

Title: Simply Walk In Faith

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 11/23/25

Obviously this week, we are very thankful. We are thankful that you are here. We want to continue in thanksgiving and praise in our hearts, in our attitudes, in our minds and our thoughts. It's always a season of reflection, but let that reflection launch you forward. Let that reflection not be of pity or sadness or loneliness, but let that reflection of being thankful in the Lord bound you forward in His presence, bound you forward to your call, bound you forward into your destiny. When you look back, it's not to stay there. It's to see where God is moving you. It's to see how God has advanced you. It's to see how God is pressing on in that upward call of your life. So, as you look with your family this week and you reflect on what God has done and is doing, let it burst you forward into the last month of the year and into what the Lord has for you in the next year. Amen.

First Timothy 1:1-2 ESV

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God, our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. To Timothy, my true (son) child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God, the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The Lord God is a family man. His business is the people business. Say, “His business is the people business.” So, my business is the people business. Wise is the one who saves souls. The only thing that matters is, “Did you learn to love?” Did you learn to love God with all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind, and all of your strength? Did you learn to love others as yourself? “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” This is all that matters. This is why the Apostle says, *“To Timothy, “My true child of the faith.”* You weren't put into a religion. You were put into a family.

You were put into a family when you said, “Yes, Abba Father,” with a yes in your heart that said, “Amen, Jesus is the way, and Jesus is the truth.” Then, He said, “I will be your God, and you will be My people. I will be your God, and you will be Mine.” What He does is He puts on your head, “Mine.” He says, “Mine.” He writes His name by His blood on your head and says, Mine. This one is Mine.” He has bought you back. He is your, “Kinsman Redeemer.” What does that mean? That means that He is now your blood relative that has bought you back. He is of your kinfolk. He is your “Kinsman Redeemer.” You say, “How was I born of God?” Because you were born again by the Spirit when you said, “Yes, Jesus Christ is alive, He rose from the dead, He conquered the sin that so easily entangles me, and will continue to do so until I rise with Him in faith on that glorious day.” As a Christian, we believe there is a resurrection from death. Not just spiritually, not just a figment, not just prophetically, but alive from dead bones to new bones with real skin. You say, “Well, mine's getting wrinkly.” It's going to be new. This is our hope.

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If we already have attained this hope, then what is hope? What are you hoping for? You've already attained this everlasting, resurrected body life now, prophetically. Yes, by the Spirit, we are alive. We are a new man. We are a new creation in Christ.

But, if this is all that there is, then why do we gather? If this is all that there is, why do we worship God as the One who can do it all? If nothing is impossible for God, then yes, there is a resurrection of the dead. Even on the day that Jesus came out of the grave, saints came out of the grave with Him. Wow. Yes?

First Timothy 1:1-2 ESV

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

There is a Trinity. The Trinity is the Father sits on the throne, and out of His heart, whoosh, the Son is the Word of God. The very Word of God is His own Son, the only begotten of the Father. They are in each other. The Son comes out of the Father's essence, and the Son is the essence of God. He is the heart of God. So, when the Father gave us Jesus, He gave us His heart. Saying, “This is all of My heart. This is all of My future. This is all that I am, and I am giving Him to the Earth.”

We killed Him. We said, “We don't want Him.” We said, “That's a great gospel, but I don't want anything to do with that, because I have to give up myself for Him.” No greater love has a man than to give up his life for his friends. But yet, He gave up His life for sinners. He gave up His life for those that hated Him. He gave up His life for those that spit upon Him. He gave up His life for those that mocked Him and ridiculed Him as He was dying on that cross. Yet, He is the heart of the Father. After He rose from the dead, Jesus says, “I must go back to the Father. I must be One with Him as I have overcome. I will go and sit on My Father's throne. To him who overcomes, I will give him that right to sit with Me on My Father's throne.”

It says this in the book of Revelation. There's this hope that you have. That, “I can overcome, but not by my own strength. Because my ways eventually lead to death, and I find myself in the same pit. I find myself in the same places, or I find myself dry and barren.” Because, “Cursed is the man who trusts in his own hand and in the strength of his own right arm. He will be like a shrub in a barren and dry place, but blessed is the Lord who puts His trust in God. He will be like a tree planted by the waters, that when drought and famine come do not wither.”

So when I put my hope in Him, all of a sudden, the ways of death now become the ways of life, and the ways of life make me fresh and flourishing. I don't just feel like I'm doing something. I feel like I'm actually living. I feel like I'm actually alive, because Christ came to give life and life abundantly. This is the gospel.

