

5 NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO

2 Chronicles 20:12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.

2 Chronicles 20:17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you...

What should we do when we do not know what to do? Whenever we are perplexed or anxious, we tend to first look for the answer and solution by ourselves. We will think, read, consult, and try all manner of fixes except go directly to God. And it often turns out that the more we seek a way out on our own, the more confounded we become. Only when we are finally at our wits' end do we begin to turn to God. When we truly know no one else who can help us, and that there is nothing else we have not tried, then we are ready to turn to the Lord. But how much sooner would divine help have come if we had instinctively and immediately turned to Him, and be spared the agony of groping and groaning in vain.

In *2 Chronicles 20*, King Jehoshaphat and Judah found themselves in such a position of not knowing what to do when faced with an impending invasion by their enemies. The king's reaction was to turn to God at once, with the confession that they were at an utter loss as to what to do. An honest and heartfelt acknowledgment of our own helplessness is the first big step towards seeking God. Much of our seeking is often done with lingering shades of self-confidence and false hope still standing in the way.

The two conditions for a right seeking of God's help are:

- Knowing I have no help – *2 Chronicles 20:12 "we know not what to do, but our eyes are upon You"*.
- Knowing He is my help – *2 Chronicles 15:15 "they sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them"*.

In *2 Chronicles 20:17*, we find three things we must do in seeking God's deliverance:

- **Set:** The first thing the king did was *"to set himself to seek the LORD" (v3)* and proclaim a fast. Seeking God is not a passive, wait-and-see exercise. We need to make a deliberate, determined effort to set or position ourselves so that we are in the place where we can hear Him. This may call for setting ourselves apart for a special season of seeking and praying with fasting. We are apt to regard this reluctantly unless we feel the need keenly.
- **Stand:** In *v13* we see that everyone, including the wives and children, stood before the Lord. To stand means to wait upon with watchfulness and expectancy, ready to do His bidding. We stand on the dependability of God's Word. The whole posture is one of hopefulness, not hopelessness.
- **See:** Faith and hope rise when we have the mind of God. We begin to see light where there was no light before. This is not scenario planning or possibility thinking. It is seeing things from God's vantage view. His salvation becomes our solution. We stand aside to see Him do what only He can do.