

Thursday - March 13

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

Last year at about this time, I was at my dance studio on a Monday evening for a normal night of dance classes. It was a competition week, and we were casually running our dances to rehearse for the competition that weekend. In my jazz class, I noticed that the owner of my studio came into my class to speak privately with my teacher. They told the class that one of our teammates had informed them that she was quitting the dance team immediately and would not be able to perform with our team in this weekend's competition.

My dance studio allows students who did not officially make a dance team to audit that dance team's routine for the year. This means that the person auditing attends class each week and learns the dance with the team but does not actually perform on stage. In the team jazz class, I was an "audit" for that dance season. After we learned that our teammate had quit, the teacher was rushing around trying to figure out how to re-choreograph the jazz dance to fill in the "holes" where our former teammate had been.

Suddenly, the teacher pulled me aside and asked if I would want to compete with the team in the jazz dance at the competition. She said, "Maren, we don't have to worry, as you can take the spot of our old teammate in this dance." I felt that I knew the dance from rehearsing as an audit, but I was still very nervous about taking the dance to stage unexpectedly with only a few days to rehearse. However, I was quickly comforted, as my teammates came up to me, congratulating me on this opportunity, saying "You can do this Maren. We believe in you."

At that moment, I knew I had to put my self-doubt aside and trust in the fact that my teammates and teachers had faith in me to step up to help the team. Just like God believes in us, and we in turn must continue our faith in God during difficult situations, I felt reassured that I was a capable of taking on this challenge. And I did it! I performed the dance that following Saturday at the competition and it went very well. Yes, I was still apprehensive before the dance started, but I trusted in the faith that God and others had in me to succeed.

Maren Liba - age 12

Prayer: God, when I feel uncertain of myself in a new situation, please remind me that you always have faith in me. Amen.