Now Jesus said, “I must go, that I might send the Helper.” The Holy Spirit is a very fearful thing. The Holy Spirit is the very fire of God. The Holy Spirit is the very fear of the Lord. You are to dread God. You are to dread the Spirit of God because no one knows where He's going. No one knows where He goes or knows how He does it.

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He is the mystery. He is what the Israelites feared on the mountain in the fire of God. Jesus says, "I must go," because when the fire comes down, He's not going to be somebody to dread. He's not going to be somebody to fear. He's going to be your "Helper."

The family of God must have the Helper. He is the overseer of our souls, and of the order of Melchizedek. The priesthood is led by the Spirit and by the fire. The Israelites walked following the pillar of fire, but He is the Helper. When the Helper comes, He will lead you into all truth. You must have this. It's so that He can be everywhere at once in every moment. Jesus said, "It's better for Me to go, because I can't go to the ends of the world by Myself." I'm in the flesh. But, if my Spirit comes, He can be anywhere, at any time, and at any moment. He can grab you by the hair like Ezekiel was, saying come on up here right now. He can pick you up, like Philip, and take you to another town. He can call John and say, come on up here. He's the Spirit that translates and transports the hearts of His children. Wow!

First Timothy 1:3-5 ESV

"As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." Wow.

Timothy is being held accountable as an overseer of the house. He is what we might call a bishop, or an apostle, or a leader, or nowadays, mostly a pastor. But he is way more than a pastor. He's not just shepherding the sheep. He's holding on to the doctrine of the faith. He is sending out. He is equipping. He is evangelizing in the place that he is at.

Carnality comes into the house of God, where we would rather discuss the glory of God than live it. That is, "the form of religion, but denying the power therein," and it's happening. Do not do that, right? *"Charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine."* Okay? They might not be teaching any doctrine, but they're devoting themselves to something that doesn't matter. *"Devoting themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than stewardship from God that is by faith."*

Speculation versus stewardship. Stewardship comes out of encounter that doesn't need words. Speculation is debates that constantly have to be evolving. What is he trying to say here? He's saying, "Keep it simple. Keep the walk of faith simple." Are you hearing God's voice or not? Do you know how much He loves you or not? Are you walking in the grace and mercy and peace from God or not? This is all that is necessary, faith, hope and love. "These things remain, and the greatest of these is love." I charge you in love that when you have a good conscience and it's simple, that is where the fruit remains and when you are fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

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The simplicity of the gospel is the most revolutionary. But, when we get into speculation, the how to's, the whys, and you split hairs, then it becomes complicated. The voice of the Holy Spirit has to be in certain boxes that you have made. That you can't do it this way, Holy Spirit. Remember, we have to do it in the right order and how it's all necessary. That's religion. When you have to have God go through several gates to get to the place He wants to go, that's speculation. Are you with me?

First Timothy 1:5-6 ESV

"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things which they make confident assertions."

"I want you to not just know the word, but to know the Word of God. I don't want you to just know the word, but to know the Word of God. Do you know what I'm saying? I want you not to just know the word, but to know the guy, "Word of God." He has a name, *Jesus*, according to John chapter one, right? I want you to not just know the word, but I want you to know the Lord and Savior, the Man, the Word of God. Does this make sense? So that when you teach, it's out of, "I know Him." That way, when you say something, it's out of, "I have tasted and seen that the Lord is good." That way, when you are preaching, you say, "I am wise, because I've been with the Evangelist. I am wise, because I know how He saves souls."

If you've ever read the book of Mark, you should read it again. Mark was the scribe of Peter. Basically, Mark hung around with Peter. He's a disciple of Peter. The book of Mark is basically Peter's testimony written out. How Peter saw Jesus do and live. Peter really focuses on how Jesus did things, like how He put His hands on, how He steps into the boat, how He kneels down. I know all the Gospels have it. But, if you read Mark, he really focuses on the how, because Peter knew Him. Now, did John know Him? Yes, John talks about it a lot, too. Luke brings the account from all of the of the testimony of the early church. Matthew knew Him. Matthew focuses on the prophetic and how He fulfills the prophecy of the Word of God. But yet, Mark is about how He did the Word of God. John is about how he loves the Word of God. It's beautiful.

John 1:1-5 ESV

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Amen.

John 1:14 ESV

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

First John 1:1-2 ESV

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.”

What we have seen, what we have handled, what we have put our hands on, this is what we testify to you. He said, *“That which our eyes have seen, what we have handled, that which we have put our hands on.”* John says this. We have now known the fullness of the glory of God. He was flesh. He was dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory.

