

HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULTY
The Six Phases of Faith -- Part 5
Pastor Vernie Fletcher
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John 16:33 (NIV)

"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."

2 Corinthians 6:4 (TLB)

In fact, in everything we do we try to show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure suffering and hardship and trouble of every kind.

How to Deal With Difficulty
Acts 27

I. DETERMINE THE REASON

Ask the question: **What caused this?**

Psalm 73:16-17(GN)

^[16] I tried to think this problem through, but it was too difficult for me

^[17] until I went into your Temple. Then I understood what will happen to the wicked.

Common Mistakes

We listen to **BAD ADVICE**

"... they followed the advice of the pilot..." (vs. 11)

We follow **THE CROWD**

"the majority decided that we should sail..." (vs 12)

We rely on **CIRCUMSTANCES**

"When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted..." (vs 13)

II. DETERMINE THE RESULT

Ask: **What does God want me to learn from this difficulty I'm facing?**

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Ph)

"These little troubles, which are temporary, are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward all out of proportion to our pain."

Romans 5:3-4 (TLB)

^[3] We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to be patient.

^[4] And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time ...

III. DETERMINE MY RESPONSE

Ask: **How should I react? How does God want me to act in this particular situation?**

Wrong Responses

"Don't DRIFT"

"... so we gave way to it and were driven along" (vs 15)

"Don't DISCARD"

"... they began to throw the cargo overboard..." (vs 18)

"Don't DESPAIR"

"... we finally gave up all hope of being saved." (vs 20)

THE RIGHT RESPONSE

- Confess **MY PART**

Proverbs 28:13 (TLB)

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

- **Confront IT**

(vs. 34-40)

- **Claim A PROMISE**

(vs 22-25)