

4 THINGS YOU CAN DO WHEN THE FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN (22 March 2020)

In these difficult times, the future can seem very uncertain. You might have no idea what you should do next, or even what you're able to do next. Your future is up in the air. These seasons can be really challenging and discouraging. But here are a few things you can do when the future is uncertain.

1. THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST.

(1 Chronicles 16:8-13, Psalms 143:4-5)

Was there ever a time when God forsook you? Of course not. The fact that you're here to even ask the question shows it. If we're honest, there have probably been many times in our lives when we've felt God forsaken. But as time passed, you could probably see some of God's plan beginning to unfold in your life. With the benefit of perspective, now you can see all the ways He has carried you through.

So, if in this moment you feel God forsaken, remember that God has never left you in the past. You might not feel or see how He's working now, but you didn't then either. Let your memory of God's past faithfulness inspire trust in God's present faithfulness in your life. God is always calling us to remember His goodness in the past before we step forward into the unknown future.

2. TRUST THAT GOD WILL SUSTAIN YOU IN THE PRESENT.

(Matthew 6:31-34)

Trusting God in the present moment is an active choice, especially when the future is uncertain. It's easy to say we trust that God is taking care of us when we have no major fear or present situation of uncertainty. But is it really God whom we're trusting during those seasons of abundance? Or are we just trusting ourselves? Times of uncertainty really test where our trust truly lies. They force us into a place where we must actively choose to trust God in this present moment.

3. REMEMBER THAT THE PATH FORWARD WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME CLEARER.

(Jeremiah 29:11-13, Psalms 119:105, Hebrews 6:19)

Seasons of uncertainty are just that: seasons. They won't last forever. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." ([Ecclesiastes 3:1](#))

When we remember that this season of uncertainty is only a temporary stop into something else, we can keep a sense of perspective and maintain a hopeful outlook. It won't always be this way. God has put certain dreams and passions within you for a reason. You might not know what those reasons are just yet, but He does. He has plans to use you for something full of meaning and purpose. So just be faithful now with what He has given you in this season. As John Piper has said, "Until God opens a door, keep the room you are in clean."

4. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY. (James 1:5-8)

None of this is possible without prayer. So, allow the uncertainty of this time to intensify your reliance on God. Instead of silently worrying about everything you're going through, talk about it with God. Be honest about the present state of your heart (which may be feeling drastically different things from moment to moment). Commit to trusting in Him by talking to Him. The only way to build trust with someone is by deepening your relationship with them. And the only way to deepen a relationship with them is to spend time with them. Spend lots of time with God during this season. You won't regret it.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ([Philippians 4:6-7](#))

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(22 March 2020) FACILITATORS OUTLINE

Here are a few things you can do when the future is uncertain.

1. THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST.

1 Chronicles 16:8-13 ESV *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! (9) Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! (10) Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! (11) Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! (12) Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, (13) O offspring of Israel his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!*

Psalms 143:4-5 NLT *I am losing all hope; I am paralyzed with fear. (5) I remember the days of old. I ponder all your great works and think about what you have done.*

Application – Question: Who of you have a short testimony to share on how the Lord helped you through a difficult situation or season in your life?

2. TRUST THAT GOD WILL SUSTAIN YOU IN THE PRESENT.

Trusting God in the present moment is an active choice, especially when the future is uncertain.

Matthew 6:31-34 TPT *“So then, forsake your worries! Why would you say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ (32) For that is what the unbelievers chase after. Doesn’t your heavenly Father already know the things your bodies require? (33) “So above all, constantly chase after the realm of God’s kingdom and the righteousness that proceeds from him. Then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly. (34) Refuse to worry about tomorrow, but deal with each challenge that comes your way, one day at a time. Tomorrow will take care of itself.”*

Application: Sit in groups of three – share your worries – present it to the Lord as you pray for one another.

3. REMEMBER THAT THE PATH FORWARD WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME CLEARER.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (12) Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. (13) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*

Psalms 119:105 ESV *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

Hebrews 6:19 TPT *We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat which sits in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold,*

Application – Question: What do these scriptures mean to you? What is your anchor of hope?

4. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.

James 1:5-8 NLT *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. (6) But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. (7) Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. (8) Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.*

Philippians 4:6-7 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Application: Break bread together and pray together (Acts 2:42) Make the Gospel clear to all. (Make sure to wash your hands before handling the emblems. Serve the grape juice in separate cups/glasses.

Psalms 23:5 ESV *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.... (The virus and sickness are not welcome at the table, but the virus must honour our covenant relationship with God. Jesus’s blood protects us.*