



| Monday, December 9

From a Whisper to a Shout—Following Your Calling

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you, nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

About a year ago, I started musing in my mind about a change. A big change. Leaving my job that I loved for 19 years, working in a new town, a new clinic and a new type of medicine. My decision would impact many and I was afraid of the ripple effect of my decision. I continued to hear whispers in my mind to make the move, but it wasn't until I put my decision into God's hands that it became clear what my new calling would be.

God had plans for me that initially I wasn't comfortable with pursuing. I knew that I would need to get out of my comfort zone to fulfill this new calling that was no longer a whisper, but rather a shouting in my mind. I took that big step forward, and realized that while change can be hard, it can transform not only my life, but the lives of others as well. The decision did not disappoint.

What are the whisperings in the back of your mind right now? I know you hear them, but are you willing to acknowledge them? God might be calling you to volunteer, maybe to lose weight, or to travel. Maybe you feel that God is calling you to read a scripture at church, to practice meditation or lead a Sunday School class? It is no doubt difficult to get out of your comfort zone and make a change. Both large and small changes can be terrifying, but God tells us to "be strong and courageous; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

You can be made new in 2020. Acknowledging the change might be the first step, but overcoming the fear and moving forward is a slightly bigger step. Put your trust in the Lord, find your calling, and allow God to move through you, a new you, in 2020.

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Dear Lord, I know that I cannot go back to change the beginning, but I ask that you work through me to make a new ending. I feel your presence in every decision I make, from a whisper to a shouting, help me to see how I can be a vessel of change in 2020.

- Michelle Dahlberg