

## Day 32 – Pioneering Spirit

Today, we will focus on Stonegate's core value of *Pioneering Spirit*. The Permian Basin has long been a home for risk-takers, dreamers, and those who push the boundaries of exploration. We want to be a church that is not afraid of failure as we take risks, attempt new methods and strategies, and consistently progress into new opportunities to see people transformed by Christ. Our goal is to not reinvent the gospel but to pioneer how we honor, embody, and deliver the Good News of the gospel to those where we live, work, and play.

When was the last time you allowed God to move you outside of your comfort zone or through a crisis of belief for His glory?

Our focus scripture for today is Isaiah 54:2–3

<sup>2</sup> “Enlarge the site of your tent, and let your tent curtains be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your ropes, and drive your pegs deep. <sup>3</sup> For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will dispossess nations and inhabit the desolate cities.”

These verses have been important in the life of Stonegate - it has shaped our hope and culture. These verses are a metaphor given to the people of Israel instructing them to prepare for growth and expansion. Growth doesn't happen without taking risks, confronting fears, and taking God at His word when facing challenges. The Israelites who heard these verses had no idea what was on the other side of their risk. It always takes courage to act on faith. But, through faith and courage, their risk was rewarded.

The same is true for us. Every day, we are faced with choices that demand faith and courage. From the mundane to the life-changing, God invites us to step out in a pioneering spirit to see people loved, lives transformed by Jesus, and our communities flourish.

Pause to consider what keeps you in your comfort zone. Ask God to reveal what needs to change in you so you can follow Jesus, take God-risks, confront fear, and walk in faith.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” grab a journal and write down today's date. What is a risk you could take for Jesus? Write down your fears associated with this risk. Next to this list, write down how God could move through these fears and promises to hold onto from the Bible. Lastly, write a prayer, asking God to deepen your faith to bridge the gap between your fears and His plan.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

2 Timothy 1:7 and Isaiah 43:18–19

<sup>7</sup> “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”

<sup>18</sup> “Do not remember the past events; pay no attention to things of old. <sup>19</sup> Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.