

# ALAN TAYLOR

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## Following His Steps

Sometimes it feels like I'm a tightrope walker, carefully placing one step in front of another so as not to fall. I can't tell you exactly when that changed in my heart, but it wasn't always this way. I used to be quite free in my decisions, choosing what I felt were the best opportunities for the best outcomes. That's how I started in ministry: doing my best each day to be productive for the kingdom of God and, of course, for myself.

Along the way, however, something shifted. I began to grow cautious in my choices. I went from running full blast into good ideas to slowing way down, carefully taking each step, and sometimes remaining still until I had confidence to move forward. Many people around me didn't slow down; they kept running at a fast pace. At first, I was puzzled by my hesitation, but eventually I began to understand.

The Lord revealed to me that I was growing up and learning to yield my life to Him. I had been giving my life to Him through good works done in His name, but now I found myself desiring only His steps. As it says in John 5:19, *"Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.'"*

Jesus lived this way every single moment of His life, following the footsteps of His Father, and God desires that same trust with us. This transformation begins as we continue to pray in the Holy Spirit, as His will is laid out in our inner man like a path we can follow. As Romans 8:27 says, *"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

As the desires of the outward man are shed, His steps become clearer. Praying in the Spirit doesn't just illuminate the path; it brings equipping. This is the Holy Spirit interceding through you so you can fulfill God's will. Too many believers ask God for direction without first allowing Him to prepare and equip them.

If I walked up to a professional guide at the base of Mount Everest and asked for directions to the summit, he wouldn't simply point upward. He would ask questions, because many have died on that climb. He might ask why I was wearing shorts and sandals, where my equipment was, or whether I had the training and strength required. Any true adventure demands preparation and equipping in order to succeed.

This preparation is included when you allow the Holy Spirit to intercede through praying in tongues according to the will of God. He brings supernatural strength and courage to finish the course. All of us have experienced resistance against each step we take, because the enemy is afraid of us walking in God's will. During these seasons, we often find ourselves without answers, questioning why progress seems stalled or our calling delayed.

He doesn't want to treat you like a horse, having you only obey Him and submit to Him. He dares to educate you with His knowledge and wisdom through your spirit man. He desires to have the eyes of your understanding to be enlightened. The Holy Spirit will form all that you will need to succeed and teach you Spirit to spirit.

Why does it feel like I'm losing ground just as I'm becoming stronger in Him? By now, I hope you've learned that it's impossible to accomplish His will on your own, and equally impossible for it to be fulfilled through natural or carnal ability. God's plan for your life exists in the realm of the impossible. God needs you, He cannot do it without you.

He must first equip you with His faith, His courage, His humility, and above all His love before you can fulfill His will. During this season of equipping, you may feel powerless or unseen, with no outward works to prove progress. Time in the prayer closet has a way of stripping us of pride, self-preservation, and dead works. It can feel that your life is out of control, but it is not; you have begun to give up control over to Him.

Yet in that place of total reliance on Him, it becomes the safest place to be, right where He has you. The caution you feel is not fear; it is faith, faith in Him working in you rather than you working for Him. As Psalm 119:133 says, *"Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me,"* and Psalm 32:8–9 reminds us, *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you."*

There will come a moment when He releases you to run up the mountain of your ministry, and you will not fail because you allowed Him to prepare and equip you first. You may only see the next step, because He wants your eyes on Him. He needs someone willing to go through this transformation, and it's you. Trust Him. He will complete you and release you to run, because you will know His steps. Wonderful, impossible plans are just ahead—if we don't quit.

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