

NORTHERN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULTY

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(Jesus) *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

(Paul) *"In everything we do we show that we are God's servants, by enduring troubles, hardships and difficulties with great patience."* 2 Corinthians 6:4 (GN)

How To Deal With Difficulty (Acts 27)

1. DETERMINE THE REASON

Ask: What CAUSED THIS?

"I tried to think this problem through but it was too difficult for me until I went into your Temple." Psalm 73:16-17 (GN)

Common Mistakes

- We LISTEN to Bad Advice

"... they followed the advice of the pilot..." (vs. 11)

- We FOLLOW the Crowd

"The majority decided that we should sail..." (vs. 12)

- We RELY on Circumstances

"When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted..." (vs. 13)

2. DETERMINE THE RESULTS

Ask: WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO LEARN FROM THIS DIFFICULTY

"These little troubles, which are temporary, are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward all out of proportion to our pain." 2 Corinthians 4:17 (Ph)

"We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials for we know ... they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time..." Romans 5:3-4 (LB)

3. DETERMINE MY RESPONSE

Ask: HOW SHOULD I HANDLE THIS?

Wrong Responses

- Difficulties can cause us to DRIFT.

"... so we gave way to it and were driven along" (vs 15)

- Difficulties can cause us to DISCARD.

"... they began to throw the cargo overboard..." (vs 18)

- Difficulties can cause us to DESPAIR.

"... we finally gave up all hope of being saved." (vs 20)

The Right Response

CONFESS My Part

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." Proverbs 28:13 (LB)

CONFRONT the Situation (vs. 34-40)

CLAIM a Promise (vs. 22-25)