



A TAMPA LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

KEEP WALKING

Trusting God Between the Command and the Miracle

TAMPA LIFE CHURCH

John 9 · The Journey of the Man Born Blind

01

PART

THE MIRACLE BEGINS WITH
ONE STEP OF OBEDIENCE

KEY TEXT

"When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

John 9:6–7 (KJV)

One of the most overlooked words in this entire miracle is not "washed," "seeing," or even "Siloam." It is the simple word "went." Between the command of Jesus and the miracle itself stands one small word that reveals one of the greatest principles of spiritual life: obedience always begins before understanding. The blind man's healing did not occur when Jesus placed mud upon his eyes, nor when Jesus spoke the promise. His healing began the moment he responded to the voice of Christ by taking his first step.

This reveals a pattern that is found throughout all of Scripture. God often announces what He intends to do long before we experience it. His promises are invitations into a journey of faith rather than guarantees of immediate results. We naturally desire God to explain every detail before we obey, yet God consistently asks us to obey first and discover His faithfulness along the way. Faith is never measured by what we know; it is measured by how willing we are to trust what God has already spoken.

Notice the unusual nature of Christ's command. Jesus did not simply declare healing over the blind man. He could have restored his sight instantly, just as He healed others by merely speaking a word (Matthew 8:8-13). Instead, He intentionally created a process. He placed mud upon the man's eyes, then instructed him to walk to the Pool of Siloam before receiving his miracle. The miracle was never beyond Christ's power; the journey was designed for the man's faith.

God frequently works this way because His greatest objective is not simply changing our circumstances: it is transforming our character. Instant miracles display God's power, but journeys cultivate our trust. While we often pray for God to remove every obstacle immediately, He sometimes allows us to walk through difficult seasons because the road itself is accomplishing something eternal within us.

This principle reaches far beyond John chapter 9. Abraham was called to leave everything familiar without knowing his destination.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

Hebrews 11:8 (KJV)

Notice that Abraham's obedience preceded his understanding. God did not provide him with maps, timelines, or guarantees. Instead, every new step revealed another portion of God's will. Abraham learned that God's direction often unfolds progressively rather than all at once.

Likewise, Noah spent decades constructing an ark before a single drop of rain ever fell.

"By faith Noah... prepared an ark to the saving of his house..."

Hebrews 11:7 (KJV)

From a human perspective, Noah's obedience appeared irrational. Rain had never fallen as God described, and the surrounding culture undoubtedly mocked his actions. Yet Noah understood something that every disciple must eventually learn: faith does not wait until obedience makes sense. Faith obeys because God has spoken.

The blind man found himself in the very same position. With mud covering his eyes, nothing had changed externally. He was still blind. He still could not see the road. He still had no visible evidence that healing had begun. Yet he started walking because his confidence rested not in his circumstances but in the reliability of the One who gave the command.

Many believers mistakenly assume that genuine faith produces immediate feelings of assurance. Scripture teaches something different. Faith is often demonstrated in the absence of visible change. The first few steps toward the Pool of Siloam looked exactly like standing still. The blind man saw no improvement after five steps, ten steps, or perhaps hundreds of steps. Every step required the same confidence as the one before it because nothing outwardly confirmed that anything was happening.

This is where many of us struggle. We equate God's activity with our ability to perceive it. If we cannot immediately see progress, we conclude that nothing is happening. Yet throughout Scripture, God is frequently accomplishing His greatest work beneath the surface before any visible evidence appears. Just as seeds develop underground before breaking through the soil, spiritual transformation often occurs long before external results become visible.

The apostle Paul reminds us of this unseen reality:

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)

Walking by faith means continuing to obey even when our senses provide no confirmation. We continue praying before answers appear. We continue forgiving before emotions change. We continue serving before recognition comes. We continue believing before circumstances improve. Faith refuses to let present appearances redefine God's promises.

This principle also exposes an important truth about obedience. We do not obey because we already understand God's plan; we obey because we trust God's character. Our confidence rests in who He is rather than in what we can explain. The blind man knew very little about how healing would occur, but he knew enough about Jesus to believe that His word could be trusted.

Many times, our greatest spiritual battles are not fought against temptation but against hesitation. We stand at the edge of obedience waiting for certainty while God patiently waits for surrender. Heaven is often asking only one question: Will you take the first step?

Every miracle has a moment where faith becomes movement. Until faith moves, it remains only an idea. James teaches that genuine faith always produces action.

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

James 2:17 (KJV)

James is not teaching that works earn salvation; rather, authentic faith naturally expresses itself through obedience. The blind man did not earn his healing by walking to Siloam. Instead, his walk demonstrated that he truly believed the One who had spoken.

This same invitation confronts every believer today. Christ continues to call His people to move beyond comfort into obedience. Sometimes that first step involves repentance. Other times it involves forgiveness, generosity, ministry, reconciliation, or surrendering a lifelong dream into God's hands. Whatever the specific command may be, the principle never changes: the first step of obedience is often the place where the miracle truly begins.

Perhaps the greatest encouragement found in this passage is that Jesus never asked the blind man to understand everything before he began walking. He simply asked him to trust. The same Savior still leads His people today. He may not reveal the entire journey, but He has never failed those who faithfully follow His voice. Our responsibility is not to know every detail of tomorrow; it is simply to obey Him today, trusting that every step taken in faith brings us closer to the place where His promises will be fulfilled.

Reflect

Where is God asking you to take a first step of obedience before you fully understand His plan? What is stopping you from taking it?

02

PART

GOD GIVES DESTINATIONS
MORE OFTEN THAN
EXPLANATIONS

KEY TEXT

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)

One of the greatest tensions of the Christian life is learning to trust God without demanding that He explain Himself. Our natural instinct is to ask, Why? How? When? We want details before decisions, certainty before commitment, and explanations before obedience. Yet throughout Scripture, God consistently operates in the opposite direction. He gives us enough light for the next step while reserving the rest of the journey for Himself.

The blind man experienced this reality firsthand. Jesus did not hand him a map to the Pool of Siloam. He did not explain why mud was necessary. He did not reveal how long the journey would take, who would help him along the way, or precisely when his sight would return. Christ simply gave him a destination: "Go...wash." Everything else required trust.

This reveals an important truth about the nature of God. He is not merely interested in leading us to blessings; He is interested in developing dependence. If God explained every detail of our future, faith would become unnecessary. We would begin trusting the plan instead of trusting the Planner. But God has never desired a relationship built upon complete information. He desires a relationship built upon complete confidence in His character.

This is why the psalmist wrote,

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105 (KJV)

Notice what Scripture does not say. It does not describe God's Word as a floodlight revealing every mile ahead. It is a lamp, a small light sufficient for the next few steps. In biblical times, a traveler carrying an oil lamp could only see a short distance in front of him. The lamp did not eliminate uncertainty; it simply provided enough light to keep moving forward. God often leads His children the same way. He provides enough revelation for today's obedience while inviting us to trust Him with tomorrow.

The Exodus provides one of the clearest examples of this principle. After delivering Israel from Egypt, God deliberately led them into what appeared to be an impossible situation.

"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh..."

Exodus 14:4 (KJV)

Imagine hearing those words. God announced that Pharaoh would pursue them, yet He offered no explanation of how they would escape. He never mentioned the Red Sea opening. He never described walls of water standing on either side. He never explained that the Egyptian army would be destroyed. All Israel knew was that God had given them a destination while allowing a seemingly impossible obstacle to stand between them and the promise.

