

Stepping Over the Line

Do you ever feel like life is nothing but a roller coaster ride and everything within you just wants to get off? Your joy and peace can be stolen, within moments, by discouragement and despair. We find ourselves with fleeting faith, when the troubles of life come crashing in on us like relentless waves in a stormy sea.

Though we claim to trust in a Shepherd who leads us through valleys . . . we find ourselves "wanting" . . . "fearing evil" . . . wondering if He's *really* with us. With each step we take, it seems unlikely that there are any "green pastures" . . . much less "still waters." We're not so sure we like His rod or His staff . . . they don't seem to be so "comforting." Instead of our "souls being restored," we're convinced, with each passing moment, our valley may lead us into a canyon.

It can be difficult to believe that God's plans are for "good," when life seems to be unraveling. Yet, without doubt, there would be no need for faith. (God uses ALL things for good . . . even our doubt and disbelief) And faith is where God draws the line. It's the place where you must make a decision to *step over the line*. In the words of missionary Helen Roseveare, God's voice shouts to us in our pain . . . "*Can you thank Me for trusting you with this experience, even if I never tell you why?*" God's question cuts to the heart of our faith. He calls us out, and His question begs an answer. He asks us to trust Him, even if He never answers *our* questions. It's His way of making us completely dependent upon Him. He's taking us on a journey, and He's asking us to make a decision to trust Him at *every* step.

When we find ourselves in difficult and sometimes seemingly insurmountable situations . . . God draws a line. We stand on the side of questioning His ways, giving into doubt, unsure that we can take even *one* more step. But, there's Jesus. He stands on the other side of the line and His outstretched hand beckons us like a child learning how to walk. There's the strength in His eyes that assures us He's there to help us, and He will not let us fall . . . *if we will take that step*.

You see, the truth is . . . God has blessed you with the very trials you're in. Though you can't understand it or make sense of it all, God has trusted you with the tribulations that threaten to overcome you. He is increasing and strengthening your faith by threatening to destroy it. Never forget: *there's no victory without a battle*. The Apostle Paul didn't call it a "fight of faith" for nothing. This life is an intense battle between the spirit and the flesh and God is asking us, in this life, *while we are still in our flesh*, to step over the line of faith and live through the Spirit that leads us into victory. *He's asking us to step out of this world*, and step over the line of faith, *into His*.

Our difficulties, our troubles, are not the circumstances that we face, but our *internal* battle . . . it's our struggle to believe . . . it's our conflict between what we "see" and the spirit that urges us to trust God in the midst of everything that contradicts our faith. It comes down to an act of the will . . . it comes down to a decision. Everything you're facing in life comes down to ONE

question, ***“Do you trust God?”*** In times of greatest doubt, when you struggle to simply “carry on,” will you make the decision to step over the line? Every *obstacle* you’re facing is an *opportunity*, given to you by God, in order to increase your faith. By trusting Him, you’re declaring that your God is bigger than *anything* you face. Without the resistance to your faith . . . your faith would never grow. God knows what He’s doing. He’s always up to something. It’s always something good. And it’s always something worth cherishing hope for.

By stepping over the line, you’re looking into the face of fear, the dangers that threaten to destroy you, the giant issues you face, the encroaching walls of affliction, the principalities and powers that are out to destroy you . . . and completely casting yourself into the arms of God. By stepping over the line, you’re refusing to rely on your feelings and walk by sight . . . you’re choosing to be led by faith in God alone. By stepping over the line, you’re declaring to God, “I’m tired of being up and down, tossed about, and questioning Your ways . . . *You’ve drawn a line, and I’m stepping over the line, by faith.* By stepping over the line, you’re ultimately telling God, “*I trust you.*” And **there’s a promise for those who step over the line:**

Those who trust in, lean on, and confidently hope in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides and stands fast forever. (Psalm 125:1 AMP)