



MOVING SPIRITUALLY.

It's easy to look at faith as a linear spiritual journey. The Holy Spirit does His thing, you get baptized, and then you be better and better and better at loving and serving and being in the Bible until eventually you're "spiritual" and it's all easy and natural and then you die and go to heaven.

Boom. Nailed it.

If this is how you view faith, we have some bad news: on this version of earth, it will never be easy or natural. Life will be messy.

But. There's good news: faith isn't a linear journey at all. It's relationship. It's messing up and repenting and being forgiven over and over again. It's God coming into that mess and saying, "I'll clean this up for you."

It's loving Jesus and being loved by Him - always no matter what. Through faith in Jesus Christ, *we get to simply be with Him.* For now and forever. And what a joy and honor that is!

IN THE BIBLE.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Luke 22:59-62

59 About an hour later someone else insisted, "This must be one of them, because he is a Galilean, too."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

61 At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."

62 And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

John 21: 17-19

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

1 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Can someone walk us through Peter's story up to Luke 22:62?
- 2.) How does Peter's story make you feel about your own spiritual journey? Any parallels to your own story? Differences?
- 3.) What did Jesus mean when he told Peter to, "Feed my sheep,"?
- 4.) What are some spiritual disciplines you can incorporate in your life that could help foster a deeper in relationship with Jesus?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?