



Find the Edge: Crossing the God Frontier

From last week: *Did you find any ways to 'add the dash'?*

Have you ever stood at the end of the diving board and looked down and felt overwhelmed by the challenge? It is like a frontier where we must take a step, where God is at work, sometimes whispering, sometimes wooing, and sometimes shouting. We may be aware of this or we may be drowning it out by other noise. God may be quite persistent in getting our attention in this intensely personal experience.

Each one of us has something inside where we face a risk of whether we will go ahead or not.

Read this list of examples of people “at the edge” and underline what stands out to you. You may wish to read the entire passages later.

- For the leper, *it* was letting himself be touched. Matthew 8:1-4
- For the paralytic, *it* was to pick up his bed. Matthew 9:1-8
- For the man with the deformed hand, *it* was to stretch it out. Mark 3:1-6
- For the Syrophenician woman, *it* was to be persistent and argue about dogs and crumbs. Mark 7:24-30
- For the father of the boy with a demon, *it* was believing in spite of his unbelief. Mark 9:14-29
- For the rich young ruler, *the edge* was to sell all he had. Mark 10:17-22
- For the blind man, *it* was to tell Jesus what he wanted. Mark 10:46-52
- For Mary, *it* was telling the angel she was willing to accept God's will. Luke 1:26-38
- For the lawyer, *it* was loving his neighbour as himself. Luke 10:25-37
- For Martha the sister of Lazarus, *it* was to stop fussing and sit at Jesus' feet. Luke 10:38-41
- For Nicodemus, *it* was to be born again. John 3:1-21
- For the woman at the well, *it* was to go and call her husband. John 4:4-39
- For the woman caught in adultery, *it* was to go and sin no more. John 8:2-11

Do any other examples come to mind from the Gospels?

Hebrews 11 is an important chapter that lists many examples of people “at the edge” is. Read it out loud together.

- *What is faith? Pick an example of someone listed there and consider how they expressed faith.*
- *Can you think of an example of this faith edge in your life where you are considering crossing? What are the pros and cons of doing this?*

God gives us supernatural resources to help us cross the edge:

1. His promises:

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” 2 Peter 1:3,4

The value of a promise is based on the character of the person who made it. God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2) so what He said will come true. Promises generally have a *condition* (often fulfilled by Christ or we might have to do something) and a *result* that happens when that condition is fulfilled. Observe carefully to whom the promise is made, and the conditions for its fulfillment.

Read 1 John 5:11-13 (This is the first Letter of John, not the Gospel of John)

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

- *What is promised?*
- *What is the condition of receiving the promise?*

2. His Spirit:

Jesus before He left this earth promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter (literally the One who comes along side) to lead us in all truth (John 14:26). We can pray and ask for help to understand what God wants (James 1:5) and for strength to cross this faith frontier (1 Peter 4:11).

- *What faith frontier do you think God may be asking you to cross?*
- *What role does Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Bible play in this edge?*

3. Each other:

While the edge is intensely personal, we can draw strength from each other in facing it. *How we can help each other find the edge?*

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ... Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-13

Summarize what stands out to you in this study and pray together.