

# My Faith Story

I am Ted and I would like to share my experience with God.

God has done many wonderful things in my life, but **one event decades ago profoundly affected me.** He changed my life in a revolutionary way - a turning point.

I didn't grow up as a role-model Christian. I had some rough times and brought many problems onto myself. It is humbling to stand in front of you and I am very thankful. Thankfulness is a key in my life.

**Years ago, while attempting to serve God, my life was shaken.** I mean shaken beyond my control. Everything that I thought and loved in life was altered. During that desperate situation, I did what I knew. I loved to get away and hike by myself. I knew it was risky to hike alone, but I did it anyway.

I took a backpacking hike that would take me fourteen miles through the woods. After gathering information about the trail and preparing my gear, I started out shortly after 5:30 PM on an October Friday evening. My goal was to reach the halfway point, sleep in my pup tent, and reach my ride home the next day.

The directions I received were not accurate. I came to several trail intersections that were not mentioned. It was dark, and I was deep in a forest known for bear, coyote and rattle snakes. I had no cell phone and there were no houses for many miles in any direction. Though concerned, I put up my tent, got out a notebook, and sat against a tree to write in my journal. Quickly, the Lord gave me a song, and within about fifteen minutes I had four verses.

That trip was a metaphor for my life. I didn't know my surroundings. I didn't even know if I was on a path.

**God showed me that I had to take a step - then another step - and then another.** He taught me to keep moving. I was moving with Him.

The next morning, I still didn't know where I was, but I knew that I had to move. I continued hiking and wound up on the right trail to reach my ride home.

I've seen God constantly working in me - to move, to act, to challenge myself. God motivated me for many activities where he allowed me to grow and do good. For that I'm very thankful.

Where you look is where you go. My life involves seeking growth and taking steps. As some of you know, a lot of those steps have taken me to challenging places.

Sometimes life is like climbing a 14,000 foot mountain. You get to about 12 or 13,000 feet and you start questioning what you are doing. You put one foot in front of another, focus, and when you get to the top you see an incredible view of what God has created.

I want to encourage you to step out. Consider: ***Psalm 18: 32 (NIV)***  
***"It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure."***