him, for they were all expecting Him.

NOTE! Let's stop right here. ***Faith always expects.*** We should be moving to what God has called us to do expecting, with faith that He is going to work on our behalf and do His part in whatever situation we are in.

Faith makes us take the action... knowing that if we take this action and do our part, God will do His part. In all things in life, we have a part and God has a part, but He won't do our part. We have to take action in doing our part as a display of our faith! (picking up with verse 42)

42 As Jesus was on His way, the crowds almost crushed Him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years,^[c] but no one could heal her.

NOTE! So, the doctors couldn't heal her, and it looked like an impossible and hopeless situation, but she had heard about a man named Jesus! And that name stirred up her faith!! There came a moment when this woman had a decision to make, "AM I GOING TO STAY STUCK OR AM I GONNA GET MOVING?" Faith said, "Let's set it off and get moving towards Jesus!"

My question to you is this: "Are you still stuck or are you still moving?"

What we need understand is this: ***I am not going get what I never had, by staying where I have always been.***

This is an awesome example of faith in action. This woman wasn't sitting around having a pity party about her circumstances. She was not sitting still and just letting it happen. She was willing to move and take action to change her circumstances.

B. Are you chasing God or is God chasing you?

Some of you are waiting on a move of God, when God is waiting on you to move!

Verse 45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

NOTE! Maybe we've been waiting on a touch from God, when we need to be reaching out ourselves to touch Him!

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

NOTE! When life presses against us, we need to press back with our faith and press into Jesus. We must have the faith and attitude that says, "Nothing is getting in the way of my breakthrough," just like this woman did!

I'm pressing in until I get the promise of your Word that is of "good measure, **pressed** down, shaken together and running over until its poured into my lap." (**Luke 6:38**)

I don't know about you, but I want to live my life from the overflow of Gods' goodness, and faith helps me to do that!

Let's start living from the overflow!

- C. **(The LOOK) The world will fight against us and so will the enemy. We need to learn how to fight back with our faith.**

Quite a few people have asked me for prayer over these last few weeks saying they were under attack. There is revival going on through this pandemic and the devil doesn't like it.

I also experienced an attack just last week and didn't even recognize what it was at first.

First, my daughter broke her arm. Two days later I was leaving our Chain Breakers meeting and hit a deer on the way home... Or should I say, the deer hit me. LOL!

Let me tell you there was an angel with me. The girl that was with me didn't have her seatbelt on as we were leaving the church. At first, I didn't want to tell her to put it on and look like an old head. But I felt God say, so strongly, to tell her to put on her seatbelt, that I couldn't ignore it.

So, I said to her, "Now the mom in me is going to make you put your seatbelt on." One minute later we hit the deer and she would have gone through the windshield if she didn't have her seatbelt on.

D. Never ignore the promptings of the Spirit. (That's another sermon for another time and just a little extra credit work for you this week. Lol)

III. (The **TOOK) At that point, I did not view all of this as an attack until the next morning.**

A. God's confirmation.

1. I opened up FB and my first notification says, Norm posted to his story, and it had this verse:

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

2. The next notification said, “John Kulikowski posted on Facebook,” and he posted the same verse.

3. Literally as I was reading it, a text came in from my sponsee who I had texted the night before about hitting the deer with the same verse:

“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

It wasn't until that moment that I realized I was under attack. I then, got a text from the speaker from the meeting the night before. He said he was headed home on Rt 295 when his tire blew out and he almost crashed his car. Now I was mad at the devil and said, “Ok, let's play ball.” LOL!

After Greg (my husband) and I got the car towed and picked up the rental car, we went out to breakfast. As we were ready to leave, I told the waitress she had value and purpose, that God had a good plan for her life and invited her to church, just to really stick it to the devil. (Maybe my motive wasn't pure, but I know I did what I should have done...period.)

C. The witness

Now, my husband has never seen me be bold like that to a stranger before. He was so embarrassed I could see

him blushing behind his mask and that's hard to see because he's black. Lol!

D. Moving in His power

Listen, Church, we need to learn how to fight back with our faith. We can't just sit back and be complacent or we will get run over!

I want the kind of faith that moves Heaven and makes hell nervous -- Back up Satan because I'm not playing-- you may have run amok in my life before, but I know who I am now—a child of almighty God. I'm a KINGS kid and so are all of you! And KINGS kids have an inheritance that includes authority! We need to take that authority over the devil or he will destroy our lives because that is what he came to do. "The LORD rebuke you satan in the name of Jesus" how about that?! I know who my Father is, and the authority given to me in Jesus Christ, and I'm going take action and walk in it. I believe the Lord is saying to somebody today, that you need to get up and start taking authority over your circumstances and over the enemy through HIM!

I'm chasing after Jesus and I'm not stopping till I get my breakthrough:

till my marriage is healed, and my family restored.

I'm moving forward until I move Heaven and nothing is going to stop me because **"no weapon formed against me will prosper."** It may be formed, but it won't prosper in Jesus name!

Let's start invoking the authority we have in Jesus and take action.

Faith in action, that says nothing is getting in the way of me getting to Jesus!

Picking up at *verse 46*

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; I know that power has gone out from Me."

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched Him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

NOTE! "Someone touched Me; I know that power has gone out from me." We can learn a lot from this woman. ***Her faith released His power!*** She was determined, and there was no devil in hell she was going to let get in her way to getting healed, to getting delivered. Jesus was her goal and Jesus was who she got.

E. Faith that wins.

With this kind of faith, this kind of faith in action, sickness gets healed. Maybe the doctors said it was hopeless, but faith says, "That's ok, because I know the Great Physician." With this kind of faith, depression must cease, anxiety must flee, and chains are broken!

We gotta move church!! I don't know who this is for, but I know this is for somebody. You gotta get up and move because I sense that your breakthrough is coming. Addiction can't have you and depression has to let you go. I'm begging for you to get up and move today! My life is a testimony that you can get up, move, and be healed by your faith....I feel that faith rising up today! If you're ready to set it off and stir up faith that moves mountains, **get up on your feet and give God some praise!!**

IV. INVITATION

(**Play video** – *Evidence Live/Elevation Worship*)

The biggest step of faith and most important action we will ever take...

The biggest move we will ever make...

Is to trust Jesus with our lives-

It's Resurrection season with Easter right around the corner, and I feel God wanting to resurrect somebody today, to resurrect someone's faith today!

Walking in victory.... walking in freedom, and walking by faith all begins with a decision.

That is the decision to make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior!

B. The way to salvation and HOW to make Jesus our Lord and savior is as easy as *ABC*:

Admitt– your sins have separated you from God. (Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, thank you for loving me. I admit that I am a sinner. I believe that you did something about my sin, through your son Jesus, when He died, so that I could be forgiven. Jesus, come into my heart, I give you my life. I make you my Lord and Savior. Amen.

Those of you prayed with me today and **received** Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please fill out the white envelope in front of you, and check the box that says FTD, and place in in the offering baskets as you leave the Church. We'll be in touch this week via letter giving you a few pointers on how to grow in your fellowship with Christ.

Those of you watching online, and prayed with me, please TEXT:

**Text: Pray to 62488 or
Email: Bruce@GCCCPRAY.COM**