

Faith



LOVE



Flying Water



The Feet of the Cross



Good Shepherd - Lost & Found

FOOTPRINTS  
TO.....S  
A CLOSER WALK



The Sower



Joyful

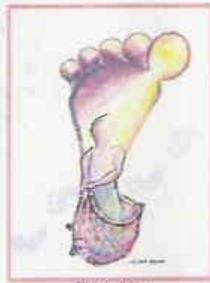


Wise & Foolish

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE  
ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES



Widow's Offering



Fishers of Men



Come Follow Me



Prayer & Care

## INTRODUCTIONS



Hi! I am Catherine Price and I live in the small town of Aliceville, Kansas. I am a member of the Mont Ida Church of the Brethren. I have been married to my husband, James, for 28 years. I have just recently retired from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington, Kansas where I worked in the Accounting Dept. for 17 years. For the last 10 years, I have taught the Young Adult Sunday School Class and I also help to lead the singing. I began writing a newsletter for our church in September of 2007, shortly after my "inspiration" came at the Western Plains District Conference. Connie Rhodes' Footprint Art was displayed in the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren and our theme was "Come...Follow Jesus." Connie has graciously allowed me to use her art in the Newsletter and I have done so through 2007 and 2008. In 2009, I published several newsletters that were consolidations of several months. My last newsletter was in August 2009. After this I felt God's calling to begin a Daily Devotional Book based on these Footprints. I talked to Connie about my idea and she was very excited about it and has been a constant inspiration in her willingness to share all of her art so freely. Since that time I have been working on each month's devotionals which, looking at the cover of the book, you can see on your top left, the theme of "Faith" and going across the top, you see the themes of "Love", and "The Foot of the Cross" "The Living Water -The Holy Spirit". Next, is "The Sower" and on down the right side; "The Wise and Foolish Virgins". This is the first Volume. I will be working on the Second Volume in the months to come. Please enjoy this six-month study in the meantime. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call or text me at: 1-785-204-2938.



Connie Rhodes would like to extend her greetings to you all. In the above photo, she is doing her art presentation before an audience at Salina, Kansas in April of 2008, at the Western Plains District Ladies Retreat. Her talents became apparent to many of the "Brethren" when we came to the District Conference in July, 2007. She had been given the task of creating artwork that depicted the Conference theme: "Come, Follow Jesus" Each of her original designs were in the form of a footprint and artistically portrayed a Bible story or theme. The original paintings were displayed around the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren where the Conference was held. As we saw at the Ladies' Retreat the next year, she is so much more talented. Her presentation includes; painting a beautiful scene while talking to the audience. This usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes. She is a very funny lady. You can see all of her artwork on her website: [www.artbyrhodes.com](http://www.artbyrhodes.com). Connie has been a member of the Newton Church of the Brethren for 22 years and is also the Church Clerk, as well as serving on the Church Board and teaching Sunday School where needed.

**VOLUME ONE**

**FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK**

**WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE**

**ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES**

**FEATURING---**

- 1. THE FAITH FOOTPRINT**
- 2. THE LOVE FOOTPRINT**
- 3. THE LIVING WATER FOOTPRINT( HOLY SPIRIT)**
- 4. THE FOOT OF THE CROSS FOOTPRINT**
- 5. THE SOWER FOOTPRINT**
- 6. WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS FOOTPRINT**

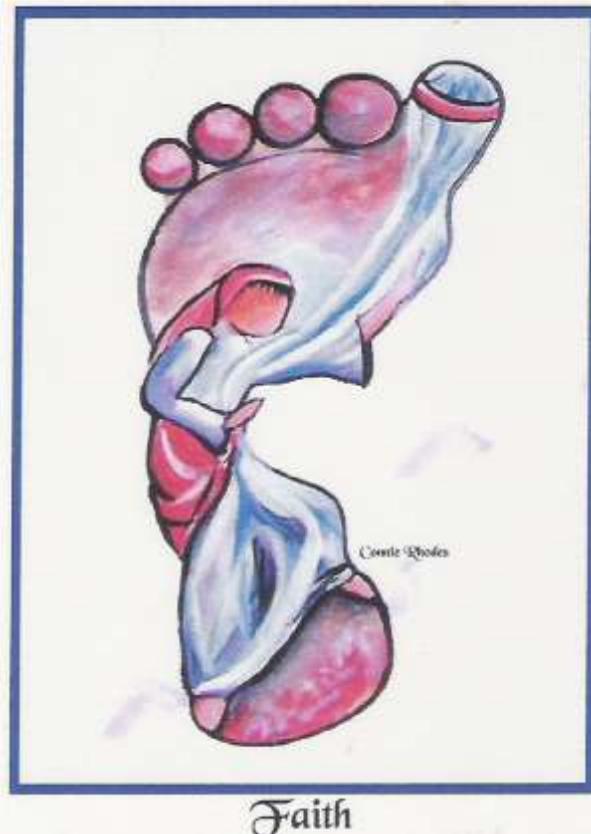
FOOTPRINTS TO..  
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter ONE

