

# **Finding the Right Path**

**5 Tips for Making Decisions  
that Work for you**

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**To All Those struggling with decisions  
both big and small**

# Table of Contents

First of All

Tip 1: Look for the Right Questions

Tip 2: Listen to Your Heart

Tip 3: Watch for Direction

Tip 4: Look for the Right Answers

Tip 5: Believe in the Future

Lastly

Contact



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# First of All

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I first wrote this book about 10 years ago when I was consulting with churches. I have updated it for a more personal approach, but you will still taste that flavor throughout.

I am a consultant. That means that you and I deliberate together to come up with solutions that work for you. Hopefully, the information I share here will be of some use. (Ultimately, that's for you to decide).

All the information you find here is yours for the taking. Please share it freely. You can even take credit for the ideas (just send them to my website!).

I'm like you. I've been through a lot. Decades of marriage with the all the joys and challenges that brings. Raising a son. Deaths and illnesses. And the ups and downs of professional life.

Have you ever been fired? I have – three times. It's no fun, right? But somehow you get through. And a big part of coming out in one piece on the other side is practicing the principles I'm sharing here.

When it comes to career, I haven't had *a* career, I've had *careers*. To name a few: broadcasting, banking, insurance, real estate, public relations, fundraising, teaching, writing, and all kinds of management. And I have served in every expression of the Church (that is, locally, regionally, nationally, and higher education).

I draw on all that experience every day.

So, I've been around the block a few times. And as I always say, even though I have all these degrees and experience, I actually only *know* one thing: As you are floating down life's river, there is a bend ahead, and you don't know what's around it. Life is full of surprises – wonderful surprises and horrible surprises. We might even think of not calling it *life* anymore but just *Surprise!*

In this little book I am sharing 5 Tips that will make your decision making, and your life, work better. I hope I help a little.

Let's get going.





We might even think of not  
calling it *life* anymore  
but just *SURPRISE!*

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## Tip 1

# Look for the Right Questions

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*I need answers!* Well, yes, eventually. But first you need questions. And not just any questions, but the right questions.

When the ancient Israelites found themselves in captivity, they wanted answers. Generations had been held far away from their homeland, and they desperately wanted to return to the place that God had promised would always be theirs.

Nehemiah was certainly among those who wanted to move back to Jerusalem. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, he was in a position to gain the ear of the King. Nehemiah was the King's cupbearer and day after day he became more unhappy with the state of affairs. In fact, the King noticed his sadness and questioned him about it. And then the King came up with a Right Question: 'What would you request?' he asked Nehemiah.

Nehemiah could have stood up to the King and demanded answers. But he was a little smarter than that. He asked his own Right Question: 'If it pleases you, could I go to the city where my ancestors are buried and rebuild it?'

Two Right Questions and then one great answer as Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem and led in rebuilding the walls.

If you are looking for answers, I understand. But let me encourage you, first, to begin asking the Right Questions. Those questions contain the seeds of the Right Answer. And just like the questions, you don't want just any answer.

*Right Question: How did I get to where I am?* Unless you've experienced some sort of scandal, chances are slim that you got to where you are overnight. It took years to go from prosperity to poverty (financially or personally). So, understanding that time element will also help you see that there are no overnight solutions.

Martin Luther, teaching at the university and living in the monastery in 16<sup>th</sup> century Germany asked something similar. How did the Church get to a place of such corruption? He knew that an institution over one thousand years old did not arrive at moral bankruptcy overnight. And while he took decisive action, he also knew that it would take time to 'refill the account,' so that the Church could move forward whole and healthy.

There are probably a number of reasons that you find yourself where you are now. You moved, or your job changed, or you had a personal crisis. Psychologists have a term they use: 'over-determined.' By that they mean that any problem we are facing is not the result of one, single cause. Instead, there are multiple causes, it is over-determined, and looking at each discovered cause helps to reach the right diagnosis and the appropriate treatment plan.

The same is true for you. You will need to list the reasons for your troubles. Look at each carefully. Consider how they are interconnected. And then ponder what it all means when added up.

