

One Small Step Part 1

Day To Day

Psalm 19:1-2, Psalm 37:23-24

Memory Verses: Psalm 37:23

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Many people consider the height of human achievement to be the moment Neil Armstrong stepped out of the LEM, walked down the ladder, bounced onto the surface of the moon, and said these famous words... "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Now we all know these famous words... but do we truly understand the gravitas of what they mean. Do we understand what a giant leap it was in the history of the world and in the advancement of innovation and technology? Exactly how many small human steps did it take to get to this **small step on the moon**?

That story probably begins with the creation of mankind, when with one small breath God breathed into Adam the breath of life... but let's not go back that far. Let's start in 1896 when two brothers Wilbur and Orville fell in love with the idea of aviation and took one small step of creating and flying kites. Over the next 7 years they took small step after small step after small step, wrecking kites, creating better versions, wrecking those kites, and creating better versions, until one day in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, they took the first ever fixed wing, motorized, human flight which lasted 12 seconds.

Because of their small steps aviation became a reality. In 1915 the government formed NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics with Orville Wright as a founding member. Airplane technology advanced with thousands of small steps. They were used in World War 1 and World War 2. Shortly before the end of the second world war, Hans Von Ohain created the first operational jet engine aircraft. A thousand small steps between 1896 and 1944 took mankind from flying kites to breaking the sound barrier.

Inspired by the Wright brothers and their aeronautical advancements, Robert Goddard, using a de Laval nozzle, invented the first liquid powered rocket and launched it in 1926. This led step by step to 1944 when the first rocket reached space. This step led to the beginning of the space race in 1957 when the US and the USSR both pledged to launch satellites into orbit. The Soviets won this particular race when Sputnik 1 became the first artificial satellite to ever enter into Earth's orbit. This step led to NACA being reformed into NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with the purpose of creating Project Mercury. Project Mercury's mission? To launch a single-

man capsule into Earth's orbit. Again the Soviets beat us when in 1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space. His flight lasted 108 minutes and orbited Earth one single rotation. This step led to a famous speech by US President, John F. Kennedy where he announced a plan to land a man on the moon by 1970. This would be accomplished through projects Gemini and Apollo. Gemini 1 through 12 introduced a thousand different steps to figure out the docking and undocking procedures of spaceflight. Apollo 1-10 introduced a thousand different steps to figure out how to get men to the moon and back. These small steps eventually led to July 20, 1969 where Neil stepped onto the moon.

Now, perhaps you have a small inkling of what Neil meant when he said, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." I don't know exactly how many steps there were between Wilbur and Orville, saying, "let's fly kites," and Neil stepping on the moon. Millions maybe? But I do know this... it is doubtful that we would have gotten there if it weren't for each person in this story deciding to keep making small steps. Every person in this story, everyday had to make a decision to keep on trying. Every time they failed they had to determine that they would not give up. And eventually one step led to another step which led to another step until earthbound men found their way to the moon.

Are you aware that your lives are a series of small steps, one building on another. Small choices from birth that have formed who you really are. The distance from your beginning to now is a million miles long... but that distance still consists of small steps. Small steps that we rarely ever think of. Right? We don't like to think about small steps really. Why? Because we don't like small steps. What we like is big dreams. **We love to dream big dreams but we don't like to take small steps.**

We all want to fly but we don't want to the day by day hard work of failing and retrying that gets us in the air. We all want to go to space but we don't want to take the small steps, over the course of decades, that eventually get us there. We all want to walk on the moon... we all dream of making that giant leap for all mankind... but we don't want to take the one small step for man. And that's got to change. Why? Because big dreams are great... but nothing is accomplished without small steps. In fact, it could be said... small steps are more important than big dreams.

Today we begin a new series, a new start, where we are called to be transformed. This morning we begin a journey of small steps that lead to big change. Today I want us to see that... **Your Destiny Is Determined By Day To Day Decisions.**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

One day to day decision we need to make is this... **Make The Decision Everyday To Hear God's Voice.** Look with me at **Psalm 19:1-2.** Day to day we hear God speak to us. Day to day he pours out his speech.

Which means... that day by day we need to hear what he's saying to us. We need to hear God's voice day to day.

