



You are  
not  
obligated  
to finish  
the work,  
but neither  
are you  
free from  
beginning  
it.

Wisdom is often shared about the best pacing for success. We are told to mimic the tortoise by moving methodically and consistently toward our goals. Or we are encouraged to copy the frog by bounding forward with agility. Whether a small step or a giant leap, to progress, we must begin.

Starting is an act of courage, humility, and faith.

To begin, we use courage to trust ourselves. The first act of advancement is to imagine. We sense a stir within us to contribute to the common good - to express an artistic viewpoint or to right a wrong. We nurture our inspiration by giving it shape and by believing in its worth. We bolster our confidence and place our vision into the world. We act, even in the midst of uncertainty.

To begin, we use humility to collaborate with others. We turn to our communities to mature our ideas. We experiment and adjust, test and alter. With diverse perspectives bringing valuable wisdom, we build on one another's ideas. Beginnings can be an ideal time to deconstruct and start anew.

In the beginning, we use faith to soften our hold on the ending. To begin - be it step or leap - is only a start. While there may be moments of completion, work that we launch is rarely fully finished. Circumstances will change and new solutions will be needed. With faith, we need not grasp the long term outcomes too tightly. Others will hear the call and find their voice; God's presence will abide. As we have been entrusted with the work others began, we can trust others to further the work we have started.

Perhaps the tortoise and the frog both are right; beginning is, at once, a first step and a leap of faith.

*What idea can I take the courage to act upon today? When in the past have I trusted in the future?*