

What I Wish I Knew Before I Took God at His Word

Lessons in Purpose, Perseverance & Faith in Action

Looking back over the last twelve years living outside my comfort zone, I can see moments when God repeatedly asked me to take Him at his Word. Some lessons came through unexpected joy, others through disappointment, and many through circumstances I would never have chosen. I'm still learning what I wish I had understood sooner, that God truly works in mysterious ways and His ways are much higher than our ways.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8, 9

You don't have to know what you're doing to do it.

If I waited until I learned what I needed to know ahead of time, I would still be in the planning phase. Sometimes you just need to start with what you know and let God reveal the rest as you go.

God usually uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.

Being willing goes a long way. Fortunately, being the most gifted person isn't a prerequisite to making a difference.

Be faithful, even when you can't see the outcome.

Some seasons are all about simply being faithful with what God has placed in front of us, especially when it doesn't make sense. Just do the next right thing.

People are always more important than programs.

Plans, budgets and programs matter — but ultimately, the people God calls us to serve and walk alongside are more important.

You don't have to do everything yourself.

One of the greatest and hardest lessons of leadership is learning to trust others, ask for help and leave room for God to work. Our way isn't always the *best* way, it's just *one* way.

Some of the hardest seasons teach us the most.

Looking back, I can see that the difficult chapters were the ones where my faith and understanding grew the most, out of sheer dependence on God.

Success isn't always measured by numbers.

Sometimes the most meaningful outcome is *one* changed life, *one* family encouraged, or *one* person discovering that they can do more than they ever imagined.

When God closes one chapter, trust Him with the next.

Retirement has reminded me that one ending doesn't mean the story is over. God can use every season of life in fulfilling ways.

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