

**NOW WHAT? April 29, 2018** *Getting through hopelessness, loss, & heartache*

**John 16:33** I've told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. **Here on earth you'll have many trials & sorrows.** But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

*Most of the time, you can't calm the storm, so quit frustrating yourself! But you can calm yourself. The storm will pass.*

**2 Corinth 4:16 MSG** We're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by w/out His unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

**\*\*Step 1 to getting through hopelessness, loss, & heartache is to know, speak, live, & run to the Word of God.**  
*(last weeks - Psalm 91, Psalm 23, Romans 5, etc.)*

**\*\*Step 2 to getting through hopelessness, loss, & heartache is to have the right identity.**

**\*\*Who or what defines your identity? Your sense of who you are; how you see yourself & see your life; your self-image; your self-worth.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** ...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new person**. The old life is gone; a **new life** has begun!

***"We must find our identity in Jesus to get through hopelessness!"***

**Galatians 2:20** My old self has been crucified w/ Christ. *It's no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.* I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

*"Your new identity moves you forward, toward all that Jesus is."*

**1 John 4:17b** ...but we can face Him w/ confidence because *we live like Jesus* here in this world (as *He is, so are we...*)

*If you have no identification or the wrong identification, you cannot prove your citizenship, and you can't travel where you want to go.*

**\*\*Step 3 to getting through hopelessness, loss, & heartache is to have a clear vision & divine guidance.**

*"Your vision is what you see & what you're believing for your future."*

*"Knowing what you want to do & where you want to go is perhaps more important than removing the roadblocks of what you don't want."*

**Proverbs 29:18** When people don't accept divine guidance (*where there is no vision*), they run wild... (*they perish, they die! – Vision gives life!!*)

*Many people feel stuck in their circumstances & don't like where they are, but they can't see a way out & don't know where they want to go.*

**Matthew 6:22** Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye's healthy, your whole body's filled w/ light. 23 But when your eye's unhealthy, your whole body is filled w/ darkness...

*Dissatisfaction w/ your current reality is a start, but it won't produce change in your life.*

*\*You can't change when you're focused on your problems.*

*\*Many know what they don't like, but won't focus on what they do like.*

*Get single minded about what you want to change.*

*Get single minded about where you want to go.*

*Your vision & your goal is your finish line.*

**Philippians 3:13** No, dear brothers & sisters, I haven't achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

1. Forget = to lose out of your mind, let it go
2. Press = pursue, follow after, go for it
3. Reach forward = stretch for, just do it

*\*As long as you're upset about your past &/or current reality, you're planning to stay there.*

*Don't set a goal of getting back to ZERO; you'll always have to fail and start again.*

1. *We're not trying to lose 20 lbs.; we want to be healthy, fit & feeling good.*
2. *We don't want to get out of debt; we want to prosper, save money & give to God's kingdom.*
3. *We don't want to just get out of prison; we want to live successful free lives.*

**John 4:35** You know the saying, 'Four months between planting & harvest.' But I say, wake up & look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.

*"Wake up & look around" "Lift up your eyes & look...!"*

**Mark 10:48** ..,they called the blind man. “Cheer up, come on, He’s calling you!” 50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, & came to Jesus. 51 **“What do you want Me to do for you?”** Jesus asked. “Rabbi, **! want** to see!” 52 Jesus said to him, **“Go, for your faith has healed you.”** Instantly the man could see, & he followed Jesus down the road.

*Be clear, focused, & specific on what you want; this enables you to replace & exchange what you don’t want.*

**Habakkuk 2:2** The Lord said to me, “Write My answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. 3 This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, & it **will be** fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for **it will** surely take place.