

How do you swallow an elephant?

One bite at a time.

How do you fulfill God’s purpose for your life?

One Step at a time.

You can have a big vision, write a mission statement, set goals for the future, and know exactly where you want to go; but you will never arrive at any destination without taking the “NEXT STEP”. One step at a time and one step after another will get you to where you need to go.

Even if you know where you want to go, ultimately your steps are going to determine your destination. If you want to move straight forward, but you take a step to the left, you are going to go to the left. If you take a step to the right, you are going to go to the right. If you take a step backwards, you are going to move backwards. The steps you choose will ultimately determine your destination.

Sometimes in life, the distance between where you are now and where you want to go seems overwhelming. How do you get from point “A” to point “Z”? **EX:** Stepping Blocks

One step, one vitally important step taken in the right direction can set a course for your life that will get you where God wants you to go.

- One “Spirit led step” will move you in the direction that God wants you to go.
- One “business minded step” will move your business in the way it should go.
- One “career minded step” will set a course for your work life.
- One “wise relational step” will begin life-long friendships.

Rather than sit around and worry about how you are going to get to where you are going or stand paralyzed with fear about the enormity of a task, just focus on the next step.

- Relationally – What is your next step?
Introduce yourself? Spend some time? Call a family member? Ask someone to forgive you?
- Career wise – What is your next step?
Go back to school? Ask for a promotion? Develop a new skill?
- Business wise – What is your next step?
Put your ideas on paper? Do some investigating? Launch? Expand? Add a partner?
- Spiritually – What is your next step?
Read the Bible? Prayer journal? Get counsel from others? Do what Jesus has asked you to do?

Your next step may be different from my next step, or anyone else’s next step.

Your next step may be easy or hard, it may be a simple step or a **Bold Next Step**.

If so, boldly to take at least one step. Then the next step. Then the next step. One bold step at a time.

Personal Next Steps

Running a marathon is simple. Now I didn’t say, running a marathon is easy. I said it was simple. All you do is put one foot in front of the other until you reach the finish line or roughly 55,334 steps.

“The 26.2-mile distance is 1,660,032 inches. With each stride I move 30 inches, so it will take me 55,334 steps to go the distance.” - Frank Shorter

In your life, you will have to determine your personal next steps to get you where God wants you to go. Don’t take it lightly! Remember, your next steps will ultimately determine your destination.

EX: I hear people say, “I don’t know how I got here. How did we ever get to this point in our relationship? How did we get in such financial trouble?”

The answer is “one step at time.” *You stepped in a direction that you didn’t want to go. You said things you weren’t supposed to say. You spent when you should have been saving.*

Don’t you want every step that you take to be in the right direction? Don’t you want your steps to be meaningful and according to God’s purpose? Don’t you want every step you take to bring Him joy? I do.

Ordered Steps

The good news is that the steps of good men and women who just want to do good; their steps are ordered by the Lord.

Psalms 37:23 (NKJ) The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD...

Our next steps can be steps that are ordered by the Lord.

Some may say, “*Well I don’t like to be ordered around.*” To that I will say, “How’s that working for you?” I tried to do life my way and it didn’t work out very well.

I want my steps to be ordered by the Lord and **here is why.**

If we are allowing the Lord to order our steps and listening to His voice about Bold Next Steps, then the steps that we take **will actually delight the Lord!**

Psalms 37:23 (NKJ) The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

- Not that our steps are ordered by the Lord and we are delighting in His ways. That is true of course, we do delight in His ways, but that is not what the scripture is saying here.
- If we allow the Lord to direct our steps, He, The Lord will be delighted with our steps.

He (the Lord) delights in **his** (the man or woman who is trying to do good) way.

Directed Steps

Not only does God order our steps, but He also directs our steps.

Proverbs 20:24 A person’s steps are directed by the LORD.

God doesn’t just order you to go, with no direction or course correction. He directs us if we allow Him.

Proverbs 20:24 A person’s steps are directed by the LORD.

How then can anyone understand their own way?

Not only will your steps delight the Lord, but your old ways, the steps you used to take, will no longer make sense to you. Have you ever said or thought, “*Can you believe we used to do that?*”

Even now, when I try to do things my own way and direct my own steps, I get confused.

I don’t even understand what I am doing.

Jeremiah’s Prayer Jeremiah 10:22-24

23 LORD, I know that people’s lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps.

Lord I’m going to surrender to your ordered steps and direction. It’s not up to me to determine which way I should go, that’s up to you. Jeremiah went on tell the Lord to discipline him to keep him on track, **24 Discipline me, LORD, but only in due measure—not in your anger, or you will reduce me to nothing.**

Supported Steps

When I’m not allowing God to order my steps or moving to His direction, I stumble and fall.

I don’t understand what I am doing. That’s when I fail! But when the Lord orders my steps, I may stumble a bit, fall every now and then, but He always gets me back up.

Let's go back and read Psalm 37:23 again but add verse 24.

Psalm 37:23 (NKJ) The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down;

Now here is the interesting thing. The Lord upholds you with His hand as you are taking your next step. **For the LORD upholds him with His Hands.**

- Now if the Lord has ordered your step to the right, you can assume that His hand is moving to the right.
- The problem comes when the Lord's upholding hand is moving to the right and you and I choose to step to the left. That's when we stumble and fall.
- **We can choose to move away from the upholding hands of the Lord.**

Believers Bold Next Steps

Here at Believers church, we have Next Steps that we will be encouraging you to take this year.

- Attend and Experience Jesus.
- Place your Faith in Jesus as Your Savior.
- Publicly Declare Your Salvation with Water Baptism.
- Go through the Firm Foundations Course which covers Bible Study, Prayer, etc.

But we also understand that: People need to know and be known and needed. So, we have Next Steps to help you do just that.

1st Sunday's	Next Step: Newcomers Social Meet our Pastors and Leaders and hear God's Vision for Believers Church.	After Each Service	Believers Main Sanctuary
2nd Wednesdays	Next Step: Life Groups Learn the why's and how's of our small groups at Believers Church.	6:30—7:30 p.m.	Believers Pavilion
3rd Wednesdays	Next Step: Membership Everything you need to know about Membership at Believers Church.	6:30—7:30 p.m.	Believers Pavilion
4th Wednesdays	Next Step: Ministry Teams Discover the joy of serving on a Believers Ministry Team!	6:30—7:30 p.m.	Believers Pavilion

BOLD NEXT STEP: This week I will answer the following questions-

- **Relationally – What is my next step?**
- **Career wise – What is my next step?**
- **Business wise – What is my next step?**
- **Spiritually – What is my next step?**
- **At Believers Church – What is my next step?**

Salvation Call

Next week we will be baptizing people who have made the BOLD NEXT STEP of asking Jesus to be their savior and director of their steps. Now they are taking the Baptism Next Step.

Maybe this Bold Step of Salvation is your next step today.