

## *Taking the Next Step*

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**Introduction:** By design, our lives are filled with challenges and change.

- A. The uncertainty and suffering from the fall of man can bring us closer to God.
  - 1. What if God had not cursed the earth and allowed death and suffering to abound? (**Gen 3:17-19**)
  - 2. Suffering and uncertainty help us to see our need of God and the vanity of the temporary things! (**Psa 90:12; 2 Cor 4:16-18**)
- B. As we advance in life we will go through life changing events and stages.
  - 1. We see such stages when we see those that graduate from school and take the next step in their lives.
  - 2. The wisdom of the scriptures helps us greatly navigate this life as we live for the Lord.

### ***I. Taking the step of building our foundation on Christ***

- A. Do you remember when you were baptized into Christ? That was a big step to a new life. (**2 Cor 5:17**)
  - 1. Everything is NEW! That is a joy and a challenge.
  - 2. I remember how inadequate I felt in Bible class and in general conversations with Christians. “I will never know as much about the Bible as they do! They were so fortunate to have been raised in a good church!”
  - 3. I pursued every opportunity to grow that I could. I was excited when a young preacher agreed to take time to study with me and answer my questions.
  - 4. In time people would comment that my zeal was encouraging to them. I assumed that everyone else had the same zeal too! (**Titus 2:13-14**)
- B. What I was doing was to dig deep and place a foundation in Christ. (**Lk 6:48-49**)
  - 1. I learned how to trust God in my daily decisions. (**Mt 6:33**)
  - 2. I learned to worship God daily and place my burdens on Him. (**Mt 11:28-30**)
  - 3. I came to long for the time I could be with my Lord forever. This changed how I viewed success.
  - 4. Suffering and change brought me closer to God. (**Heb 10:32-25; 13:5-6**)
  - 5. My relationships changed because of the faith I now had in the Lord.
- C. With this foundation I was ready to take the next step in the changes life would bring as the Lord provided for me.

### ***II. Taking the Next Step in finding a job***

- A. This requires integrity and wisdom.
  - 1. Why should I take a job? Jesus spent most of His life at a job. (**Mk 6:3**)
  - 2. I want to work in order to provide and serve others. (**Eph 4:28; 2 Thess 3:10-12**)

3. Should I take any job? What impact will the job have on my service to God?  
Will my job require me to do things that a Christian cannot?























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