

# The Suspense of Faith

*Faith*

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Let's get in our Bible tonight and you know where we're going, we're going to Hebrews 11 and we're going to see what the Master has for us tonight. I enjoyed studying this particular passage of Scripture the last few days and I pray that God will do something with it in our hearts tonight. I want you to get there. Hebrews 11 and we'll read one verse, verse 8. We'll pray and ask the Master for his mighty help tonight. Once you get there, we'll stand and give reverence to the mighty, powerful, unique, life-changing Word of God. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:8,

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance,” he did something, the Bible says “obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

I want to talk tonight on this little thought: the suspense in faith. The suspense in faith.

*Father, I pray tonight for the mighty help of your Holy Spirit and I pray, God, that you'd breathe upon me. I pray, God, you'd breathe through me. I pray, God, that you'd show me what to say and how to say it. And I pray, God, that I could take your Word and they'd become alive to all of our hearts and I pray, God, that each of us will understand that yes, in the midst of faith, there is suspense. And I pray, God, that we would do as Abraham did and he simply obeyed what you said to do and then, God, he received the reward, tremendous reward that you had promised he would received.*

*I pray, God, that tonight you would change somebody's life. I pray, God, that you'd change somebody's heartbeat. I pray, God, that you'd change somebody on the inside and the outside. I pray, God, that you'd increase our faith and our confidence in you. Help us, God, to understand what it means to simply walk by faith and not by sight. Help us, God, to lean upon your Word which is true, the Word, God, which causes these to exist and your Word that causes life to take place. We ask, God, tonight that your Word would come alive to each of us and with that, God, we'll thank you.*

*I must say one more thing, Lord, that if there's anything you want to work on us, that you erase sin or any hypocritical problem that would hinder you from using us tonight. I pray, God, that you forgive us. I pray, God, that you would cleanse us. I pray, God, that*

*you'd bathe us. I pray, God, that you'd wash us. I pray, God, that you'd stir us. I pray, God, that you'd set us on fire with the Holy Ghost of God and with that I will shout, Hallelujah. I pray, God, for every request that was mentioned, various requests of those that needed healing. Lord, those that need protection and that those who just simply need your intervention as we assembled here and needed to be rescued, some need to be delivered. The list goes on and I pray, God, that every request that was brought forth, I pray, God, that you'd meet that need in the only way that you can meet it. The needs that also are met, are received, God, with victory. Victory, God. We thank you for victory. No victory without a battle, so in that Bible there is victory that is going to arise. With that, God, we'll shout, Hallelujah. We'll stop there, Master. It's in your Son's name we pray. Jesus. Amen.*

You may be seated.

The suspense in faith. The suspense in faith. I like mysteries. I like Alfred Hitchcock movies. My Mom used to have those Ellery Queen books, the Hardy Boys, the Bowery Boys, the Nancy Drew mysteries. I mean, I love mysteries. I love suspense. Here for the last week and a half, my wife thought I was crazy, but I've been watching a lot of the Turner Classic Movies, TCM. I've been watching movies from the 30s and the 40s and the 50s and I've been watching John Wayne and I've been watching Bogart and Cagney. I've been watching a lot of those things. I've been enjoying them. They're just peaceful enjoyment, good movies, good suspense stuff.

I was watching one today with the lady that used to play on Big Valley, Barbara Stanwyck. I was watching her today, a movie that she was in. I just enjoy them but especially the suspense. Who did it? Who really did it? Who killed that person? I tried to figure stuff out and sometimes it gets so bad that I watch certain movies and if there isn't any challenge, I'm like, "I know who did this already." I want a challenge. I want to try to figure out what's going on. I like it when the end of the movie is a twist; it's not what you're actually thinking. But even though I like suspense, even though I like mystery, when it comes to following, I'm not that excited about suspense. I really want to know where we're headed. I want to know what's around the bend. I don't want to really try to figure it out. But at the same time, when you are walking by faith, it is a life of suspense. You don't know really how it's going to exactly turn out, you know how God said it was going to end, but you don't know how you're going to get there.

