



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 5 - 2

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Finding the Footholds of Faith

God has designed a unique journey for each of our lives. Like the early pioneers, our chosen path leads us to new frontiers. It includes difficult obstacles such as wild rivers and deep canyons but also great opportunities rise before us like beautiful mountains. There are many paths we could take but the only one that will get us to where we must go is the path of faith. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith; He designed each step for us. Canyons and fast, rushing rivers are dangerous. It is important that we do not live our lives stuck in a dark canyon or be washed away by the power of a fast, rushing river. Canyons and rivers are designed to be crossed and then left behind. Our most important paths go to the mountains. Once you climb them, you may dwell there and each summit reveals new purpose. To get there you cannot follow another climber, only Jesus knows the way. Here are 5 footholds of faith that you will identify as you climb your mountain.

Get ready. Here are 5 types of faith that Jesus has designed for you. You will be blessed as you discover them.

1. Biblical Faith
2. Secret, Personal Faith
3. Mandated Faith
4. Exploratory Faith
5. Explosive Faith.

Before discussing them, let me tell you a story. When our children were young we drove across Canada to see the Rocky Mountains. My son Andrew was determined to climb one - he was seven.

A beautiful uphill drive followed by a vigorous walk up a steep trail was not good enough for Andrew, he wanted to climb a mountain cliff. After much thought, I took my son to a spot where a 50 foot cliff rose before us. Joy and the rest of the children took the path and walked to the top of it. As I gazed up the cliff, I looked carefully to find a series of footholds that would lead us safely to the top. Andrew began his climb but I formed a human cage around him

with my body, so that he could not fall. As we climbed, Andrew became frightened. When we were 35 feet up, he felt that he could go no further. He wanted to give up and go down. With much encouragement from his dad, we pressed on. At times I had to take his foot and put it onto the next foothold because he could not find it. When we finally reached the top Andrew could hardly contain his excitement. He had climbed his mountain.

In many ways, all of us are like Andrew; we want to climb the mountain but we do not know how. Without exception, we can only do it if we find the footholds of faith that the Lord has designed for us.

Here are 5 footholds that you must discover. I trust they will help you on your journey.

1. Biblical Faith

Biblical faith is genuine faith, it is not manmade faith. You cannot manufacture biblical faith. It is not

a great idea that you embrace and refuse to let go. It is a gift that comes from God and is received when you learn to listen and hear His voice. Good ideas that we do not get from God are just presumption. All presumption leads to strife, failure, disappointment and confusion. Biblical faith starts with a word from God. When you get a word from God you can stand on it. Hold on to it. It will not fail.

2. Secret, Personal Faith

Personal faith is the kind that only fits **your** foot. You find these footholds when you have very personal and even secret encounters with the Lord. It happens when God speaks to you alone. He may speak through dreams, Bible verses, circumstances, or supernatural signs. He may provide angelic protection or perform a miracle in your life. When this happens it will impact you and leave a permanent mark on you. That is a fingerprint of God on your life. Others may not understand but the personal experiences that God gives you become the testimonies of your life. No one can take them from you and they will sustain you when everything around you seems to grow dark and fail.

3. Mandated Faith

You must have God's Mandated faith; heaven insists on it. It is the only way to begin climbing the mountain.

We read, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God ... anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* Heb. 11:6

The second part of this verse cuts to the heart of the matter. You must believe that God will personally reward you if you seek him. It is not good enough for you to believe that God will bless and do great things for some else. It is easy to see the blessings of God on others, especially if they have a successful ministry, a great family or a flourishing business. You **must** believe however, that God will **bless you** if you diligently seek Him. Without that foothold of faith you cannot climb the mountain.

4. Exploratory Faith

As you climb the mountain there are moments when you cannot see your way forward. You have to feel around and you may even come to a dead end. Then you must backup and find a different route. You must seek the Lord again. You reach for the path that God has designed for you then He lets you discover the next foothold. The life of

faith is exploratory. You seek to discover who you are, what you are called to do and where you must go. The more you discover who you are in Christ, the more you discover who the Lord is. When you live in unity with Him you will live a life of victory. The only way you can fail is if you give up and quit. Don't quit, press on and reach for the mountain tops. As you do you will discover that the journey is just as wonderful as the destination.

5. Explosive Faith

You have come a long way pilgrim, but God is still teaching you. Your journey is not complete without explosive faith. Once you stop struggling with the journey, you will reach a mountain top. Then new blessings will overtake you. The mountain air is bursting with life, the view is spectacular and fresh anointing comes with the power of heaven. God's faith inside of you is destined to move through you to bless others. It has been given to you to be an explosive force. You are called to heal the sick, set prisoners free, to open the eyes of the blind and to proclaim the year of God's favor over those who desire Him. Be blessed, climb high, take hold of the footholds of faith. **AΩ**



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