From a human perspective, this appears unnecessary. Why would God not simply explain everything beforehand? Because if Israel had known the entire plan, they would have admired God's strategy more than they trusted God's presence. Instead, every moment required them to depend upon Him.

This pattern appears repeatedly throughout the lives of God's servants. Joseph received dreams of future leadership but was never told about the pit, slavery, false accusations, or prison. David was anointed king but was not informed that years of hiding in caves would precede the throne. Ruth followed Naomi without knowing she would become part of the lineage of the Messiah. Esther entered the palace without realizing she would one day save an entire nation. In every case, God revealed the destination long before He explained the process.

Our greatest frustration often comes from trying to force God into our preferred sequence. We tell ourselves, "Once I understand, I'll obey." Heaven responds, "Once you obey, you will begin to understand."

Isaiah reminds us why this is necessary.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9 (KJV)

There are moments when God remains silent, not because He has abandoned us, but because no explanation could fully satisfy us. Infinite wisdom cannot always be compressed into finite understanding. There are seasons when obedience must precede comprehension. The disciple learns that God's silence is not evidence of His absence but an invitation to deepen trust.

This truth becomes especially challenging when God's directions seem to contradict human logic. The natural mind constantly evaluates obedience through the lens of practicality. Does this make sense? Is this efficient? Is there a safer route? Yet many of God's greatest miracles began with commands that appeared unreasonable. March around Jericho instead of attacking. Stretch out a withered hand before it is healed. Fill empty waterpots before the miracle appears. Cast the net again after fishing all night. Every one of these commands required faith that rose above human reasoning.

Paul addressed this reality when he wrote,

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)

God has never been confined by human logic. What appears foolish to the world often becomes the very avenue through which His power is displayed. This is why spiritual maturity is not measured by how much we understand but by how quickly we obey.

There is another beautiful lesson hidden in the command to go to Siloam. The name Siloam means "Sent." The blind man received his miracle at the place called "Sent" because he obeyed the One who sent him there. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly identifies Himself as the One sent by the Father (John 5:36; John 6:38; John 20:21). There is profound symbolism here. The man found healing not merely at a pool but at the place of divine sending. Likewise, we discover God's greatest work in our lives when we faithfully walk where He sends us.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to faith is our desire for control. We want guarantees before commitment because control gives us the illusion of security. Yet Scripture consistently teaches that true security is never found in controlling our future; it is found in trusting the God who already holds our future. Proverbs does not promise that we will understand every twist in the road. It promises something infinitely better: "He shall direct thy paths."

That promise changes everything. The responsibility for knowing the entire journey does not rest upon our shoulders. Our responsibility is simply to acknowledge Him in every decision and faithfully take the next step He places before us. God never asked the blind man to discover the road to Siloam by himself. He only asked him to begin walking. In the same way, God is not asking us to master tomorrow. He is asking us to trust Him today.

The Christian life is not lived one decade at a time or even one year at a time. It is lived one faithful step after another. Each step becomes an act of surrender, each act of surrender becomes an expression of trust, and each expression of trust draws us deeper into the purposes of God. We may not possess the map, but we know the Shepherd. And when the Shepherd is leading, that is all the certainty we truly need.

Reflect

In what area of your life are you demanding an explanation from God before you obey? What would it look like to trust His direction instead?

03

PART

FAITH IS PROVEN BETWEEN THE COMMAND AND THE FULFILLMENT

KEY TEXT

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

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

One of the greatest misconceptions about faith is that it eliminates uncertainty. We often imagine that if our faith is strong enough, we will always feel confident, peaceful, and assured of every step ahead. Yet the Bible paints a very different picture. Genuine faith does not remove uncertainty; it enables us to remain faithful in the middle of it. Faith is not proven after the miracle arrives, it is proven during the journey between God's command and God's fulfillment.

The blind man illustrates this perfectly. We know how the story ends because we have read the account many times. He arrived at the Pool of Siloam, washed away the clay, and received his sight. But the blind man did not know the ending while he was living the story. Every step he took was a step into the unknown. He could not see the road beneath his feet, the people around him, or the pool waiting ahead. His only certainty was the word Jesus had spoken.

This is the arena where faith is always tested. It is easy to believe after the answer comes. It is easy to praise after the healing, rejoice after the breakthrough, and testify after the victory. The difficult part is believing while nothing appears to be changing. The greatest evidence of faith is not what we do after God moves, it is what we continue doing while we are still waiting.

The writer of Hebrews intentionally defines faith as "the evidence of things not seen." Faith is evidence precisely because visible proof has not yet appeared. If the blind man had received his sight immediately after Jesus touched him, there would have been no need for the journey. Instead, every step became another declaration that he trusted Christ's promise more than his present condition.

This principle echoes throughout the entire Bible.

Joshua and the priests stood before the overflowing Jordan River carrying the Ark of the Covenant. God promised that Israel would cross, but the waters remained unchanged until the priests placed their feet into the river.

"And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests... shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off..."

Joshua 3:13 (KJV)

Notice God's order. The river did not part first so they could step safely. They stepped first, and then God opened the way. Heaven waited for movement before revealing the miracle.

Peter experienced the same principle when Jesus called him onto the Sea of Galilee.

"And Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus."

Matthew 14:29 (KJV)

Imagine the moment before Peter stepped over the edge of the boat. The water looked exactly the same as it had a moment earlier. Nothing about the waves suggested they could support the weight of a man. The miracle was not visible before obedience. Peter had to trust Christ's voice more than his own eyes.

This is often how God works in our lives. The circumstances remain unchanged while our faith is being developed. We pray, yet the diagnosis remains the same. We obey, yet the financial pressure continues. We forgive, yet the relationship has not been restored. We serve, yet no recognition comes. We worship, yet we do not immediately feel different. Like the blind man, we continue walking even though every outward appearance tells us nothing has changed.

The danger during these seasons is assuming that because we cannot see God working, He must not be working at all. Scripture repeatedly warns against this conclusion. God is often accomplishing His deepest work beneath the surface long before it becomes visible.

The prophet Habakkuk struggled with this very issue. God's promises seemed delayed, and nothing appeared to be happening. Yet God answered him with words that continue to encourage believers today.

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

Habakkuk 2:3 (KJV)

God's delays are never evidence of God's neglect. There is an appointed time for every promise. Heaven operates according to divine timing rather than human impatience. What feels late to us is always perfectly ordered by God.

This truth becomes even more powerful when we consider that the blind man's faith was not strengthened because each step felt different. Every step likely felt exactly the same as the previous one. Step after step, he remained blind. There were no flashes of light, no gradual improvement, no visible indication that healing had begun. If anything, the temptation to quit probably grew stronger with every passing moment.

How often do we experience the same struggle? We begin obeying God with excitement, expecting immediate confirmation. When none comes, discouragement whispers that perhaps we misunderstood His voice. Yet many of God's greatest servants walked through extended seasons where nothing seemed to change externally.

David was anointed king while still tending sheep. Years passed before he ever sat upon Israel's throne. During those years he was hunted by Saul, forced into caves, betrayed by friends, and misunderstood by

many. Had David judged God's promise by his circumstances, he would have concluded that the anointing had failed. Instead, he continued walking until God's timing aligned with God's promise.