For those of us who like football, pretty much the Bears had the game in hand but those who've been watching knew that they were going to win, it was just a matter of how. And how they won was like, "What in the world is this? We're up by ten points and there are two minutes and seven seconds to go and they win the game in overtime. What is this? How did that happen?" But you know what? That's how life is. It's filled with suspense.

When you're walking by faith, it's filled with suspense and that's what we're going to see right here. In the midst of this little verse, we're going to see how Abraham's life of faith was filled with suspense. The word "suspense" means this: it means "a state or condition

of mental uncertainty or excitement as in awaiting a decision or outcome.” I’ll say that again: it’s a “state or condition of mental uncertainty or excitement as in awaiting a decision or outcome.” And it is. A lot of it has to do with what’s going on in our head. Sometimes we’re so afraid to make a move because we don’t know how this thing is going to turn out. Not so much turn out, but we don’t know how we’re going to get from A to Z. We don’t know the C, the D and the all the other letters in between. We know that he said we will get to Z but we just don’t know the process by which we’re going to get there. And sometimes it causes us to be hesitant. And sometimes we’re so hesitant that we are frozen and we will not make a move. We’ll get to a place of paranoia. We’ll be so afraid to make any type of decision that we don’t make any decision which is a decision, making none whatsoever.

The Bible shows us that in the midst of faith there is suspense. How does it even all start? Basically it starts because there is a calling first. The Bible says in verse 8, “By faith Abraham when he was,” what? “Called.” When God calls you into a life of faith, it starts with a call. He calls you on your telephone, your spiritual telephone, he calls you in the midst of your heart, he calls you in your mind. He calls you, he speaks to you and, of course, the first call is what? A call to salvation, receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior. The Bible says, real quickly, over in 1 Peter 2:9, which is one or two books over. The Bible tells us that he calls us. He calls us out of a life of darkness into a life filled with marvelous light. The Bible says, verse 9, “But ye are a,” what? “chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who,” what? “hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

The first call to a person is the call to salvation. Many folks when they are called to salvation don’t respond to the call. They won’t pick up the phone. They won’t answer the phone. They’ll just simply let it ring and ring and ring because sometimes they know who is calling and sometimes they’re afraid to answer the call because of the things that they may have to give up if they answer that call to salvation. Sometimes it might involve giving up a certain person or perhaps giving up a certain relationship, or perhaps a certain type of job or whatever the case might be. But when that call to salvation comes, a lot of times, filled with fear, anxiety and a person will not answer the phone. But once they answer that call, the Bible says, they come out of darkness into what kind of light? Marvelous light. When a person receives Christ as their Savior, the lightbulb comes on and they’re like, “Wow, I didn’t know it was like this. I never saw it like this. I mean, this is mind blowing.” Why? Because the light’s been turned on.

A lot of us will never know how dirty our house is until we change the wattage in our lightbulb. If you’re using a 40 watt it doesn’t look too bad, but throw in 100 watt. Everything is lit up and you say, “Where did that come from? We’ve got all kind of stuff all over the place.” But that’s what happens, though, when you receive Christ as your Savior, he turns a marvelous light on and all of a sudden you see things like you never saw them before.

A call to salvation, but then also, my dear friends, and there are many calls but there is also a call to sanctification. Look what the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Jesus calls us to sanctification. The Bible says in verse 3, "For this is the will of God." Let me tell you this, it's very clear: "For this is the will of God." "What is that, Preacher?" "even your sanctification." That means holiness. This is his desire. The Bible says "that ye should abstain," refrain, here we go, "from fornication." That wasn't too bad, five "Amens." But the world says it's okay to fornicate. You know, we took our sexual revolution back in the 60s and the 70s when folks were just wild and then we come now to the 90s, the 2000s and we've got what we call now "friends with benefits." They've got a movement now. Friends with benefits. That's ludicrous and I'm not talking about the rap singer, either. That's ludicrous. That's crazy. That's ridiculous. Amen? Somebody is going to get hurt. They may have a mask on but I guarantee you, out of those two people, one of those persons doesn't want just a promiscuous. At the same time, somebody, even in that movie, you see the previews, you're going to see what's going to happen: somebody is going to wind up getting attached and getting hurt.

