What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do

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What To Do When You Don’t Know What To Do!

Have you ever experienced a situation where you didn't know what to do? Most people encounter situations on a daily basis which, in their natural knowledge and ability, they do not know what to do.

I want to share four guidelines with you that will strengthen you and provide godly wisdom in the situations you are facing where you don't know what to do. These guidelines are:

1. Keep your eyes on Jesus.
2. Commune with the Holy Spirit.
3. Hold fast to the confession of your faith.
4. Rejoice!

Let's examine each of these areas individually.

1
Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Where is your focus? Some people focus on their circumstances and difficulties. If you will make a decision to keep your focus on Jesus—the One Who created the universe, Who hung the stars, and Who set the sun and moon in place— there will be no limitation to the altitude you will achieve in your flight to fulfill God's call upon your life.

Hebrews 12:1,2 kjv says: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us..." (v.

1). In other words, it's time to get rid of sin and anything else that is slowing your progress in the Lord. Lay it aside so you can "run with patience the race that is set before [you]" (v. 1).

Every believer has a God-given, God-ordained assignment, purpose, and destiny for his or her life. The author of the book of Hebrews calls it a "race." To complete your race, you must be steadfast and persevering. You must stay with it and refuse to give up.

So how do you stay on course? Verse 2 of Hebrews, chapter 12, kjv, gives us the answer:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus had a race to run. He had a cross to carry and suffering to go through, but He saw the end result—the provision of the free gifts for you and me of salvation, healing, deliverance, and prosperity of spirit, soul, body, relationships, and resources. He kept His eyes on the prize, which enabled Him to achieve the fulfillment of the vision set before Him.

Jesus is our greatest example of how to stay on target and fulfill the course (the race) set before us. He is the Alpha and the Omega and everything in between. Apart from Him we are nothing and we can do nothing. It is in Jesus that we are complete (Colossians 2:10). It is in Him that we become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our salvation, healing, deliverance, and our very breath come through Him. If you turn your eyes

away from Jesus, you will miss what God has prepared for you.

Think about the operation of a small airplane. If you set the heading of the plane on north, you don't change it or check your instruments, and you are heading straight north for your destination, you could miss it by forty miles or more because you have made no allowance for the wind factor. What am I talking about? Every day you have to make a course adjustment in your life and say, "Jesus, You are my aim, my goal, and my target."

Maybe you started out as a Christian, loving God and going to church, but five years down the road, you wake up and you are miles off course spiritually. It takes daily effort to keep your focus on Jesus—the One Who put you in the race and the One Who will help you complete it.

Do it today! Declare, "I set my focus on Jesus. I will believe Him and obey Him. Jesus is my goal in life."

2
Commune with the Holy Spirit

When Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected, He paid for the forgiveness and cleansing of our sins; for the healing of our bodies; for redemption from spiritual and natural poverty; and for eternal life for those who would believe on Him and receive Him as Lord and Savior. Jesus gave up His life to make a way for the Holy Spirit to come and make His home in every born-again believer. In the Old Testament God dwelt in the tabernacle and in the temple, but today the body of every born-again believer has become "the temple of the Holy Spirit."

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

If you are going to commune with God, you have to commune with Him through His Spirit Who abides within you. Many people do not talk to God. They do not recognize Him or commune with Him and allow Him to speak into their lives. Yet Proverbs 3:5,6 says:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Praying in the Spirit

What do you do when you don't know what to do? One of the things you can do is *pray in the Holy Spirit.* I am talking about communing with the Lord. "Communing" means fellowship, talking and listening, and praying in the Holy Spirit.

When you pray in the Spirit, Romans 8:26 says the Holy Spirit will help you:

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Two things are evident: 1) We don't know *what* to pray for as we ought, and 2) We don't know *how* to pray. The Holy Spirit will help us in both of these areas.

Romans 8:26 in *The Amplified Bible* says:

So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance.

This verse in *The Living Bible* says:

And in the same way—by our faith —the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't know what we should pray for, nor how to pray as we should; but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words.

