

HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULTY

The Six Phases of Faith -- Part 5

John 16:33 (Jesus) "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

(Paul) "In everything we do we show that we are God's servants, by enduring troubles, hardships and difficulties with great patience." 2 Cor 6:4 (GN)

How To Deal With Difficulty

Acts 27

I. DETERMINE _____

Ask:

"I tried to think this problem through but it was too difficult for me until I went into your Temple." Ps. 73:16-17 (GN)

Common Mistakes

We listen to _____

"... they followed the advice of the pilot..." (vs. 11)

We follow _____

"the majority decided that we should sail..." (vs 12)

We rely on _____

"When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted..." (vs 13)

II. DETERMINE _____

Ask:

"These little troubles, which are temporary, are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward all out of proportion to our pain." 2 Cor. 4:17 (Ph)

"We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials for we know ... they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time..." Rom. 5:3-4 (LB)

III. DETERMINE _____

Ask:

Wrong Responses

"To Drift"

"... so we gave way to it and were driven along" (vs 15)

"To Discard:

"... they began to throw the cargo overboard..." (vs 18)

"To Despair"

"... we finally gave up all hope of being saved." (vs 20)

THE RIGHT RESPONSE

- Confess _____

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." Pr. 28:13 (LB)

- Confront _____ (vs. 34-40)

- Claim _____ (vs. 22-25)