But the world says it's okay to fornicate. What is fornication? Fornication is a sexual sin which includes sex outside the bounds of marriage and it includes adultery, and it includes incest and the list goes on. I know we have children here, but they hear a lot of stuff on television, but it also includes bestiality too, my dear friends. Which, if some of you heard, that just passed, they made it okay in the military for bestiality. That is ridiculous. What in the world is happening around here?

These are sexual sins and the Bible says that it is God's will that you abstain from fornication. Those two words "should abstain" is one Greek word which means "refrain; to hold oneself off." In other words: don't do it. But it's a new millennium. We're in 2011, we're coming to 2012. That's old fogy stuff. Being a virgin when you get married. What is wrong with being a virgin? People having a fit over Tebow and I'm waiting for somebody to just come out and accuse him. I mean, they're worried about his sexuality. "Are you sure he ain't... You mean to tell me the boy is a multimillionaire. He's not an ugly looking guy," and all this kind of stuff. "And you mean to tell me that he ain't never been with a woman?" According to him he hasn't. But for a lot of folks, that's shocking because we've got children, 12, 11, 10 years old, we've got 12 and 13 year olds having children. Why is that? Because in our schools they're passing out contraceptives without parental permission. They are giving out all this kind of stuff which makes them think this is okay.

Listen, what's right for your Mom and Dad is for them but what is right for you is what's right for you. But, my dear friends, as you read the precious, holy, unchanging Word of God, he still says, my dear friends, that the will of God is to abstain from fornication. And sanctification is what God desires for us to have. It's clear. It's simple. You guys say, "I don't really understand that. I'm not getting that." That's clear. There are a lot of things that are clear in the Bible. The Bible says, "Thou shalt not," what? Steal. That's clear. "Yeah, but I need some money. Brother, I ain't got too much. He needs some of that lifted off of him. It doesn't make sense." That's how some folks justify their thievery. It's like, "They're not gonna miss this. This is not gonna hurt them." My dear

friends, it's still stealing. Lying is still lying. "Well, I don't want to get no whippin'." Okay, I understand now. That's okay. No, my dear friends, now God's going to whip you. Amen? And when God whips you, my friend, you're going to feel that.

Listen, my dear friend, God's Word is clear in a lot of areas of his will and one thing that we're focused on right now is that it is God's will not only for salvation, not only is it a call for salvation, but also a call for sanctification. Also, there are many others, but then there is also a call to service. God did not save you just to go to heaven. If that was the case, beam me up, Scotty. Or, beam me up, Peter. Amen. God has called us also to service. Look at what the Bible says over in Ephesians 4, and there are many other verses, but I like this one. Look at Ephesians 4:1. The suspense in faith. We're getting there. That's how the movies build you up. Anyhow, the Bible says in Ephesians 4:1, Paul says, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord." Are you his prisoner? If you're somebody's prisoner that means that they're in control. We balk at that. "I ain't nobody's prisoner. I'm free. This is a land of the free." Listen, my dear friends, we need to be the Lord's prisoners.

The Bible says here, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk," oh my, "worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." That word "vocation" means "calling or invitation." He's talking about our service. He says whatever God has called you to do, walk worthy of it. But many times, we're not walking worthily of the calling that God has given us. The work that God has given us. The service that God has given us. How faithful are we in our calling? If you're a school teacher, how much time are you spending in prayer? Not just over your lesson but prayer over your students in your class? If you're a preacher, how much time do you spend praying for the brethren at church? If you are a deacon, how much time are you spending interceding on others' behalf? If we are his servants, my dear friends, how much time are we spending over that prayer list that we find laying all over the church after we get out of the first service?

What do you say, Preacher? Are we walking worthy of that calling? That word "worthy" there means "appropriately." Listen, if you go in for a job interview, there is a right way to walk and a wrong way to walk. Don't go walking over there with an attitude, "I needs me a job. Give your brother a job. He might be gone, but he's got some folks here working for him around here. I've got him on speed dial. What's up? I want a job. I said, I want a job." Now, that isn't the way you go up in there.