"FAITH"

JANUARY Devotional

"IF ONLY I was worthy to touch his robe...Jesus says: 'who touched me?' I felt you and I want to know you!' Have faith and stand tall...reach out and touch Him. He already knows who you are...You have to make that choice to reach out and touch even if it's just the end of His garment." . - Connie Rhodes



*Faith-Matthew 9:19-22: "And when Jesus and the disciples were going to the rabbi's house, a woman who had been sick for twelve years with internal bleeding came up behind Him and touched a tassel of His robe, for she thought, "If I only touch Him, I will be healed." Jesus turned around and spoke to her, "Daughter," He said, "all is well! Your faith has healed you." And the woman was well from that moment."*

*What a wonderful testimony to the power of faith! What if you could be close enough to Jesus to touch even the hem of His garment? Would you? Connie asks the question: "If only I was worthy enough to touch His robe," (Am I worthy enough to touch even His robe?) Jesus answers, "Who touched Me? I felt you and I want to know you!" Praise the name of Jesus! We do not have to be worthy.—All we have to do is reach out and touch Him and open our own hearts by believing, and He will come in. That is all of the faith that we need. Matthew 9 is a chapter of Miracles! A paralyzed boy was made to walk; Jesus brought a little girl back to life; He cast out a demon from a man who was mute and then he could speak; and He healed two blind men! And this woman reached out and touched Him and was healed. We can do the same today, even though Jesus is not physically with us. His Spirit is here. He wants to change our paralysis into a vital walk. He wants to heal our blindness to see His truth. He wants to bring us from death into New Life and cast out the demon that is keeping us Mute and give us Lips that Praise His Glorious Name!*

FOOTPRINTS TO..  
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter ONE

"FAITH"

JANUARY Devotional

Week ONE

"DEFINING FAITH"

**DAY ONE -----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month.....First Week**  
**(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)**



**MEASURE YOUR FAITH**

**Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-3**

**"And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind He can accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think.(NKJV: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind) Then you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you. As God's messenger I give each of you God's warning: Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you."(Living version)**

**Happy New Year! This is the first day of the rest of your life! This is a good time to take stock of your life and evaluate your progress on your journey with the Lord. This is a new beginning, either because it is a new year and you have just started this devotional or because you are starting this as a Bible Study. In the scripture above, we read that we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what the will of God is. To renew your mind you are to remember your vows to God, to remember all of the things that have brought you to where you are now, and to refresh yourself...thanking God for all of the blessings He has bestowed and asking Him for His will to be manifested in your life.**

**At this time, you need to think about your "Faith Walk". Evaluate yourself, prayerfully. Are you growing? Are you learning? Are you "practicing your faith...and exercising those "faith muscles"? In the above scripture it is very important to notice that there is a "warning" from God. "Be honest in your estimate of yourself". How much faith God has given you = your real value. Have you used His gift wisely? Present yourself before the Lord as a living sacrifice, giving yourself to Him fully, realizing that to do so is your spiritual act of worship (NIV) and your reasonable service (NKJV).**

**Prayer**

**Dear Lord, thank You for bringing me through this past year safely and blessing me with so many blessings. Thank you for Your gift of faith, especially, which has seen me through all of those times of doubt and fear. I give You all of myself, to be used of You in whatever way You see fit.**

**Show me the way You would have me to go, and "Not my will but Thine be done." In Jesus name, Amen**



**DAY THREE -----CHAPTER ONE**

**First Month.....First Week  
(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)**



**MUSTARD SEED FAITH**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:20 (Living)

**(The disciples were not able to cast out a demon from a boy and asked Jesus why) "Because of your little faith, Jesus told them, For if you had faith even as small as a tiny mustard seed you could say to this mountain "move" and it would go far away. Nothing would be impossible!**

**On Day One I asked you to honestly evaluate your amount of faith. Our scripture told us that our value was in how much faith God had given us. In other words, God will give us as much faith as we are ready to take on. Even a mustard seed faith can be very powerful, according to Jesus. Jesus is trustworthy, so we can believe His words.**

