

INTRODUCTION: Who wishes you could have more effect on the world around you?

Idleman: We often pray, “God do something through me.” ...That’s a great prayer. The problem is that we want God to do something *through* us without inviting Him to do something *in* us first. (p. 43) Instead of praying *God, do something through me*, pray *God, do something in me*.

MAIN IDEA: Let us do what God wants. How can I know that I’m doing what He wants? Here are three steps to take.

I. First, pause (32-34, 35)

- A. stop working
 - 1. no matter how successful it’s going
 - 2. no matter the need or demand

NOTE: Temptation is to keep going. Maybe we enjoy the success, pressure, or adrenaline.

- B. observe natural rests...avoid burnout
 - 1. nighttime sleep
 - 2. sabbath days

ILLUSTRATION: I’ve had seasons where I work late, get up early, just keep pushing forward, like in mud—get weary, crunchy.

II. Second, pray (35)

- A. Pursue
 - 1. Take time...*rising a great while before sunrise*
 - 2. Get intimate...*departed to a solitary place*

Solitary: deserted by others, to be alone with God

- 3. Adore Him... express your desire, love for Him

Ps. 100:4-5, MEV: ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; His mercy endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

- B. Read (the Bible): Jesus is the Word; we need time with the Word to hear His voice, to be refreshed, to hear whatever He might want to say

Ps. 119:105, MEV: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

NOTE: Seeking to hear God without Word opens door to deception. **2Corinthians 11:14, MEV:** For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

- C. Ask: What is Your will for today? What do you want to say? What do You want to do in me?

- D. Yield: listen, submit

1John 5:14-15, MEV: This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- 1. we must desire His will
- 2. we must be willing to do what He says—obey

ILLUSTRATION: wrong direction

III. Third, adjust (37-39)

- A. resist the flesh...can be powerful (expectations)
 - 1. ours: following routine or success
 - 2. others: pressure for us to keep going (37)
- B. follow Him: do what God has said to do (38-39)
 - 1. God’s purpose for us...*why I have come*
 - 2. may be new direction
 - 3. may be a return to an initial direction

NOTE: We can get caught up in what God has been doing and miss what He wants to do. (39)

CONCLUSION: Which direction? Pause, pray, adjust

ALTAR: Do you want God to change things around you? Are you weary of pushing through? Do you wonder what God wants you to do?