You will likely find some commonalities between your

situation and that of people you know. But you will also find there are unique elements to your circumstances. The combination of these will reveal how you started to go downhill.

*Right Question: What should I do about it?*

The answer to this question will take one of three forms. None of the three are right, and none are wrong. Or maybe I should say that all three are right answers, but your unique circumstances will determine which one is right for you.

First, you should ask *Is it time to let go?* Everything has a lifecycle. Perhaps you started off in a career when you were young that was a good fit for you then. But not now. You've changed. Your circumstances are different. Is it time to let that period of your life go and try something new?

Or maybe you were once the life of the party. You went to parties, you hosted parties, and the drinks flowed freely. Has the time come to let that go?

Are your relationships working the same as they did 10 years ago? You are a different person now. Is it time to walk away from that relationship because it no longer supports the person you want to become?

Second, you should ask *Is it time to stick?* You may be itching for a change. But is right now the time for it? Look at your personal circumstances. What do your finances look like? How old are you? How much time and energy have you put into the "place" where you are? How much energy do you have in you to start something completely different?

I'm not saying that if you are miserable with where you are you should give up. You can set yourself up for the needed change. But first ask "is this the right time to do that?" You

may need to stay right where you are until you have gotten all the elements in place for the big change.

If you answer *yes* to this second question, then wait. The time will come, but it's just not now.

Third, you should ask *Is it time to change?* This is the question that should be asked with caution. You have probably already tried to find a way out of your declining situation and found that none of your solutions worked. It may be that all of your energy has now drained.

If that is the case, then you should answer this question with a firm 'No.'

To discover the 'Yes' begin thinking through everything that needs to happen before the change can occur. Do you need to update your credentials? Do you need more education? Do you need to relocate? Do you need a change in your relationships?

If you choose to change, sit down with a person you trust and talk about all the implications of this important decision.

*Right Question: When should I do something about it?*

Right Answer: Now.

The key word in dealing with your situation is **intentionality**. Any of these answers can turn out to be the right one for you as long as you are intentional about the process. Are you putting off the inevitable? Are you stuck? Are you simply ignoring the very real problems that are present? None of those will do. When you determine (not just decide, but *determine*) to be intentional, then everything else will flow naturally.

Your situation has been years in the making. You won't get out of it in a day.

There is grace for the process. When you are open to all the guidance available to you, then questions and answers arise just in time to lead you to the place that you need to be. This moment in time is not the same as any before in your personal history. Everything has changed and those answers from last year won't work anymore. Think. Listen carefully, and soon you will know the pathway that is laying before you.

*Right Question:*

How did I get where I  
am?



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## Tip 2

# Listen to Your Heart

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Johnny had a wealthy father and had been brought up in the manner befitting the son of privilege. The best housing, the best clothes, the best education – nothing was too good for Johnny. And, yet, something was missing. Johnny found himself asking that age old question: ‘Is this all there is?’

He wanted more out of life. And he was interested in places far from home, particularly France. Johnny loved everything about French culture. So much so, that his friends started calling him Francis (in effect, Frenchy). Suddenly one day Johnny decided that he just couldn’t live the life his father had planned for him. He knew that God was calling him to something more important. So determined was he to shed his past, that he removed his clothes, took nothing with him, and walked away from home as naked as the day he was born.

Few had heard of the town of Assisi, Italy before Francis started traveling the world sharing the Spirit’s love. Before long, though, with others catching his vision, everyone knew Francis, his vow of poverty and his marvelous way with animals and nature. When he prayed ‘Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,’ he was giving voice to something that he had done years before. *Francis had listened to his heart.* And then he found a new path.

You may feel like you have reached the end of the road. But that is not so. There is another path being opened and it is your job to find it. First, though, you have to listen to your heart.

Often when I consult with people, they will tell me what is really on their hearts. While they seem to be unwilling publicly to 'fess up, they are eager to tell someone who will listen what is really on their hearts.

Some have lived through the decline of their marriage. They carry painful memories of how things were once robust, but now have fallen off. They know something needs to be done – and done now – yet they are often unable to bring themselves to stand up say so.

