

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Devotion

I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

I lay in bed, tossing and turning. I checked the weather report; it didn't look good for driving. I looked out the window. The clouds gave me a preview of what was to come later that day. Should I stay home, or should I drive to the appointment I have in another town? I could probably get there, but could I get back home? I prayed that God would give me a sign that would stop my anxious thoughts. But what sign would I understand, really understand, that it was God telling me what to do? Make it really clear, God! Tell me — should I stay or should I go?

Don't we all do this when we are wondering what to do in uncertain situations? Should I visit the family that is new to my church? You know I am so shy, Lord. Should I take that position at church? I don't have the right gifts for it, Lord. Should I go on that mission trip? You know how I hate to fly, Lord. Should my husband and I foster that little boy? We just finished raising our children; could we really do it again, Lord?

Have you noticed that we are not alone as we wonder whether we should stay or whether we should go? God asked Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses had his excuses — they won't believe me, and I'm not much of a talker! But God had an answer for each excuse and, with God's help, Moses did the job God had for him to do. (See Exodus 3–4.)

When God asked Gideon to deliver His people from Midian, Gideon couldn't believe God wanted him. He was a nobody from an unknown family! God reassured him that He would be with him as he defeated the enemy. But Gideon still had trouble believing that, so he asked for a sign from God, and then asked for another! God was gracious to fulfill both signs and gave Gideon the victory over thousands of enemy soldiers with just 300 men. (See Judges 6–8.)

In the book of Esther, the evil Haman wanted to destroy all the Jews, manipulating King Xerxes to get what he desired. The one chance for the Jews was through Queen Esther, if she chose to go before the king and ask for their lives. She had her excuse; it had been 30 days since the king summoned her, and if she went before him and he didn't want to see her, she could die! Then she was reminded that perhaps God had put her in this place for just this purpose. Through her own prayers and the prayers of many Jews, God gave Esther the courage to stand before the king and do what she had to do to save God's people. (See Esther 3–9.)

Even these people who saved God's people from their enemies had their doubts and fears. They wondered if they should stay, or go and do the thing that God had put before them. They had excuses, but each had the God of the universe come into their hearts and minds and give them the strength and the courage to do what they were to do for Him.

We might only be asked to do small things by comparison, but our loving God wants to walk with us as we travel our road in life, giving us that same strength and courage to do what He puts on our hearts to do, what He gave to Moses, Gideon, Esther, and other heroes of our faith. May we open our hearts to listen to His voice leading us to do what He would ask of us.

Did I go that day? I did, but didn't make it home until the next day because of the weather. Looking back, I believe there were plenty of signs for me to stay at home. Thankfully, even when we miss God's signs, we are forgiven!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for asking me to work in Your kingdom! Help me to use the gifts You have given me and to be a blessing to those around me. Guide me when I wonder whether I should stay or I should go. Forgive me for doubting that You will be there for me. Be my strength. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

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