



Embrace the Adventure

Ryan Miller – April 25, 2010

I love the Princess Bride. Whenever I was sick I would curl up and watch it again and again. Some of the time I wished I had a slight cough that could keep me at home so I could see the Dread Pirate Roberts and Inigo Montoya sword fight – I would dream of R.O.U.S.'s – for the uninitiated that stands for Rodents of Unusual Size. When I got older and started taking Spanish I learned how to give Inigo Montoya's famous speech to the six fingered man in Spanish:

Hola. Mi nombre es Ínigo Montoya. Usted mató a mi padre. Prepárese para morir.

For those who don't know the scene, the English translation is: Hello, My Name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die. When I was in Physics in high school I had to do a project about fake physics in Hollywood – which is basically movies that depict an event that is physically impossible. I picked the scene where Andre the Giant's character climbed up the cliffs of insanity with three people strapped to his back. Andre the Giant is huge but that is not humanly possible. I still enjoy quoting the rhyming scene just before that moment:

Inigo Montoya: Fezzik, are there rocks ahead?

Fezzik: If there are, we all be dead.

Vizzini: No more rhymes now, I mean it.

Fezzik: Anybody want a peanut?

I am also convinced that gathering a group of Princess Bride lovers together; assigning each one of them a role and watching the whole movie without sound allowing everyone to provide the dialogue would be a great party. Yes – I'm a huge dork. There are a lot of reasons I love the movie but it boils

down to what the grandpa said to his sick grandson: Are you kidding? Fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles... Who doesn't want to hear a story like that – who doesn't want to live a life of incredible adventure? I long for life to be a little bit more like an epic and a little less like the mundane existence that seems to trap me so easily.

I believe that God has made us for a fuller, more exciting life than we often find ourselves in. Jesus said: I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10b NIV). The problem is, we've settled for something else – life on our own terms, responsibility, routine, fear, all these cages that Josh talked about last week that are keeping us from the life of freedom we can have in Christ – from the adventure of life with the Holy Spirit – the Wild Goose of the ancient Celtic Christians. Last week Josh explored what keeps us from living this life, today I want to consider how to live that life.

We need to break free from the cages and the sin that so easily entangles us and embrace our freedom. We need to embrace the adventure of living life with the Spirit. We have God dwelling in us, enabling us to live supernaturally – to be more loving, and hopeful and faithful than the world around us – but we don't live this way very often.

One of the main reasons I believe we struggle with this type of life is confusion, fear and lack of clarity. We aren't exactly sure what to do or how to live so we spend a huge amount of time seeking and trying to discern God's will for our lives. If God would only tell us, clearly what to do we would do it – we think to ourselves. If he called me clearly to go to another country and serve him I would do it – if he told me to see everything I have and give it to the poor I would do it – if he would just tell me where to go to school or who to date or what job to apply for or whether or not to buy the house that just came on the market – I would do just what he tells me to...Some of this desire is good. We want to live in line with God's will for our lives. We want to make sure that the Holy Spirit is really guiding us to do this or that instead of just our own desires or even the world or Satan and his compatriots. I understand this desire. I want to make sure that I'm doing the right thing – I want to live the way God wants me to and to do that, having real clarity about his will is important. If the Spirit lives in me shouldn't I know what to do more vividly? What is God's will for my life?

The truth is, God's will is often very clear. Let me give you two examples from the words of Jesus:

The first is called the Great Commandment. Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment in all the Old Testament is – and he responds with the core of the Christian life. Jesus replied:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (**Matthew 22:37-39 NIV**).

This is the center of following Jesus – growing in love for God and for others more and more everyday. God's will for us is clear. At the end of his time on the earth Jesus gave his followers what is called The Great Commission. He gives them their marching orders – he entrusts them with his mission on earth. He commissions them for life and ministry saying:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (**Matthew 28:19-20a** NIV)

It wasn't just Jesus who was clear about God's will for our lives – his will. The rest of the New Testament is pretty clear as well. When Paul and Peter wrote to the early churches they often told them explicitly what God's will was for them and it always aligned with the great commandment and commission. For example:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Paul says this: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 2:15 Peter says: ⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

The truth is, the Bible tells me what God's will is for my life in a number of areas. While I know about these commands and I know that I am to be known by my love of God and others, that I should be a part of his mission of redemption and reconciliation in the world, in the guise of being spiritual I often drag my feet in obeying God's will or even worse pray against God's revealed will because I don't want to do what I knew I should. I pray for God to make his will clear so I'll know what to do when he has already given me great clarity. For some reason I want more guidance when I have yet to act on the areas God has made his will for me known.