One time I was a hiring coordinator at Wal-Mart and we used to have folks that would come in, and I'm telling the truth, I'm sitting over here, she's on the other side and I'm sitting there interviewing her and this is how she was sitting. I got a vision of her at the cash register and I had a vision of her doing just that at the cash register. I'm like, "Alright, we'll give you a call. Don't call us, we'll call you."

One time I had one of them coming in and I noticed that some of them are smarter, though. I notice all these people come in and there was some of them that were still hanging around that had already been through the interview process. Why are they standing there? They're staying here to have a test. The woman beside them would want

to hire them but we had a test we give them. It's really just asking you questions, for example here is one of the questions: if a person was caught stealing, what do you think about them being led out in handcuffs? We ask the question for a reason. Some of them, "That's embarrassing. I think that's wrong." Now, the computer graded them but you'd be amazed at how some folks answered. "Well, what are you saying." I'm saying there is a right way and there's a wrong way and to behave. The same thing when God has called you and I, there is a right way to behave, there is a right way to talk. There is a right way, my dear friends, that we should conduct ourselves.

Based upon God's Word, he says, "I want you to walk worthy. Worthy. Appropriately." That word also means "of the godly sort; of a vocation of which you are called." God called as a choir member, there is a way that we should conduct ourselves. "But I just sing in the choir." Listen, you're visible. Well, folks see you standing up here in the choir, they'll look at you as somebody that probably has things together, you're trying to walk close to the Lord and stuff. They're not expecting you to be doing some crazy things. Guess what? When they see you doing some crazy mess, then they see you up there in the choir singing, they think, "Wait a minute. What's wrong with so-and-so. How did he get up there singing in the choir? I guess that must be okay." It isn't okay. Can you imagine me drinking on Saturday night and I'm going to be up here preaching on Sunday and you find that out and you're like, "What in the world? He ain't walking right. There's something wrong that walk."

There is a calling. Look at what the Bible says here in verse 8, back in chapter 11, "By faith Abraham, when he was called." Now, there is a calling and there is a command. God called you, then he commands you or gives you something he wants you to do. The Bible says in verse 8 again, "By faith Abraham, when he was called," to do something, "to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance." So, he was called to go out. That word "go out" there means "to depart." From where? Let's go back to Genesis 12:1. When God calls you, then he has a command for you, something he wants you to do. Look at what the Bible says in Genesis 12:1, "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee." When he called him and commanded him to leave his family or his relatives. That's big. Can you imagine leaving the state of which your Momma, your Daddy, your siblings, your nieces, your grandchildren, whatever your status might be, leaving them all behind.

Wait a minute, I've got a friend right now. We have her son for a period. He's not going anywhere. Who's idea was that? Listen, I love my children. I love them with all my heart. I'm going to tell you what: if one of them said, "You know what? I think God has called me to go over to Japan and do a work for him." I'm not going to say, "You're not going to Japan." Do you know what I'm saying? I'm saying then, "God, what's wrong with you. You don't know what you're doing." But God knows better where he's going than I happen to know what I'm doing. If God calls him to Japan, my dear friends, God is going to take care of him over in Japan. But when God calls you and commands you to do something, usually it goes against the grain. It goes against the norm. "Get thee out of thy country. Leave."

But you know what, my dear friends? When God gives that command, we've got to make a choice. He gives a command, he says, "Go out," but watch what he says here, back in 11:8, he says, "go out into a place," I love saying that word right there. That word "place" right here in this verse means "a spot." I'm commanding you to go to a certain spot, but then I went a little deeper. It also said opportunity. He commands them not only to go to a spot but go to a place of opportunity. Listen my dear friends, some of us are going to do some great things for God and God commands us to go to certain places to have an opportunity but guess what? "We don't want to go to that spot. I don't want to do that, Lord. I mean, I've read about D. L. Moody and I've read about Charles Spurgeon and I've read about all these great men of God and women of God, Corrie Ten Boom. I've read about the great things that you have done. But wait a minute, I don't want to go to that spot."