**The seeds in you that started you growing and finally beginning your faith-journey, were very small. Even smaller than a mustard seed! When a mustard tree is grown it stands 10 to 12 feet tall!**

**Your faith grows when you water it with the Word of God and let the light of Jesus' son-shine soak into your very roots. Finally, you must exercise that faith by following Jesus when He tells you what it is that He wants you to do.**

**What is it that Jesus wants you to do today for His glory?**

**Prayer**

**Father, thank you for helping my "seed- faith" to grow. It is gratifying to know that even Jesus' disciples were lacking in faith, and that I only have to have a small amount in order to do great things. Obedience is the Key. Help my faith to grow, Oh Lord, and forgive me when I sin against You by not doing what You want me to do. Show me what it is that You are wanting me to do today for Your glory and give me the faith and trust to do it in full obedience to You.**

**In Jesus name, Amen**









FOOTPRINTS TO..  
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter ONE

"FAITH"

JANUARY Devotional

Week TWO

"HEROES OF FAITH"

**DAY EIGHT -----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month.....Second Week**  
**(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)**



**HEROES OF FAITH - Abel's Offering**

**Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-4; Gen. 4:2-7(Living)**

**"What is Faith?**

**It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead. Men of God in days of old were famous for their faith. By faith - by believing God - we know that the world and the stars, in fact, all things, were made at God's command; and that they were all made from things that can't be seen. It was by faith that Abel obeyed God and brought an offering that pleased God more than Cain's offering did. God accepted Abel and proved it by accepting his gift; and though Abel is long dead, we can still learn lessons from him about trusting God."**

**Our first hero of faith is Abel. He was the younger brother of Cain, and apparently, they were the first two offspring of fallen Adam and Eve. We are not given much information but know that Cain's offering to the Lord of fruits and/or vegetables was not acceptable. Abel's offering of his very best lamb was acceptable to God.**

**God told Cain, upon seeing his angry disappointment, "Why is your face so dark with rage? It can be bright with joy if you will do what you should! But if you refuse to obey, watch out! Sin is waiting to attack you, longing to destroy you! But you can conquer it!" Apparently, Cain knew what was pleasing to God, but instead chose to dishonor God by his offering. He was given a chance to repent, but instead let his anger fester and ended up murdering his own brother.**

**There was knowledge there of God's preferences and God's Law about giving Him an offering, otherwise Cain would not have displeased God. It was because he knew but refused to obey. As we know, later on God ordained blood sacrifices that were God's way of atonement for sin for the Israelites and a picture of what would become the blood sacrifice given by our spotless Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world.**

**Prayer**

**Dear Lord, search me and show me if I have dishonored You in any way with my offering. Help me to know Your will concerning what You find acceptable from me. Help me be pleasing to You as a living sacrifice. Help me to give You more of myself. In Jesus Name, Amen**

DAY NINE -----CHAPTER ONE  
First Month..... Second Week  
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)



**HEROES OF FAITH - Noah's Ark of Faith**

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:7(Living)

**"Noah was another who trusted God.**

**When he heeded God's warning about the future, Noah believed Him even though there was then no sign of a flood. And wasting no time, he built the Ark and saved his family. Noah's belief in God was in direct contrast to the sin and disbelief of the rest of the world - which refused to obey - and because of his faith he became one of those whom God has accepted."**

Here is a little background profile on Noah found in Genesis 6:7-12(summarized) "He was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time. He tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will. Meanwhile the crime rate was rising rapidly across the earth and seen by God to be rotten to the core."

So God told Noah to build a big boat and fill it with every species of animal, reptile and fowls of the air. There must be a male and female of each kind. Noah did exactly as God had commanded him. It didn't matter to Noah that he was 500 years old when he started building, and it didn't matter that it took him 100 years to build it, it certainly didn't seem to be a problem that there had never been rain up to this time. He trusted God, and believed God, and Obeyed God! WOW! Now that's FAITH! Imagine how his family must have respected this faith, for they all helped him in his work and that took a lot of faith too!

Do you respect other people's faith in God? How can you build stronger respect in others, so that when you tell them about God they will listen?