Joseph endured thirteen years between his dreams and their fulfillment. During those years he experienced betrayal, slavery, false accusations, and imprisonment. None of those events looked like they were leading to leadership in Egypt. Yet every painful season was quietly positioning him for the purpose God had already ordained.

This reveals one of the deepest truths about faith: God is often preparing us for the miracle while simultaneously preparing the miracle for us. We usually focus only on the destination, while God is equally concerned with the person we are becoming along the journey. The delay is not wasted time; it is preparation.

Paul understood this perspective when he wrote,

"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope."

Romans 5:3–4 (KJV)

Notice the progression. Tribulation produces patience. Patience develops character. Character strengthens hope. In other words, the road itself becomes part of God's work. The miracle is not merely what God does at the end of the journey; it is also what He accomplishes within us while we are traveling.

This changes the way we view seasons of waiting. Waiting is not spiritual inactivity. Waiting faithfully is active obedience. Every prayer we continue to pray, every act of worship we continue to offer, every decision to trust rather than complain becomes another step toward the place where God has already determined His promise will be fulfilled.

The enemy often attacks believers most intensely during this middle season because he understands something important. Few people abandon God before they begin the journey, and few abandon Him after the miracle arrives. Most temptation comes in the middle, when nothing appears to be happening. The enemy whispers, "Quit. Nothing is changing." Faith answers, "I do not walk by what I see. I walk by what God has said."

Perhaps this is why Paul encouraged the church so strongly:

"Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (KJV)

Nothing done in obedience to God is ever wasted. Every unseen prayer, every quiet sacrifice, every faithful step matters in the economy of Heaven. We may not yet see the Pool of Siloam, but God does. He knows exactly where we are on the journey, and He knows precisely how many steps remain before His promise becomes our testimony.

Faith, then, is not simply believing that God can perform miracles. It is continuing to walk toward His promise even when we cannot yet see the evidence of it. That kind of faith honors God because it declares that His Word is more trustworthy than our circumstances. And history has proven this truth repeatedly: God has never failed a single person who kept walking in obedient faith.

Reflect

What promise are you still waiting to see fulfilled? What would it look like to keep walking faithfully in the waiting, instead of measuring God's presence by visible change?

04

PART

**EVERY STEP THAT SEEMS
ORDINARY IS MOVING YOU
TOWARD THE
EXTRAORDINARY**

KEY TEXT

*"For we walk by faith, not by sight."***2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)**

There is something remarkably ordinary about walking. It is one of the simplest activities in life. One step follows another, and most of the time we do not even think about it. Yet throughout Scripture, God repeatedly chose walking as one of the primary pictures of the believer's relationship with Him. The Christian life is not described as a sprint, a leap, or a single dramatic event. It is described as a walk because spiritual growth is almost always gradual before it becomes visible.

This is one of the lessons hidden within the journey of the blind man. We tend to focus on the moment when his eyes were opened, but God spent far more time recording the walk than the miracle itself. The miracle happened in an instant. The walk required perseverance. Heaven intentionally preserved both because God wanted future generations to understand that what happens before the miracle is often just as important as what happens after it.

Every step the blind man took appeared completely ordinary. There was nothing supernatural about putting one foot in front of the other. There was no visible glory surrounding him. No angel appeared to guide him. No heavenly voice spoke again. He simply continued walking. Yet every ordinary step was quietly carrying him toward an extraordinary encounter with the power of God.

This principle is woven throughout the entire Bible. God's greatest works often begin with seemingly insignificant acts of obedience.

David defeated Goliath with one stone, but before there was a battlefield there were years of unnoticed faithfulness in the fields of Bethlehem. While no one was watching, David was learning to worship, to shepherd, and to trust God. The victory over Goliath did not suddenly create a man of faith; it revealed the faith that had already been developed through countless ordinary days.

Likewise, Elisha asked the widow to gather empty vessels before God multiplied the oil.

*"Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few."***2 Kings 4:3 (KJV)**

Imagine how ordinary that assignment appeared. She was not asked to perform a miracle. She was simply told to collect empty containers. Yet every borrowed vessel became another opportunity for God to demonstrate His power. The miracle flowed only after she completed what seemed like a very ordinary task.

This teaches us that God often hides extraordinary purposes inside ordinary obedience. We frequently wait for dramatic moments while overlooking the simple disciplines that prepare us for them. We long for mountain-top experiences while neglecting daily prayer. We pray for revival while failing to faithfully witness to one person. We ask God for greater responsibility while ignoring the assignments He has already placed in our hands.

Jesus emphasized this principle repeatedly.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."

Luke 16:10 (KJV)

God measures greatness differently than we do. We are impressed by public accomplishments; God is impressed by private faithfulness. We celebrate spectacular moments, while Heaven often celebrates consistent obedience. Long before God entrusts someone with greater influence, He watches how they handle the small opportunities already before them.

The blind man's journey reminds us that not every step feels significant. In fact, most of them probably felt repetitive. Yet repetition is often one of God's greatest tools for building spiritual endurance. Every step strengthened his resolve to continue trusting Jesus. Every step became another decision not to turn back.

The same is true in our own spiritual lives. We may wonder whether today's prayer mattered, whether today's Bible reading made any difference, or whether today's act of kindness accomplished anything eternal. Scripture assures us that it does. Every act of obedience is another step toward God's purpose, even when we cannot yet measure its impact.

Paul describes this beautifully when he writes,

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord... forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (KJV)

Notice that Paul does not promise immediate results. He promises that our labor is not in vain. There is an important difference. Faithfulness is not evaluated by visible success but by continued obedience. God is working even when we cannot yet calculate the outcome.

This truth also protects us from one of the enemy's most subtle attacks: discouragement through monotony. Satan often convinces believers that because today looked like yesterday, nothing is happening spiritually. Yet the kingdom of God rarely advances through constant excitement. More often, it advances through quiet consistency.

Consider how Jesus described spiritual growth.

"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground... and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how."

Mark 4:26–27 (KJV)

The farmer cannot see what is happening beneath the soil. Day after day the field appears unchanged. Yet hidden beneath the surface, life is developing. Roots are growing. Strength is forming. The visible harvest is simply the final evidence of an invisible process that has been occurring all along.

The same principle applies to our walk with God. Many of His greatest works are invisible until the appointed season arrives. Every prayer strengthens our relationship with Him. Every act of forgiveness softens our hearts. Every temptation resisted deepens our spiritual maturity. Every sacrifice offered in obedience prepares us for future usefulness.

This perspective completely changes how we evaluate progress. Instead of asking, "Has anything happened today?" we begin asking, "Have I been faithful today?" Success in the kingdom is not measured by how spectacular the day appeared but by whether we continued walking with Christ.

There is another remarkable detail in the blind man's journey. He was moving toward something he had never seen. He had never seen the Pool of Siloam. He had never seen the face of Jesus. He had never seen a sunrise or the streets of Jerusalem. Everything he anticipated existed only because he trusted the word of Christ.

Isn't this exactly how we live as believers?

Peter reminds us,

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

1 Peter 1:8 (KJV)

Like the blind man, we are walking toward realities we have not yet fully seen. We have never physically seen Heaven, yet we live in anticipation of it. We have never looked upon the glorified Christ with natural eyes, yet we love Him. Our confidence is not built upon sight but upon His promises.