What is really in your heart? Do you know deep down that your current situation is no longer sustainable? Do you know that recovering the past 'good' at this point is not an option? Then you really need to say so out loud.

What's in your heart? Do you know deep down that although there are problems in great number, the situation can change, solutions can be reached, and new life can once again be found? Then you really need to say so out loud.

What is in your heart? Do you know deep down that you are so weary and lacking energy that you simply don't have it in you to work every day to bring this [fill in the blank] back to life? Then you really need to say so out loud.

In these matters of the heart, there is nothing to trump honesty. We do ourselves no good by keeping quiet when we should speak, or by going along with what everyone else is saying when we are certain they are wrong. Mark Twain said, 'Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.' Do you just want to go-along? Or

do you have the courage to find the right path?

Let me give you the comparison and the contrast between two people. These are both real but let's call them Sally and Joe.

The two had much in common. They both had vital lives. They both had many successes. They had both done it all.

As the years went by, things started to drift off. At first they did nothing. They simply continued doing things as they always had. They also began to notice that the world around them was changing. In fact, circumstances were so different as to be unrecognizable.

Finally, both had no energy left. It would not be too much to say that they were depressed, but either out of habit or fear they kept plodding along. The picture was bleak.

That is the comparison. Now for the contrast.

It took a while, but Sally finally decided – no, determined – that she was going to do something. She began to have real conversations. She began to ask the Right Questions. She found me and asked me to work with her. The work was not easy and there were many difficult decisions to be made along the way. Ultimately, though, Sally decided to make real changes.

Joe is still stuck.

Sally listened to her heart. Joe has yet to open his ears. His decline continues. If you happened to talk with him, you would leave with the same depression that is pervading everything around him. The excitement in Sally is growing. Talk with her and you will catch her vision, and chances are

you will find yourself asking “How did you do it?”

Are you getting this? Both of these people had the same circumstances. One chose to do *something*. The other has done nothing. Sally was intentional. Joe was neglectful.

Which do you want to be? If your energy seems to be gone, there is no reason you cannot choose the path of intentionality and find the right answers for your unique circumstances.

First, though, you have to listen to your heart.

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## Tip 3

### Watch for Direction

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Don't misunderstand me. I'm not trying to preach to you or convert anyone (been there, done that. And yes, I did in fact get the t-shirt). But I am aware that there is something more to human beings than flesh and blood. You can call it Spirit or Life-Energy, or whatever you choose. In other words, there is a *something* to us and the universe that transcends the mere physical. Quantum Physics has reported some interesting findings in this area in the past twenty years (but that's a topic for another book).

I don't know who said it first (I remember hearing it from Wayne Dyer) but it is evident that we are *spiritual beings having a human experience*. And in that Spirit there is direction.

There is direction for our lives that is found beyond us. Yes, some of that comes from friends, family, and mentors. But that doesn't begin to explain the mystical experiences that all of us have had throughout our lives.

It's that *something*. So, please be open to that idea as you continue reading.

Here is the story of two men: one young, and the other old.

The young man grew up as an Iowa farm boy. It could be

tough sometimes, but with a loving family and an active church life, young Robert had a satisfying home life. When he was old enough, he did something neither of his parents had done, he went to college. And, from there, on to seminary, since Robert had definitely felt the call of God upon his life.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Robert did not return to his native state following graduation. Instead, he believed there could be great opportunity in California. The state was booming and people were moving there by droves. So, Robert packed up his car and his new wife and they headed west.

With only a few dollars to live on, and minimal support from their denomination, Robert and his wife settled in southern California and began to figure out how to start a new church that would really reach people. After a number of failed attempts to find a place for Sunday worship, they happened upon a drive-in movie theater that, understandably, did not operate on Sunday morning (or any morning, for that matter). Robert started a drive-in church. He preached from the roof-top of the concession stand and the 'congregation' stayed in their cars.

As the church grew by leaps and bounds, Robert eventually led the way for them to build their own building. And they chose an award-winning architect to design a beautiful edifice. They continued to grow, and then needed even more space, and Robert had a spectacular, seemingly un-doable idea. He wanted to build a church building that would re-create the outdoor feeling they had at the drive-in. They were in sunny, southern California after all. Well, Robert found another award-winning architect, and against all odds he was clever enough to design such a building. And, so, the world-famous Crystal Cathedral was

constructed in Garden Grove, California.