I now know the Word of God, and when I speak of these things to you. I want it to be out of encounter with the Word. You can encounter this Bible. This can be not just a daily ritual, but a daily bread. Your daily bread can get stale. Your daily bread can get moldy. Nobody wants to eat stale, moldy bread. But if it has life, if it's fresh and warm, if it has an aroma and a fragrance, you'll line up for it at the donut shop. This is the Word of God. He says, “I am the Bread of Life.”

First John 1:1-2 ESV

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life. The life was made manifest, and we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.”

Now, you say, “Grant, they lived with Him. How can I encounter Who they lived with? How can I touch Him? How can I see the living God? How can I touch and how can I see the living God?” That's why we walk by faith and not by sight.

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

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

“He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” If you are seeing what you are seeking, is that faith? If I see the top of the mountain, do I have faith that it's there? No, I know it's there. Right? When you drive to Las Vegas, you don't have to believe that it's in the desert. You can see it for 100 miles, because in the night it lights up. I don't have faith that it's there. I know it's there.

But, what gain is that in the Kingdom of God? Unless you have faith for something you don't see, unless you have evidence of something that's in the soul, or unless you are clinging to something that was spoken to you in a whisper in the closet and you said, “Yes, I'm going to hold on to your word for me. Even though the vision tarries, I shall wait, and it shall come to pass.” What reward is there without faith?

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

“And without faith, it is impossible to please Him.”

I am charging you in love. I am charging you to be a son of the faith. That it is impossible to please your Father without faith. “How can I touch? How can I handle? How can I see the Holy Spirit? How can I touch? How can I handle the throne of God? How can I stand there boldly, as it says in Hebrews, if I don't know it?” Because it's a walk of faith, and without faith, it is impossible to please Him.

It's impossible to find favor in the sight of God without the boldness to say, “I believe you. I believe that you're hearing me. I believe that you're seeing me. I believe that you've seen my tears. I believe that you've heard the cry of my heart. I believe you've seen me. I believe that you know me. I believe that you're a Father. I believe that you are God. I believe that you're a fire. I believe that you're a provider. I believe that you're a healer. I believe that you're a Savior. I believe that you're a deliverer. I believe that you're a lover. I believe that you're intimate. I believe that you're not far away, but you're near. I believe that you want me. I believe that you need me. I believe that I want you and that I need you even when I don't feel like I need you, and even when I feel like I don't want you. I believe that I need you. I believe that I must have you. I believe that I am dry and I want more. I believe that I'm full and I want more. I believe that I'm overflowing and I want more. I believe that I have more than enough, but I want more. I believe.” This is how you please God.

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

“And without faith, it is impossible to please Him. For he who comes to God must believe that He is.” I love that in the New King James it says, “He is.” I wish that the ESV said it, too.

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”

It's simple, *“For whoever would draw near to God must believe that He is.”*

Don't speculate. Don't make it complicated. The glory of God is just His nearness. The glory of God is just His hand. The glory of God is just that when He walks into the room, the shadow of His appearing covers you. The glory of God is just the simplicity of His breath. The glory of God is just the heartbeat of Heaven thumping in your chest. Don't make it more, but definitely don't make it less. Love is the glory of God. Yes, you must believe that, “He is.” “He is,” is such a profound phrase. It's not that, “He was,” but yet, “He was.” It's not that, “He is to come,” but, “He is to come.” “He is,” now present in the moment. You must believe that, “He is,” right now.

Sometimes, we pray, “You know what God? I remember when you were back here, and God this is what I need for my future.” But when you come before God, to please Him, you must say, “I know you're here right now. You're in this moment right here.”

That is who you are. You are here. 'He is,' right? You're not a God far away. You are not that hard to find, because You came and lived in me. "Christ is in me, the hope of glory."

To please Him, you must have faith. *"For whoever would draw near to God must believe that 'He is,' and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* Amen.

Second Timothy 1:5 ESV

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice, and now I am sure, dwells in you as well."

There is an inheritance of faith. There is a mantle that can be passed down. It doesn't just have to be from your family in blood. It can come from your family in the spiritual house.