Perhaps that is why Scripture repeatedly calls us to endurance.

"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

Hebrews 12:1–2 (KJV)

Notice that Jesus is both the Author and the Finisher of our faith. He not only begins the journey; He also completes it. The responsibility of the believer is not to create the path but to continue walking it.

The extraordinary Christian life is not built through isolated moments of spiritual excitement. It is built through thousands of ordinary decisions to trust God one more day, obey Him one more time, forgive one more offense, pray one more prayer, and take one more step. Those ordinary steps, repeated over a lifetime, become the road upon which God accomplishes His extraordinary purposes.

The blind man did not know that every ordinary footstep was bringing him closer to the moment when darkness would give way to light. In the same way, we often underestimate today's obedience because we cannot yet see tomorrow's miracle. But Heaven sees every step, and God never wastes a single act of faithful obedience. What seems ordinary to us may very well be the very path that leads into the extraordinary work He has already prepared for our lives.

Reflect

What ordinary act of faithfulness has felt unimportant lately, prayer, reading your Bible, a small kindness? How might God be using it to prepare you for something greater?

05

PART

THE CROWD CANNOT WALK
YOUR JOURNEY

KEY TEXT

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23 (KJV)

One detail that is easily overlooked in the account of the blind man is that his journey to the Pool of Siloam was not made in isolation. Jerusalem was a crowded city. The streets leading to the Temple and to the pool were filled with merchants, travelers, religious leaders, and ordinary citizens. The blind man was not walking through an empty road; he was walking through a crowd. That means every step toward his miracle had to be taken while surrounded by distractions, opinions, obstacles, and people who could either help him or hinder him.

The same remains true today. Rarely does God call us to obey Him in a vacuum. We obey while living among people who may not understand what God is doing in our lives. Some will encourage us. Others will question us. Some will strengthen our faith, while others will unintentionally weaken it. One of the great lessons of the Christian life is learning that although God often uses people to help us, no person can replace our personal responsibility to follow Christ.

Imagine the blind man making his way through the crowded streets with mud covering his eyes. Some people undoubtedly recognized him as the familiar blind beggar who sat near the Temple. Others may have wondered why he suddenly left his usual place. Some may have mocked him. Others may have offered assistance. But regardless of how the crowd responded, none of them could walk the journey for him.

This teaches an important spiritual principle: people may influence your journey, but they cannot complete it for you.

There are seasons when God graciously sends people to strengthen us. Throughout Scripture, He frequently works through human instruments. Moses had Aaron and Hur to hold up his hands. Elijah had Elisha. Paul had Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Luke, and many faithful laborers. Even Jesus sent His disciples out two by two.

Ecclesiastes reminds us,

"Two are better than one... For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow."

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (KJV)

The Christian life was never intended to be lived alone. God places pastors, teachers, mentors, friends, and the body of Christ around us because encouragement is one of His gifts to His people. We should never minimize the value of godly relationships.

Yet there is an equally important truth that must be understood: while others can encourage your obedience, they cannot substitute for it.

No one could wash in the Pool of Siloam on behalf of the blind man. No one could believe for him. No one could obey for him. No one could take his steps. The command Jesus gave was intensely personal.

This principle appears repeatedly throughout Scripture. Noah could not enter the ark because of his neighbors' faith. Joshua could not conquer Canaan because of Moses' obedience. Esther could not save Israel by allowing Mordecai to stand in her place. Every servant of God eventually reaches a moment where personal obedience becomes unavoidable.

Paul expressed this responsibility when he wrote,

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:12 (KJV)

Notice that we will not give an account for someone else's walk, nor will someone else answer for ours. God calls each believer into a personal relationship that cannot be borrowed from another person. We are blessed by the faith of others, but we cannot survive spiritually on someone else's devotion.

This is one reason spiritual maturity requires moving beyond dependence upon emotional experiences or external motivation. There are seasons when church services are powerful, worship is uplifting, and encouragement comes from every direction. But there are also seasons when we must continue walking even after everyone else has gone home.

The blind man eventually had to leave the voices behind and continue toward the pool. At some point, whether people helped him or not, the responsibility to keep moving rested entirely upon him.

Many believers unknowingly allow the crowd to determine the pace of their spiritual growth. If everyone around them is praying, they pray. If everyone is fasting, they fast. If everyone is passionate, they are passionate. While there is certainly strength in unity, mature faith eventually develops convictions that remain steady regardless of the surrounding environment.

Daniel is a powerful example of this truth. When the decree forbidding prayer was issued, Daniel did not adjust his devotion according to public opinion.

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed... he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed."

Daniel 6:10 (KJV)

Daniel's consistency was not dependent upon the approval of the crowd. His relationship with God had become deeper than the pressure surrounding him.

Likewise, the apostles boldly declared,

"We ought to obey God rather than men."

Acts 5:29 (KJV)

Their obedience was rooted in divine authority rather than public acceptance.

This exposes one of the enemy's favorite tactics. If Satan cannot stop us through temptation, he will often attempt to discourage us through comparison. We begin comparing our journey to someone else's. "Why is their miracle happening sooner?" "Why does their ministry seem to grow faster?" "Why does their life appear easier?" Comparison quietly shifts our focus away from God's unique calling and toward someone else's assignment.

Yet notice something remarkable about John chapter 9. Jesus never compared the blind man to another blind person. He dealt with him personally. His command was designed specifically for this individual. Another miracle may have happened differently, but this man's journey required the Pool of Siloam.

God still works this way today. Peter learned this lesson after the resurrection. When Jesus revealed aspects of Peter's future, Peter immediately turned his attention toward John.

"Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?"

John 21:21 (KJV)

Jesus answered with remarkable clarity.

"If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."

John 21:22 (KJV)

In other words, do not measure your calling by someone else's journey. Your responsibility is to follow Me.

How much unnecessary frustration enters our lives because we compare God's timing for us with God's timing for others? One believer's journey may involve immediate answers, while another's requires years of waiting. One person may experience dramatic miracles, while another witnesses God's quiet faithfulness over decades. Both are walking under the direction of the same Shepherd.

Another challenge presented by the crowd is criticism. The blind man almost certainly looked unusual walking through Jerusalem with mud covering his eyes. He probably stumbled. He likely appeared foolish to many observers. Some undoubtedly questioned what he was doing. Yet his willingness to endure temporary embarrassment positioned him for permanent transformation.

This has always been true of those who walk closely with God. Noah looked foolish building an ark before rain. Abraham looked foolish leaving everything familiar without knowing his destination. David looked foolish running toward a giant while seasoned soldiers fled. The woman with the alabaster box looked foolish pouring expensive perfume upon Jesus' feet. Mary looked foolish believing an angel's impossible announcement.

Faith has never been primarily concerned with appearing reasonable to the crowd. Faith is concerned with remaining faithful to God.

Paul understood this tension when he wrote,

"For do I now persuade men, or God?... for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Galatians 1:10 (KJV)

Living for Christ eventually requires choosing whose voice will shape our decisions. If we constantly seek the approval of people, we will eventually compromise the commands of God. But if God's voice becomes supreme in our lives, the opinions of the crowd lose their power to redirect our steps.

The beautiful reality is that while the crowd could not walk the journey for the blind man, neither could the crowd prevent him from reaching his miracle. They could laugh. They could criticize. They could misunderstand. But none of them possessed the authority to cancel what Jesus had promised.