Prayer

Dear Father, help me to be like Noah, for just as in Noah's time, You tell us in Your Word that the end of time will come when that state of mind will be the same. And You will gather all of Your people together into the safety of Your Ark, but the wicked will be destroyed. You gave Noah 100 years to warn others and get prepared. Oh My Lord, help me to begin to warn others that the Day of the Lord is coming so that they too will be saved. Praise my dear Savior for keeping me safe in His arms. In Jesus Name I Pray, Amen









**DAY FOURTEEN-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month..... Second Week**  
**(Devotional)------(Bible Study)**



**HERO OF FAITH - King David**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 23(paraphrased from Living)**

**"Oh Lord, because You are my Shepherd**

**I have everything that I need! You let me rest in the meadow grass and lead me beside the quiet streams. You restore my failing health. You help me do what honors You the most. Even when I am walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way. Thank you for providing such delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as Your guest; my blessings overflow! Praise**

**You! Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all my life, and afterwards I will live with You forever in Your home. Amen."**

**David was a shepherd boy in Bethlehem who traded his pasture for a palace and became Israel's second king. The most honored in all the nation's history. David was the youngest son of a sheep herder named Jesse. Surprisingly, David was not entirely Jewish. His great-grandmother, Ruth, (also a Heroine of faith) came from what is now the Arab country of Jordan. God sent the prophet, Samuel, to Bethlehem on a secret mission to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the future king. Samuel immediately recognized that David was God's choice. So Samuel poured olive oil over David and the Spirit of God came brightly upon him from that day on.(taken from 1 Samuel 16). When David found the land that would later be called Jerusalem, he proclaimed it "The City of David". His astonishing success as the King of Israel is one important reason that centuries later, when Israel was occupied and oppressed by invaders, the people prayed for God to send a "son of David" to free them. Jesus Christ was referred to as this very thing, in several scriptures. Before David became a Giant killer, he was a "music therapist" for King Saul. His love for music, along with 73 Psalms that he wrote and referred to as "A Psalm of David" led to his setting up a music ministry at the Worship Center appointing the musicians and their assistants. David was not the picture of saintly perfection - but he was a man who trusted God and did his best to serve Him and asked for forgiveness when he failed, for he knew the Source of his greatness.**

**Prayer - Psalms 51:10-13 (NJK)**

**"Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You." Amen**

FOOTPRINTS TO..  
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter ONE  
"FAITH"

JANUARY Devotional

Week THREE  
"SPELL F-A-I-T-H"

**DAY FIFTEEN-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month-----Third Week**  
**(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)**



**OUR SUPER HERO**

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4 (Living)

"Since we have such a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands, let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us. Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterwards; and now He sits in the place of honor by the throne of God. If you want to keep from becoming fainthearted and weary, think about His patience as sinful men did such terrible things to Him. After all, you have never yet struggled against sin and temptation until you sweat great drops of blood."

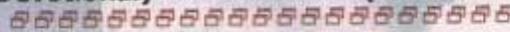
**Above and beyond all heroes, of course, is Jesus Christ. He is above every leader, King, or hero in the Bible. What He has done and who He is, is so much more than any other person has ever done or been. He is the one on whom our faith rests!**

**I love what the writer of Hebrews says about the crowd of men of faith. Imagine all of those heroes we have just studied about, watching us and cheering us on! What a tremendous teaching! Tomorrow's devotion will be a poem that I wrote many years ago when my faith was just blossoming.**

**Scripture Prayer from Galatians**

*Father, thank you for reminding us of our forefathers who were justified by their great faith in you and received from you this blessing, "I will bless those in every nation, who trust in me" and all of us who trust in you as our forefathers did also receive a blessing from you. But your curse is upon those who fall back into trying to be good enough because you have said that the only way we can ever be good in your sight is by faith. Thank You, precious Savior, for bringing us out from under the doom of that impossible system of law by taking the curse for our wrongdoing upon yourself. Now we have God's blessing and have been given the Holy Spirit through this faith; and He is faithful to keep His promise and has written it down and signed it. It is the everlasting covenant between our Father and we who trust Him. We know now that the law had its purposes in showing us our sins, they were our teacher and guide until Christ came to give us right standing with God through our faith. But now that Christ is our Savior, we are all children of God and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. There is no division between Jew or Greek, black or white, rich or poor, male or female. We are all christians; we are one in Christ Jesus, and are heirs of the promises and blessings you gave our forefathers and now belong to us! Hallelujah! Amen!*

**DAY SIXTEEN-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month.....Third Week**  
**(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)**



**UNQUENCHABLE FAITH**

Faith is putting all your eggs in one basket;  
and knowing God will answer your need before you ask it!

Faith is counting your chickens before they hatch;  
and using your talents and time to match!

Faith is the Key to our Power Plant!  
Through Faith we can conquer a Giant -

We can make hills of Mountains -  
or change Seas to fountains!

If only we have Faith in God's Power;  
His blessings of Strength and Courage He'll shower !