Let me ask you a question... how many of you are parents? You guys are crazy. Do you have small children or remember when you had small children? You got excited with every little thing they did. Every time they did something new you would act like you just won the lottery. The first time baby rolled over you called the local newspaper. The first time baby laughed out loud you sent the video into the local station and told them to air it on the 6 o'clock news. Listen, I know you think it's great... but no one else cares. Just saying.

And no first is more important than their first steps. Do you remember calling out to your baby, holding out your hands, saying, "come here, come to daddy." And they'd come... why? Cause they heard your voice and trusted you. Here's the thing. When we were children we listened to the voices of our parents. Then we grew up and became students and we listened to the voice of our teachers and our friends. Now we are all grown up and we listen to all kinds of voices... to our bosses, our pastors, our small group members... but also to the television, to the media, to politicians, and even celebrities.

Did you see this thing that is sweeping YouTube called Plandemic? It's this conspiracy theory of this lady who swears that Doctor Fauci is evil and that the Covid-19 is a fraud, and that vaccines are evil... and there are like 100 million people listening to this lady. You don't know her, you don't know her background, you don't know her motives... but you are taking steps to follow her... why?

Of course... that's just an example... but think about it. Who or what you listen to can develop into steps... and sometimes those steps aren't in the right direction. So let me ask you a huge question... Who's voice are you listening to... and what steps are you taking in response to those voices? **The steps we take are often determined by the voices we listen to.**

Of course... the most important voice you can listen to is God's. More than any other voice in this world including your spouse, your pastor, or Donald Trump... is God! But you may ask... how exactly is God speaking to me? Look back at **Psalm 19:1-2**. The heavens declare his glory, the sky his handiwork. God speaks to us through natural revelation, through his creation, through nature. You look around you at the oceans, the mountains, the forest, the sky... and you know there is a God and he is good. But you can only hear so much by looking at the natural world, so God also speaks through divine revelation, through his Word and through prayer. So we seek God's voice in his word and we seek God's voice in prayer... daily. Only then can we begin to walk.

Get this... you must determine to plan your steps and make your decisions only after hearing the voice of God directing you, otherwise

who knows where you will end up going. You must dedicate yourself to hearing God through the world and in prayer and basing your decisions on his voice. **Romans 10:17** says faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God. If we want to hear God we must read his word day by day and we must pray day by day. Then our steps will be in accordance with his voice. **John 10:27** says that we hear Jesus' voice and follow him. **If you wait to hear God's voice before you make your move... you will always move in the right direction. Your Destiny Is Determined By Day To Day Decisions.**

Another decision we need to make is... **Make The Decision Everyday To Grow In Godly Wisdom**. Once again we see this in **Psalm 19:1-2**. Day by day we hear his voice, and night by night he reveals his knowledge to us. First we must hear God's voice, secondly we must absorb his knowledge. And these two build upon one another and are necessary for one another... **It's one thing to listen... it's something entirely different to learn**. And God has a lot for us to learn. Every single day there is new knowledge to absorb and so everyday we need to go to God and glean from him. **James 1:5** tells us that if we lack wisdom ask God and he will give it. **Proverbs 2:6** tells us that the Lord gives wisdom. We shouldn't take a step without first absorbing the wisdom that is from God. **Wisdom helps us walk and our walk shows our wisdom**. Look at **James 3:13**.

So how do we glean this wisdom from God? We must listen and then learn. We don't just pray... we pray and then meditate on what God is saying to us. We don't just read the word. We read the word and then study and memorize it. We take his words and we build a worldview around them day to day. We must daily choose to seek the wisdom of God and walk accordingly. **Your Destiny Is Determined By Day To Day Decisions.**

Another decision we must make... and perhaps the most important is.... **Make The Decision Everyday To Depend Upon God**. Look at **Psalm 37:23-24**. The steps of man are established by the Lord. Notice he says, "steps." This is intentional wording which means small strides – not long leaps. God wants us to take small steps. You see, we may be tempted to think that when God shows up on the scene everything instantly changes in big sweeping ways. Jesus is here, boom... I'm exactly who I want to be now. Nope... it doesn't work like that. When Jesus shows up, he doesn't instantly zap you to your final destination... instead he shows you the destination and then gives you day to day decisions to get you there.