The same remains true today. People may misunderstand your obedience. They may question your convictions. They may fail to see what God has spoken to your heart. But if Christ has called you to keep walking, no opinion, criticism, rejection, or misunderstanding can stop God's purpose unless you choose to stop walking.

Our responsibility is not to satisfy the crowd. Our responsibility is to faithfully follow the voice of the Shepherd until we arrive at the place where His promise becomes our reality.

Reflect

Whose opinion have you let set the pace for your obedience, comparison, criticism, or approval? What would it look like to follow Christ's voice above the crowd's?

06

PART

**OBEDIENCE DOES NOT EARN
THE MIRACLE; IT POSITIONS
US FOR IT**

KEY TEXT

*"If ye love me, keep my commandments."***John 14:15 (KJV)**

There is an important balance we must understand when we study the miracle in John chapter 9. The blind man was not healed because his walk had the power to open his eyes. The power was never in the road, never in the pool, and never in the mud by itself. The power was in Jesus Christ. Yet Jesus chose to connect the man's miracle to an act of obedience. This means obedience did not purchase the miracle, but it positioned the man in the place where Christ had appointed the miracle to be released.

This distinction matters deeply because we must never turn obedience into spiritual transaction. We do not obey God so we can manipulate Him into blessing us. We obey Him because we trust Him, love Him, and recognize His authority over our lives. The blind man did not earn his sight by walking to Siloam. He simply demonstrated that he believed the word of Jesus enough to respond to it. His obedience became the pathway through which his faith was expressed.

This pattern appears throughout Scripture. Naaman was not healed because the Jordan River had magical properties. He was healed because God had attached the miracle to obedience. When the prophet told him to dip seven times, Naaman almost missed his healing because the instruction offended his pride. He expected something more dramatic, more impressive, more worthy of his status. Yet the miracle was waiting in a humble act of obedience. When he finally submitted, Scripture says, "his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean" (2 Kings 5:14 KJV). The water did not heal him. God healed him when Naaman surrendered to the instruction.

The same truth is seen at the wedding in Cana. The servants did not turn water into wine. They simply filled the waterpots as Jesus instructed. Their obedience created the environment where His glory was revealed. John 2:7-9 shows us that the miracle happened after they obeyed what seemed like an ordinary command. They filled vessels with water, but Jesus transformed what they surrendered into something greater than they could produce.

This is how God often works in us. He asks for something simple, but the simplicity of the command reveals the sincerity of our faith. Forgive. Pray. Repent. Give. Serve. Go. Wait. Speak. Be silent. Return. Surrender. Many times, the instruction itself does not appear spectacular, but obedience opens the door for God to do what only He can do.

We also see this in the walls of Jericho. Israel did not shout the walls down by human strength. Marching around a city was not a military strategy that could logically defeat stone walls. Yet when they obeyed God's command, the walls fell. Their obedience did not replace God's power; it aligned them with it. The miracle

came when they stood in the place of obedience at the moment God had appointed.

This teaches us that delayed obedience can become delayed alignment. Sometimes we ask God why nothing is changing, but the deeper question may be whether we are standing where He told us to stand. The blessing is not always where we prefer to be; it is where God told us to go. The blind man could have prayed for healing while remaining where Jesus found him, but the miracle was waiting at Siloam. In the same way, there are things God releases only when we are willing to move from comfort into obedience.

This does not mean God is cruel, withholding, or difficult. It means He is purposeful. God is not only interested in giving us what we desire; He is interested in shaping us into people who can walk with Him. If He gave us every blessing without requiring surrender, we would enjoy His gifts without learning His ways. Obedience trains the heart to submit, trust, and depend on the voice of God more than personal preference.

This is why Samuel told Saul, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22 KJV). Saul wanted to offer religious activity while neglecting full obedience. But God was not impressed by sacrifice that covered rebellion. Partial obedience may look spiritual to people, but Heaven sees the heart. God is not merely looking for outward motion; He is looking for surrendered obedience.

The blind man's obedience was simple, but it was complete. Jesus said go, and he went. Jesus said wash, and he washed. He did not negotiate the command, modify the instruction, or demand an easier route. His obedience was not perfect because the road was easy; it was powerful because he kept moving even while the road was hard.

This is where many believers are challenged. We are often willing to obey God as long as the instruction agrees with our comfort, timing, and understanding. But true obedience is revealed when God asks us to do something that stretches our control. It is one thing to obey when we see the benefit immediately. It is another thing to obey when the only thing holding us steady is the Word of God.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15 KJV). Love for God is not proven only by emotion, song, or verbal declaration. Love is proven by submission. We worship with our lips, but we also worship with our obedience. Every time we choose God's will over our own will, we are declaring that He is Lord not only over our confession, but over our decisions.

The miracle at Siloam reminds us that obedience is not a burden designed to rob us; it is a pathway designed to lead us into God's purpose. The command may stretch us, humble us, and expose our dependence, but it will never lead us away from God's goodness. When Jesus tells a man to walk, it is because there is sight waiting at the end of the road. When He calls us to obey, it is because His grace has already prepared something on the other side of surrender.

So we do not obey to earn the love of God. We obey because we are already loved by God. We do not obey to force His hand. We obey because we trust His heart. We do not obey because the road is clear. We obey because the voice that called us is faithful. And as we keep walking, one surrendered step at a time, we discover that obedience has been carrying us toward the place where God intended to reveal His glory all along.

Reflect

*Have you ever treated obedience like a transaction, obeying in hope of earning a blessing?
How does it change your heart to obey simply because you trust and love Him?*

07

PART

THE JOURNEY BECOMES PART OF THE TESTIMONY

KEY TEXT

"He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight."

John 9:11 (KJV)

When the blind man was questioned about what had happened, it is striking that he did not begin his testimony with the moment he could see. Instead, he began with the journey. He recounted the mud, the command, the walk, the washing, and finally the miracle. In his own mind, the road to Siloam was inseparable from the healing itself. The journey had become part of the testimony because God was not only revealing His power through the miracle; He was revealing His faithfulness throughout the process.

We often think of our testimony as the moment God answered our prayer. We celebrate the healing, the financial breakthrough, the restored marriage, the salvation of a loved one, or the open door that finally appeared. Yet when we read Scripture carefully, we discover that God values the process just as much as the outcome. Heaven is interested not only in what God did for us, but also in what God did within us while we were waiting for Him to act.

Had the blind man received his sight immediately when Jesus touched him, everyone would have celebrated the miracle. But because he had to walk before he could see, his testimony became richer. He could now testify, not only that Jesus had healed him, but that Jesus had been trustworthy from the very first step. Every footstep toward Siloam became evidence that God's Word never fails those who continue to obey it.

This is one of the reasons God does not always remove us immediately from every trial. If every prayer were answered instantly, we would know very little about perseverance. If every burden disappeared the moment we asked, we would never learn endurance. If every promise were fulfilled the day it was spoken, patience would never mature within us. Scripture repeatedly teaches that God is as concerned with producing Christlike character as He is with solving temporary problems.

James understood this when he wrote,

"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

James 1:3–4 (KJV)

Notice that James does not describe trials as meaningless interruptions. They are tools in the hands of God. The testing of faith produces something that cannot be developed in any other way. Patience is not simply the ability to wait; it is the ability to remain faithful while waiting. God allows seasons of waiting because

there are certain virtues that can only grow in the soil of perseverance.

