

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Dances With Detours

Dances With Detours | Part 1 | Isaiah 41:13

INTRODUCTION

Has your life gone exactly like you thought it would? For most of us, the honest answer is no. Our lives are full of unexpected turns, delays, and detours. We plan our steps, but we must also learn to wrestle with the stops. As believers, we need to build a biblical framework for when curveballs are thrown our way, so we can navigate them with confidence and make sense of it all.

The great theologian Arthur Pierson once found himself in the study of George Mueller, a man renowned for his faith. Looking through Mueller's personal Bible, Pierson came to *Psalms* 37:23, which says, "The steps of a godly man are ordered by the Lord." In the margin, Mueller had written, "And the stops too." This profound insight reminds us that God is not only in our forward motion but also in the moments He brings us to a halt. When we face a detour, we can trust the promise of Scripture: "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you" (*Isaiah* 41:13).

KEY POINTS

1. Find A Positive Perspective

The key to dancing with detours is to remain flexible, and the first step is to find a positive perspective. Joseph's life was a series of devastating detours. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and thrown into prison. Yet, when he finally faced his brothers years later, he did not hold a grudge. Instead, he told them, "Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." Joseph understood that God was working a bigger plan through his pain.

Like Joseph, we are called to look for God's hand in our circumstances. Choosing to find a positive perspective produces spiritual fruit in our lives. It builds greater optimism, fosters an attitude of gratitude, and teaches us the patience needed to wait on God. It develops a humility that acknowledges God is in charge, not us. This posture of trust allows us to submit to God's will, knowing His plan is always at work, even when we cannot see it.

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2. Express Your Trust In God

When facing a detour, it is vital to learn how to verbalize our trust in God. This practice is not just for the benefit of others; it is for us. It solidifies our own faith and reinforces our dependence on Him. After losing his children, his wealth, and his health, Job was surrounded by a wife who told him to “curse God and die” and friends who condemned him. In the face of it all, Job declared, “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.”

Job’s declaration was a powerful act of faith. By speaking his trust out loud, he anchored his soul in God’s sovereignty. When we are in the midst of a difficult circumstance, expressing our trust in God’s goodness and His plan makes a profound impact. It strengthens our resolve and serves as a powerful witness to those around us who are watching how we handle life’s challenges. Your words of faith can become an anchor for your own heart and a beacon of hope for others.

The biblical truth is that God is sovereign over every part of our journey, including the detours, the steps, and the stops. When life seems to slow down or get redirected, God is not absent; He is actively at work forming our character. These moments are divine opportunities for spiritual formation, designed to shape us into more patient, humble, and trusting followers of Christ. He uses detours to develop a depth in us that could not be achieved any other way.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Think of a current detour or past challenge in your life. In what ways might God have been, or might He still be, working for a greater purpose that you cannot fully see?
2. Dr. Dodd shared the importance of verbalizing our trust in God. Why is this practice difficult during a detour, and what is one practical way you can express your faith to someone this week?
3. The sermon emphasized being “flexible.” In what specific area of your life do you feel God is calling you to release your own plans and submit to His timing and direction?
