

SC Church 5.3.2026

Gradually Then Suddenly Stepping Out

- A. Intro: Where have you seen ruins turned into something amazing?
- a. Jeremiah 33:3 NIV – ³ ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’
- B. Big Idea: All it takes is one step in the right direction to begin moving toward God’s will.
- C. Zechariah 2:4-6 NLT – ⁴ The other angel said, “Hurry, and say to that young man, ‘Jerusalem will someday be so full of people and livestock that there won’t be room enough for everyone! Many will live outside the city walls. ⁵ Then I, myself, will be a protective wall of fire around Jerusalem, says the Lord. And I will be the glory inside the city!’ ”
- D. Zechariah 4:6-10 NLT – ⁶ Then he said to me, “This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. ⁷ Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel’s way; it will become a level plain before him! And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: ‘May God bless it! May God bless it!’ ” ⁸ Then another message came to me from the Lord: ⁹ “Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has sent me. ¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.” (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the Lord that search all around the world.)
- E. How do we accomplish God’s vision for our lives?
- a. Depend on God’s Spirit to Help Us
 - i. Zechariah 4:6 NLT – ⁶ Then he said to me, “This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.
 - ii. Romans 8:9 HCSB – ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
 - iii. 2 Samuel 5:19 NLT – ¹⁹ Then David inquired of the Lord: “Should I go to war against the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The Lord replied to David, “Go, for I will certainly hand the Philistines over to you.”
 - iv. 1 Chronicles 28:2-3 NLT – ² David rose to his feet and said: “My brothers and my people! It was my desire to build a Temple

where the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, God's footstool, could rest permanently. I made the necessary preparations for building it, ³ but God said to me, 'You must not build a Temple to honor my name, for you are a warrior and have shed much blood.'

- v. Philippians 2:13 NLT – ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.
- vi. John 16:13 NLT – ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

b. Remember Obstacles are no Match for God

- i. Zechariah 4:7a NLT – ⁷ Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel's way; it will become a level plain before him!
- ii. Matthew 17:20 NLT – ²⁰ "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."
- iii. Matthew 19:26 NLT – ²⁶ Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."
- iv. Philippians 4:13 NLT – ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

c. Begin taking Small Steps

- i. Zechariah 6:10 NLT – ¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."
- ii. Zechariah 6:7b NLT – And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: 'May God bless it! May God bless it!'

F. Close: What is a first step you can take toward God's dreams for you?

a. Next Steps

- i. Memorize: Matthew 19:26 NLT – ²⁶ Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."
- ii. Think: Are there obstacles that God is using to build my trust in Him?
- iii. Action: With God's help, push through excuses and overcome.