Along the way, Robert H. Schuller had started a global television ministry that spread the Gospel to millions. Young Robert had watched for direction.

Then, there is our older man. He had spent his life in devotion to Christian service. He built a great ministry. He wrote bestselling books. He touched the lives of millions all around the world. He, too, built an awe-inspiring church building called the Crystal Cathedral.

However, this older man wasn't watching for direction. Everyone else knew it was time, past time, for him to step down. But he simply wouldn't do it. And, so, the older Robert H. Schuller presided over the downfall and bankruptcy of his once great ministry.

Are you watching for direction?

You're not looking for cookie-cutter answers. Since every situation is unique, the divine guidance that comes is tailor-made for your special circumstances. But you have to be watching. Sometimes that also involves waiting, because just as the old adage says, 'God's timing is not our timing.' But that timing is always right-on-time if we are paying close attention. Are you watching?

Moses knew he needed a few watchers. You will remember the story of the twelve spies sent into the Promised Land. Ten returned with a horror story of giants in the land who would squash them like bugs in minutes. Two of the spies, however, Joshua and Caleb, were watching for direction. Yes, they agreed, there were some mighty big men over there. But there was also abundance. And there was the land that had been promised – *promised* – to them. They were both

convinced they could win the day.

Later, after the death of Moses, Spy #1, Joshua, was elevated to commanding general of the Israelites. Again, watching for God's direction, he led his people across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land where they reclaimed the places and spaces of their ancestors.

Are you watching for direction?

The first two steps in finding direction are:

- 1) Looking for the Right Questions
- 2) Listening to Your Heart

Once the right questions have been asked, and the right answers found, you will find the direction right there in front of you. When you really listen to your heart, and respond honestly, then the direction that is right for you will become readily apparent.

It's not an easy thing to watch for direction. Our lives are full of distractions and busyness. Add to that the hurts and the emotions that can well up inside of us and make so much noise that we cannot hear anything. The chaos around us can become so unstable that we cannot see what is in plain sight. If we choose to watch, though, miracles begin to happen. New ideas pop up. Opportunities that once seemed out of the question suddenly present themselves for the taking.

You don't have to be direction-less. Have you at times lost your direction? Of course. You know that to be true in every area of your life. But that loss of direction certainly didn't come because you were paying too much attention. We can agree on that, right? When we lose our way on the path it is because we have taken our eyes off of the *best* and gotten



## Finding the Right Path

ourselves distracted. When our direction on the path is sure, it is because we have continually watched and allowed the Spirit to lead us to exactly where we should be.

Only one answer is right for you *right now*.

Are you watching for direction?



You don't have to be  
direction-less

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## Tip 4

# Look for the Right Answers

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You have asked the right questions. Your heart has been consulted and you have been watching carefully for direction. Now, it is time to look for answers. And, just like your questions, you are looking for the *right* answers.

The answers that are right for you will be different than the person next door. You know your history, the people and personalities involved, and the exact place in time that you find yourself. All of that together will lead to the answers that will guide you to the right path for you to take.

*Right Answer: It is time to act – Right Now.*

Thomas Campbell sailed from Ireland to America in 1807 and the rest of the family was to follow the next year. While they attempted to do just that, a shipwreck in a storm left them in Scotland for a year. In the long run, this turned out to be a good thing, because it gave his son Alexander Campbell the opportunity to study at the University of Glasgow.

Alexander's education had been a good one, but up until that point had been administered by his father. This was a chance to learn from – and dialogue with – the professors at the university. Interestingly, even though separated by an ocean, father and son were coming to some of the same conclusions.

One of the things that began to prick at Alexander's mind and heart was the way Communion was practiced in the Presbyterian Church, of which the Campbells were members. At the time, as a designated Sunday approached for the Supper to be celebrated, elders of the church would examine members to make sure they were 'worthy' to participate. If deemed so, they would be given a small silver token to present at the Table in exchange for the bread and cup.