Verse 27 in the *New King James Version* says:

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit knows the heart of the Father and He knows the will of God for your life. He also knows the needs, the problems, and the difficulties that you are facing. When the Holy Spirit prays through you, He prays according to the will of the Father about the needs in your life. He brings God's will and His provision together with your need. It is what we would call "perfect praying." When we don't know how to pray or what to pray for, the Holy Spirit will help us.

If you are asking, "What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?" we should let the man who used this term define it. In Ephesians, chapter 6, where Paul describes the armor of God, one of the pieces of the believer's armor is, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit... " (v. 18).

Then in 1 Corinthians, chapter 14, Paul talks about the gifts of the Spirit. "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy" (v. 1). Paul is saying that we need both *love* and *the spiritual gifts.*

Verse 2 says, "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries." When a person prays in other tongues, he is speaking mysteries to God—things that are not known to the natural mind.

Remember, Romans 8:26 said that when you don't know *what* to pray for as you ought, the Spirit would pray. Why? Because He knows the mysteries and the secret things that you and I do not know about the problems and difficulties we are facing.

Verses 3 and 4 say:

But he who prophesies [that's an inspired utterance given in a known language] speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

When you speak in tongues you are edified, which means to be built up. Some people have said that it is selfish to edify yourself. Let me ask you a question: If your cup is empty, can you give another person a drink of water? The only way to have something to give is that you have it yourself. If you have strength and you are built up and full of life, then you can pour out of your cup to others. There is nothing wrong with building yourself up in the Spirit any more than there is something wrong with getting saved. Why? Because saved people can help other people get saved.

When you think about it, salvation is basically selfish. When you got saved, did you get saved for yourself? Of course you did! You didn't say, "I'm going to the altar for another person to get saved." You gave your life to Christ for yourself. Likewise, praying in the Spirit is to help you. Afterwards you have life to give to others.

Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37,38). The *King*

James Version says, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." We are talking about building ourselves up by praying in the Spirit (praying in other tongues).

When you are praying in the Holy Spirit, not only are you edifying yourself and speaking mysteries to God, but rivers of living water are flowing up out of you.

Pray for Interpretation

Verses 13-15 of 1 Corinthians, chapter 14, say:

Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

What do you do when you don't know what to do? Begin to pray in the Holy Spirit and godly wisdom and mysteries will be revealed to you. When you pray in the Spirit and your spirit is built up, that means your elevator will go all the way to the top!

Verse 14 says that when you pray in tongues, your understanding is "unfruitful." That means your elevator hasn't reached the top yet! Praying in the Spirit will benefit your mind when you pray for an interpretation of what you are speaking.

In a recent ministry trip to Argentina, I had a wonderful interpreter, Omar Cabrera Jr., who interpreted in Spanish what I spoke in English. The purpose for an interpretation is to change a language people don't understand into one they do understand. Similarly, when you pray in tongues and you don't understand it, when an interpretation comes, you will understand it. You will benefit from the interpretation.

In your time of prayer, you can move back and forth from praying in tongues to speaking out the interpretation in a language you understand.

Because of the tremendous difficulties in arranging our trip to Argentina, we prayed in the Spirit because our minds could not comprehend all that was going on. We knew we were to minister and meet with the spiritual leaders of that nation to bring a cohesiveness in the denominations and the Christian groups that would cooperate with future crusades. It was through praying in the Spirit and interpreting that we knew we were to go to Argentina, in spite of the natural barriers and difficulties.

When we landed in Buenos Aires, we met with business leaders, denominational leaders, pastors, and key people from across the country. Thank God for being able to pray in tongues! I had no clue what I was going to say or how to address them. I had no idea that I was going to meet with these people the moment I stepped off the plane, so I began to pray in the Spirit.

As I began to speak to these leaders, God filled my mouth with what I was to speak. Thoughts came to me that were for that nation and for these

people. They were ready for us and received us with open arms. It was one of the best series of meetings that I have ever participated in. Because of what took place and all of the miracles, these people are ready to come together for crusades, letting down all of their walls and differences. This is a breakthrough for them.