Through faith-we can make life dynamically charged!  
With God leading our lives, each moment's enlarged!

God uses our lives - as much as we'll give Him -  
He grants to us all that our faith can envision!

If we could just realize what faith can do;  
We'd be a Mighty Army!...  
Just Me and You!

Future Prayer from Ephesians out of the Living Version

I pray, Lord, that our hearts will be flooded with light so we can see our future You have called us to share with You and each other. I pray that we will begin to understand just how incredibly great Your power is to help us who believe. It is that same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at Your right hand in heaven, far above any other king or ruler and yes, Lord, You have put all things under Christ's feet and made Him the supreme head of the Church, which is His body, filled with Himself, the author and giver of everything and everyone. When I think of the wisdom and scope of Your plan, Father of all in this great family, I fall to my knees in prayer, giving thanks for those who are already in heaven and for the rest here on earth. I want to pray that out of Your glorious unlimited resources You will give us the mighty strengthening power of the Holy Spirit, and I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in our hearts, living in us as we trust Him more and more. All Glory be to You, Lord, for Your mighty power is at work within us and is able to do far more than we could ever dare to ask or even dream of - infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes. We give you praise and glory forever and ever through endless ages because of your master plan of salvation for the church through Jesus Christ! Amen

*CR*

DAY SEVENTEEN-----CHAPTER ONE  
First Month-----Third Week  
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)



I want to take the word "faith" and use each letter to examine very closely, what faith is.

F -

**Fully Rely on God**

A -

**Act on His Direction**

I -

**Imitate Christ**

T -

**Talk to God often**

H -

**Honor God with your offerings**

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:4-6 (Living)

**"If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."**

**So, first, let's talk about "Fully Relying on God". We see in Proverbs that this will be a very rewarding experience. Fully means completely, and relying means trusting Him to the point of "leaning" on Him for support. We are never to trust ourselves! OK, this one is tricky. We have talked about being a person who is trustworthy. This verse about never trusting ourselves is for everyone. So how can anyone else find us trustworthy, if they are not supposed to trust anyone but God? We just need to check with Him first, and then if He tells us we can trust the other fellow in things that pertain to everyday living, or in being a leader in the church or a teacher of a Bible Study, then we can be confident that this is God's man/woman and if it is we who are trustworthy, make sure that we are taking our direction from God and not "leaning on our own understanding." Yes!**

**"Lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him!" (original version of same verses in Proverbs) I am sure that you are familiar with the acronym of this: F.R.O.G.**

**Prayer**

**Lord, thank you for Your wisdom in all areas of my life. Thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit, so that I would be given the opportunity to be transformed into the very thing that You want me to be. Help me to be given the discernment to know who is trustworthy in my life, and help me to always completely trust You first with everything I do, and every decision that I make, help me to remember to pass it by You first for your approval.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen**



DAY NINETEEN-----CHAPTER ONE  
First Month-----Third Week  
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)



F -

Fully Rely on God

A -

Act on His Direction

**I** -

**Imitate Christ**

T -

Talk to God often

H -

Honor God with your offerings

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5: 1-2 (NKJ)

"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." 1 John 2:1-3-6:"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him" and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him; he who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

This seems like a mighty tall order. But do not be afraid...when we imitate Jesus and walk as He walked, we have a lot of help. It is easy to get a little confused here as well. First we read about how we were saved by faith not by works, and that we didn't have to go by a set of rules anymore. Now we are told that faith without works is dead, and that we must keep His commandments.

We know that we are saved by faith, now we can keep His commandments, and do good works for Him, whereas before we were saved, we were unable to do these things.

The thing about imitating someone...we aren't going to do it right, unless we know Him. When we know Him, He comes into our heart, and we are now allowing Him to live through us. We are only His hands and His feet, but the Power is all His! The only way that others can see Jesus in us (this is imitating) is if we become transparent!

**Prayer**

**My Precious Lord, help me to know You better, so that I may be an imitator of Christ. I know that this is the only way that others can see You, is through me... being transparent with them and relying fully on God; just openly sharing with them what You have done in my life. Praise Your Name, Amen**

**DAY TWENTY-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month-----Third Week**  
**(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)**



F -

Fully Rely on God

A -

Act on His Direction

I -

Imitate Christ

**T -**

**Talk to God often**

H -

Honor God with your offerings

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18 (Living)

"Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies--the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up. But to do this you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit--which is the Word of God. Pray all the time! Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere."