When we got up and got ready and came up here from Georgia, we had folks in the church that said, "I believe that God called you to go but, man, can't you just do some work like that down here?" I said, "Well, yeah, I could but that ain't what God told me." Trust me. I wasn't trying to get out of Georgia. I loved the weather. Listen, year round, that's all you need is a light coat. I had a light jacket for a whole winter and I'm like, "This is wonderful. This is tremendous." The weather was nice and you go to the store and people are...just because they're acting friendly doesn't mean they're all friendly. Okay? But that's the culture. They're going to treat you nice. You walk into the store, "May I help you? What can I do to help you? Do you need something?" Up here, especially in Chicago, you go to the store and you walk up to the counter...one time I went to get me some chicken and they messed up my order so I walked back in to get things straightened out and they were talking behind the counter and I was standing right there and they were talking and she saw me and she said, "Yeah, can I help you?" I said, "I'm sorry I'm interrupting your conversation but you messed up my order of chicken." I gave her my stuff, she took it off the counter and got the stuff right there and put it back over there and went back to talking.

I wasn't trying to get out of Georgia. I loved the climate. I loved the people. I loved all that that was going on. If you heard a police siren when we lived there, "What's wrong?" I didn't grow up there. My friend, when I first went to Georgia I had a time going to sleep because I didn't hear anything outside. But my point is this: when God called me to come back up here, I'm like, "Lord, my first thing is, it's cold up there. You sure. I mean, it's cold." I'm thinking about the winters and all that. I'm like, "There's no way." I knew what God was commanding to do and listen, my dear friends, there are many of us that are sitting in this building tonight and we know exactly what God told us to do. We know that command was given but we don't want to go to that spot.

But that spot is also a place of opportunity. The Bible says right here he called him, he commanded him, brother, to go out to a place, a spot, a place of opportunity and he said, "Listen, the place that you're going there is an inheritance there for you. I've got something there for you." Look at what the Bible says back in verse 8, "By faith

Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after,” that means, expect, “to receive for an inheritance,” a possession.

Now, let’s go back to Genesis. God told him, “I want you to go for I’ve got some stuff over there for you.” Listen, there is a calling and there is a command. We’re heading up to the suspense in just a few seconds. Look at what the Bible says in chapter 12 again. The Bible says in Genesis 12:2, “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” That’s why you don’t want to go against Israel. God says, “Listen, those that will bless you, I will bless them. Those who curse you, I will curse them.” But mostly it says here, “I’m going to make of thee a great nation. I’ve got a great inheritance for you.”

When God gives us a command, he has not only the spot for us, he has an inheritance for us. He has something special for us in that place, on that spot. Well, we’re never going to get it unless we go. If you’ve got money in the bank but never go down there and get a withdrawal and take that money all, it’ll stay there. A lot of us have spiritual money in the bank, the bank of heaven and we haven’t gone and gotten the withdrawal because we don’t want to go down that road that leads to that particular bank. “I don’t want to go down that street. It’s dark. I can’t see.”

I was watching one of those Turner Classic Movies and James Garner had picked up the lady because she was crying and stuff and she said, “Will you take me home?” And they got in the horse and buggy and as they were going she said, “There’s a bridge up there and it’s real dark there so it’s really dangerous. So, what I’ll do is get out and I’m going to walk ahead of you and let you know if it’s okay.” And they showed the area and it was pitch black. It was so dark, I’m like, “James, don’t go. There is trouble there.” And she walked off into the darkness and he was sitting there waiting on her and then finally he called her name and he called her name and he called her name. She never said anything and he got off and he walked up there and I said, “James, don’t do it!” He walked up in there but he couldn’t find her anywhere. He comes back and told the folks that he had dropped off this lady here and all this kind of stuff and they said, “That woman has been dead for seven days.” I said, “Whoa, James.” The next think you know he’s on his horse and you hear all of a sudden, pow, somebody’s shooting at him. A guy with a black suit and a hat on, he takes off running. I’m like, “My goodness, James, run after him.” Everybody is running behind him and he says, “There’s a man right there.” And everybody is like, “We don’t see any man.” I’m like, mysterious things are taking place.