There was something about that that disturbed Alexander. Wasn't that another human being getting between an individual Christian and God? Didn't the New Testament say the exact opposite about the relationship between the believer and Christ?

As the designated Sunday approached, Alexander dutifully underwent the examination by the elder. And he passed the test. So, token in hand, he came to worship in Glasgow on Sunday morning. However, when the moment came for those worthy candidates present to come forward and receive the Supper, Alexander knew that *it was time to act – right now*.

When he came to the Table that morning, instead of handing his token to the elder and receiving the elements, twenty-one-year-old Alexander Campbell dropped his token on the Table, turned, and walked out of the sanctuary. He knew that his right path no longer followed that of the Presbyterians.

The time comes to act. Maybe for you that time is next year, or the year after that. But chances are if you are reading this book, then you have reached the place in the downward spiral that you need to act, and act quickly. If that is so, then do not hesitate. If it is time to act, then do it right now.

There will be some timid people around you who will say ‘wait and see.’ Or, perhaps, some will say nothing can be done. Neither of those attitudes will lead you to the right path. ‘We have not received a spirit of fear or timidity,’ Paul writes, ‘but a spirit of power.’ As a spiritual being you possess all the power you need to find the right answers and the right path. Indwelled by Spirit the sparks of creativity are ready to fly. Ideas are yours for the asking. Direction and answers are being offered. All you have to do is act.

*Right Answer: It is time to discern.*

Discernment is not meant to be done in isolation. While there are many benefits to a personal life of devotion and study, we are not meant to find the right path all by ourselves. Jesus could have carried out his ministry all alone. Instead, he chose to gather a group of interested and dedicated students to minister with him. The Apostle Paul could have said he would make all the decisions himself. Instead, he traveled to Jerusalem to meet with the leaders there, so that there would be agreement of mind and spirit across the board.

If you have determined that it is time to act, then you will know that the matter of discernment is in front of you. In this process you will ask and answer questions like:

- How have I gotten to this place and this time?
- What am I being directed to do?
- What tasks am I called to right now?
- What am I learning that speaks to my circumstances?
- What is my timetable?
- What is the first step I need to take?

Through the give-and-take of talking it out and listening to feedback, you will begin to see a new path opening before you – the right path.

Can you imagine the disastrous results if General Dwight D. Eisenhower had decided to closet himself all alone and plan D-Day? What if he had just mapped the largest invasion in history all by himself and then announced, ‘this is the way it’s going to be’? If he had not been met by a rebellious senior staff, and if his one-man-show had launched, history would witness his folly.

But that is not what Eisenhower did. He did not plan D-Day by himself. In fact, he did not plan anything about the war by himself. Eisenhower always gathered his advisors for mastermind planning sessions. He understood that it was the group process that would bring the best ideas and the most satisfying results. In the end, even though people said, ‘Ike won the war,’ he knew that he was only one person in the discernment process.

As you gather your “team” together, you will be searching for that mastermind. As each comes to the table with fresh ideas, a mastermind is formed and road signs to the right path begin to be placed. Just as iron sharpens iron, so your ideas will be the best they can be because of the give-and-take of discernment.

Will the process always be smooth? Hardly. But those bumps in the road can be navigated, emotions can be soothed, your ego can be managed, and through it all, solutions will begin to present themselves. Often, once the ideas start coming, it’s like a dam has burst. While there were trickles at first, once the discernment process really gets going, there is a flood of energy and creativity that flows through you.

Be careful who you choose to include in your mastermind. This is not the time for nay-sayers. You will need everyone on board with all the positive energy you can generate, so

that the power that is readily available to you becomes real in the process.

If you're ready, discernment is definitely a right answer.

*Right Answer: It is time to decide.*

The decisions that must be made will not always be easy. But, once the right decisions are made, there is an immediate peace that your choice was a good one. If you have come this far, then the time for decisions has arrived.