The life of adventure with the Holy Spirit – the life of true faith calls us to act even when we're not sure – when all of the details aren't clear. The expression of a life of faith lived according to the Spirit is obedience. The life of faith begins with God speaking and with us responding. The problem is, we think that living by faith should make everything clear and certain but the truth is living by faith often leads us into uncertainty. And we are paralyzed by uncertainty and fearful because we aren't in control – as if real control is possible. This isn't just a personal problem, it's a problem in the church as well. Often the church as a whole is focused on making sure people are obedient to The faith – that they are doctrinally sound, they have a solid knowledge of the scripture and are living right – instead of helping people learn to live by faith, to hear God's voice and respond. It is vital that we learn to live in a dynamic, fluid relationship with God

The starting point of this life is recognizing how much God has already revealed to us. There are just some things we don't need to pray about - we don't need to pray about whether we should pray. We don't need to ask God if we should love the people around us, if we should extend grace to our enemies, if we should work for justice and peace in the world, if we should share our lives and faith with the world around us. His will is clear. Spending time praying and seeking God's in many situations is just simple disobedience, procrastination and sin. Let's stop praying and seeking his will about the things he has already revealed. Let's move the things that Jesus has called us to do into the non optional category. Let's stop ignoring it and start doing what he has commanded us to do –

this is where real faith begins. We believe God is loving and just and good and that he has communicated to us through the Bible and we respond to our loving God – this is faith.

If we're honest we realize that all along we haven't been praying that God would call us to live in a way that would require faith, we were hoping for an assurance that real faith isn't needed. We want God to tell us what to do in specific, minute detail, so we don't actually need to live by faith. We need to embrace the truth that faith is not a guarantee that everything will be clear or easy or that we will have all the answers, but will often lead us into the unclear, the challenging, and the confusing. Faith leads us to the place where we can only succeed with God's help because otherwise we will fall on our faces – and this is scary and exhilarating.

So what does this faith look like? What does it mean to live by faith that is uncertain and unclear? I want to look at two examples from the Bible that can help us grasp this. The first is found in Daniel 3.

The nation of God is in captivity in Babylon and while they are living in Babylon the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar (best name in the Bible) has an amazing idea. Let's build an awe-inspiring monument to myself. This statue will be so huge that it can be seen for miles around. Then whenever the people of Babylon hear music – drums, flutes, horns – any type of music they will fall down and worship my golden statue. His plan soon became a reality but he added a twist to it – those who do not fall down and worship this image were immediately thrown into a fiery furnace. This spelled big trouble for the people of Israel who were not supposed to worship any God but the true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – Yahweh – the great I AM. They knew that bowing down and worshipping this statue of the Babylonian King was not an option. So let's pick up the story in chapter 3 verse 8. The other main characters in this story have pretty crazy names as well: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel 3:8-17 ⁸ At this time some astrologers {8 Or Chaldeans} came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon-- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego-- who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

Naturally, what happens next isn't all that surprising. The next time the music is played in Babylon these three men of God with crazy names refuse to bow down before the statue and they are thrown into the furnace. But then the miraculous happens - by God's grace and mercy they are not consumed by the flames – in fact the rescue was so incredible that King Nebuchadnezzar worshipped God and said this:

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." Daniel 3:28-29

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego know the truth that God is able to save and we love to tell these stories of God's incredible salvation. It's all over the Bible – it's these three guys who are thrown into the flames but are not burned to a crisp and the story of Moses leading the people of Israel out of Egypt and God parting the waters of the Red Sea so his people can escape their captors who are hot in pursuit. It's the story of a young shepherd named David who defeats a giant named Goliath. We love the stories of our God who is able to save. The stories don't end with just the Bible either – we tell the stories of how God has provided for us in this room: the way he has transformed our lives. How the living God reached down and touched your life and made you a new creation when you decided to follow Jesus. Our God is able. It's important for us to have these moments in our lives where we can clearly say that God was at work and moving. Maybe it's a family member that was healed or a huge problem that was averted or a friend's life that was transformed. God is living and active and it's vital that we remember and celebrate the times that he provides for us. Knowing that God is able to save is not all of life of faith – it's just part of it. Let's revisit the story – starting in verse 16.

