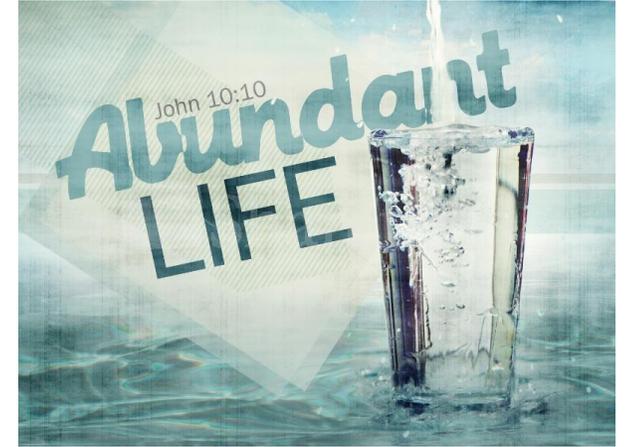


FROM FAITH TO LOVE
STEP #1
TRUSTING JESUS

Luke 12:16-31

What we have learned so far

- Only in Him there is **abundant life** (John 6:35, 10:10, 14:6)
- Moreover, God really wants a **relationship** with us
- To that end God has done **everything**, even dying on the cross, to initiate this relationship
- We are on a relationship journey to ***pursuit Jesus***—a journey *from Faith to Love*, ending in a deep communion with Jesus (2 Peter 1:5-8)
- For this journey God has already blessed us with all things that pertain to life and godliness. Moreover He has given us a **new nature** in Christ (v.3-4)
- The first step of wonderful journey is **Faith**



But Why Faith?



- The fallen world is a **dangerous** world (Gen. 3)
- As we come to recognize the dangers around us, we feel afraid; and in turn we try to mitigate our fear by seeking control (with our own strength)
- Sadly, the **more** we seek control, the more we discover that we cannot control the world around us, let alone our eternal destination.
- On our own control we can never arrive to the destination that we desire—a world without fear
- Therefore, control is an illusion (Luke 12:16-21, James 4:14)
- How can we be set free from fear, and apart from our feeble attempts at control?

Freedom to Fly

You can only fly
freely when you
know there is a
catcher to catch you



...Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 139:10

Walk in Faith



- Faith is the opposite of seeking control—it is surrendering control
- It is to embrace the truth that control is only an illusion—we can never save our **soul** or save ourselves from **fear** (ill. Peter leaving the boat. Matt. 14)
- Are you willing to climb out of your boat?
- The solution is the complete opposite—instead of staying control (staying in the boat) we must overcome fear by surrendering control (leaving the boat)
- Like on a trapeze, we must be convinced that if we let go we will be **caught**. This assurance only comes when we first acknowledge who God is & to **trust** that He desires to be with us and will not let us fall.

Are you Scare to Let Go?

However, you will never just let go your trapeze for anyone...

Why would Peter **willing** to let go of his boat?

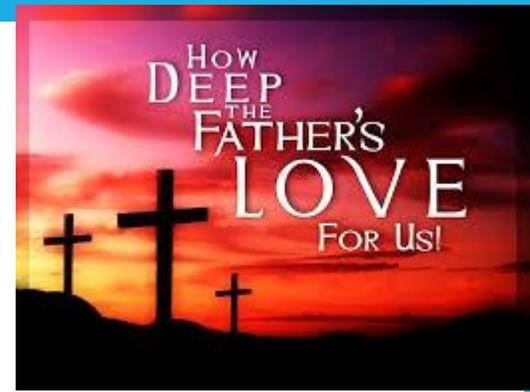
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)

It is not hard to figure out that we cannot trust in our own understanding...

But it is far harder to acknowledge God—to see God as who he is



Your Father Loves You



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

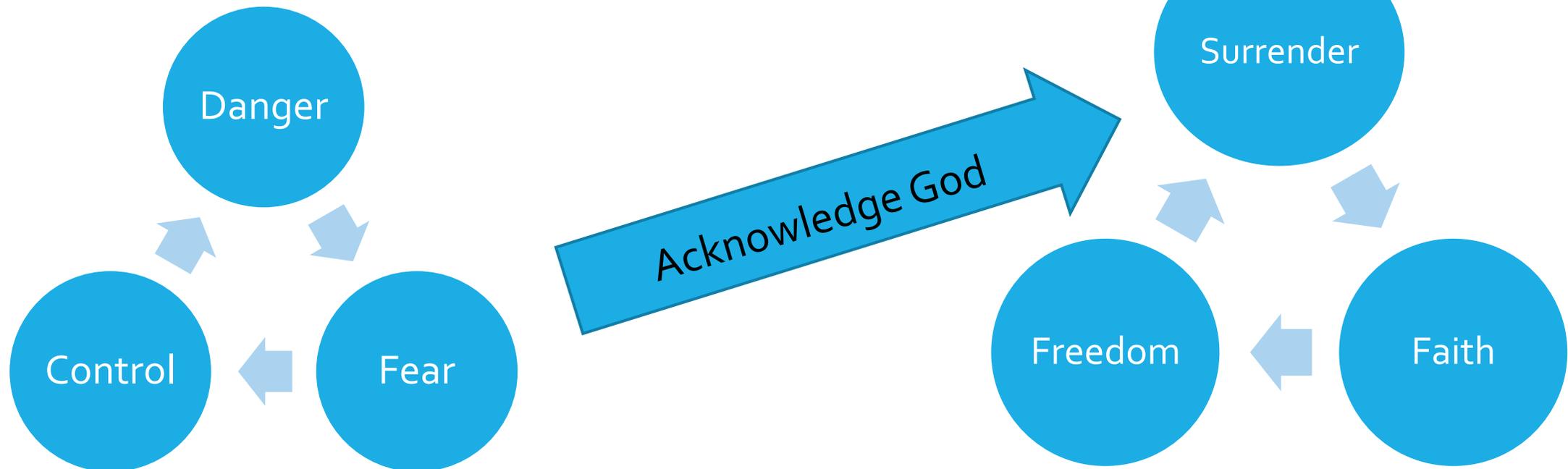
- Do you **acknowledge** your loving Father **actually cares** for you?

But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. (Luke 12:28-30)

The 2 Circles of Life



- *He who is enslaved by the compass has the freedom of the seas—author unknown*
- In order to be freed, you must first acknowledge God



Complete Trust in His Arms



- (Isa. 43:1-5) Christian life makes no sense until you are willing to say “not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42)
- When I am eternity safe in the care of my Heavenly Father, and I come to see the world as a safe place, then I am set free from my fears.
 - I am free to give rather than hoard
 - I am free to enjoy each day rather than worry
 - I am free to forgive rather than retaliate
 - I am even free to love the person determined to harm me
- Freedom is a **promise** from our Lord (Rom. 8:32, 36). But are you free?



*If this be so, our God whom we serve is **able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*

***But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

2 steps of Faith:

- 1) **Acknowledge God***
- 2) **Surrender to God's Will***



Your Choice Today



I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