But you know, my dear friends, it’s the same thing with God in many ways. There are spirits, there is intrigue, there is drama, there are things that you can’t see, that you don’t understand but at the same time that God calls you, commands you to go to a certain place, now, watch this: when he calls us, when he commands us, then you and I have a choice to make. The Bible says back in verse 8, “By faith Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance,” he did something. He waited. No, I’m sorry, wrong version. No, he “obeyed.” That word “obeyed” right there means this, my dear friends, it means simply that he conformed to the command, he

was obedient to the command. He did exactly what God said to do. God said he had a choice and the Bible says he went. God's call to us, his command, is our choice. What are we going to do?

Many folks have been told by the Lord to go in that refrigerator and get some stuff out of there that needs to be taken out but they haven't got it taken out yet. Go in that closet and do some housecleaning up in there. Some old things they need to get rid of and we won't get rid of it. We've got a choice and until we decide that we're going to obey God, don't be expecting him to be pouring out blessings upon you. Now, just by being his child, you can get certain things. These children that you have, you're going to feed them, but McDonald's and Burger King and pizza, all that's extra stuff. You don't have to have that. I know that's a shock for you. "What! We haven't got to have them?" You haven't got to have pizza but yet, Mom and Dad are going to feed you. God is going to feed us because we are his children. But, my dear friends, don't expect big pizza parties when we won't obey him. Don't expect, my dear friends, to have big parties when we don't do what God says to do. "Well, I want this. I want this." "No, I'm sorry. I'm going to give you this because this is what you need but I'm not giving you all the extra stuff. I told you to clean your room and you won't clean it. I told you how to clean your heart, how to clean your mind. I told you how to get peace. I told you how to get victory. I've shown you in the Word how to pray but you won't do it. I said ask. I said to seek. I said to knock. What are you waiting on?"

We have a choice to make. Abraham made a choice and the Bible says he obeyed. But now, here we go: he obeyed and how did he obey? Not just with his words: by going out. By actually believing. Now, some folk say, "I'm obeying God," but they're not actually doing anything physically that he's told them to do. It's lip service but not life service. When are we going to get to the life part? When are we going to get to the living part? Not just the lip part? "Aw, I love you. I love you. I love you." How do you know they love you? You're still worrying about that, aren't you? How do you know he loves you? (He shows me.) How does he show you? (Different ways. He helps me do things.) She knows it just by his words but she's expecting some actions. We say we love God. "Oh, how I love Jesus." But could you show me? You see, if you love him, what did he say, "If you love me keep my commandments." Do what I said to do.

The Bible says he obeyed but watch this: we see the call and the command and the choice but then we see the suspense. Here it is: the Bible says he obeyed and went out, he departed. Now, watch this guys and girls: not knowing, not understanding whither or where, the locality he was going. He had no idea where he was going. None. He just said, "God said go. Bye. C'mon Sarah. Everybody get your stuff together and let's go." "Where are we going, baby?" "I don't have a clue but God said let's go." By the way, God saw her faith too. She was trusting that her husband was truly listening to God by leaving and they all got together and they started going. That suspense, not knowing where they're going. That is walking by faith and not by sight. It is no suspense when you know exactly everything that's going to take place. None whatsoever.

I watched the third part to Narnia. I've watched the whole thing. If I watch it again, there's no suspense. I don't have to figure out what was floating around. I don't have to guess about that because I've seen it. You name the movie that you've already seen, Cowboys and Aliens. That sounds crazy but it really was a pretty good movie. It wasn't like what you think. It really wasn't. We watched Cowboys and Aliens with Harrison Ford and that other guy. But nonetheless, at first we didn't know what was going on. What was that thing that was around his wrist? People think it was shackles or something but it was something else. But guess what? I've seen the movie. There is no more suspense. There is no more mystery. I know exactly what the whole thing is about. I don't have to walk by faith because I've seen it.

