

1. Through Dreams and Desires (believing God for something)

2. Through Decisions: James 1:6 says, "But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind . . . Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do"

- a. After God gives you a dream, the next step for building your faith is a decision; God challenges you to do something about your dream.
- b. Nothing is going to happen to that dream until you wake up and put it into action. You've got to make the decision: "I'm going to go for it!" For every ten dreamers in the world, there is only one decision maker. A lot of people have dreams but they never get to step two: making the decision to trust God and follow their dream.
- c. Faith is a verb. It's active and not passive. It's something you do. Decision making is a faith-building activity.

- i. *James says, "But when you pray, you must believe and not doubt at all. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven and blown about by the wind. If you are like that, unable to make up your mind and undecided in all you do, you must not think that you will receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:6-7 TEV).*

Faithful decision making requires two things:

#1. Deciding: You must decide to do it. "God, I'm going to be faithful to do it!"

#2. Doing it: You have to let go of security. You cannot move in faith and hold onto the past at the same time. You have to move forward. God told Abraham that He was going to make him the father of a great nation, and that meant Abraham had to leave his home for an unknown destination. Moses had to let go of his position in Pharaoh's kingdom in order to do God's will. Nehemiah gave up a secure job in order to go build a wall around Jerusalem.

3. Through Delays: *Habakkuk 2:3 says, "But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!"*

- a. God will not fulfill your dream immediately because this is another step toward building your faith.
- b. In delays He matures us and prepares us for what is to come.

the University of Learning to Wait (ULW). Some of us are still working on our degrees from ULW!

- Noah waited 120 years from the time he started building the ark until it began to rain.
- Abraham was told he would be the father of a great nation and didn't have a child until he was 99.
- God told Moses he would be the leader to lead his people out of 400 years of slavery, but then made him wait in the desert 40 years.
- Joseph spent years in prison before God raised him up and he became the ruler God wanted him to be.
- God had David anointed as king, but then David waited for years until he actually got to be king.

>Even Jesus waited for 30 years in the carpenter's shop before setting out on his public ministry. Why do we wait? It teaches us to trust in God. We learn that His timing is perfect. One of the facts we have to learn is this: *God's delay never destroys His purpose.*

4. Through Difficulty: *1 Peter 1:6-7 says, "This means tremendous joy to you, I know, even though you are temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials and temptations. This is no accident—it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold."*

- a. Delays produce the difficulties and difficulties produce the delays.
- b. In delays you will face two types of difficulties: **circumstances and critics.**

* **Moses**- no water / no food / complainers * **Joseph**- pit / prison / people

5. Through Dead Ends: *2 Corinthians 1:8-9 says, "At that time we were completely overwhelmed, the burden was more than we could bear, in fact we told ourselves that this was the end. Yet we believe now that we had this experience of coming to the end of our tether that we might learn to trust, not in ourselves, but in God who can raise the dead."*

- a. If God raises the dead he can do anything.
- b. He can resurrect anything (marriages/careers/relationships/health)
- c. God often lets problems become impossibilities. (crucifixion/resurrection)

6. Through Deliverance: Jesus said, "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. 'Anything is possible if a person believes'" [Mark 9:23 NLT].

- God will build your faith by planting a dream within you. But that dream will require a decision of faith, and then God will stretch your faith as you face delays, difficulties, and dead ends.

It is then that God comes in and delivers. God does a miracle. God provides a solution. For instance:

- In Moses' case, God parts the Red Sea.
- In Abraham's case, he and Sarah miraculously conceive a child.
- In Joseph's case, all of a sudden his dream comes true and he finds himself no longer imprisoned in a dungeon; instead, he is the second in command in Egypt.
- With Noah it rained
- And Jesus was resurrected! God can even turn a crucifixion into resurrection, and that means He has the power to transform your dead ends into deliverance. He builds your faith through delays, difficulties, and dead ends, so that when He delivers you—God gets all the credit!