



Where Do I Go? What Do I Do?

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Intro: In a movie called “The Princess Bride” three partners were defeated, one-by-one, as they try to steal away with Princess Buttercup.

- They become separated and later in the movie two of them meet up again.
- Inigo is surprised to see Fessik. Fessik is glad to see Inigo.
- Inigo makes a statement: “Vicini (their now dead leader) said if anything ever happened to go back to the beginning. Well this is the beginning.”
 - James 1:1-7 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall receive anything from the Lord.
 - Now pay attention to verse 5 – If any lack wisdom...ASK!
 - Wisdom comes from an Old French word Wiz; Also from a Greek word Sophia that speaks of practical knowledge (knowledge you can use). It can be higher or lower knowledge, it can be spiritual or not.
 - Most of us like to be wise and to have others consider us as wise.
- But sometimes, no matter how much we know, experience, have heard preached, or how often we've seen the DVD... we need more.
 - I have to admit I have hit such a place in regard to soul winning.
- I know how, I've done it, I've taught it, experienced it, heard it from the best!
 - But I'm stumped for some reason! (is that soul-winner block or evangelism block?)
- At any rate — I NEED WISDOM!
 - So ask the Lord – that's what the Bible says.
 - He gives liberally! And it's true. It happened to me! It was one of those flashes of brilliance that could only come from the wonder of God.
 - He won't upbraid (taunt) me because I need wisdom.
- What Should I do Lord???
 - Believe it or not, I got the same answer as Inigo and Fessik: GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.

I Peter 2:9 – “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”

- He called me out of darkness into HIS marvelous light! That is the beginning!
 - I get joy when I think about what He's done for me!
 - Don't you get excited when we sing that song? It's because you THINK about what Jesus has done for you.
- I remember how it felt to be called out of the darkness. How great it was to finally be free of the

bondage that I was into (drugs, alcohol, lust, lies, etc.) and how great it was to be at liberty!

- When I was low – He lifted me up!
- When I was carrying heavy burdens – He lightened my load!
- When I was shackled by sin – He broke the chains!
- When I had nothing, was confused, had nowhere to go – He clothed me, fed me, set my mind straight and sat me at His feet!
- Go back to the beginning! Remember what it was like to discover the things of God:
 - Hearing Revelation for the first time; prayer that came to pass; laying on hands in prayer; dancing in the aisles; how it felt the first time you heard tongues and interpretation; saw a service taken over by the Spirit of God; heard a message that hit your issue precisely.
 - To know the deep love of Jesus. To feel it all through you, even though He knows all about you!
 - When you knew God was alive in you! You felt it in your hands, you felt it in your feet, felt it in your heart, felt it all over...
 - When you couldn't sing loud enough or make enough (or the proper) words to express how you feel about the Lord!

Psalm 18:1-10 “*I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.”*

- Don't let those facts of your personal experience be dulled by time and growth!
 - The saying is that the key to a long life is to stay young. I think that applies spiritually too.
- Recapture the zeal of the newly converted! Go back to the beginning !

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

- Such were some of you – but were saved by divine intervention!
 - You have to share that! Don't you want others to know what you know, feel what you feel, experience what you've experienced?
 - Break the soul-winning funk and go back to the beginning – the wisdom we seek is found in the zeal of a new-found relationship with a soul-saving Jesus!