



## Taking The Next Step Sunday August 13, 2006

### Practical Instructions on moving forward with God

#### Introduction

Very often we arrive at those points in life when we have to take the next step.

There are some "major" next steps in life. Example:

Finish std. 10 (around 15 yrs old)

Finish std. 12 / II P.U. (around 17)

Finish Degree (around 21/22)

Marriage – Big next step

Job transitions / Career change / Going from being an Employee-to-Employer

Relocation

And then there "minor" next steps in life:

Moving from one home to another.

Changing schools.

Moving from a rental to purchase own home.

Moving from a two-wheeler to a four-wheeler.

#### Main Topic

Practical instructions on taking the next step with God.

What do I do next?

How do I do this?

Distill some insights gained from the Word of God out of my own personal walk with God.

Illustration: Prophecy (1988)

"God has given you an adventurous spirit. Some of my people are like the donkey – difficult to get them to move. Some are like the horse – they run ahead of me. But God has given you the ability to walk in step and in time with Him".

Psalm 32:8,9

The literal meaning is, "I will counsel thee; mine eye shall be upon thee."

The idea is that of one who is telling another what way he is to take in order that he may reach a certain place; and he says he will watch him, or will keep an eye upon him; he will not let him go wrong.

#### **#1. Avoid the "Donkey Syndrome"**

Stubborn, unwilling to move, lazy,

Things that make a donkey out of us:

- Fear of failure (What if I make a mistake)  
Psalm 37:23,24,31    Psalm 25:12-15    Psalm 18:36  
Indecision is a step itself. You have decided not to decide.
- Fear of the unknown    Hebrews 11:8



You can never step in to your future unless you are willing to step out of your present.

- Attachments (The ties that bind)  
*Relational* attachments (parents, friends, mentors, etc.), *Religious* attachments (denomination, way of doing things, etc.), *Rational* attachments (expect things must happen a certain way, etc.)  
Don't let the attachments of today, become shackles that prevent you from stepping in to your tomorrow.
- Perpetual Preparation  
There will come a time when you have to "graduate" whether you like it or not.

## #2. Avoid being "Hasty Horsy"

The horse as it is by nature - wild, ungoverned, unwilling to be tamed and made obedient.

Proverbs 21:5      Isaiah 28:16

Timing is important. Learn to walk in time and in step with God.

Prepare well. Proverbs 4:26

Illustration: Transition to India (Dec 2000)

## #3. You have to be moving if you want steering

Genesis 24:47 The Lord led me as I was in the way

Many times – God just tells you what you need to start doing. And as you start obeying, the rest of the leading and direction begins to unfold.

Acts 8:29 Philip – Go get on the chariot.

Acts 11:12 Peter – Go with these strangers.

Take incremental steps.

Illustration: We had to go looking for a place, before we could find the right one.

## #4. Don't lean on your own understanding

Proverbs 3:5,6      Proverbs 16:9

Use your understanding – but don't lean (rely) solely on it.

God's leading supersedes your understanding.

Exercise your faith in God.

Illustration: Manipal SSC (1989 December)

Proposing to Amy (Nov 1993)

## #5. Once you have taken your next step – Don't waver

Matthew 14:22-33

Once you have taken the next step – an uninvited guest may show up: Satan

- Even if you have to work hard – remember God is with you.



- Even if there are delays – remember God is with you.
- Even if you have bouts of discouragement – remember God is with you.
- Even if there are disappointments – remember God is with you.
- Even if you feel confused – remember God is with you.
- Even if you feel you made a mistake – remember God is with you.

Take The Next Step!  
Enjoy your walk with God.



WE RESPECT YOUR INTERNET TIME AND EMAIL PRIVACY. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER EMAILS FROM ALL PEOPLES CHURCH, PLEASE REPLY WITH THE SUBJECT "UNSUBSCRIBE" AND YOUR EMAIL ID WILL BE DELETED FROM OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST. THANK YOU.