This principle is beautifully illustrated in the life of Joseph. Most of us remember Joseph as the ruler of Egypt who preserved countless lives during a famine. Yet that was only the final chapter of his story. Before there was a palace, there was a pit. Before there was authority, there was slavery. Before there was honor, there was imprisonment. None of those chapters seemed to fit the dreams God had given him as a young man. Yet every painful season became part of the testimony that would one day glorify God.

Years later Joseph could tell his brothers,

"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good."

Genesis 50:20 (KJV)

Joseph did not deny the suffering he had endured. He simply recognized that God had been writing a larger story than he could understand while living it. Looking backward, he could finally see that every disappointment had been preparing him for divine purpose.

The apostle Paul understood this same reality.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28 (KJV)

Paul does not say that all things are good. Betrayal is not good. Sickness is not good. Loss is not good. Persecution is not good. But he declares that God is able to weave every circumstance together into a greater purpose for those who continue walking with Him. The miracle often includes the way God redeems the journey itself.

Sometimes we wish we could remove difficult chapters from our lives. We would gladly erase seasons of grief, failure, uncertainty, disappointment, or waiting. Yet if those chapters disappeared, much of our testimony would disappear with them. It is often the valley that teaches us truths we never would have learned on the mountaintop. We discover the faithfulness of the Shepherd because we walked through the valley of the shadow of death. We experience the comfort of His rod and staff because there were moments when we desperately needed them.

David wrote,

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me."

Psalms 23:4 (KJV)

Notice that David does not say God removed the valley. He says God walked with him through it. The testimony is not simply that the valley ended; it is that God never abandoned him while he was in it.

This perspective transforms the way we view our present struggles. We stop asking only, “When will this be over?” and begin asking, “What is God teaching me while I walk through this?” Every season becomes an opportunity to know Him more deeply. Every delay becomes another invitation to trust His timing. Every obstacle becomes another chance for God to reveal His faithfulness.

The blind man’s testimony also reminds us that people are often encouraged more by our journey than by our destination. Many people cannot relate to the miracle because they have not yet experienced it. But they can relate to walking through uncertainty. They understand disappointment. They know what it feels like to pray and wait, to obey and wonder, to trust and still not see. When they hear that we continued walking anyway, they find hope that they can continue walking as well.

This is why Paul repeatedly encouraged believers to comfort others with the comfort they themselves had received from God.

“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble.”

2 Corinthians 1:4 (KJV)

God never wastes our experiences. The very trial that stretched our faith often becomes the testimony that strengthens someone else’s faith. Our journey becomes part of God’s ministry through us.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of all is that our testimony ultimately points beyond ourselves. The blind man did not spend his life talking about his determination or his perseverance. His testimony centered on Jesus. “A man that is called Jesus...” Everything began and ended with Christ. The road mattered because Jesus had spoken. The pool mattered because Jesus had sent him there. The miracle mattered because it revealed who Jesus is.

The same should be true of our lives. The purpose of every testimony is not to magnify our strength but to magnify God’s faithfulness. We are not the heroes of the story; Christ is. We simply become living witnesses that His promises are true, His commands are trustworthy, and His grace is sufficient for every step of the journey.

One day we will look back over every road the Lord asked us to walk. We will see that none of the steps were wasted. Every tear, every prayer, every act of obedience, every season of waiting was being woven together by the hand of God into a testimony that declares to the world: He was faithful every step of the way.

Reflect

What has your current season of waiting or difficulty taught you about God's faithfulness?

How might that story one day strengthen someone else's faith?

08

PART

WALKING WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

KEY TEXT

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

Perhaps the most difficult part of the blind man's journey was not the distance he had to travel, the uneven streets beneath his feet, or even the mud covering his eyes. The greatest challenge may have been that after Jesus gave the command, He said nothing else. Scripture records no additional instructions. There were no reassuring words along the road, no visible appearance of Christ walking beside him, and no further explanation about what was happening. Jesus spoke once, and the man had to continue walking based on the last word he had received.

Every believer eventually enters seasons like this. There are moments when God's direction is unmistakably clear. His presence seems near, prayer flows easily, and His voice appears obvious. Then there are seasons when Heaven becomes quiet. We continue praying, reading, worshiping, and obeying, but we do not receive fresh instructions as often as we would like. During those seasons, we are tempted to believe that silence means abandonment. Yet Scripture teaches something very different. God's silence is not proof of His absence; many times it is proof that His previous instruction is still sufficient.

The blind man did not need another command because he had not yet completed the first one. The last word from Jesus was enough to carry him all the way to Siloam. Had he stopped halfway demanding another confirmation before continuing, he would never have reached the place where the miracle was waiting. His responsibility was not to seek a new command but to remain faithful to the command he had already received.

How often do we find ourselves doing the same thing? We ask God for new direction while neglecting the direction He has already given. We seek another promise while postponing obedience to the first promise. Yet throughout Scripture, God frequently waits for His people to complete one assignment before revealing the next. Divine revelation often unfolds progressively. We are not given the next instruction because we have not yet fully embraced the present one.

This principle is beautifully illustrated by Israel's journey through the wilderness. God did not reveal the entire route from Egypt to Canaan. Instead, He led them one day at a time through the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

"At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched."

Numbers 9:18 (KJV)

Notice that Israel moved only when God moved. They also remained still when God remained still. Both required faith. Sometimes obedience means moving forward. At other times, obedience means remaining exactly where God has placed us until He speaks again. In both situations, faith trusts His timing.

The prophet Elijah experienced this truth after the dramatic victory on Mount Carmel. Having witnessed fire fall from heaven, Elijah fled into the wilderness discouraged and exhausted. When God finally spoke to him, He was not found in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire.

"...and after the fire a still small voice."

1 Kings 19:12 (KJV)

God reminded Elijah that His presence is not always accompanied by dramatic manifestations. Sometimes His guidance comes quietly. Sometimes His greatest work is accomplished without spectacular displays. We must learn to recognize that God's silence does not diminish His activity.

There is another lesson hidden in John chapter 9 that deserves careful attention. The blind man had no visible evidence that he was getting closer to the pool. Every step felt the same because he was still blind. He could not measure his progress by what he saw. He could only measure it by his continued obedience.

This describes many seasons of the Christian life. We often desire measurable spiritual progress. We want to feel stronger, see clearer, and recognize immediate change. But there are seasons when growth happens beneath the surface. We may not perceive it, but God is quietly strengthening our faith, enlarging our patience, deepening our humility, and teaching us to depend upon Him instead of our emotions.

David understood this reality when he wrote,

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."

Psalms 40:1 (KJV)

Waiting patiently does not mean doing nothing. In Scripture, waiting is an active posture of trust. It means remaining faithful while expecting God to fulfill His Word. It is confidence without visible confirmation. It is obedience without immediate reward. It is believing that God's timing is wiser than our own.

Isaiah expands this promise even further.

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

Notice the progression. We often focus on soaring like eagles, but Isaiah concludes with something much more practical: "they shall walk, and not faint." Why? Because walking is how most of life is lived. We occasionally experience extraordinary moments, but discipleship is usually expressed through ordinary faithfulness. God gives strength, not merely for dramatic victories, but for daily obedience.

