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Heavenly Father, thank You for the work that You are doing in all of our lives. Thank You for the wonderful plans You have for us and the wonderful destiny You have for us. Thank You that You have been orchestrating this perfect plan since before the beginning of time. And thank You that You are including us in the good plans of others. I pray now that You guide my words, that I would say just what it is You want me to say and that You would guard my friends' hearts so that they would only hear what You want them to hear. In Jesus' name, Amen. If you like the idea of our kids being biblically literate, then I encourage you all to volunteer for VBS and be a good role model. Also I have this really big note on here because I forgot to mention it last week. Taylor Carpenter, who was one of our high school graduates this year, she had her open house a few weeks ago and she is now an intern at Quaker Haven. They keep those interns so busy. They are constantly running around. She just wanted to say that she is sorry. She hasn't been able to send out a thank you note yet for all of the people who supported her and visited her open house and gave cards and money. But she wanted me to say, relay her gratitude and her thanks for everyone who supported her with that. Also we had our government visa person come to the church this week. So finally after three months there has been some progress. So praise the Lord. He came and spoke with us and he liked what he saw and he said that he approves. So my understanding is the next step will be that they will now have our consulate interview Keith in Australia and once that is done then they will issue the visa. So the gears have finally turned. Praise the Lord. So last week I spoke against the fear of those who don't jump in with their heavenly Father and how God is calling us to do this. He is calling us to let go of the edge of the pool and just like a little child just jump into our heavenly Father's arms and trust that He is going to take care of us. And this complete abandonment of ourselves to God is what we mean when we talk about the walk of faith. This is the walk of faith and it is something to which we are all called as Christians. Today I want to speak just a little bit more on that and I want to give you some promises to encourage you to relinquish control of your life to God. But first let's be clear on what we are talking about when we say the walk of faith. The walk of faith is when you choose to live by the truths of the Bible and the leadings of the Holy Spirit. You reject popular opinion. You reject how you are feeling. You reject any truth or idea that is contrary to Scripture. Then you accept and believe the Bible. The Bible says love so you love. The Bible says forgive so you forgive. The Bible says worship, study Scripture, always do what is right, repay evil with good. Whatever it says you do it because you believe that it is the Word of God and you believe that God has your best interests at heart. So even when it is difficult or uncomfortable you obey God. That is the walk of faith. If you live like this the first promise that God has for us is that He will provide. God will provide. He will provide for your physical needs such as when Jesus fed the 5,000 and He will provide for your spiritual needs such as when Stephen the martyr was being stoned and he had the grace to pray for the forgiveness of those who were stoning him. Matthew chapter 7 verses 9 through 11 says which of you if his son asks for bread will give him a stone or if he asks for a fish will give him a snake. If you then though you are evil know how to give good gifts to your children how much more will your father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him. We talked about this before God doesn't promise luxury and riches but you are his precious child and he will take care of you if you trust him to do so. When a US ambassador travels overseas he doesn't need to worry about if he will have the money to eat or where to live or if he will be safe and protected. The ambassadors country provides all of that for him. All he has to worry about is doing his job. So how much more can you ambassador of Christ be assured that you will be taken care of? But the ambassador that gets taken care of is the one who is operating in his role as ambassador. I'm not saying you have to earn God's provision but if you'd rather trust in yourself and your own abilities to take care of yourself God won't fight you. He'll let you try and take care of yourself. He'll let you do it your way. But no one, not even you can take care of you better than God can. If you learn to let go and trust God you will be amazed at what he does for you. So let go of your own attempts to take care of yourself and trust God because he will provide. Our second promise to those who walk by faith is that God will cover you. To those who stop worrying about whether or not they are capable of accomplishing what God asks, God provides everything they need to accomplish it. If you alone can't accomplish what he asks you'll find that in Christ you're still able to do it. And this is something even though I've seen it happen and even though I know that it's true it still when I think about it it still confuses me. But it's when we're brought to that place where we need to do something and we just can't and we confess to God I can't do this. That's when he provides for us the ability to do what it is he wants us to do. Those who don't throw in the towel but rely on God's help find he is there to help them. Those who have no love or forgiveness in their heart towards someone that they need to love and forgive but they go to God and they pray and say God help me to love this person. They find that he puts that love and that forgiveness in their heart. And the disciples tried to cast out an evil spirit but they were unable to. They didn't just give up and say oh well no they brought him to Jesus and Jesus cast out the spirit. It's a weird thing that God calls us to do things that we aren't capable of doing on our own. And some people see this as a sign of meanness but it's actually God saying trust me. I'm there for you. Rely on me. Where our strength fails God covers. This week I had campers in my cabin that didn't want to talk about spiritual matters. And you know that's more likely to happen in the guys cabins than in the girls cabins but I also had a particularly tough cabin as far as talking