

And once I've followed through on that one thing, He gives me the next thing.

Obedience is key in the development of your relationship with God. If your spiritual growth has come to a standstill and you're not sure why, check yourself. You may be bogged down in disobedience. Only when you follow through on what God has asked of you can you move forward in your spiritual journey.

9. Faith Time

Praying in faith is my favorite part of any devotion time. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Faith prayer is a verbal expression of faith, confirming the expectation that God can and will bring about desired results to accomplish His purposes. It's like thanking God in advance for what He intends to do.

I learned about praying in faith from my father, who did it all the time when I was growing up. I especially remember one trip with him when I was in the school quartet at Circleville Bible College. Dad was the college president at the time, and when we performed at churches, he sometimes traveled with us and preached the sermon.

On this occasion we went to a small rural church that hadn't experienced growth in years. As we set up for the performance, we met with the church's pastor, a downtrodden man who seemed to be devoid of hope. "I don't know why you're going to all this trouble," he said. "Nobody's been saved in this church for five years."

After we finished setting up, we got together for our usual prayer time. My dad closed our time of prayer by saying this:

Lord, I know You will do great things in this church tonight. You say in Isaiah 55:11 that Your word that goes forth out of Your mouth shall not return unto You void, but shall accomplish that which