

Growing in your Faith 2 Pt 3:18

"Grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ"

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday April 26, 2026

Learning to "walk by Faith" is not entirely unlike learning to walk physically in that both require:

- Someone to help "guide" us. (*Encourage and Teach us how to walk.*)
- Someone to help "guard" us. (*Protect us, help identify obstacles that might trip us up.*)
- Someone to help "grow" us. (*Encourage us to develop our muscles and skill*) Heb 5:14

Walking by Faith involves a series of choices, as well as occasional "crises"! The word crisis comes from krisis meaning: "*a decision or turning point (in a disease).*" They often lead us to defining moments in our Faith Journey that prompt (pressure) us to consider and commit to new directions!

As such, God can use such times to help guide as well as grow our Faith! James 1:2

Faith journeys often follow a Pattern.

1. Usually Begins as Curiosity: Jn 1:29-43

A. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist.

- 1) He heard John say: "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (v36)
- 2) Andrew decided to follow Jesus. Vs 37-40 *"...Rabbi... (Master), where dwellest thou?...come and see"*
- 3) He shares with Peter. John 1:40-42 *"He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, (the Christ) And he brought him to Jesus."*

Who did God use to introduce you to Christ?

Who have you introduced to Him? Mt 10:8

B. Both became part of a "crowd" Luke 5

- 1) Jesus *"taught the people"* From Peter's Boat! Vs 3 (They become a "captive" audience.)
 - 2) The seed (truth) must be sown to take root. (Mt 13:3-23; Romans 10:9-14)
- Ro 10:17 *"faith comes by hearing... the word of God."* Faith (pistis) means persuasion, conviction!

What truths has God Taught you?

How have they shaped your life and choices?

2. Curiosity becomes Conviction. Mt. 4; Lk 4

A. Began with a Call to Repentance. Mt 4:17 *"Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."*

- 1) This echoed the message of John the Baptist. (Lk 3:3)
- 2) This was a consistent theme of Jesus. Lk 13:3,5; Mk 6:12;
- 3) Peter echoed this theme at Pentecost. Acts 2:37-38

B. Revealed/awakened through the truth. Lk 5 Jesus *"taught the people"*

C. Reinforced with Relationship! Lk 5:3-8 Jesus:

- 1) Spent the day with them in their boat.
- 2) Cared about their needs. Vs 5 *"we have toiled all night and taken nothing"*
- 3) Gave specific directions. 4 *"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught"*
 - a) To test obedience. Vs 5 *"Master, (Epistat'ēs: commander!) We've have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word, I will let down the net."*
 - b) To teach a lesson. 6-7 *"when they had ... they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."* (Possibly because of their partial obedience)
 - c) This Blessed/involve others. 6-7 *"they beckoned to their partners...in the other ship..."*

How might Your responses to God be affecting those around you?

D. This challenged Peter. Lk 5:8-11 *“When Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”* Kyrios: Supreme Authority!

1) He recognized both Jesus and himself! (Clarity/conviction is evidence of a heart repentance.)

**Do you see Jesus as a “Master” (Commander)
or your Lord (Supreme Authority)?**

How might your partial obedience be affecting your life?

How about its effect on others?

3. Conviction leads to a Call: *“Follow Me”* Mt 4:19

A. This call produces a Choice. Luke 5:10-11

1) It’s challenging. *“Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.”*

2) It’s life changing. *“from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And ... they forsook all, and followed him”*

B. Following Christ involves a cost.

1) What did this call “cost” them? Their Families?

2) How did Jesus provide for them?

C. Jesus spoke about the risks of following Him. Mt 16:24-26 *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: (apollymi: waste, ruin, destroy) and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Heuriskō: perceive, obtain) For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or ... give in exchange for his soul?”*

D. Jesus spoke about the Rewards of following Him Mt 16:27 *“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father ... and then he shall reward every man (apodidōmi: recompense) according to his works”*

1) After the Rich Young Ruler walks away from Jesus in Mt 19:16-22; Peter asks Jesus: 27-30 *“Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, (10,000%!) and shall inherit everlasting life.”*

Conclusion:

Curiosity → Conviction → Call

This process didn’t complete their journey, *But it did set the pace for the next phase of their journey!*

Their responses moved them forward in their journey of Faith. *Why do we expect that ours should/would involve anything less? 1 Cor 10:11*

Application:

The call to discipleship hasn’t changed!

Mt 16:24 “If any ... will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Where are you in your faith journey?

What’s keeping you from the next step?