Here is my point. Tomorrow you may be standing before people in meetings and you don't have a clue what to say. But when you begin to pray in the Holy Spirit, God will give you ideas, thoughts, and wisdom.

Think about the turbines on a reservoir where you have a huge dam at one end of it. When the water rushes through and the turbines are turning and creating hydroelectric power, a generator grabs hold of that, stores it, and then distributes it. We have lights because of the water that is gushing through those turbines.

As you pray in the Holy Spirit, not only are you going to get wisdom, but the turbines inside of your spirit are going to generate Holy Ghost power to heal the sick and to cast out devils. The lights are going to come on in your house, in your heart, and in your mind when you pray in the Spirit.

3
Hold Fast to the Confession of Your Faith

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope [the *King James Version* says "the profession of our faith"] without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

This means keep speaking the promises God has given you in His Word. God watches over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). Second Corinthians 4:13 says "the spirit of faith" is to *believe* and *speak* God's Word. For example:

- If you are dealing with condemnation, boldly confess Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."
- If you are dealing with financial lack, instead of confessing the lack, boldly confess God's Word: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1). "My God shall supply all of [my] need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).
- If you are facing fear, boldly confess: "God has not given [me] a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).
- If you are facing rejection, boldly confess: "I am accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).
- If you are facing sickness or disease, boldly confess: "By Jesus' stripes I am healed" (see 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5).

Hold fast to God's promises, and He will perform them. His Word must be coming out of your mouth, instead of confessing symptoms, a negative medical diagnosis, or the details of a difficult situation.

A few weeks after our second daughter Ruth was born, she was not eating and developing properly. Sharon took her to the doctor for tests.

After she was examined and tests had been run, the doctor called me while I was in a board meeting at our church and said, "According to our diagnosis, Ruth has leukemia, spinal meningitis, or a rare form of pneumonia." Then he said, "But according to God's Word, by Jesus' stripes Ruth is healed." Thank God for Spirit-filled doctors and Word of faith people

who know how to believe and speak the Word.

The word of the Lord is a greater report than a medical diagnosis. The word of the Lord is greater than circumstances. From that day forth, we never repeated the medical diagnosis. Instead, we spoke God's promises of healing over Ruth and we shared the situation with only a few Word of faith people who would come into agreement with God's promises of healing.

We began to confess:

- By Jesus' stripes, Ruth is healed (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5).
- Jesus took Ruth's infirmities and bore her sicknesses (Matthew 8:17).
- Jesus is the One Who has already healed Ruth (Exodus 15:26).
- God has blessed our bread and water, and He has taken sickness away from the midst of Ruth (Exodus 23:25).
- Christ has redeemed Ruth from the curse of sickness and disease (Galatians 3:13).
- Ruth shall live and not die and declare the works of the Lord (Psalm 118:17).

We kept speaking the promises of God's Word rather than the circumstances. Today Ruth is the children's pastor at the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service at Victory Christian Center. God watched over His Word that we were believing and speaking and performed it in Ruth's behalf. When we didn't know what to do, He gave us the wisdom to believe and speak His Word.

You may have some negative situations that continue to come against you. Hold fast to the profession of your faith, and you will experience a victorious breakthrough.

4
Rejoice!

When you don't know what to do, begin to *rejoice!*

The apostle Paul was restrained from going into Asia by the Spirit of God. When he tried to go into Bithynia, the Spirit of God stopped him. Finally, in the middle of the night he had a vision in which he heard a man saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (Acts 16:9).

Paul went to Macedonia in obedience to the Spirit of God and miracles happened. He met a woman named Lydia at a riverside prayer meeting. She opened the door for Paul to speak, and the people received him. However, during this time, a demon-possessed girl began to follow Paul and Silas and she kept saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17). Paul was harassed continually by the fortune-telling spirit in this girl.

Scripture says:

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

"And they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.

And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God....

