



The Step Challenges

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INTRODUCTION

On my phone I have an app which records my steps and when I've met my target for the day it pours confetti down over the numbers to congratulate me for a good day of walking.

Whilst reading my Bible recently I realised how many times our "steps" are mentioned and so I thought that this week we would take the "step challenge" together.

DAY 1 – ORDERED STEPS

Proverbs 20:24 *"The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way."*

I've recently finished reading the story of Joseph and if any man's steps were directed by the Lord his were. But I am sure that Joseph had days, like we all have when he said: "Why this way?". "Why did you allow me to land in a pit?". "Why did I have to come to Egypt?". "Why am I in prison when I've done nothing wrong?". "Will I ever see my father again?". It was only at the end of Joseph's story as he looks back, he can say to his brothers: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."* Genesis 50:20.

Allow the Lord to direct your steps, don't fight against His will. One day it will all become clear.

PRAYER: Today Lord I commit to allow You to guide my steps because I know You know the best course for my life.

DAY 2 – FIRM STEPS

Psalm 37:23 (TPT) *“The steps of the God-pursuing ones follow firmly in the footsteps of the Lord and God delights in every step they take to follow Him.”*

Some of the beautiful walks I've been on during the various lockdowns have been a little slippery, but thankfully I've often been with other family members who have prepared the way for me. I'm so glad that in our day to day lives as followers of Jesus, as we pursue His will for our lives, we can follow firmly in His steps. Thank God that Jesus has prepared the way ahead for us, so we do not need to fear. I often think that the disciples of Jesus never really understood in the three years they spent with Him the privilege they had of walking firmly beside Him day by day! Let us never take for granted the opportunity He has given us to pursue after Him with firm steps. And... what a precious thought it is that as we pursue after God, one step at a time, He is delighted in us!

PRAYER

Father God thank you that as I pursue You, I can walk firmly in the steps of Jesus, and I even get to bring delight to You on my journey!

DAY 3 – THOUGHTFUL STEPS

Proverbs 14:15 *“The simple believe anything but the prudent give thought to their steps.”*

I love sitting with older people who have achieved amazing things in their lives, whether that’s in Christian ministry, business or family life. They are always “thoughtful” people. When you ask them a question they think carefully before answering and you realise that in every decision of life this is what they have done.

The whole of the book of Proverbs encourages us to seek wisdom so that every step we take in life will be preceded by thoughtfulness and, of course, prayerfulness. Ultimate wisdom, of course, comes from God which is why His Word is so vital in our lives, but it is also so good to find people who have gone ahead and lived thoughtful lives to have as coaches and mentors.

PRAYER

Teach me daily to give thought to my steps through Your Word being my ultimate mentor but also help me to find people I can trust who have taken the steps ahead of me and can coach me to succeed.

DAY 4

Job 23:11 *“My feet have closely followed His steps; I have kept His way without turning aside.”*

Poor old Job! As I've re-read his story recently, I'm so glad I don't have friends like he had! They refused to see how closely Job had pursued God and failed to acknowledge that even during his toughest times God was still directing his steps. BUT Job got it – even in the midst of his pain! In chapter 31:4 he says: “Doesn't He see everything I do and every step I take?” and in faith he says: “When He tests me, I will come out as pure gold.” Job had total confidence that even at his lowest point God was directing his steps and he was following close after God.

PRAYER

Lord, I would love to be able to say like Job that I have followed in Your steps – give me the faith to each day, and when difficulties come help me like Job to keep walking one step at a time.

DAY 5 – STEPS OF FAITH

Matthew 14:29 *“So Peter, walked on the water toward Jesus.”*

One of my favourite stories in the Gospels is the one of Peter when he steps out of the boat and walks on water towards Jesus. So often, we concentrate on his failure BUT this man did something I doubt any of us has every done! On that day Peter took some steps of faith but he also learnt a great lesson – keep your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus – don't look at the winds and the waves.

Jesus had set Peter an example that day and every day He continues to set us an example to follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21 *“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.”* Let's determine to get out of the boat when He calls us and live a life of faith following in His steps.

PRAYER

Today Jesus I commit to follow by faith in the steps You have set and when You call me to walk on water help me to keep my eyes firmly fixed on You.