Swimming pools across the United States this summer are full of children jumping from the side of the pool into the arms of their parents. Some children will be fearless and jump again and again, while other children must be coaxed and convinced that the adult in the water won’t let them go under. Your parents, I am sure, lovingly stretched out their arms to hold you close and catch you as you jumped. But all moms and dads recognize there comes a time when we must take small steps back as we watch you jump to let you dip under the water to begin swimming on your own – just to prove you can. Ultimately, your parents always saved you if you began to flail or became frightened.

Our Heavenly Father is no different. He never abandons us and is always there to wrap His loving arms around us, especially when we feel we are sinking. Hebrews 11:1, speaks of such faith when it says, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Whether you are uncertain about a job, career path, relationship, failing health for yourself or someone you love, our loving God is there to guide, direct, heal and equip us to deal with the challenges life brings.

**Life Question:** Have you looked back on events in your life and seen how God has been at work? Can you see where all the dots connect for the bigger picture while you have been focusing on getting from one “dot” (place) to the next?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, I will place my faith in You in all situations. I know at times You will take me down a path I do not understand, but it is to bring me to my ultimate destination, perhaps one I never anticipated. I trust You Father to guide me, lead me and I know you will not let me sink when I jump in with my whole heart. Amen.

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