Acts 16:18-25

What do you do when you don't know what to do? Think about it for a moment. You thought you did the right thing. Everything looks good, but suddenly you are beaten and put in stocks and chains without a trial. You are saying, "This is *not* what I planned!" Instead of mullygrubbing over their plight, Paul said to Silas, "Brother, let's sing." The Bible says they began to sing praises unto God and the rest of the prisoners heard them (v. 25).

When you start to sing in your midnight hour, God is going to get in the middle of it and sing with you! When God joins in, the supernatural will happen.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

Acts 16:26

The Philippian church was birthed as a result of the jailhouse revival that occurred.

It's time to rejoice in the Lord in spite of the circumstances you are facing.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 KJV called for rejoicing in the midst of complete devastation of Israel's economy. This is a type and an example of what we are to do when we don't know what to do:

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places....

Regardless of the mountains of challenge you are facing, you will go over and you will achieve great victories. Put your eyes back on Jesus. Let the language of the Holy Spirit flow up out of you and pray for interpretation. Hold fast to the confession of your faith. Don't give up on what God has said, and begin to rejoice over that Word. Hallelujah!

Scriptural Meditations for What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do!

Here are a few Scriptures for you to meditate upon and speak aloud over your life and over your circumstances. God will perform the Word you are believing and speaking. Then, continue to study God's Word and personalize additional promises from His Word.

Is anything too hard for the Lord?—Genesis 18:14.

Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians [the enemies] whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace—Exodus 14:13,14.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go —Joshua 1:9.

The Lord is with you, you mighty man [or woman] of valor!—Judges 6:12.

Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them—2 Kings 6:16.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved—Psalm 16:7,8.

It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies—Psalm 18:47,48.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all—Psalm 34:19.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you—Psalm 91:7.

Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways— Psalm 91:9-11.

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord—Psalm 118:17.

When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad —Psalm 126:1-3.

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me —Psalm 138:8.

Blessings are on the head of the righteous— Proverbs 10:6.

The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it —Proverbs 10:22.

The integrity of the upright will guide them— Proverbs 11:3

He who earnestly seeks good finds favor— Proverbs 11:27.

In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death —Proverbs 12:28.

A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth . . . He who guards his mouth preserves his life—Proverbs 13:2,3.

A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance ... He who is of a merry heart has a continual feast—Proverbs 15:13,15.

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones— Proverbs 16:24.

A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones—Proverbs 17:22 amp.

A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men— Proverbs 18:16.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon [you], the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord—Isaiah 11:2.

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You— Isaiah 26:3.

You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand—Isaiah 41:9,10.

Put Me in remembrance; let us contend together; state your case, that you may be acquitted —Isaiah 43:26.

I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me— Isaiah 49:16.

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord—Isaiah 54:17.

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise— Jeremiah 17:14 KJV.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"—Jeremiah 29:11 NIV.

The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits—Daniel 11:32.

For with God nothing will be impossible— Luke 1:37.

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you —Luke 10:19.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you—John 15:4,7.

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us—Romans 8:37

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ—1 Corinthians 15:57.

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ—2 Corinthians 2:14.

I will never leave you nor forsake you— Hebrews 13:5.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world—1 John 4:4.

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers —3 John 2.

And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony—Revelation 12:11

Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!—Revelation 19:5.

Personal Prayer of Commitment

Father, I now understand that You will provide wisdom of what to do when I don't know what to do once I accept Your Son as my personal Lord and Savior and begin to meditate upon Your Word continually.

I do believe that Jesus was crucified, buried, and then resurrected, paving the way for me to move out of the realm of darkness into the Kingdom of light. I renounce every work of darkness, and I receive You now, Jesus, so I can move into the realm of light, love, and life.

Empower me with Your Spirit, Lord, so I will be equipped to live an overcoming life and to be a bold witness of You, pulling others from the realm of darkness into Your Kingdom of light.

Now I am a new creation. The old things of my past are dead and gone, and new life—the zoe life of God—is mine, in Jesus' name.

Signature _____

Date _____

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