

## When You Can't See the Whole Map

**Scripture:** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...” – Proverbs 3:5–6

We live in a world built on visibility. We check the forecast before we leave home. We track packages in real time. We follow GPS directions turn by turn. We have grown accustomed to knowing what's ahead before we commit to moving forward.

Faith disrupts that comfort.

When Paul writes to the church in Corinth, he is not speaking from ease. In 2 Corinthians, he details afflictions, uncertainty, and suffering. Yet he anchors himself in this truth: *we walk by faith, not by sight*. The word “walk” implies continual motion. Faith is not a single decision—it is a lifestyle of trust.

### Faith Is Confidence in God's Character

Walking by sight depends on what we can verify. Walking by faith depends on who God has proven Himself to be.

Proverbs tells us not to lean on our own understanding. That phrase suggests weight-bearing. When life becomes heavy, we instinctively lean on logic, experience, and visible evidence. Those are not inherently wrong—but they are insufficient foundations. Only God's wisdom can support the full weight of our lives.

Methodist theology emphasizes prevenient grace—the truth that God is already at work before we recognize it. When you cannot see the whole picture, it does not mean God is absent. It often means He is working in ways that precede your awareness.

Faith trusts that God's hidden work is still holy work.

## **The Tension Between Clarity and Trust**

We often delay obedience until clarity arrives.

- “Once I understand how this will work out, I’ll step forward.”
- “Once I see the provision, I’ll give.”
- “Once I feel certain, I’ll commit.”

But Scripture rarely presents faith that way. God told Abram to go without showing him the destination. He instructed Moses to confront Pharaoh before revealing every detail of deliverance. Time and again, revelation followed obedience—not the other way around.

God rarely provides a spotlight. More often, He gives a lantern.

## **A Relatable Picture**

Imagine driving through thick South Georgia fog before sunrise. You can’t see miles ahead—sometimes not even the next curve. But you can see enough road to keep moving. If you stop until the fog clears, you may never reach your destination.

Faith operates the same way. God often reveals the next right step—not the entire journey.

You may not see:

- How the diagnosis will resolve
- How the finances will stretch
- How the relationship will heal
- How the calling will unfold

But you can take today’s step in obedience.

## **The Formation Happening in the Fog**

God is not only concerned with where you are going. He is deeply concerned with who you are becoming along the way.

When visibility is low:

- Trust deepens.
- Prayer becomes honest.
- Dependence grows.
- Self-sufficiency weakens.

Sanctifying grace shapes us here. Faith in uncertainty chisels away pride and cultivates surrender.

Clarity may build confidence in a plan.

Uncertainty builds confidence in God.

## **A Diagnostic Question**

Where are you resisting movement because you cannot see the outcome?

Is it:

- A ministry opportunity?
- A difficult conversation?
- A step of generosity?
- A leap into something new?

Sometimes the holiest thing you can do is take one obedient step while admitting, “Lord, I do not see how this ends—but I trust You.”

## **Reflection Exercise**

Today, write down:

1. One area where you lack clarity.
2. One next step you can take in obedience.

3. One attribute of God you can cling to (faithful, sovereign, provider, healer, guide).

Then act on that next step.

You may not have the whole map.

But you have the Guide.

### **Prayer**

Father, I confess that I prefer certainty. I like to see the road ahead before I move. Forgive me for leaning more on what I understand than on who You are. Strengthen my trust in Your character. When the path is unclear, steady my steps. Teach me to walk forward—even in the fog—because You are faithful. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.