



### **"What do you mean, too comfortable?"**

When Jade Dols (see the March 2012 newsletter) visited our Wednesday study groups, we were chatting beforehand. Jade had gone to kindergarten in the Prairie Meadows building that currently serves as 'home base' for Living Word. She asked me how the building works for us. I told her that it's been a great building for us... but that it was too comfortable. She didn't quite understand what I meant by that, so she asked the question listed above.

I told her that the building was in great shape and with two dedicated rooms, we just walk in and everything we need is there. We haven't had to "set up and take down" chairs and tables each week, and haven't needed to worship in the gym (like the Harbor Church did before us) where the acoustics are so bad you can't hear anything. It's quite comfortable. And that's the problem. It's so comfortable it seems we've lacked urgency to "take the next step" of getting into our own building. But thank God (literally) we are finally very close to taking that next step (see Building Update).

But there's a "bigger picture" aspect to getting too comfortable. Satan loves to get us comfortable with where we are at in our walk with Jesus, *so that we don't take the next step toward a "closer walk" with Him.*

After the Holy Spirit has brought us to place our trust in Jesus as our Lord (master) and Savior, His goal is for us to continue to become more like Jesus. In other words, after God has us on the "stairway to heaven" (by His grace, not our good deeds), He wants us to continually "take the next step" of becoming more like His Son while we are still on earth.

No matter which "step" we are on, it's a real challenge for each of us to keep from getting so comfortable that we don't seek to take that "next step."

Lent is a season where we focus on "walking with Jesus" as He heads to the cross. It's a tradition to "give something up for Lent," and if you are looking for something to "give up," I'd encourage you to ask God to show you what's keeping you from taking the "next step" in your walk with Jesus. Then ask for the strength to give that thing up.

I'd also encourage each of you to "take something up" for Lent. "Take up" something that will move you off your comfortable step and "up" to the next one.

In an effort to help us identify possible "next steps," each message on the Sundays in Lent will identify aspects of our lives as Christians where God wants us to keep becoming more like Jesus. We'll be challenged to "take the next step" in areas like "Loving God above all *things*," "Loving your neighbor as yourself," "tithes and offerings," "using our talents to help others," and "spending time with Jesus." Those challenges may make us uncomfortable - and that's good. God doesn't want us getting so comfortable ("complacent" may be a better word) that we quit taking the next step in our discipleship.

I started by addressing a question asked of me. I'll close by posing a question for you: "What is the 'next step' God is calling you to take as He seeks to help you become more like Jesus?" Ask God to show you. Then ask His help to take that step - and His help to resist the temptation to become too comfortable on the step you are on.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)