**Proper preparation and putting on of the armor is vital! Never try to fight satan without the proper equipment. Our communication with God is vital, but satan will try to discourage us from reaching Him in a hundred ways. Having said all of that - do you stay in close contact with God? That's your best defense against satan.**

**Prayer**

Lord, as I pray, I bind satan and plead the blood of Jesus all around me so that I can be covered with all of the protection that the armor of God provides. Thank you Lord that You have so much for me so that I will be protected in my battle against satan. Forgive me Lord for the sin I have committed today. Cleanse my heart of any bitterness or anger. Let Your Love flow through me now to those who need to know You. In Jesus name,

**Amen**

**DAY TWENTY-ONE-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month-----Third Week**  
**(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)**



F -

Fully Rely on God

A -

Act on His Direction

I -

Imitate Christ

T -

Talk to God often

**H -**

**Honor God with your offerings**

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:9-10 (Living)

**"Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines."**

Just as Cain's offering wasn't pleasing to God, so ours too, may not be pleasing. Here are some of the reasons why this could be:

- 1.** Do I give Him the first tenth of my income? It is a real struggle for many of us to do this. There just doesn't seem to be enough to go around. But, this has to be an act of faith! Before we ever sit down and figure out the bills we should go ahead and make out the check for the tithe. This way He can take that money and spread it around over all the other bills and somehow, miraculously, the bills will be paid. If we put Him first, He promises to bless us!
- 2.** Am I a cheerful giver? Or is it painful for me to part with my riches? We need to remember the riches do not belong to us; they are God's. He wants us to show our love and respect to Him by giving it as an offering to be used to further His Kingdom. Leave it up to Him how this is to be done. I think that this is the hardest test of faith in our lives, giving our money to God to use as He sees fit. It is to be given to the "storehouse" which is our local church. Our churches should begin learning how to distribute to the poor and needy again like they did in the first century church! Not to be put in a CD and gather interest!
- 3.** If we are harboring bad feelings toward one of our brothers in Christ, we are to settle the problem before we give our offering. This can also be interpreted, if we owe any one any money that is overdue we must pay that first.
- 4.** We should never give an offering to be seen of men. If we are just showing off, God doesn't want the offering. It may be necessary to give it in secret if we have a problem in this area.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, I thank You for Your wisdom in commanding us to give back a tenth of our income. It helps us to remember whose it is in the first place, and it is such an exciting principle. To see You at work in my life, helping me to make ends meet, somehow, even if it doesn't figure out on paper. It is one more way that You help our faith to grow. In Jesus name, Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO..  
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter ONE

"FAITH"

JANUARY Devotional

Week FOUR

"PROOF OF FAITH"

**DAY TWENTY-TWO-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month.....Fourth Week**  
**(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)**



**FAITH IS PROOF**

**Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1 (Living)**

**"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of the things not seen."**

**What does faith look like? You laugh..but this verse tells us that faith is the substance of things hoped for - evidence of the invisible. Things hoped for are not visible - they are in the future. But our belief in those future events - everlasting life, answered prayer, changed lives, healed bodies, healed marriages, etc., etc., are the proof that they are going to happen. Our belief that they will happen because God has provided keeps us trusting Him as we pray for all of these events to happen on earth. The only thing we don't have to pray for is everlasting life - we already have obtained this. It is part of the deal. Our salvation agreement is already signed and our names are already written in the Lamb's Book of Life. So faith looks like; assurance, confidence, joy, freedom, love, peace, kindness, self-control, patience, holiness, goodness, humility etc. etc. People should be able to see our faith by looking at our actions and our attitudes. This is the only evidence there is that we have faith in God. Why do we want our faith to show? It isn't because we are showing off, we just want to be a good witness for Christ, and this is what happens naturally, whenever we are living for Him, our faith shows up in some way to others, and then they can be encouraged toward finding a relationship with Jesus, just as we have.**

**Is your faith showing today? Let it all hang out! It is supposed to show!**

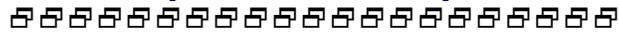
**Prayer**

**"Lord, help me today, to show my faith by my actions and attitudes. I know that there is someone who is surely looking at me and I pray my faith will shine into their lives in some way; helping them to believe in you too! In Jesus precious name I pray, Amen"**

**DAY TWENTY-THREE-----CHAPTER ONE**

**First Month-----Fourth Week**

**(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)**



**FAITH IS ACTION**

Scripture Reading: James 1:17-18, 22(NIV) 2:12-17 (Living)

"But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow. And it was a happy day for him when he gave us our new lives, through the truth of his Word, and we became, as it were, the first children in his new family." "But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was." "If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him. He will not resent it. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way, and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer." "You will be judged on whether or not you are doing what Christ wants you to. So watch what you do and what you think; for there will be no mercy to those who have shown no mercy. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you. Dear brothers, what's the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren't proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone? If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing and you say to him, "well, goodbye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty" and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do? So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith at all--it is dead and useless."

