EPISODE TITLE: "That Darned Tower"

Failing, Falling and Flying, Episode 5

Featured Guest: *Chip Bouzard*

Chip Bouzard is a theologian and professor of religion currently teaching at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ²And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' ⁵The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' ⁸So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Questions:

1. How does it feel when communications falter? Why do you think God intervened in this story to make it happen?

2. What stood out for you from Genesis 11:1-9?

3. Why might the author of the Tower of Babel story be commenting on Babylonian religious belief and the practice of building towers? How do people today criticize the beliefs of others?

4. Where do we tend to look for security? What does the story of the Tower of Babel have to say about that? Where should we look?

5. What is the place of other voices in your own faith journey? How can we all learn to listen better?