

3 checks to create momentum and acceleration in your life

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Who’s ever had:

- check up at the doctors?
- check up at dentist?
- check up - service on your car?

If you value something you’ve put checks in place to keep it going in the right direction.

If we never check up on things, we leave them to degrade and eventually die.

It’s funny that we check up on our cars, our health, our finances, but how often do we check up on our faith?

I believe there’s simple checks we can add into our life to create momentum and acceleration.

Are you going to stay stuck or do you want to get moving?

1st check - “Check your response”

What’s your first response?

When you get news – what first comes to mind?

Millions of responses can be summed into 2 categories – FEAR or FAITH

Joshua 3:7-8, 14-17 (NIV)

7 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. 8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15 Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge,

16 the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Sometimes God's miracles happen before we need to do anything – when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea 40 years earlier – other times God asks us to take steps of faith before we see the miracle.

I don't imagine the Israelites had a great deal of faith in God at that moment.- they had just enough faith to **take that first step into the water!**

Notice that God did nothing until those toes touched the water.

That first step was all God needed to see. Many times, we won't take the first step of change because we're afraid we won't be able to make the whole journey.

Don't wait until you can see it all – **step towards faith**

Don't wait until you believe it all - **step towards faith**

Don't wait until you understand it all – **step towards faith**

Fear only has one direction – backward

Faith only has one direction – forward

Jesus is the fulfillment of the ark – just as the ark was with them in the middle of the crossing – Christ is with us.

2nd check – “Check your circle”

We all know, you become like those you hang around – but do we really understand this?

When kids can see better, they do better.

- Why do you think school push role models so big now?
- Schools have Olympians and professionals come do talks at their schools?
- They're showcasing bigger circles!

Proverbs 13:20 (NASB)

He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 13:20 (MSG)

Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

What's the sound of the people you hang with?

The quickest way to change your life is to change your circle

Jesus still hang with sinners, prostitutes and the poor – but he was very selective of who he let into his inner circle.

Maybe it's time to find

- prayer warrior instead of your worrier
- someone full of forgiveness rather than resentment

Associate yourself with the right voices

Get around people that inspire you and are ahead of you

That's what church is! When you come you're encouraged, filled like – Connect Group

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

**17 As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.**

How many come to church discouraged but leave better!

3rd check – “Check your confession”

What's your confession?

- What's the soundtrack of your life?
- If you were to read a transcript of your day, what percentage is full of faith vs fear?
- Your words have power. Your words can create and can destroy.

Romans 10:10 (NIV)

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

No matter how impossible the situation looks – speak faith into it!

When we know the character of God our language matches his ability.

Worship over worry, praise over panic

Joel 3:10 (AMP)

Let the weak say, “I am strong!”

You can speak it before you and see it – speak health, speak salvation for your friends.

Are you speaking faith or fear? With your words – are you boasting in God’s ability?

To build momentum in your life –check your confession – faith over fear

Conclusion

If you value something you’ve put checks in place to keep it going in the right direction.

It’s funny that we check up on our cars, our health, our finances, but how often do we check up on our faith?

“Check your response”

Just as the Israelites needed to take that first step toward faith to see God come through – do the same

Don’t wait until you can see it all – **step towards faith**

Don’t wait until you believe it all - **step towards faith**

Don’t wait until you understand it all – **step towards faith**

How do you move forward?

“Check your circle”

The quickest way to change your life is to change your circle

Maybe it’s time to find

- prayer warrior
- someone to encourage you in your faith
- someone to keep you on track

Associate yourself with the right voices

“Check your confession”

When we know the character of God our language matches his ability.

Worship over worry, praise over panic