

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Dances With Detours

Dances With Detours | Part 2 | Isaiah 41:13

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever watched a child fall and, instead of crying, erupt into laughter? It is a moment of pure, unfiltered joy. Dr. Dodd recently had that experience with his four year old grandson while kayaking. After getting confident on the water, his grandson slipped, fell into the lake with a huge splash, and came up dying with laughter. In that moment was a profound spiritual lesson. How many of us, when we get unexpectedly wet in life, can come up laughing?

Life is full of detours. We have a plan, a strategy, a direction, and suddenly we are stopped, redirected, or left confused in a fog. The key to navigating these moments is not rigidity, but flexibility. As we trust in the Lord, our God, we can learn to dance with the detours. He promises to take hold of our right hand and guide us, reminding us not to fear, because He will help us. This is the promise that anchors us when our own plans fall apart.

KEY POINTS

1. Find A Positive Perspective

No matter what you are going through, your attitude is critical. The Bible teaches that as a person thinks in their heart, so are they. What you dwell on internally will shape your actions externally. If you are struggling to be positive, ask God for an attitude change. Instead of seeing a detour as a disaster that has ruined your life, ask God to help you find the positive lesson in it. Sometimes the most valuable lesson is simply, "don't do that again." Learning from our missteps is a form of growth, and God can use every circumstance to teach us if we are willing to find the positive perspective in it.

2. Lean On Significant Others

God did not design us to go through life alone. A true friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out. When you are squeezed by adversity and feel decimated, the people who come alongside you are gifts from God. You must learn to lean on them. Likewise, some of the most significant ministry you will ever perform will not be inside a church building, but inside the lives of people God brings into your path. We are called to be that brother or sister who is "born for adversity," offering strength and support in difficult times.

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3. Express Your Trust In God

In the midst of financial ruin, physical agony, and unimaginable loss, Job declared, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him." This is the pinnacle of faith. It is a conscious choice to trust God's character even when His actions are incomprehensible. We must learn to have this kind of self talk. Remind yourself of God's faithfulness. As it says in *Lamentations 3:22-24*, His compassions never fail; they are new every morning. Verbally reiterate your trust in God. Declare out loud that He alone is your portion and He will see you through. There is no situation you can face where God cannot take your right hand and guide you.

4. Examine Your Motives

Sometimes a detour is God's divine intervention. It is a blessed moment designed to stop you in your tracks so you can examine why you are doing what you are doing. *Lamentations 3:40* encourages us: "Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord." Are your motives pure? Are your desires aligned with God's, or are they rooted in your earthly nature, like the greed and lust described in *Colossians 3:5*? A detour can happen because you are not ready for the next step, the timing isn't right, or God has a better, different path to get you where you need to go. Do not miss the opportunity a detour provides to examine your heart and align your motives with God's perfect will.

A detour is not a rejection from God; it is often a protection from God. It is His way of saying, "Trust me. I have a better way." Use these moments to examine your motives, lean on the community God has given you, and anchor your hope not in your circumstances, but in the unchanging character of the One who holds your hand.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Think about a recent detour or unexpected challenge in your life. What is one practical way you can choose to find a positive, God-centered perspective in that situation?
2. Proverbs says, "a brother is born for adversity." Who are the one or two people in your life that God has provided for you to lean on during difficult times? How can you be that person for someone else this week?
3. In what area of your life might a current "detour" be an invitation from God to stop and examine your motives? What might He be revealing to you about your own plans versus His?
