



## DAY 39

### Walking by Faith

*2 Corinthians 5:7 We walk by faith, not by sight.*

More than twenty years ago, I was on top of my career as department chair at a prominent university in Texas. It took me years of hard work and challenges to get there. After a semester of work in a new environment, I realized I had climbed the wrong mountain. I loved teaching and conducting research. As Department Chair, I spent most

of my time in meetings and doing work that did not feed my soul.

One day, while observing from my tenth-floor window and then looking at a set of paintings on the wall, I noticed the nine water-colored women appear to separate from their hangings. I looked again, no, they were still there. Nothing had moved, and yet everything changed in me. I felt a clarity and peace I had never experienced. I got a message. "Leave this place now."

It made no sense at all! Yet it made perfect sense. I went to my computer, typed a letter of resignation, and went to see the Dean. I informed the Dean of my decision to leave. She said, "Oh, it's only 2 pm; but you are chair and you don't need my permission to go home early!" I told her I was resigning my position as chair. She sat me down to talk and, assuming it was about money, started to negotiate. I said, "No, Ma'am (it's Texas), I did not get another offer and, No, money has nothing to do with it." I handed her my letter of resignation and went home to tell Steve.

Steve said, "I am sure you will come up with something! You always have better ideas!" I felt that I should be scared, but I wasn't. In a short time, we will be down to one income instead of two! What was I thinking?! All my colleagues and friends thought I had gone mad, No one gives up such a position with no plan!

Strangely, I felt no fear. Instead, I never felt more peaceful. I felt that God would show me the way. I just had to stop what I was doing so I could make room for God's plan.

A month later, as I was paying the mortgage, I said to God, "God, please tell me I have done the right thing. It would be nice if we did not have a mortgage since we will be down to one income soon and I have no idea what I am going to do."

God must have heard. A week later, the stock market rallied out of the blue. I watched the financial news as my investment values went up. Hmmm, if it keeps going up I can sell my shares and pay off our mortgage. Steve suggested waiting a few more days. We waited. On Friday the market turned, but now we had to wait until Monday. I said to God, "Ok, I get it. I will not be greedy!" First thing Monday morning, I called my mutual fund company and issued a sell order on every share I owned. The Vanguard lady asked, "Ma'am, why do you want to sell? The market is doing great." I told her, "I am investing in me!" So, I sold and then waited till the closing bell on Wall Street. The market peaked that day. The next day it went backwards! I closed with just enough funds to pay off our mortgage! Thank you God!

Thus began my active journey in faith. I changed career (many stories of faith to tell) and spent the next two decades helping clients return to God and live amazing lives in Faith and Trust.

**Dear God, who dwells in all of us, help us understand what faith is and open our hearts to trusting that you are waiting for us to accept your Love. Help us to live by Faith and accept that Faith is not knowing what the future holds but knowing that You hold our future. We appreciate your patience and your abundant Love. Amen**

— Kweethai Neill, PhD