

What to Do When You Do Not Know What to Do

Introduction (Text: Proverbs 3:5-6)

- A. **We are often faced with things for which we are not really equipped.** Many problems leave us broken and confused. The pressure of life mount up, and we lose our orientation. **We so often hear, “I do not know what to do.”**
- B. **What should you do when you do not know what to do? Here are ten suggestions—**

#1: *Walk Closely With the Lord*

- A. **Maintaining daily fellowship with Him will help in time of need.**
- B. Make a regular practice of turning everything over to Him. **(Literally at the beginning of the day and at the close of day).**

#2: *Take the Matter to Him in Prayer*

- A. **Do not ever do anything without His guidance.** How do we get his guidance? Keep daily the lines of communication open with him. Paul tells us: **“pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).** James tells us to ask God for wisdom **(James 1:5).** (Ex: **Ruse of the Gibeonites against Joshua-Joshua 9:1-15).**
- B. **When we gain wisdom from God, we must not fail to do anything He shows us to do.**

#3: *Don’t Try to Figure Out on Your Own—“Lean Not on Your Own Understanding”*

- A. **Relying solely on our own powers of reasoning will always lead to more problems.**
- B. **It is not wrong to use your reason. God gave us a brain and He expects us to think.**
 1. So long as it is not your reason alone
 2. Reason must be submitted to the will of God

#4: *Submit Yourself and the Situation to His Will*

- A. **Be willing no matter what His will may be. “Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own” (John 7:17).**
- B. Do not try to predetermine or “rubber-stamp” His will.

#5: *Clearly Express Your Problem*

- A. **Put it in writing**

1. Helps to clarify it.
2. We sometimes find answers while stating the problem.

B. Be sure you really have a problem.

1. Sometimes our own problem is worry. We only think things are worse than they are.
2. Some problems are not worth having.

#6: Search for Bible Principles

A. If there is no direct teaching available

B. Try to find principles that apply (Ex: Matthew 22:36-40-LOVE as the Bible defines it).

#7: Be Sure There Is No Sin or Disobedience Involved

A. "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;" (Psalm 66:18).

B. Sin blocks

1. Not doing what we know we should, while seeking to know more
2. Broken fellowship prevents answers

C. Sometimes our problem is that we know the answer, but we just will not act on it.

#8: Seek Godly Counsel

A. Do not go to those you know will agree with you. In our spiritual life, we don't want to just go to our "yes" friends.

B. Do not seek too many. This will only confuse you.

C. Why it helps?

1. Others may have been through the same thing
2. The uninvolved see more clearly

#9: Do Not Act Until You Have to or Until You Know What to Do

A. Often we do not have answers because we do not need them yet.

B. Many situations care for themselves or provide their own answers.

#10: Expect God to Give You Direction

A. Move on—do not let it stop you

B. This verse is a promise (vs. 6).

Conclusion

Reflection from NIV Once-A-Day Bible:

“Do not be wise in your own eyes” (Proverbs 3:7). “Lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). Yet we are told to find wisdom and gain understanding. And the best way to gain this wisdom and understanding is not to build ourselves up, but to seek God’s will found in God’s Word. We are to submit our lives to him. We are **“to trust in the Lord”** and **“shun evil,”** never letting love and faithfulness leave us. Proverbs exhorts us to use sound judgment, saying wisdom will direct us and even protect and prosper us.

We need to examine what we are doing periodically to see whether we are following God’s words. Or are we back to trying to figure it all out for ourselves, not trusting that God can and will guide us?

A. Here’s what to do when you do not know what to do.

B. These steps can help you do something about the tough situations and keep you going until you find the solutions God has for you.