



**Thank you Paul Tanori from Trinity Baptist Church  
for bring us todays message!**



I pray Lord that we will find favor with you first and foremost, but favor also from those who can help us in our time of need.

*Going Forward* DEVOTIONAL FOR OURSELVES AND FOR VBC

God has a good plan for your life, and He doesn't want you to be troubled by fear and let it hold you back from your destiny. His will is for you to walk forward, confident in His love, trusting Him to take care of you all along the way. We also have an enemy, Satan, who will do everything he can to stop us from walking in God's good plan. Anytime we are making progress and moving *forward* in God's will for our lives, the devil will try to come against us with fear to drive us *backward*. This is one of the enemy's greatest tactics—to bring fear and try to prevent us from making progress. He wants us to fear our circumstances and what other people will think. He wants us to focus on the "*what ifs*": *What if I fail? What if I make a fool of myself? What if I didn't hear from God? What if others disapprove? What if my reputation suffers?* And on and on! All of us will periodically come to these crossroads in our lives—places where we must move forward despite our fears. If we wait for the feelings of fear to subside, we will never step out. However, if we will trust God, step-by-step, we can learn to face our fears and enjoy new levels of freedom. During life's moments when there are no answers—or when unexpected changes occur—learn to not live by feelings. Instead, with God's help, do your best to face fear head-on...even when you're "shaking in your boots." When fear strikes, our first inclination is to run away and go back. But that's when God is saying, "Don't stop now! Keep moving forward!" The Israelites are a great example of people who had to face their fears. In the Old Testament, God brought them out of a terrible life of slavery to take them to the Promised Land.

However, they were soon confronted with a different situation that was terrifying. They ended up facing the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them. When the Israelites saw their dilemma, they actually thought it would be better to *go back* to their life of slavery instead of confronting the unknown. They preferred going back to their former life...even though it was miserable! Why? *Because they were afraid.* I absolutely love what the Lord spoke through Moses as the Israelites stood there, seemingly "stuck" between two obstacles. Moses said, ...*Fear not; stand still (firm, confident, undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again* (Exodus 14:13 AMPC). God wanted the Israelites to go forward into the unknown. He wanted them to be so fed up with bondage, they would be willing to trust Him and do what He told them to do—*no matter what the situation looked like.* Notice how the Lord said "stand still." That's interesting, because when the emotion of fear gets a hold of us—and our minds are thinking one crazy thing after another—we really just want to run away, don't we? But the first thing we need to do is *get still.* We need to set our emotion aside, get out of our head, and *check with our heart.* We need to ask ourselves, *What is God saying in this situation?* Maybe you are in this position right now—you feel like you're between a rock and a hard place. It's like you're between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea and all of your emotions are going haywire. If so, don't run away! *Run to God.* Receive wisdom and direction from God and His Word, and then do what you believe He is telling you to do. Ask the Lord for courage. As you do—as you trust Him—you will see Him make a way for you to push past your fear of the unknown and reach the promised land He has ready for you.

## GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

- 1) Admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23
- 2) Believe that Jesus died on the cross and arose from the dead.  
Romans 10:9-10, John 3:16
- 3) Confess and repent of your sins. 1st John 1:9, Acts 3:19
- 4) Do it now—Put your trust in Christ as your Savior. Romans 10:13

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**  
Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study in-person or on Zoom  
Sunday 10:30am Worship Service in-person or on Zoom.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Eli Perez January 15  
Mason Alexander January 31  
Joy Carmona January 31

**NEW PRAYER REQUEST:**  
2 Prayers for comfort and love for the families of the victims tragically killed in the car crash by Cattle Call early Monday morning.  
2 Prayers for John and Laura as they begin a new walk and a new season in their lives.

**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR....**

2 Donna Mills—Please continue to pray for Donna's strength and healing for her broken hip.  
2 Tom Mills, Mike King, Lorene Suits, Edwina Vanscorder—Overall strength, endurance and good health.  
2 Joy Carmona—Continued healing for complications with her broken ankle.  
2 Pastor Jim Tucker—Continued healing from his cancer.  
2 Armando Ramos (Lupe's nephew)—Upcoming back surgery.  
2 Pastor John Mark Sharpe—Continued healing from his back surgery.  
2 Austin Sharpe—Continued healing from cancer.  
2 Prayers for Israel to have a peaceful existence, for many to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK**

Let us then with confidence  
draw near to the throne of grace,  
that we may receive mercy  
and find grace  
to help  
in time of need.  
Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)