

40 Days of Faith

“Risky Business”

The Five Phases of Faith

1. The Dream phase.

- **Gen. 12:1-2:** “The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.’”

2. The Decision phase.

- **Gen. 12:4:** “So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.”

3. The Difficulty phase.

- **Gen. 16:1:** “Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar.”

4. The Dead End phase.

- **Gen. 17:17:** “Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, ‘Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?’”

5. The Deliverance phase.

- **Gen. 21:2:** “Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.”

What Must I Do to Live a Life of Faith?

R - Remember what God has done for me in the past.

- **1 Sam. 17:37:** “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

I - Invite God to use me today.

- **1 Sam. 17:40:** “Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.”

S - Step outside my comfort zone.

- **1 Sam. 17:45-47:** “David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.’”

K - Know that God is with me.

- **1 Sam. 17:48-49:** “As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.”