Thomas More was constantly faced with decisions to make. As Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry VIII, the laws of the British realm of the 16<sup>th</sup> century very often fell to him to interpret. However, as Henry's reign progressed, and with no male heir to the throne forthcoming, the King became anxious. Through a series of legal, political, and ecclesiastical maneuvers, Henry was able to divorce the first of his six wives (Kathryn), and marry the second (Anne). While Henry tried for years to get the Pope to go along with his plan, in the end it was necessary for the Church in England to become the Church of England so that he could proceed with his marital plans.

As King, Henry, of course, wanted all of the country's leaders to publicly support this move. It was time for Thomas More to decide. Would he go against his conscience, against everything he believed, and side with the King against Rome? The consequence of not doing so could not have been more dire. For Thomas knew that opposing the King would cost him his life. Still, Thomas stood firm.

Henry tried persuasion, then cajoling, then threats, then imprisonment, and finally the chopping block. But Thomas did not waver. He had made his decision and he stuck to it until the end.

There always comes a time in any situation when it is time to decide. To put off the decision when it is the right time to make it only prolongs an already painful process. And procrastinating on the decision is due to fear, not power.

Depending on where you are in your ‘spiral,’ the direction you decide to take can be made easier by seeing your situation in its true light.

Sometimes you find yourself so far down in the spiral that you need quick solutions. If energy is completely gone, then attempting a two- or three-year process is probably out of the question. Everyone and every situation are different. Your decisions cannot be based on what worked for someone else, at least not entirely. Yes, if a right path was found by another person whose circumstances are similar to yours, then you can borrow from their experience. Still, the two situations are not *exactly* the same. They never are. So, when it comes to addressing your problems, and finding the way forward, know that it is completely up to you how long the process will take.

I’ve known people who take three years to go through the whole process. And I’ve known others who decided and acted in a matter of weeks. Your process will probably be somewhere between those two extremes, but whatever the timetable, the decision of how to act, and when, remains yours.

Isn’t this one of the lessons from the life of Jesus? His friend Lazarus was ill, very ill, and he was urged on all sides to rush to his home. Instead, Jesus decided to continue the work he was doing and arrived at the sibling home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus a few days later. ‘Well, thanks for coming,’ Martha said, ‘but you’re late. My brother is dead.’



Late? Or right on time? The decision to delay his visit gave Jesus the opportunity to display God's glorious power by raising his friend from the dead. Jesus decided to wait. He didn't let others make the decision for him.

It is the same for you. It is up to you how this whole process will work, and how long it will take. Someone like me can only assist in your effort to find the right path. At the end of the day, you will know what to do, what decisions to make, and which direction to go in.

There will be other right answers to find. But these three will certainly be among them: Action, Discernment, Decision. Once the right answers have been located and acted on, it is time to move forward.



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## Tip 5

### Believe in the Future

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Another hat I wear, in addition to Consultant, is Historian. Many people believe that we historians are only interested in the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have come to understand that a knowledge and appreciation of history is requisite to deciphering the world we live in *now*, and requisite to helping build the world yet to come. In short, whenever you find an historian, you have found someone who believes in the future.

It's not always easy to believe in the future. If you had been an Israelite in the middle of captivity, there didn't seem to be a future. If you had been misfortunate enough to be a slave in 18<sup>th</sup> century America, the future looked very bleak. Or, if you had lived amidst the horror of a Nazi concentration camp, you would have known that the future might never arrive.

On the other hand, there were many people in each of those situations who believed in the future. They didn't know when, or how, but they knew deep down inside that God would bring the faithful out on the other side of the atrocity. And even in the middle of something as terrifying as a concentration camp, there were some who knew they still had power.

Victor Frankl, a trained psychiatrist, was sent with his

wife and his parents to a Nazi concentration camp. There, stripped of his freedom, and everything he owned, he saw firsthand how dark life could become. Frankl said that when a guard tore his wedding ring off of his finger, he was at his lowest point.

Soon, though, because of his faith and because of his training, he remembered that he still had power. A holocaust survivor, Frankl later reported that even though they had stolen everything from him, he knew there was one thing no one could strip away: The Power to Choose His Attitude. In that terrifying place, Victor chose to be at peace. And because of the peace he exuded, he helped dozens of his fellow prisoners find their own power and survive.