The Bible says we walk by faith not by sight. Listen folks, there is suspense in faith because we don't know exactly how the different methods or modes that God is going to use to get us to where he told us that we were going. He's already promised us victory but he didn't tell us how we were going to receive the victory. And that's the part that has us nervous, that's what has us apprehensive, that's what has us wondering and before we fight one another, read your Bible and ask to be Gideon, but he wanted it to be dry one time and then the Lord said, "Okay, it's dry." Then he wanted it to be wet and he said, "Okay, now I want you to reverse it. God, reverse it." So, before we beat each other up, wherever you're at, tell him where you're at and be honest. Say, "Lord, I would love to do what you want me to do but I'm going to tell you, I'm afraid. God, let me some kind of a way that it's you that wants me to do this."

One of the markers that God gives us to know his will is the peace of God. Let me show you, look at Colossians 3:15. The Bible says this, Paul says to the church, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Look at what he says: let the peace of God rule, govern, be the umpire of what? Your heart. Now, what's your heart? The word "heart" here means your thoughts, your feelings, your mind. God does use our feelings. Let his peace rule your feelings. Let his peace rule your mind. Not worked up peace because there's a difference. We need to have the peace of God. You don't know how it's going to turn out, you don't know how it's going to work out, but you know it's going to work out if you have that peace that God's going to take care of it.

When Patrice and Jackie's car got stolen, it was 2007 Nisan Sentra, her first thoughts were that she'd never see that car again. Someone said, "We're going to pray that God will give you back your car and there won't be anything wrong with it." She said, "Amen." She was like that guy, "We'll never make it." She was out making calls and we started praying and was it the next day or a couple of days later? They found her car and nothing was wrong with it. Come on now, when someone steals your car you know what's up. They're going to take something out of there. They're going to take out the CO system, they're going to take out something to let you know they were there. She got her whole car back and nothing was wrong with it. Nothing. Nothing. As the guy on Hogan's Heroes says, "I know nothing." There was nothing missing. Not one thing. That's the kind of God that we serve.

But guess what? If there was something missing, God would have restored that. God would have restored that. Take that fire, they lost all the stuff they had but guess what? They still have somewhere to stay, they still have something to drive. God has worked things out for them. They have money to get some clothes and things like that. He is continuously working things out because God takes care of his children. What does he want us to do? Trust him. Simply trust him.

Three questions, first question is this: have you heard his call? Is your phone ringing? Are you going to pick it up? Secondly: what was his command? If you've answered the call, what was his command? What did he say for you to do? Thirdly, it's simple: what choice have or will you make? What choice have or will you make? By the way, he isn't going to make you make the choice. He gives all of us a free will. I love my wife, but I don't want her to be like one of those Stepford wives, just like a robot. She loves me, loves me, loves me and I love you, I love you. I want her to love me because it comes from the heart. When she says, "I love you," I don't want it to be because I had to say, "Babe, when are you going to tell me you love me?" "I love you." That isn't the same. I want to come by and have her just walk up to me and just be like, "Hey, I love you. I love you."

So, the question is: what choice have or will you make? Maybe you're still waiting on making a choice, trying to decide what you're going to do. Even that is making a decision because you haven't done anything. What he said was a command as he called you. What was he saying to you? What are you going to do?

Let's get the victory. Yes, the life of faith is filled with suspense. One of the great things is this: we win in the end.

*Father, thank you for your blessings. I pray, God, that somehow, some way you have taken your Word and will help us tonight in our faith, in our walk with you and help us to realize, yes, there is a lot of suspense, there is a lot of not knowing. There is a lot of that but you want us simply to trust you. All throughout the Bible from Genesis all the way down to Revelation, Father, is filled with suspense. At the same time, though, it is also filled with many clear commands and clear direction from you and help us to rely upon those commands and realize that if you say that I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Help us, Lord, to lean on that precious Word and believe your Word, believe you and then receive the victory. Lord, whatever else needs to be said, I pray, God, that the Holy Spirit would intervene on our behalf. God, help us right now. There are some folks you're speaking to about whatever it is, I pray that they come and talk to you. Whatever it is, I don't care how minor or how major it might be. Help us to come and trust you. That's it. If there is somebody that's here unsure about their salvation, O Father in heaven, I beg you, beg you that they come tonight, Father, show them from your Word that they can come to me after the service and say, "Preacher, Pastor, could you show me how to know for sure that I'm going to heaven?" Father, please help us. It's in your Son's name that we pray, Jesus. Amen.*

