



Dear Friends,

This is a favorite story of mine:

*A man was being chased by a tiger. He ran as hard as he could until he was at the edge of a cliff with the tiger in hot pursuit. The man looked over the edge of the cliff and saw a branch growing out of the side of the cliff a few feet down. He jumped down and grabbed the branch just as the tiger reached the cliff. The tiger growled viciously as the man sighed a great sigh of relief.*

*Just then a mouse came out from a crevice and began to chew on the branch. The man looked down to what was a drop of a thousand feet and sure death and looked to the heavens and yelled out, "Dear God, if you are there, please help. I will do anything you ask but please help."*

*Suddenly a voice came booming down from heaven, "You will do anything I ask?" it questioned.*

*The man shocked to hear a reply from God to his plea yelled back, "I will gladly do anything you ask, but please save me."*

*The voice from heaven then replied, "There is one way to save you, but it will take courage and faith."*

*The branch began to weaken from the mouse and the tiger was still growling a few feet above the man, "Please, Lord, tell me what I must do, and I will do it. Your will is my will."*

*The voice from heaven then said, "All right then, let go of the branch."*

*The man looked down to a fall of a thousand feet and certain death. He looked up at the hungry tiger a few feet away and he looked at the mouse still chewing on the branch. Then he looked up at the heavens and yelled, "Is there anyone else up there?"*

To go forward in faith; it is a risky business, isn't it? To Jesus it isn't *how much* faith you have, but to use what you have and "just do it". The example of Jesus is that he was always acting on his faith without hesitation. Jesus' life was one of "just do it" to fulfill the will of God.

After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost the disciples went forward and just "did it." It is interesting to note that you never hear the disciples asking for *more* faith on the Day of Pentecost but acting on the faith they have to proclaim the good news of Jesus to bring in 3,000 new believers in one day.

Is going forward with the faith you have risky? Absolutely! However more than likely staying put in a comfort zone you'd really like to stay in could keep you from experiencing the possibilities and growth you might receive as well as fulfilling a task for God or neighbor.

There are times in our lives when the challenges around us, whether they are personal, spiritual or in our mutual ministry together as a community of faith can seem daunting or downright scary. I know when I am confronted with many challenges... I want to throw up my hands and hide. But friends there is one problem with that strategy...it's not God's'. One seasoned Christian has said "Faith is a refusal to panic".

For all our apprehension or fear when we must act in faith, this poem says it best:

***Doubt sees the obstacles;***

***Faith sees the way.***

***Doubt sees the darkest night;***

***Faith sees the day.***

***Doubt dreads to take a step***

***Faith soars on high.***

***Doubt questions, "Who believes?"***

***Faith answers, "I!"***

~William H. Jett~

*My friends in the name of Jesus Christ,  
victorious Savior and Lord...go forward.  
Just do it !!!!*

*Your brother in Christ,  
John*

