

A great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was . . . a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. **And after the fire came a gentle whisper.** When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave (1 Kings 19:11–13).

When tempted to run ahead, or run away, or run around, we must choose to be like Elijah, to “be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). It is in times of great emotion that we need to first seek the Lord, finding a quiet place where we can hear His voice speak to us.

When a decision is causing your emotions to run high, go to God. Praise Him

when filled with awe; pour out your complaints to Him when burdened with frustration, anger, or hurt; and cry out to Him for help when overwhelmed with stress. **But then stay with Him**, abiding in His presence, allowing His hand to touch you.

Few Christians stop believing that God exists, that God is love, or that He is anything less than a God of wondrous miracles. What most of us struggle with is maintaining a daily living connection with Him, an active experience of knowing God, of being able to hear His still small voice directing our paths. That is because maintaining a living connection requires that we spend daily time with Jesus. We must step away from the digital world, lay down the daily burdens, pause from “doing” for God and just start “being” with God.

So don’t be like David and run ahead, or like Jonah and run away, or like Martha and run around; instead, choose to spend quiet time with God,

sharing your heart with Him and then listening to hear His voice.

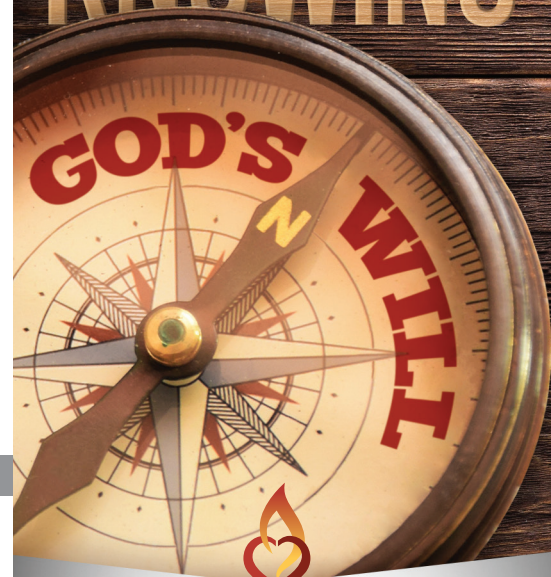
When uncertain about what God would have you do, run to Jesus and just be with Him. Get away from the busyness, the screens, the news, the problems, the stress. Ask for God’s presence, wisdom, direction, comfort, and healing, and it will be given to you; seek to know Him personally, intimately, and fully, and you will find that He has been waiting for you to come to Him the whole time. Knock on heaven’s door, and the storehouse of God’s blessings will be open to you.


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KNOWING





Have you ever struggled to know what God would have you do in a given situation?

Maybe you wanted to honor the Lord, but the situation wasn't one that God's Word gives specific wisdom about. Perhaps the evidence you had was not sufficient for you to know which course was best . . .

- Should I attend this school or that one?
- Do I accept this job offer and move my family to another city?
- Should we buy a house or rent?

Many of the decisions we make day to day have no specific direction from God's Word. It seems like the choice is left to us, yet we don't want to squander God's blessings; we don't want to dishonor Him; we want to be good stewards because we love Him.

We might even have a history of making decisions on our own and getting burned by the outcome. We might be overly cautious now about moving forward. If this describes you, you're not alone! Many of God's friends also struggled, but in different ways:

King David's love and admiration for God motivated him to build a temple. But David soon discovered that his enthusiasm got ahead of God's will; even though the project itself was for the Lord's cause, it wasn't what God wanted him to do.

Jonah was convicted of God's will, but the direction the Lord was leading went against his desires. So Jonah ran away from the Lord and ended up nearly drowning in a storm. God met him there, and when Jonah stopped running and chose God's will for his life, he was delivered from the storm.

Martha loved Jesus but became so caught up in fulfilling life's duties that she didn't take time to sit at Jesus' feet and commune with Him. One of the devil's traps for those whom he cannot get to directly choose evil is to overburden them with godly responsibilities so that they crowd out the essential Christian experience.

Whether we're a David, Jonah, or Martha, we can be thankful that God is gracious. He never stopped chasing after them, and He won't stop seeking after you, even when you make "the wrong" choice. Sometimes we are stubborn and don't respond to His calling, so God graciously allows the storms of life to overwhelm us. Don't despair! Instead, when you find your ship sinking, throw yourself fully into the Lord's care.

He will deliver you! He will free you from shame, provide you the resources to overcome,

and offer you solutions that you never even considered—and joy will fill your soul!

Being like David and running ahead of the Lord leads to disappointment; being like Jonah and running away leads to defeat; being like Martha and running around in life's busyness leads to exhaustion. But consider that in no case did they reject God. They were not unbelievers. They had not lost faith in Him; they had merely stopped listening. They had allowed their circumstances to stir up emotions that motivated them to act without first going to God. You see, *it wasn't a lack of faith in God; it was a lack of a moment-to-moment living connection with Him.*

After God's great victory at Carmel, his prophet **Elijah** was threatened by Jezebel; he was so overwhelmed with fear that he hid in a cave. But in that place of discouragement . . .