

LifeSong

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Weekly Devotional

Now What?

by Mark A. Segraves

Newscasts, websites, blogs and phones are spreading the fear. The oil will destroy our ecosystem. Fishermen without jobs, a food industry without a product, animal habitats without animals. People are left shaking their heads, "Now what?" What do we do? Natural disasters. Unexpected tragedies. It really is amazing how seemingly unrelated circumstances can impact our lives.

To finish our house remodeling project a few months ago, I priced baseboard for the entire house. Thirty dollars per bundle. I needed three bundles. I waited for the right time (which was late Sunday night) and returned to the lumberyard for my baseboard. "Oh, I'm sorry, sir! The price per bundle has doubled!" What? Sixty dollars for something I could have purchased for thirty two months ago? "Well, sir," came the explanation, "there was a disaster in South America that has impacted the price of lumber." I called another lumberyard, found out they had the same bundle for two dollars less and made my plans for the next morning. When I got to the other store, they had raised their price by almost twenty dollars. Almost eighty dollars per bundle! Now what!?

We've all experienced the unexpected and found ourselves back on our heels trying to survive, but I think I've found the answer. When we are gasping out a "Now what?" we should be breathing a "Now faith..." The author of Hebrews described it this way, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1, NIV).

It would be nice if we were to live the rest of our lives without unwelcome surprises, but such will probably not be the case. After all, Jesus did say, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33a, NIV). But He goes on to say "...take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33a, NIV). Just remember this: Your unexpected circumstances are no surprise to God! He knew about your circumstances before He ever said, "Let there be!" We might as well trust Him. He does have a tendency to work all things together for our good (Romans 8:28).

Prayer: Holy God! You are more unexpected than my circumstances. You burst upon the scene of my life and caught me off guard. I trust You. You are bigger than my trouble. I believe. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Point to Ponder: "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world" (1 Peter 4:12-13, NLT).



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