Daniel 3:16-18 ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

But even if he does not... This statement is the turning point of the story. Our God is able to save but even if he does not we will still refuse to bow down, we will still serve him with our entire being. This is faith in the face of incredible opposition. This is the faith I want to have – and all they are doing is obeying what God has already revealed to them. They didn't need to pray to God about whether they

should bow down to the image. They didn't spend nights sweating about what to do. Did they pray for protection and courage in the face of death? Probably. But there was no doubt what God's will was in the situation because he had already revealed it. This is the life of faith – this is where the adventure of the Spirit led life begins. It is a clear recognition that God is able to powerfully impact the world as well as a recognition that God chooses his own time and place to act. Many times what he chooses does not align with what we would like him to do. While there are many stories in the Bible of God providing for his people, there are other stories of times when God did not save. His own Son Jesus died on a cross and God was able to save from that death, but he did not. Most of Jesus' closest followers followed their Savior in the death of a martyr as well. In fact throughout the centuries there have been thousands of people who faced death, full of faith in the God who is able to save, acting in obedience to his revealed will but were still killed for their faith. While we today don't face the same danger in America all of us have stories of times when we prayed desperately for something and God didn't provide – for a family member to get well, for a baby to live, for healing for ourselves. But even in the face of these disappointments we serve a God who is able to save and that is our foundation and what we trust in. We know that he is love and that while we don't know why he chooses to act in some instances and not in others we can rest in his love and the promise that he will work everything, even the terrible things that happen, to the good of those who love him. He is in the business of resurrection and redemption and we can trust in that. The question for us today is, can we say, "even if He does not, I will still serve the Lord?" I will trust in Him, I will live by the Spirit?

We need to be a community who says together "even if He does not" we will act in line with his revealed will, we will live the lives of faith he has called us to because this is true faith. What do you need to let go of to begin living this sort of life? What do you need to step out in faith and say even if he does not about? Maybe it's the pursuit of a husband or wife or even just a boyfriend or girlfriend. Maybe you need to say, I know God is able to provide me with someone who will love me for who I am, that will help me grow closer to God and make my heart race and I can connect with on a deep level and be my companion for the rest of my life, but even if he does not I will serve the Lord my God. Maybe it's entering the difficult job market in this depressed economy. Maybe you need to say, I know that God is able to provide me a job that will meet my needs and use my gifts and ignite my passion but even if he does not, I will serve the Lord, because I know that God never promised safety or security but rather salvation from my sin and fulfillment spiritually, provision for my basic needs and an understanding of my role in the world. Maybe it's starting a family where you need to say, I know that God is able to bless me with children that I can love and raise to know him, but even if he does not I will serve him with everything I have and thank him for the blessings he has given me. The list goes on. We need to be people who say "even if he does not" I will serve the Lord – both as individuals and together as a community.

In 1 Samuel 14 there is another story of people acting in faith. In the OT the nation of Israel is constantly in conflict. This story takes place during the reign of Israel's first king, King Saul. In this particular passage they are fighting their arch enemies the Philistines and the Israelites are in trouble. They are vastly outnumbered and only Saul and his son Jonathan even have swords and spears. No

one else in the army is armed! In this passage Saul and his warriors are resting under a pomegranate tree and the situation is desperate. It makes sense for them to surrender – they have no hope – they are outnumbered and outgunned – but Saul’s son Jonathan does something every interesting.

1 Samuel 14:1, 6-7 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father... Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

So while the rest of the army is resting Jonathan and his armor bearer get up and infiltrate the enemy camp without letting anyone know what they were doing. In the face of incredible danger they trusted God and acted. This is faith. Jonathan knows that nothing can hinder the LORD from saving but he also knows that it's not a sure thing. He says "perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf". This is rarely how we live. Most of the time we read the Bible for comfort and assurance and clarity but rarely do we read the Bible for the courage to face the unknown. We only step out in faith when we know that victory is assured. We think for some reason that when we became a Christian that God signed some sort of contract with us that we would never fail, and in fact not only that we wouldn't fail but that we would never suffer and go through disappointment and probably that we would never really be inconvenienced in our lives.

There is this idea in western Christianity that the safest place to be in the world is in the center of God's will. Now this idea sounds good and may have some truth but the situation that Jonathan is in sure doesn't sound safe. As I read through the Bible what I become convinced of is that following God is not safe but that it can be incredibly dangerous. Our God who is able to save is not scared of anything and he is calling people to follow him into the adventure, into the dangerous life of following the Spirit that will not be safe but will always be good.