Think about David. He was called to be a king while still a shepherd. He wasn't instantly transported from shepherd to king. He wasn't ready yet. It took years of fighting lions and bears before he could fight a giant. And then it took years of being a suffering servant to Saul... before he could be a righteous servant king. It was hundreds if not thousands of day to day

decisions.

Or what about Jesus. The savior of the world sent as a baby. Have you ever wondered about that? I mean if I was God I would have sent Jesus fully grown, like a super hero, flying and lasers... and everyone would have been like... thats the Messiah no doubt. But thats not at all how God did it. He sent him as a baby. And Mary had to teach him to walk just like us. That blows my mind. Jesus tried to walk and fell down. Jesus popped his diaper. Jesus got lost at the temple. And Jesus grew up as kid into an adult. Why? Because God wasn't just sending a savior... but he was sending a story. A story that took time to develop day by day. For thirty years Jesus grew up and we don't know much about what his life was like. But he had to go through those 30 years so that for three years he could change the world. Jesus spent 30 years taking the small steps which would lead to three years of bigger steps... which would allow him to take the biggest steps up the hill of Calvary where he would die on the cross, raise from the dead, and give salvation to the world. **Little steps lead to big stories.** Though we may see the destination in the distance... God merely wants us to take one small step forward.

David and Jesus show us that, you might not be able to reach your goal today... but you can take one step towards it. Look at this **step ladder**. If I tried to leap to the top step I would kill myself. Just ask the Chris's... me and ladders don't work to well. So how do I get to the top... I take it step by step... day by day.

And here's another thing. I hate walking up steps. It kills me. I'm out of breath after like two. Have you ever been climbing steps and you have to stop and take a break and you are like... how in the world am I going to take another step. It's the same in life. At some point you say, how in the world can I take one more step. It's simple... by depending on the God who establishes your steps and upholds you with his hand.

And here's another thing... some steps may cause you to fall. You could take one step forward and fall three steps backwards. Do you quit because you fell? Some people do. But not you. Why? Because God will pick you up and help you try again.

Listen, life isn't defined by giant leaps... your destiny is defined by day to day small steps. We all want to do big things... but if thats all we focus on then we will fail. So we should just focus on the small day to day steps. So instead of declaring, "I'm going to lose a hundred pounds," I should ask... "what is one thing I can do today that can help me lose weight?" Instead of declaring, "I'm going to save 20 grand," I should ask... "what is one thing I can do today to save more money?" Instead of declaring, "I'm going to be a missionary in Africa," I should ask... "what is one thing I can do today to help reach people with the Gospel?" Do you get it? Its about the small steps. It's about day to day decisions.

So, what are the small steps you can do day by day that can eventually lead to big changes? And... how are you depending on God to help you make those small day by day steps? Listen to **Matthew 6:33**, seek first God and then the big things will be added to you. Seeking God, depending on God is the first small step. **Your Destiny Is Determined By Day To Day Decisions**

Application

Here's the point. We often want to make big steps or giant leaps towards our dreams... but we first need to prepare for the journey. Our first steps need to be more passive then active. We don't need to just take off running into the wild, first we must prepare our steps. We must listen to God, we must mediate on his wisdom, and we must depend upon his power working in us. Then we can start to take steps.

And even after we start making those steps... every single day, day by day, we still listen to his voice, absorb his wisdom, and depend upon him. We never stop doing the day by day small steps of listening to God, growing in his wisdom, and depending on him. Yes... your Destiny Is Determined By Day To Day Decisions, But your destiny is also determined by day to day dependency in Jesus Christ. That is why our vision statement at Stone Creek begins with "Depending on Christ." Because we depend on Christ in all things. That's where our journey begins... thats our first step... to simply depend on Jesus to guide us wherever we go. "Depending on Christ we will reach our world with the Gospel to see lives completely transformed." We can't even move without Christ establishing our steps.

Conclusion

So you want to do great things in this life? You want to be the next Wilbur and Orville Wright, or the next Neil Armstrong? Here's your first small step! Depend on Jesus Christ! Daily depend on Jesus Christ. You don't need to take another step until you can take this step. Everyday determine to begin your day by hearing his voice and meditating on his word and depending on him to establish your steps. **Your Destiny Is Determined By Day To Day Decisions.** Your destiny is determined by day to day dependency on Jesus.