In Malachi, it says that the spirit of Elijah will come and *"turn the hearts of the children to the fathers and the hearts of the fathers to the children."* In First Timothy, he taught that the older men in the house are to be fathers to the young men, and the older women in the house are to be mothers to the young women, and that the young men should treat other brothers as brothers, and that the young women should treat other sisters as sisters with all purity. This family of God is growing up in the Spirit, and we have been maturing in Christ since the day that the law was written, and since father Abraham birthed the family of faith. We are coming into maturity and are in the season of love to be married to the King. As each generation takes on more and more of who we are in Christ, there is an inheritance to pass down. There are victories, there are treasures, there are mantles, and there are truths. There is overcoming in that as I have overcome, you now have the keys to overcome it quickly. As you overcome you hand those keys and those swords and those weapons to others overcome it even faster and more effectively. We teach ourselves. We teach our sons and our daughters how to pray, and we say, "This is a more effective prayer. You don't have to speak so long, son. You don't have to go around about it. You just have to say, 'Father, this is what I ask.'" But, if your heart is not connected to it, then are you in the will of God? It's not about the words that you're saying, but it's about the heart.

More and more the church is understanding that it's about love. But, this can be passed down. Just as in Timothy, the faith, the faith, the faith. But these are spiritual mantles that you can acquire, grow into and put on. Elisha took on the mantle from Elijah. There wasn't any power in the cloth. But, there was an office and a double blessing in the Spirit. It was just a cloth that fell on the ground. But, when Elisha said, "yes," to that mantle, to that office, and that responsibility then when somebody looks at him, they shall see Elijah. They will say, "Do you carry the authority of that same prophet?" He said, "I will, and I'll carry even more." When they looked at him, he had to either carry the same power of Elijah or he did not. That's very heavy, but that's the double blessing that he said, "I will take it and I'll take it more." Not because he was greater, and not because he knew more. But he asked a simple prayer, that, "If I see you, my father, leave this Earth. I ask that I would have a double blessing of the Spirit that came upon you." He asked out of the security of his heart.

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It was out of the good conscience of his soul. It wasn't out of speculation of his works. Elijah charged him, "My son, if you do see me go into Heaven, then you will get what you ask." Elisha carried that mantle easily. It wasn't a burden. He carried it easily and effortlessly. That's beauty of how the church should be, that the inheritance of our house does not burden us, but launches us forward. It's a burden that is easy and a yoke that is light. Wait a minute. This is the mantle of Jesus.

Second Timothy 1:5-10 ESV

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God."

He is reminding you all here, "*fan into flame those gifts of God.*" We need your gifts. I need you to find a place to use them. I need you to say, "I can do that here." I need you to say, "I can use these gifts here." I need you to say, "I have this gift of God, and I can use it." You don't have to think, "Well, there's no place for me." You can find the place. Take up that responsibility and say, "I'm going to find the place. I'm going to find how I can give to this family. I'm going to find how to give it." The Holy Spirit knows. He knows how to do it. "Well, I need the platform." Why? How many platforms did Jesus stand on to preach? He went on the Mount. Do you know what I'm saying? We don't have to lay it on a silver platter. If you have the gift, fan it into flame.

If you have the gift of healing, find a way to use it. If you have the gift of prophecy, find a way to give it. If you have the gift of helps and administration, find a way to give it. If you have wisdom and knowledge and understanding, find a way to give it. If you have that gift of leadership or cheerful giving, find a way to do it. Fan it into flame. Don't wait for me to say, "Hey, do you have that gift? Are you using it?" Find a way to do it. Leaders, lead even when they don't have the title as leader. Worshipers, worship even if they're not on the stage. Evangelists, evangelize even if they have the backing or not. Pastors shepherd, whether they've been called a pastor or not. You can see shepherds in the house. They're usually teachers, where there are children because they have to teach. They have to shepherd. They have to care for the souls. Evangelists have to go. That's what I'm trying to say.

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit, not of fear," timidity or intimidation, "but of power and love and self control," or a sound mind. "Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus, before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Amen.

So let's stand and let's receive. You are going to receive that manifestation through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus. Wow.

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“Lord Jesus, we thank you for a week to be thankful. We are thankful people. I thank you God for the call to walk in these ways, and to be a part of a family that is fanning the gifts of God. They are free. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. There is nothing holding us back. There is nothing holding us back in this house, nothing. There's nothing holding us back, and we choose to run to you. We choose to go to the Father. We choose to say, “yes,” to the Lover of our soul. We say, “yes,” God. We want to be empowered by faith that knows that we please you when we believe you, and we are rewarded when we diligently and earnestly choose to seek you, and we will find you. I thank you, Father for this, and I bless each one here with that understanding. There are no lids here. There are no veils here. It's open. It's laid bare. We choose to understand and to see that. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Be blessed.