To begin our Faith-walk a mustard seed faith was given to us as a gift to be grown into a fruit. This Faith Key helps us to grow the other fruits. Our faith can now be seen by others through our acts of righteousness. There is much to do, and as we see, the mustard seed of faith needs the living water, and the pruning of discipline and patience and suffering, and the Son Shine of obedience and trust to grow the fruit into the ripeness of abundance of harvest. As Jesus says in John 15, we cannot grow fruit unless we abide in Him. He is our nourishment. Without Him we can do nothing! So our faith must be acted upon to be seen, and it cannot be done without our abiding in Christ! Are you abiding? What is abiding? "Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit!" Abiding is living in Him, as He lives in you! We know He came into our lives (hearts) when we accepted His salvation and received Him and opened our heart's door and He came in. But what does it look like to "Live In Him?" In what way are we "In Christ?"

**Prayer**

"Oh Lord, as much as it is possible, let me abide in Christ Jesus every day. So close to Him as He is inside my own heart. May I be inside His heart, loving Him, obeying Him, talking together, being alive and well In Jesus, Amen"

**DAY TWENTY-FOUR-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month-----Fourth Week**  
**(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)**



**FAITH IS A FRUIT**

Scripture Reading: Galations 5:22-25(KJV) 11 Peter 1:5-10(NKJV)

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. Against such there is no law."**

**"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."**

This first list has always been our guideline for the "fruits of the Spirit". However, these characteristics listed in Peter's second epistle I believe to be an exciting revelation from God. As you recall, Jesus gave Peter the keys of the Kingdom. We find this in Matt.16:19. Notice the above scripture where Peter says that an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly in the everlasting Kingdom. We need a Key to obtain entrance. We have been given our Faith-Key and we have entered the Kingdom. He says if we do these things we will never stumble. What is it we are to do? He uses the phrase "these things" several times here. He has given us a principle: Adding those characteristics or fruits to our faith-key will assure us of never being barren or unfruitful. I believe these are the Keys of the Kingdom! He never calls them that, nor does he call them fruits, but he does mention fruitfulness. At the beginning of the First Chapter of Second Peter he says: "To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." WOW! Just as we learned from James that our faith alone is not enough, Peter gives us the keys to abundant living in the Kingdom! Let us work on these fruits/keys in the months ahead, in the order we see them.

**Prayer**

**"Lord, how wonderful it is to realize that everything in Your Word is just so exciting! Concept upon concept, precept upon precept, principle upon principle. You give us so much to learn and marvel at. More and more treasures from Your Storehouse. Thank you so much for this teaching. In Jesus Name, Amen**







**DAY TWENTY-EIGHT-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month----- Fourth Week**  
**(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)**



**FAITH IS THE VICTORY**

Scripture Reading (NKJV) 1 John 5:4-5

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world! And this is the Victory that has overcome the world - our faith! Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (vs 10-15) "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has Life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. Now this is the confidence that we have in Him-- that\*IF we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And \*if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (verse 18 and 20): We \*know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him! And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is True-in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the True God and Eternal Life!" 1Peter 1:18-23: "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him \*believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have purified your souls in \*obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been \*born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever"

**Our faith is victorious over all the power of the enemy! How empowering to know that we have power over sin, over the devil, and in prayer! God gives us victory in every area of our lives, see the "\*IF" above and match the asterisks to find the "answer!" The hidden message to us who believe is underlined above for emphasis so that we would be encouraged and receive all the joy and hope our little hearts can hold! *"Faith is the victory, Faith is the victory, Oh Wonderful Victory, that overcomes the World!" Now Sing "Victory in Jesus" as your prayer today!***

*Victory in Jesus, My Savior Forever, You sought me and You bought me, with Your redeeming Blood! You plunged me to Victory, beneath the cleansing flood!" Praise You forever, In Jesus Name, Amen*

FOOTPRINTS TO..  
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter ONE  
"FAITH"

JANUARY Devotional

Week FIVE

"AWESOME TRUTHS"

**DAY TWENTY-NINE-----CHAPTER ONE**  
**First Month.....Fifth Week**  
**(Devotional)------(Bible Study)**



**BORN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH**

**Scripture Reading (NKJV) 1 John 2:28-3:2**

"And now, little children, abide in Him. That when He appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. Beloved, now we are Children of God and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is! verse 6 - Whoever abides in Him, does not sin. Whoever sins, has neither seen Him nor knows Him. verse 9 - whoever has been born of God does not sin for His seed remains in him and he cannot sin because he has been born of God."

