

# **Learning To Walk By Faith – 4**

## **“Living In God’s Favor”**

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6 NKJV*

### **What is faith?**

#### **1. EXPECTING THE BEST**

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

*“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” Romans 8:24-25 NKJV*

**What causes us to doubt?**

- **Comparison**
- **Past Failure**
- **Lack of confidence**

#### **2. EXPECTING THAT GOD’S PLAN IS BETTER THAN MINE**

*“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.” Psalms 32:8*

### **3 Reasons to live with hope & expect the best:**

*“On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.” 1 Samuel 17:11 NIV*

#### **1. WHEN I EXPECT THE BEST, IT HONORS GOD**

*“This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.” 1 Samuel 17:46 NIV*

*“When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith will it be done to you.’” Matthew 9:28-29 NIV*

#### **2. WHEN I EXPECT THE BEST, IT INCREASES MY ABILITIES**

*“Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.” 1 Samuel 17:49-50 NKJV*

### **6 Steps to working a miracle with Jesus: (John 6:1-14)**

#### **1. JESUS ASKED A QUESTION TO BEGIN THE TEST**

*“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.” John 6:5-6 NKJV*

#### **2. WE TAKE INVENTORY**

*“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” John 6:9 NKJV*

### 3. WE GIVE GOD WHAT WE HAVE SO HE CAN BLESS IT

*"He said, 'Bring them here to Me.' Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes."*

Matthew 14:18-19 NKJV

### 4. WE GET ORGANIZED AND READY FOR A MIRACLE

*"Then Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand."*

John 6:10 NKJV

### 5. WE FINISH THE JOB

*"So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, 'Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.' Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten."*

John 6:12-13 NKJV

### 6. WE LET IT SINK IN

*"Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, 'This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.'"*

John 6:14 NKJV

### 3. WHEN I EXPECT THE BEST, IT INSPIRES & ENCOURAGES OTHERS

*"Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron."*

1 Samuel 17:52 NIV

*"'Because he loves me,'" says the Lord, 'I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.'"*

Psalms 91:14 NIV

### What did David do?

- He tuned into God

*"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."*

Psalms 5:3 NIV

*"So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

Romans 10:17 NKJV

- He meditated on God's plan for his life

*"The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes."*

Psalms 119:95 NIV

- He tested his faith

- He trusted God

*"'Because he loves me,' says the Lord, 'I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.'"*

Psalms 91:14 NIV