Walking by Faith: Listening, Obeying & Waiting on God

We can live by faith because God is:

Faithful • Trustworthy • Present

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1. God speaks - are we listening?

Noah was able to hear God because he walked closely with Him.

> **Genesis 6:8-9** – But Noah found favour with the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

What can we learn?

- Walk closely with God.
- Spend time in prayer and His Word.
- Listen for His still, small voice.
- Be open to the many ways God speaks.
- We hear God's voice more clearly when we are regularly talking with Him.

God's Promise

> **Hebrews 13:20-21** - “Now may the God of peace - who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood - **may He equip you with all you need for doing His will**. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen

God never calls us to do something without equipping us for it.

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2. God expects us to act

Noah didn't just hear God's instruction; he obeyed it.

> **Genesis 6:22** - "Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him."
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> **Hebrews 11:7** - "BY FAITH Noah built a large boat."

Noah acted before there was any evidence that rain was coming. His obedience was based on faith, not circumstances.

The same challenge faces us today: will we step out when God asks us to do something new, difficult, or unexpected?

Paul's Example

The apostles in the early church were stepping out in faith on a daily basis. God speaks to Paul to encourage him:

> **Acts 18:9-10** - "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me."

God called Paul to be bold because:

- God was with him.
- God would protect him.
- God had prepared others to help him.

The Secret of Boldness

> **Acts 4:13** - "The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that **they were ordinary men with no special training** in the Scriptures. **They also recognised them as men who had been with Jesus.**"

God does not require us to have special training. Bold faith grows out of time spent with Jesus.

God's Provision

> **Luke 24:49** - "I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised."

The Holy Spirit empowers us to do God's work.

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3. God Is with us in the waiting

Following God requires both urgency and patience.

Noah built the ark with urgency of someone who did not know when the rain would come. But he also waited faithfully as he built for God to fulfil His promises. Once the rain has stopped, Noah continued to wait for the waters to recede. He trusted God even when he could not yet see the outcome.

Don't Give Up

> **Galatians 6:9** - "So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. **At just the right time** we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

A message for CCC is that we are coming into a spiritual autumn. It might feel like things have stalled, that nothing is happening because we are unable to progress with recruiting a pastor. This is a time of

waiting and quiet, but God is working under the surface. He is working behind the scenes. It might feel like nothing is happening, but God is in control and His timing is perfect.

Trust God's Timing

Speaking of God speaking to us, I felt God was speaking very clearly to CCC through one of the Bible passages I found this week:

Isaiah 60:22
“The smallest family will become a thousand people,
and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation.
At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen.”

And we should persevere and follow through on what God is asking you to do so that all may be saved. That is the ultimate goal.

> **2 Peter 3:15** - "Our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved."

Waiting is never wasted when God is at work.

Take Away

Like Noah, we are called to:

✓ **Listen** to God's voice
✓ **Act** in faith when He speaks
✓ **Wait** patiently for His timing

Final Encouragement

> **Joshua 1:9** - "Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Listen well. Obey faithfully. Wait patiently. Jesus wins.