**John 3:3 -"Jesus answered, Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." verse 5 -"...unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." verse 13-17:"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man, who is in heaven, and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved."**

**Are you born again? The Bible tells us that we were "birthed" from incorruptible seed. (yesterdays' scripture) This is the seed of God. It is the Spirit portion and then there is the water portion. That's the Word. So we were reborn by the seed being planted in us by faith after reading or hearing the Word of God that gave us the free gift of faith! This same water then was also used to help the seed to grow! These things brought about our Re-Birth! We are new creatures! (There will be much more about seed in the month of the year that we study that subject.)**

**Prayer**

**Father, thank You for being my True Father, knowing that I needed faith to come to Jesus so that I could be born again into eternal life so that my new life could be truly pleasing to You. Now old things have passed away and Behold - All things are New - In Jesus, Amen**

DAY THIRTY-----CHAPTER ONE  
First Month-----Fifth Week  
(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)



**A NEW CREATION -by Faith**

Scripture Reading (NKJV) 11 Cor. 5:16-19; Ephesians 4:11-13

**"Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new! And now, ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD! who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them and has committed to us the Word of Reconciliation. Now, then, we are Ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (6:1) We then are workers together with Him and I plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says "For in an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the Day of Salvation I have helped you. Behold Now is the accepted time, Behold now is the Day of Salvation!" "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to a Perfect Man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ! ( vs. 21-24:) "If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus; that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."**

**If you are born again, then you are a new creation! That is what it is all about. You trust Christ to save you, and then you are born again and you have become a Brand New Creation. These scriptures are Key in your understanding of what you should "Look Like"! There is a great little test that you can take that tells you which one of the five ministries you are most fitted to. This is the ministry that God has gifted you for. You will find your place as you grow in the Church and work in different areas. God will guide you to the ministry that you have been empowered to do, simply by "putting on the "New Man" to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!"**

**Prayer**

**Praise You, Father, thank You for showing me that every day of my life should be the day of salvation as I re-commit myself to You daily, as that Living Sacrifice; freshly each day. Let this truly be the First Day of the Rest of My Eternal Life! In Jesus Precious Name, Amen**

DAY THIRTY-ONE-----CHAPTER ONE  
First Month.....Fifth Week  
(Devotional)------(Bible Study)



**FAITH WOULD BE EMPTY**

**Scripture Reading (NKJV) 1 Cor. 15:14-21;15:50-58 (Living)**

**"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up-if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile: you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is Risen from the Dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep!"**

**"I tell you this, my brothers, an earthly body made of flesh and blood cannot get into God's Kingdom. These perishable bodies of ours are not the right kind to live forever. But I am telling you this strange and wonderful secret; we shall not all die, but we shall all be given new bodies. It will all happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when the Last Trumpet is blown! For there will be a trumpet blast from the sky and all the Christians who have died will suddenly become alive, with new bodies that will never, never die; and then, we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies too. For our earthly bodies, the ones we have now that can die, must be transformed into heavenly bodies that cannot perish but will live forever. When this happens, then at last this scripture will come true**

**"Death is swallowed up in victory. Oh death, where then your victory? Where then your sting? For sin-the sting that causes death-will all be gone, and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge. How we thank God for all of this! It is He who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!" What a fitting conclusion to our study on "FAITH"! We have traveled on a journey that took us many places that brought us much more understanding, knowledge and wisdom of God's unfathomable ways and sights that brought us much insight into God's Word. Today we are transported to a time in the future when we will be given our "Prize" and our "Reward" and the culmination of a life-long quest - Salvation in the visible Resurrection of all of us! What a Day of Rejoicing that will be - when we all see Jesus - We'll Sing and Shout the Victory!**

**Prayer**

**Praise You, Father, and Praise You, My wonderful Savior! For lifting me up this day so that I can have a better look at You both! It is so exciting for me to know what lies ahead waiting for me in Heaven! You have promised me a Mansion, and You have told me that You will be back for me and will take me with You! My Precious Bridegroom, I believe that You will sweep me up in Your strong arms and carry me to Your Home that You have been preparing for me and we will live happily ever after! Please help me today to share this with someone who needs to also be lifted up. In Jesus Name Amen**

