

# ALAN TAYLOR

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## Walk in Your Own Faith

Let me tell you about my very first-time snow skiing with my friends. We drove to a place in Canada to spend the day racing down the snow slopes. The rest of my friends were excellent skiers, but I was mostly a beginner. You can imagine how my teenage friends treated me as we were lifted to the top of the mountain. We were so high up we were actually above the clouds, and it was a long way back to the bottom.

I'll never forget the small sign that said "WARNING: Experts Only" that was right beside a narrow path alongside a cliff, and it led to a double black diamond course. Now, even though I wasn't an expert, I did know that a black diamond hill was for advanced skiers. I then could imagine the doom that laid before me with a course that was for only the most advanced and experienced.

I protested to my friends and stopped at the sign, and they just looked back at me and said something like, "Don't be a baby! Let's go!" Then they continued down the trail, letting me decide to follow them or to turn back alone. Well, I did follow and survived going down the mountain, although it was probably the slowest time in history. It was a dangerous slope, but I learned and gained confidence throughout the day.

It was a while later when another friend wanted to go to the same place with me, but this time he was the beginner, and I had more knowledge than him. I tricked him like my friends did to me and didn't tell him where we were going. I waited in great anticipation to see his expression when he saw the sign, and sure enough, fear came all over his face. He told me, "Hey I'm a beginner, what are you thinking? Besides, I have a sore knee, and I don't want to injure it!" My answer back was, "Don't be a baby! I did it and so can you, let's go, you'll be fine" as I left him to follow me and he did.

Within ten minutes, he had stumbled down the steep incline and had broken his knee. I heard the scream and found him lying in the snow in great pain. I told him I would get help. As fast as I could (which was still really slow), I raced downward to find the rescue team for them to go and help him. He spent the rest of the day in a hospital as well as months in a cast because he listened to me instead of his own instincts. We both tried to use my experience as proof of why it was going to work out for him, but it didn't.

Many Christians have lived this same story over and over but in a spiritual way. They have taken a leap of faith based on someone else's experience and found themselves hurt and discouraged. There is a massive difference between stepping out in faith compared to trying to prove you have faith. One lady I knew purchased an expensive piece of land at an auction in a leap of faith that God would send her the money within the thirty-day payment period. She was very disappointed when the finances didn't show up, and she was fined. She had heard so many testimonies of God doing that kind of thing for others, so why not her.

A testimony of a person's victory is to bring hope and courage for everyone to hear, but your faith can not be based on another's experience. It must be built into our own belief system. Your faith must come from deep within your own heart and will pull you forward into the impossible. It says in Romans 10:10, *"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

God will always meet you where your faith is and walk with you there; He will never lead you into failure. Many people attempt to prove their faith to make a statement to God or even to themselves. If I take a leap off the cliff, then God will have to catch me. That's the difference between proving faith where the step of faith originates from within you and not from outside.

Many preachers today try to use testimonies to convince people to believe for a miracle. It is usually in the area of finances or healing, but if it isn't inside of you pulling you forward, it's okay NOT to leap forward. You don't want to be broken because of presumption. When I was young, I heard one preacher tell the congregation that if they really believed God and wanted to prove it, then they should throw away their medication. A few days later, when that preacher was off speaking in another town, a member of the church died because they stopped taking their essential medication.

I made a rule in my own personal ministry towards others, and that is to never entice people beyond where they are truly living in God because I will cause them to get hurt just like my friend on the ski hill. Instead, I can encourage, teach, and even testify to help everyone around me to spend time with God and to build their own faith. Then they will begin to be pulled forward from within by the Holy Spirit to take steps into victory because He never fails.

I made another rule of ministry in which I've decided that if someone comes up to me for prayer and they are in a wheelchair that I will ask them what they want me to pray for. It would be presumptuous of me just to say get up out of that chair unless the Lord spoke to me to do that. Jesus worked that way, where over and over, He would ask people about their faith, even with blind Bartimaeus. Here in Mark 10:51-52, *"So Jesus answered and said to him, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' The blind man said to Him, 'Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road."*

It was clearly evident to everyone that he was blind, and yet Jesus still asked him what is it you want from Me. Jesus wanted to hear the man's faith out of his own heart. Jesus will always meet you where your faith is and He will happily come to you no matter where that place is. Others around you may say you should believe, and therefore you should leap out, but unless you are pulled forward from within your own heart by the Holy Spirit, then you shouldn't try to prove anything to anyone.

If you are seeking God, reading the Word of God and praying in the Spirit, then be at peace because Jesus is already walking with you, and you are already in faith! Within this walk you are never too late or behind in God's eyes and you are right on time.

Amazing things are happening within your heart, and it's crucial not to despise small beginnings. Trust that the Holy Spirit believes in you and is creating an incredible path into full victory! My prayer is for you to experience peace during these times and trust that Jesus is walking with you right now. Let it grow and watch the Spirit lead you step by step into the impossible.

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