One of the enemy's greatest strategies during silent seasons is to convince us that because we cannot hear God, we should stop moving. He whispers that perhaps God has forgotten us, changed His mind, or withdrawn His favor. But Scripture repeatedly teaches that God's character does not fluctuate with our feelings. His promises remain secure even when our emotions are unstable.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us,

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Hebrews 13:8 (KJV)

The Christ who spoke at the beginning of the journey remains the same Christ at the end of it. His faithfulness is not diminished by our inability to perceive Him. He has not become less trustworthy simply because the road has become longer than we expected.

There is profound wisdom in learning to obey the last clear word God has spoken. If God has called us to forgive, we continue forgiving. If He has called us to pray, we continue praying. If He has called us to serve, we continue serving. If He has called us to remain faithful, we remain faithful. We do not abandon yesterday's command simply because today's road feels difficult.

This is precisely what Jesus taught when He said,

"He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Matthew 24:13 (KJV)

Endurance is not simply surviving hardship. It is remaining obedient when perseverance becomes costly. It is continuing to walk when every emotion urges us to stop. It is trusting that the Shepherd knows the destination even when the sheep cannot see the path.

The beautiful truth is that Jesus knew exactly where the blind man was during every moment of his journey. Although the man could no longer see Jesus, Jesus never lost sight of him. Every uncertain step was fully known by the Savior who had sent him. The same is true for us. There has never been a single day when God has lost track of where we are. He knows every prayer we have prayed, every tear we have shed, every temptation we have resisted, and every step we have taken in obedience.

So when Heaven seems quiet, we must remember this powerful truth: the silence of God is never permission to stop walking. If we faithfully continue in the direction He has already given, we will discover that His apparent silence was never abandonment. It was simply an invitation to trust Him more deeply until, at the appointed time, the Pool of Siloam comes into view and what was once only a promise becomes our living testimony.

Reflect

When God feels silent, are you still walking in the last thing He told you to do? What is the "last clear word" He has spoken to you that you are called to keep obeying?

09

PART

KEEP WALKING UNTIL THE
PROMISE BECOMES REALITY

KEY TEXT

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

There is one question that quietly echoes throughout the story of the blind man: What if he had stopped halfway? Scripture never asks the question because the man never gave up, but it is worth considering. What if he had grown tired halfway down the road? What if discouragement had convinced him that nothing was happening? What if someone in the crowd had persuaded him that Jesus' instructions made no sense? What if he had decided that enough was enough and turned back before reaching the Pool of Siloam?

The answer is both simple and sobering. He would have remained blind.

Not because Jesus lacked the power to heal him. Not because the promise was false. Not because God had changed His mind. He would have remained blind because the place God had appointed for the miracle was also the place where He expected the man to remain obedient. The tragedy would not have been that Jesus failed; the tragedy would have been that the man quit one step before his miracle.

This is one of the greatest dangers in the Christian life. Very few believers abandon their walk with God at the beginning. We are usually full of excitement when the Lord first speaks to us. Our prayers are passionate, our faith is vibrant, and our expectations are high. Likewise, very few people quit after they have already received the miracle. Once we have experienced God's faithfulness, our confidence grows stronger. The greatest battle almost always happens in the middle, that long stretch between the promise and its fulfillment.

The enemy understands this better than we do. He knows he cannot change God's promises, so he attempts to convince God's people to stop walking before those promises are fulfilled. His greatest weapon is often not persecution but discouragement. If he can persuade us that our obedience is accomplishing nothing, he may convince us to abandon the very road that leads to God's provision.

This is why Paul wrote with such urgency,

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

Notice that Paul acknowledges something we often hesitate to admit: even faithful people become weary. Weariness is not sin. Discouragement is not failure. Even the strongest believers experience seasons where the journey feels long and the destination feels distant. The danger is not becoming tired; the danger is allowing weariness to persuade us to stop.

The promise of Galatians 6:9 rests upon two powerful words: “due season.” God has established an appointed time for every harvest. Farmers understand this principle well. They sow seed knowing that harvest does not come the next morning. There are days of watering, weeks of waiting, and months when the field appears unchanged. Yet beneath the surface, life is developing exactly as the Creator designed. The wise farmer does not abandon the field simply because fruit has not yet appeared. He understands that harvest belongs to those who continue tending the ground.

Jesus used this same imagery when He taught about the kingdom of God.

“First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.”

Mark 4:28 (KJV)

Growth has an order. There are no shortcuts in God’s kingdom. The blade does not appear before the seed dies. The harvest does not come before the season of growth. Likewise, spiritual maturity develops according to God’s timetable rather than ours. We often ask God to accelerate the process, but He is more interested in completeness than speed.

The blind man undoubtedly experienced moments when nothing seemed different. Every step still required someone to guide him around obstacles. Every step still demanded trust. Yet while he could not see it, every step reduced the distance between himself and the pool. Progress was occurring even though it was imperceptible.

How often does this describe our own lives? We faithfully attend church, pray, study Scripture, and serve the Lord, yet we wonder if anything is changing. We may feel that our prayers are rising no higher than the ceiling. We may question whether our obedience is making any difference. But Heaven measures progress differently than we do. God is not only counting answered prayers; He is counting faithful steps.

Perhaps one of the greatest examples of perseverance is found in Caleb. At eighty-five years old, he stood before Joshua and reminded him of a promise God had spoken more than four decades earlier.

“As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me... Now therefore give me this mountain.”

Joshua 14:11–12 (KJV)

Forty-five years had passed. Empires had changed. An entire generation had died. Yet Caleb never released the promise God had received from the Lord. He did not allow delay to become doubt. He did not interpret waiting as rejection. He simply kept walking until God’s timing and God’s promise met together.

What a remarkable picture of enduring faith.

The New Testament echoes this same principle.

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

Hebrews 10:36 (KJV)

Notice the order. First comes obedience. Then comes patience. Finally comes the promise. We often wish God would reverse that order, but He never does. The promise is not given before patience has accomplished its work because patience teaches us to value the Giver more than the gift.

There is another truth hidden here that deserves careful reflection. Sometimes we think perseverance is simply about surviving until the miracle comes. But perseverance is actually about becoming the kind of person who can faithfully steward the miracle once it arrives.

God could have opened the blind man's eyes the moment the mud touched them. Instead, He chose to develop perseverance before giving sight. Why? Because God's miracles are never isolated events. They become platforms for future ministry. The man who walked faithfully while blind would later stand fearlessly before the Pharisees defending the One who healed him. The journey had prepared him for the testimony.

The same is true in our lives. The season you are walking through today may not only be about receiving your breakthrough. It may be preparing you to strengthen someone else tomorrow. The financial struggle may teach stewardship. The illness may deepen compassion. The waiting may produce humility. The unanswered questions may cultivate dependence upon God. Nothing in the hands of God is wasted.

Paul expressed this confidence beautifully near the end of his life.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)

Notice that Paul did not measure success by miracles performed, churches planted, or letters written. He measured success by one simple reality: he finished the course. He kept walking until the assignment was complete.

That is the invitation extended to every believer. God is not asking us to understand every mile ahead. He is asking us not to stop. The Shepherd who called us is still leading us. The promise He spoke has not expired. The road may be longer than expected, the journey more difficult than imagined, and the silence deeper than we anticipated, but His faithfulness remains unchanged.

