

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW DO I FACE THE FUTURE? Answering Life's Toughest Questions

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Part 7 of 7

Eccl. 8:7

"Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?" Eccl. 8:7

There are a lot of "ifs" in life. You can't spell LIFE without "IF"

I. **WHAT NOT TO DO**

1. **DON'T PRESUME ABOUT TOMORROW!**

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you don't know what a day may bring forth." Prov. 27:11

2. **DON'T PANIC ABOUT TOMORROW!**

"Do not be anxious about tomorrow, God will take care of tomorrow too. Live one day at a time." Matt. 6:34 (LB)

Worry is just an attempt to control the future and it doesn't work.

Worrying is stewing about doing.

Life by the yard is hard, but life by the inch is a cinch.

3. **DON'T PROCRASTINATE UNTIL TOMORROW!**

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done!" Eccl. 11:4

Procrastination is my sin
It only brings me sorrow
I know I ought to change my life
In fact I will – tomorrow.

II. **HOW TO FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE** God's Advice to Joshua (Joshua 1:1-11)

1. **SET UP A PLAN.**

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“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people get ready to cross the Jordan River ... I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.” Joshua 1:2,3

You have to prepare to possess what God has promised.

“So Joshua ordered the people, Get your supplies ready.” Josh 1:11

Survey

- 27% of Americans never give a thought to the future
- 60% of Americans give some thought to the future.
- 10% of Americans have given serious thought to the future.
- 3% of Americans have written down goals.

One of the ways to prepare for the future is by letting go of the past.

“Don’t go charging into battle without a plan.” Prov. 20:18 (GN)

“We should make our plans counting on God to direct us.” Prov. 16:9 (LB)

List some of your plans:

2. STAY IN THE WORD.

“Be careful to obey all the law. Do not turn from it to the right or the left that you may be successful wherever you go.” Josh. 1:7

“Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Josh 1:8

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE OWNER’S MANUAL FOR LIFE.

3 WAYS TO STAY IN GOD’S WORD:

- Don’t let it depart from your mouth.
- Meditate on it day and night.
- Do it.

3. STEP OUT IN FAITH.

Faith is not just believing something; mental assent – Faith is action.

“Be strong and courageous.” Josh 1:6,7,9

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Courage is not the absence of fear; it is when you move ahead in spite of your fear.

“I’ve commanded you to be determined and confident. Don’t be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord, am with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (GN)

Fear keeps you from getting started – Discouragement keeps you from keeping on.

“As soon as the priest stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing and piled up.” Josh 3:15 (GN)

My trust in God: _____

“There is nothing I cannot master with the help of Christ who gives me strength.” Phil 4:13 (J.B)

If Christ is the master of my life, He masters the circumstances for me. But if not, then I tend to be mastered by the circumstances.