

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Where Do We Go From Here?

Sermon Single | Psalm 37:23

INTRODUCTION

Life is a journey, and where God leads you is of the utmost importance. There is no happenstance in the life of a believer, no life of pure chance. God is in charge of what you go through, how you go through it, and the purposes behind it all. After the resurrection, the disciples found themselves asking, "Where do we go from here?" Their world had been turned upside down, and figuring out what God had for them was a journey of one step at a time.

Like them, we often wonder what is next. The good news is that we serve a God who orders our steps. As we learn to follow Him, He provides principles to guide our path and help us get a handle on what happens next. The journey ahead is not a mystery to be solved, but a walk of faith to be embraced.

KEY POINTS

1. The Next Step Is Always Aligned With The Word Of God

God has a plan for your life, and He will never lead you to do something that contradicts His Word. He will not call you into a job, a relationship, or a place where His Word cannot be fulfilled in your life. This is why we must be diligent students of the Bible. When we know what God's Word says, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that our steps are aligned with His unchanging truth. Our feelings can change from one day to the next, but God's Word is the firm foundation that directs our paths.

2. The Next Step Is Revealed In God's Time, Not Ours

Many of us feel we must know what tomorrow holds, but we were never promised that. We are promised that God holds tomorrow. Therefore, it is okay not to know the next step right now. The Christian life is a journey, and part of that journey is learning to trust God in the unknown. When the next step tarries, or seems slow to appear, we are called to be active, not passive. We can practice five key actions while we wait:

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- **Wait:** Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Waiting is not inactivity; it is an act of disciplined commitment.
- **Worship:** Worship takes our eyes off ourselves and our circumstances and places them on the Lord Jesus. It reorients our hearts and reminds us who is in control.
- **Word:** Stay in the Word of God. If you are looking for a GPS coordinate for your life, you will find it in Scripture. God often uses our waiting periods to show us more of Himself in His Word.
- **Work:** Do what He has already given you to do. Give it everything you have, working "as unto the Lord," until He reveals the next assignment.
- **Witness:** God may be delaying your next step because He has someone for you to connect with right where you are. The journey is not just about getting from point A to point B; it is about the lives we impact for Christ in between.

3. The Next Step Requires Present Obedience

God will not reveal something new until you have been faithful with what He has already told you to do. Often, our ears are clogged by disobedience, and we cannot hear His direction clearly. Before looking for a new word from the Lord, ask yourself if you have obeyed the last one. When God does reveal the next step, take it immediately. As the old hymn reminds us, there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey. The early disciples simply did the next thing God asked of them, and that is how their world changing journey unfolded.

The Christian life is a beautiful progression of next steps. God is not through with any of us yet. If you are still breathing, He is still working on you and has a path for you to walk. But you cannot take the next step if you have never taken the first one.

The most important step anyone can take is turning from sin and placing their faith in Jesus Christ. If you have never done that, that is your next step. From there, God calls us to public profession through baptism, to daily nourishment in His Word, to connection with other believers in the church, and to active service in ministry. Your life in Christ is not a ministry of attendance; God has specific things for you to do.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what area of your life are you seeking the "next step"? How can you ensure your desires and plans are being measured against the truth of God's Word?
2. If God is asking you to wait, which of the five "W's" (Wait, Worship, Word, Work, Witness) do you need to practice most faithfully in this season?
3. What is one act of obedience, big or small, that God has already shown you to do that you need to take care of right now before asking Him for what is next?