Consider the Apostle Paul. It seems like if anyone has ever visited the center of God's will – Paul had to have vacationed there from time to time. He was the greatest missionary and church planter in the Bible and he wrote much of the divinely-inspired New Testament. He had to be somewhere who lived in line with the will of God for his life right? This is what he says about his life:

"I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I

have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.”
2 Corinthians 11:24-27

I don't know about you but this doesn't sound safe. Now certainly there is great danger being outside of God's will as well but that is often the danger to our souls that we so easily ignore. Following God is often far from safe by the world's standards. This is how Jonathan sees things. He knows God can save but he is also honest with himself and his armor bearer when he says perhaps. He is basically saying: I know what God is up to; I know that he is delivering the Philistines into our hands because he has promised to do that. It's clear what is on God's heart. He has called us to engage in battle. I have no doubt that he is able to give us the victory. So let's step out in faith in line with the heart of God to usher in the will of God and maybe God will help us – with the emphasis on maybe, perhaps and I hope. This is the life of faith. This is the adventure of the Spirit led life.

I know that God is in the business of redemption and reconciliation. I know he wants us to be unified, to be known by love and to join his mission in impacting the campus and central Tucson. I have no doubt that he wants us to step out in faith, to take risks in line with his revealed will and that perhaps he will bless our efforts. Our God is living and active and when we join what he is already doing we can be confident in our acts of faith. I don't know all the details but I can promise that we will do everything possible to be sensitive to his leadings and to be obedient to what he has already revealed to us and maybe we will see victory. But even if we do not we will serve the Lord and perhaps even in failure we can point others into God's future.

So you may be asking yourself, Ryan you haven't talked much about how life in the Spirit works for me in a day to day sense. How to I respond to the spirit in my everyday life?

Let me suggest a few things other than just saying “forget about God's mysterious will for your life and start living in line with what you already know.” I think I can offer a little help. I know that the idea of embracing the adventure of living in step with Spirit sounds big and epic and a lot of the time our lives seem pretty common and basic, even boring, but God wants to meet us there as well. Often we are so focused on God's big mission that we may eventually be involved in that we miss his purposes in our daily life. God doesn't want us to wait for someday, he wants us to embrace the adventure now. So how do we respond to the Spirit's leading and guidance every day and what does it look like?

There is a great scene from the book *The Shack* that I think can help us start this conversation together. In this scene the main character, Mackenzie is talking to the Holy Spirit as they canoe on a lake:

Reading from “The Shack”

Responding to the Spirit starts with recognizing the Spirit's voice. Jesus talked about this in John 10. He used the metaphor of a shepherd with his sheep. Here's what he says starting in verse 2:

“The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” **John 10:2-6 (NIV)**

Jesus says that his sheep recognize his voice and when they hear someone else's voice they flee. The only way for us to begin to recognize God's voice is to spend time with him. We need to spend time in prayer – talking to God and the more we do this the more we will begin to recognize his voice when he speaks to us – not audibly but in our spirit, in the ideas that come to mind, in the words of Scripture, in the people we interact with, maybe even in pop culture. God is always communicating with us. The question is, are we spending enough time with him to recognize his voice? A few rules of thumb here:

1. God's voice – the Holy Spirit - never contradicts Scripture or promotes sin. You may need to read the Bible more to be able to discern if what you think God is saying is really Him. If the Spirit doesn't contradict the Bible it's important to know what the Bible says. When we know God's revealed will we can respond to the Spirit when he speaks to us and we can flee from the other voices that may lead down the wrong path like Jesus said. I know what is right and wrong, God has written his law on my heart, and sin is easy for me to see, but when I am tempted I don't always flee as Jesus encourages us to. I sometimes resist the conviction of the Spirit and act rebelliously anyway but the Spirit is working to help me and all of us avoid and overcome sin if we listen and respond to him.

2. In situations where you are discerning God's practical, immediate will seeking wise counsel is always a good idea. If you have spiritual friends, mentors or leaders who you can talk with it can be very beneficial. Some of the time we get so trapped in our own minds that it is hard for us to see the forest for the trees. Wise counsel can be incredibly helpful in these situations.

Here's how this can play out: In the movie *Saved!*, which was a parody on going to a Christian high school, the main character has a boyfriend who revealed to her that he was gay. So her plan, what she felt like God was telling her to do, was to have sex with her gay boyfriend because that would clearly fix the problem and was obviously God's will. Here is where the first two rules of thumb come into play. The Spirit would not have encouraged her to have sex with her boyfriend so that was not the Spirit's voice. Also, if she wasn't totally sure if what she was hearing was true just by using the first rule of thumb, seeking out wise counsel would have been very helpful. A mentor or spiritual friend could have helped her sort through the complicated situation without the problems that her decision created.

The 3rd rule of thumb is: Just like the Holy Spirit doesn't contradict Scripture, the Spirit also leads us to act in line with God's revealed will. He encourages us to love and to serve and to work for justice. Some of the time we focus so much on what the Spirit doesn't do that we miss what he does do. All of the obedience to God's will that I encouraged early – the Spirit works to confirm that in our lives, lead

us to obedience and empower us to obey. He can speak to us in many ways. One way this worked in my life was through a man I had never met.

