

Under Pressure Do's and Don'ts

October 22, 2017

I. Six Under Pressure Do's and Don'ts

Acts 5:17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.

1. Don't Self Destruct

A. Your emotional state will determine your personal response.

1. Jealousy erodes our contentment and sabotages our future.
2. Jealousy makes smart people do dumb things.
3. Jealousy is dangerous in the church
4. Jealousy blinds our spiritual eyes.

1 Samuel 18:8-9 Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

B. Does the success of others cause unrest in you?

2. Do Trust God

Acts 5:18-19 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

A. God can do the miraculous.

1. God opens closed doors.
2. God sets people free.
3. God protects His people.

B. God may allow natural consequences in order to accomplish supernatural purposes.

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

C. God can be trusted under pressure even when we don't understand.

3. Do The Right Thing

Acts 5:20-21 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.” At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

A. The right thing to do is not always the easy thing to do.

1. If you are delivered from something, then you are delivered for something.
2. Opportunity without activity is a tragedy.

James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

B. Conviction will either soften or harden your heart.

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

Acts 5:33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

- The most righteous can also be the most stubborn.

4. Do Push The Pause Button

Acts 5:34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

A. Wise people press pause.

Psalms 46:10 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

B. Wise people find ways to release pressure.

Proverbs 15:18 A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

5. Don't Fight Against God

Acts 5:35-39 Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

A. We fight against God when we force our agenda instead of following God's plan.

B. We fight against God when we try to use God's blessings for our own purposes.

C. We fight against God when we act impulsively instead of waiting patiently.

Proverbs 16:1-4 To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. The Lord works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster.

1. Pressure comes with progress.

Acts 5:40-42 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

2. Progress comes with pressure.

Proverbs 14:4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

1 Peter 1:6-9 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

James 1:2-3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

6. Don't Give Up...Do It Again

- A. *God's people, under pressure, respond in faith, again and again.*
- B. *We trust in a God who will do it again.*