So if you are still walking, do not mistake the length of the journey for the absence of God. If you have not yet reached your Pool of Siloam, do not conclude that the promise has failed. The miracle may be closer than you realize.

Keep praying. Keep obeying. Keep forgiving. Keep serving. Keep trusting. Keep walking.

For every step taken in obedience is another step closer to the place where the promises of God become the testimony of His faithfulness.

Reflect

Are you close to giving up on something God asked you to walk out? What would it look like to keep walking one more faithful step this week?

CONCLUSION

THE SHEPHERD NEVER LOSES SIGHT OF THOSE WHO KEEP WALKING

KEY TEXT

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

When we step back and look at the entire account of the blind man in John chapter 9, we discover that the greatest miracle was not simply that blind eyes were opened. The greater miracle was that an ordinary man learned to trust an extraordinary Savior without requiring an explanation for every step. The story begins with blindness, continues through uncertainty, and ends with sight. But hidden between the beginning and the end is a journey that teaches every disciple how to walk with God.

It is significant that Jesus did not heal the man and then send him to Siloam. He sent him to Siloam so that he might be healed. The order was intentional. Christ was revealing a principle that echoes throughout the entire Bible: God's blessings are often found on the path of obedience. The road itself becomes part of His divine design. Every step becomes another opportunity to choose trust over fear, surrender over control, and faith over sight.

This explains why Scripture repeatedly describes our relationship with God as a walk rather than a destination. From Genesis to Revelation, God is not merely searching for people who desire miracles; He is searching for people who will walk with Him. Enoch "walked with God" (Genesis 5:24). Noah "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). Abraham was told, "Walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Genesis 17:1). Paul instructed believers to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Ephesians 4:1). The Christian life has always been defined by continual fellowship rather than isolated spiritual experiences.

Perhaps that is why God so often leaves space between the promise and its fulfillment. If every prayer were answered immediately, we might pursue God's hand more than His heart. If every need disappeared instantly, we might seek His blessings while neglecting His presence. But the journey teaches us something the miracle alone never could: God Himself is our greatest reward.

As the blind man walked, he undoubtedly anticipated the moment he would finally see. Yet imagine what happened after the miracle. The first face his healed eyes longed to behold was not the Pool of Siloam, nor the streets of Jerusalem, nor even the people around him. It was the face of the One who had changed his life. The miracle pointed him back to Christ.

This is the purpose of every blessing God gives us. Every answered prayer should increase our love for the One who answered it. Every open door should deepen our worship. Every miracle should strengthen our relationship with the Miracle Worker. If we become fascinated with the gift but indifferent toward the Giver, we have misunderstood the purpose of God's blessings.

John chapter 9 continues beyond the healing, and that continuation is just as important as the miracle itself. The religious leaders questioned the man relentlessly. They challenged his testimony, rejected his explanation, and eventually cast him out of the synagogue. Ironically, after receiving physical sight, he immediately encountered spiritual opposition. Yet this time he stood firm because something had changed within him. The journey to Siloam had developed more than his eyesight, it had developed his conviction.

Later, Jesus sought him again.

"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?"

John 9:35 (KJV)

The story reaches its highest point only a few verses later.

"And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him."

John 9:38 (KJV)

This is the true climax of the chapter. The greatest miracle was not that the man received physical vision. It was that he came to spiritual revelation. He first received his sight. Then he recognized his Savior. Then he became a worshiper. The journey had led him to something infinitely greater than restored eyesight, it led him into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

That is God's ultimate purpose in every season of our lives. His goal is never limited to solving temporary problems. He desires to conform us into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). Every trial, every delay, every act of obedience, and every season of waiting is ultimately shaping us to know Christ more deeply. Sometimes we become so focused on reaching our personal "Pool of Siloam" that we forget the greatest blessing waiting for us is not what God gives, it is God Himself.

There is another beautiful truth that deserves our attention. Throughout the journey, the blind man could not see Jesus, but Jesus never lost sight of him. Even after sending him away, Christ knew exactly where he was. Later, after the religious leaders rejected him, Jesus intentionally sought him out once again. What comfort this gives to every believer. There are seasons when we cannot clearly perceive God's activity, but there has never been a moment when God has lost track of His children.

David understood this confidence when he declared,

"The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me."

Psalms 138:8 (KJV)

Likewise, Paul proclaimed with assurance,

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

God never abandons the work He begins. He is both the Author and the Finisher of our faith. The One who called us onto the road is the same One who walks with us until the journey is complete.

Perhaps you find yourself today somewhere between the command and the miracle. You have obeyed, yet you still cannot see. You have prayed, yet the answer has not arrived. You have remained faithful, yet the road seems longer than you expected. If so, remember the blind man. His greatest mistake would have been stopping before he reached the pool. Every step that felt ordinary was actually bringing him closer to the extraordinary.

The same is true for us. Do not confuse silence with absence. Do not confuse delay with denial. Do not confuse difficulty with defeat. The Shepherd still knows the road. The promise has not changed. The destination has not moved. And the God who called you is still faithful.

So keep walking when you do not understand. Keep trusting when you cannot yet see. Keep obeying when the road seems long. Keep believing when emotions grow weak.

For one day you will look back and realize that every step of obedience, every moment of surrender, every season of waiting, and every tear along the way was being woven together by the faithful hand of God. Then, like the man born blind, your testimony will not simply be that God performed a miracle. Your testimony will be that He was faithful through every step of the journey.

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (KJV)

May we, as followers of Christ, determine in our hearts that regardless of the obstacles, regardless of the silence, and regardless of the length of the road, we will continue walking until faith becomes sight, until the promise becomes reality, and until every step of our journey brings glory to the One who first said, "Go."

Reflect

The blind man's miracle led him into worship, not just sight. What would it look like for this season of your life to lead you into deeper relationship with Jesus, not just the answer you're seeking?

Fill in the Blanks

Complete each statement using words from this study.

1. Faith is demonstrated not only by what we _____, but by how we _____ to the Word of God.
2. The blind man's healing did not begin when Jesus spoke; it began when he _____ in obedience toward the Pool of _____.
3. God often gives us a _____, but not a complete _____, so that we learn to trust Him daily.
4. Obedience does not _____ God's miracle; it _____ us where God has already chosen to release it.
5. During seasons when God seems silent, we must remain faithful to the last _____. He has already _____.
6. The blind man's greatest testimony was not only that he received his _____, but that God remained _____ through every step of the journey.

Reflection Questions

Take time this week to sit with these questions and write down what God is showing you.

1. What “Pool of Siloam” has God placed before you? Is there an area where He is asking you to continue walking in obedience even though you have not yet seen the outcome?

2. Have you ever mistaken God's silence for His absence? How does the blind man's journey challenge the way you respond during seasons when you cannot feel or clearly hear God?

3. Are there areas of your life where you have been waiting for complete understanding before obeying God? What would it look like to trust Him with your next step instead?

4. How has God used difficult seasons, delays, or unanswered questions to shape your character? Looking back, can you identify ways the journey itself became part of your testimony?

5. What practical step of obedience can you take this week that demonstrates your trust in God's promises, even if you cannot yet see the miracle He is preparing?

Answer Key - For Group Leaders

1. believe / respond
2. walked (or went) / Siloam
3. destination / map
4. earn / positions
5. command (or instruction) / given (or spoken)
6. sight / faithful