When I was in college I struggled with the feeling that I was made to serve God in ministry in some capacity. My gifts and abilities, the opportunities I'd have to serve and the people around me seemed to encourage me that this leading was correct – but some of the times God makes his specific will blatant. I went to a conference in California and while I was there my group visited a church in San Diego to see what their involvement in the community looked like. As we toured the main building a man who looked to be in his mid thirties walked straight up to me in the middle of a huge group and told me: God has his hand on your life and he has called you to do great things for Him. I was dumbfounded. Nothing like this had ever happened to me nor has it happened since. I didn't get all the details but in that moment God chose to confirm my calling to ministry through a man I would never see again.

Finally, the Spirit often leads us to do something we wouldn't normally do. There are things in life and aspects of our obedience to God that don't come naturally. There are some things that we wouldn't choose to do just because of our personalities and how God has wired us. Some of the time the voice of God leads us out of our comfort zone. This happened to Rebekah recently and I've asked her to share that experience with us.

Rebekah's Story

Living the day to day life with the Spirit begins by recognizing the voice of God and it ends when we begin to respond to the Spirit when he moves and prompts us. Life in the Spirit is incomplete without our obedience to the Spirit. Rebekah would have missed out on God if she hadn't responded to his call to join the group praying for the young man with the injured leg. This has happened to me many times, some of the time I've responded and some of the time I haven't.

One time that I responded was 6 years ago. Six years ago my wife and I came to visit Tucson. We were engaged at the time and we had a team of friends that were ready to follow God's leading and call in our lives to go and plant a campus connected church somewhere. Just before we were going to make our decision I got a call that encouraged me to consider Tucson. We had researched Tucson in the beginning stages of our decision making process and eliminated it quickly but we decided it was worth one last look. Liz and I flew to Tucson and were here for a day and a half – and the Spirit spoke to me. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that Tucson was where we were supposed to be. It turns out that everything we were looking for in a city and a University was right here in Tucson. The cost of living was reasonable, everyone could pursue post-graduate work, the city was large enough people could find jobs here and make a home in Tucson even after graduating from college – there was significant need for the type of ministry God was calling us to and there was a great appreciation for the arts. It was the perfect place for all of these reasons but mainly because God spoke to me. So we returned to Missouri and told our friends that God was calling us to Tucson. And six years later some of those same friends are in this room with the community that God has created. God spoke

and we all listened to him. I knew for sure but many people had to step out in faith and live the adventure of moving across the country into the unknown seeking to live in line with God's revealed will. And even I needed to be obedient to God's call.

I felt a very similar way about serving in Haiti over Spring Break. I had a deep peace in my spirit that going to this dangerous, devastated country was exactly what I was supposed to do. Even without that deep assurance I know that God cares for the people there who are hurting, I know he has called his people to be his hands and feet acting in the world and making his love tangible so I can step out in faith, knowing that I am acting in line with God's heart and that I serve a God who can save me from any danger I may face there. And even if he does not I will serve God and obey what I know to be true. Some of you didn't get the chance to go to Haiti in March but I want you know that there is another opportunity on the horizon – probably either June 11-20 or July 9-18. Let me know if you're interested and if the Spirit is moving or calling you I implore you to both listen and obey.

The promptings, the small movements of the Spirit that you feel – encouraging you to do the right thing, to extend love and relationship to the stranger or the neighbor that you never talk to – the everyday life with the spirit – this is the adventure. I often ignore these promptings – at least about the things that I'm worried will make me seem crazy – or weird – or could make me look bad. But I have never once regretted responding to the promptings. Even if nothing miraculous happens, even if the conversation seems insignificant, there is a peace in your spirit when you follow those promptings. Each time you obey there is a chance that the next time that prompting comes you will respond again. And it's all of these little decisions to follow the Spirit – even if you might seem crazy - that is the adventure of the Spirit led life. It's not focusing on someday and what God's will for your life is 20 years from now – the adventure is now – God is alive and moving and we have a chance to move with Him. God has already spoken clearly in His word – are we obeying even when it's hard and when we don't have clarity about all of the details? Are we choosing to live in line with the heart of God and his revealed will? Are we living by faith? The Holy Spirit speaks to us everyday – encouraging, guiding, comforting. Are you listening? Are you willing to embrace the adventure? If you do the unpredictability of the Spirit, the danger of the Wild Goose of the Celtic Christians will begin to mark your everyday life as you live in step with the Spirit of God.

Let's pray