

Steps of Faith: Day 1 – 7

- 1. Commit myself to 40 Days of Faith**
- 2. Encourage and pray for a lonely person**
- 3. Gift card a young couple**
- 4. My work is my ministry**
- 5. Let God use my handicap**
- 6. Fill the house**
- 7. Love the unlovable**

Day 1: Step of Faith

Commit Myself to 40 Days of Faith

Good morning! It's DAY 1. The first step of faith is commitment. Good things happen when we commit. **Too often we are committed to something until something better comes along.**

One of my friends recently told me a story. He made a commitment to a group that he would be at an event on October 22. It's not just a social event, it's one where people go for support and life change. He made the commitment to be there for others. A few days ago his children called and have all decided to take him to a concert, not just any concert. It's one of his favorites, Bob Dylan. Guess what day.... His brain tells him this will be a family memory, it's important to the kids, and so-forth. But he made a commitment to people who need him and he is going to keep it. If he made this commitment in love, he will never regret keeping it.

Commitment means I will be there. I will do my part to the absolute best of my ability. When is the last time you really made that kind of commitment and kept it?

In the next 40 Days you are going to have plenty of temptation and other options to be distracted. Most of the other options will not only appear to be better, but will even seem to fit in your values. We must replace our value system with this decision making tool: **I WANT TO PLEASE GOD, BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.** Commit because you love Him.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I decide to commit myself to the next 40 days of faith to the best of my ability. I decide to say "no" to things that will distract, and say "yes" to you. I ask you to help me, and validate my steps of faith along the way that I may grow in my relationship with you and others.

Day 2: Step of Faith

Encourage and pray for a lonely person

Day 2 Step of Faith: Look around you and find someone that appears to be alone. Strike up a simple conversation by taking interest in what they are doing, asking about their hobbies, or just asking where they grew up. Spend time praying for them throughout the day.

Proverbs 16:24 ESV: *"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."*

Proverbs 25:11 ESV: *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver."*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I ask you to guide me to the lonely person who needs encouragement today. Help me to say something that connects. I will leave the results up to you. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Day 3: Step of Faith

Gift card a young couple

Day 3 Step of Faith: Pray about and choose a young couple, not people that are family or close friends, to give a gas card or restaurant gift card to (\$10 or more).

A great Scripture you could include with the gift card: Philippians 4:6-7: *"Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I ask you to guide me to the couple that needs me to take this step of faith today. Help me to believe that my own needs will be met as I trust you today. Thank you for this opportunity. Guide me to the right gift, and the right people I pray. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Day 4: Step of Faith

My Work is My Ministry

Day 4 Step of Faith: Believe that your work is your ministry today. Consider everyone around you to possibly be God's mission for you. God has you there for His reasons. What you are paid, the work conditions, and the boss, God is aware of it all. But He has you there for His purposes. Leave all the negatives to God, your boss, and let Him help you do your ministry today.

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you"(John 20:21 NLT).

FAQ's:

Q: What if I fail at my job? Do I lose credibility to do ministry?

A: Don't be perfect, just make things right when you fail. Too often Christians hide their mistakes and let others take the blame to protect their ability to witness. Owning our weaknesses and failures is greater testimony than if you were perfectly performing your duties.

Q: What if I work at home?

A: Look for opportunities with neighbors. Pray, and ask God for opportunity and take a walk. Will you be calling anyone today? Consider your spouse, children your ministry too. Make a milk run and watch for a moment at the store.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You need workers in the fields today. So, send me. I ask you for wisdom, and help to do my ministry today. I don't go to work for money today, but for You. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Day 5: Step of Faith

Let God use my Handicap

Day 5 Step of Faith: Let God use your handicap today. What is your weakness today? Anything from health to losing your keys can be used by God for timing or purpose to get you where He wants you at just the right moment. Don't be afraid, don't be angry, just turn it over to God for His purposes. Take a step of faith by stopping, take a deep breath and pray the prayer below. Then proceed and watch God move.

"As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him" (Jn. 9:1-3 ESV).

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You know my situation, and whether you have just allowed it or actually caused it, I trust it to you. I ask you for help, and peace to proceed in your timing and purpose for this weakness today that the *"works of God might be displayed"* in me. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Day 6: Step of Faith

Fill the House

Day 6 Step of Faith: Pray that God would help you create an opportunity to invite someone to church, and do it.

This could be someone you know or don't know. Tell them you will meet them at the entrance five or ten minutes early, and make sure they have directions. If they turn you down, trust God with the seed that was sown. Most people don't think their Christian co-workers or neighbors/friends want them to come to their church; sometimes an invitation is all they are waiting for.

Jesus said in Luke 14:23 NIV: *"Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full."*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I ask you to guide me to who it is You want me to compel to "come in." Please make them and me ready for the moment we talk. Open a door that I can't. Give me courage to do it. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Day 7: Step of Faith

Love the Unlovable

Day 7 Step of Faith: Love the unlovable in your life. Who is the person you struggle to love the most? Throughout the day write a list of things they need in their life (use this printable worksheet: [Day 7 Worksheet](#)). At the end of the day, give God 5 to 10 minutes of uninterrupted prayer over that list and ask for God's help in that person's life.

Matthew 5:43-47 NIV: Jesus said, *You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, today I trust You with those that I struggle to love. I bring no charges against them to You today. In particular, _____ (name them to God). I give them to You for Your work to be done in their life. Help me to list the things that they need so that I may pray for them tonight. I take a step of faith to forgive them and hand them over to You for Your plan now. In Jesus's name, Amen.