about spiritual matters. And I tried and I tried to keep them on topic for our Bible lessons. We would have our chapel time and then they'd send us back to our cabins to have some more a little more intimate conversation about what the chapel was about and it was kind of like pulling teeth just to get them to stay on topic. But I stayed faithful. I kept praying for them. And Wednesday night God broke their hearts. Our speaker gave a message and I thought that's an okay message. It's not spectacular. It's pretty good. And the next thing I know there's all these kids going up to the front and crying and praying and I'm looking around like what is going on? I was not able to touch those kids hearts. I was not able to break their hearts. I was not able to convict them of their sin and lead them to repentance. I don't have that ability but God has that ability. And I was faithful and I pressed on and prayed and God did what I was not able to do. God just wanted me to be faithful. He wants all of us to be faithful and to trust that when it comes down to it in that moment of need He will provide for us. He will cover for us. Success or failure is in His hands. I just do what I'm told and God covers me. The final promise I want to remind you of is that when you walk in faith, when you abandon control of your life and let God take over, you don't need to panic. Don't panic. Keep calm and carry on as the saying goes. When the disciples were in the boat with Jesus and they were crossing the sea and then the hurricane came up and these experienced fishermen thought they were going to die because the storm was so bad. They panicked. They woke up Jesus and they said, "We're all going to die." I'm laughing because when I was a little tiny kid, just little tiny, we were in the back car seats of my car and my parents were driving down the road and it was like storming and everything and all of a sudden from the back, they don't even know which one of us it was but they just heard this tiny little voice go, "We're all going to die." So, they woke up Jesus. They said, "We're all going to die." But they did not need to panic. Why did they not need to panic? It's not because there wasn't actually a storm. There was a storm. Absolutely. But they didn't need to panic because Jesus was in their boat or rather they were in Jesus's boat. When Jesus is in the boat with you, you don't need to panic when the storms of life come. Now, you might still need to wake him up. You might still need to say, "Hey, there's storms here and I can't control this little boat anymore and I need your help." And Jesus speaks to the storm. He says, "Be quiet and stay quiet." And it does. Or sometimes in our lives, rather than quieting the storms, he just comforts us and just says, "Hang on. I'll get you through this." But either way, he is with you so you can keep it together. You don't need to panic. Maybe you've been neglecting your relationship with him and allowed this particular storm to draw your attention. But when you've abandoned yourself into his arms, you can believe he will take care of you. I had a counselor come to me one day at camp and they said, "You've got some kids that need some help in your cabin." She's like, "You've got this one kid, he doesn't even really believe in God. And you've got this other kid and he's already had a baby and that baby has died and this is some heavy stuff." And I'm like, "Wow, that is heavy stuff." And I kind of started to panic a little. And I'm like, "I don't know if I'm the right person for this job." I felt worried that I wasn't the right person at the right time doing the right thing. I wasn't fit for the task. But then I reminded myself that I've been praying for these kids for months before camp. I've been praying to God that the kids in my cabin would be just the ones that he wants to have in my cabin and that the things that I would say to them would be just the words he wanted me to say. And I know that God hears and answers prayer. And so rather than let that panic take over, I just trusted that I was saying and doing the things God wanted me to do. And I kept praying and I kept seeking to make sure that I wasn't forgetting anything. But if these kids opened up to that counselor about that stuff, then maybe she was the one that God sent into their lives. But I played my part to the best of my ability. I didn't panic. I just stayed faithful. I stayed in prayer. And I trusted that God knew how to direct me. He knows how to put words in my mouth. I was in the boat with Jesus, so I didn't panic. Matthew 11, verses 28 through 30. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Friends there is this peculiar nature to Christianity where our lives become easy when we let God steer us into the storms. Most people in this world struggle so hard to keep their boat out of the storms, and that takes so much effort. But when you let God steer, He takes you straight into them and then straight through them. He is so much more capable of taking care of you than you are. But He doesn't cause you to avoid the storms. He gets you through them. And it's only when we try to rustle control out of His hands that we get into trouble. I'm sure you've all heard the phrase "let go and let God." And just like most of those little quips, we love to say it and we don't really think about what it means. But do you really let go and let God with your life? It's the only way to live as a Christian. 2 Corinthians 5,7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." It means you will not be exempt from the hurts and pains and struggles of life, but you will have the supernatural ability to overcome them. 1 John 5,4 says, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world." And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith. Our faith overcomes the world. So walk by faith. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, we praise You and thank You and glorify You, that when we trust You, when we let go and trust You, that You get us through the storms of life. We thank You that You provide those things which we do not have. You cover over our mistakes and our weaknesses. We thank You that You are a loving Father and that when we completely trust You, You take care of it for us. Help us to trust You more. Help us to let go of our man-made artificial safety nets. Teach us Your promises so that we can rely on them and rely on You and live the life, the walk of faith that You have called us to. In Jesus' name, Amen. [BLANK\_AUDIO]