When you have been in a downward spiral for a number of years, it is easy to give up on the future. But you were not called to take the easy way. It's understandable that energy has drained, depression has descended, and a sense of hopelessness has prevailed. But that was then, and this is now. You have the power to choose your attitude. You are empowered by the same Spirit that caused the Big Bang. You have divinity living inside of you. You have the power to let go of everything that is holding you back and to boldly believe in the future.

Some might say that if you choose to let go you have given up on the future. Not so! If letting go is the right answer, then you will do so with grace. Others will say that if you choose to stick, that you have given up on everything. Not so! If sticking is the right answer, then you will do so with grace. There may be others who claim that if you choose to change, there are too many risks involved. Risks? Yes. But too many? Not so! For if changing is the right answer, then you will move forward with enthusiasm.

In New Testament Greek the word *pistis* is translated ‘faith’ (when a noun) and ‘believe’ (when a verb). At its heart, the word means ‘absolute trust.’ And, like the verb, it is an action word. When we trust ourselves and the Spirit, we are acting on the firm knowledge that we have taken the time to ask the right questions and find the right answers. Have you always liked the answers? If you’re like me, certainly not. But, even in those instances, I came away sure in the knowledge that my prayers were heard, that I was loved, and that the Spirit was close by to give comfort.

Will you believe in the future? The universe was set in motion to expand ever outward. The reality in which we live is constantly moving into the future. To say that I refuse to believe in the future is akin to saying that I don’t believe anything is real. It is equally true that the future is objective and stands apart from my personal belief. If I say I do not believe, the universe keeps on expanding just the same. The question, then, is will I align my heart and mind with reality, or not? I have the power to choose my attitude. Will it be an attitude of faith and hope? Or one of unbelief and despair?

You may have been through some rough weeks and months. Maybe even years. OK. That was then, and this is now. You will honor all of the good that you have accomplished in the past by moving forward with grace and dignity today. The words ‘well done, good and faithful servant’ echo through your mind and throughout your life. The work that you have done before was good, indeed. And now it is time to press into the future for all the good work waiting for you.

Regardless of which right answer you arrive at, you will leave a legacy for all those believers in all of those tomorrows. ‘Are there people who only see what their eyes see?’ Paul asked the Corinthians. ‘Of course,’ he answered. But you are not among those people. You can see a future

full of hope and life. You can picture a tomorrow where the Spirit is working in and through you to share love with the whole world. You are able to imagine a day when the hard work you have put in to discover the right answer will result in a greater good.

The future is calling. Are you ready to answer 'I believe'? Your history is a part of your whole story and will never be forgotten. Your future can be an astounding legacy for the generations ahead.

'Do you believe?' Jesus asks. *Yes, you believe.*

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## Lastly

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The Right Path is before you. When you ask the questions, and find the answers through spiritual discernment, you will see the pathway open up and beckon you for a new journey.

The Spirit is already on the new pathway, just as the Spirit has been walking with you on this one. While you and I do not know what is ahead, Spirit is not limited by space and time. The Spirit moves back and forth, and through, the timeline to give power and energy to each place and, yes, each time. As the pathway becomes visible, and as you find the courage to take the first steps, it will be with the surety that Spirit is not only directing but walking with you.

Isn't that one of the magnificent images of the Garden Story? There, each evening, Yahweh came to stroll the pathways with his children. We might have had to leave the Garden, but we know by our own experience that Spirit continues to walk with us. It is sometimes a rocky way, and there can be steep hills to climb, but the strength to carry on is given in each breath, as Spirit moves before us and within us.

If you have been through a dark time, you have endured a series of tests that many never have to go through. Now, though, as the light returns, you are in a new place and a new time. You are in a place of hope and joy. You are in a time that counts on a new sunrise at dawn.

There is work to be done. And Spirit is calling us to the

fields. Get up, get dressed, grab some breakfast, pick up your hoe, and meet me half-way down the row. Together, we can meet the sunrise, put in a good day's work, and then walk hand-in-hand along the right path.

Contact me if I can help.





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## Contact

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With decades of experience in both the corporate and nonprofit worlds, he brings a wealth of knowledge to the challenges of deciding “what to do” and “when to do it.”

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