

CHIEF MINISTRIES

April 2023

This month seems like a transition month, so I want to try to capture what I sense the Lord is saying in these troubled times. Looking at the things going on around us and in the world, there is a lot of speculation and uncertainty. And it is easy to get caught up in the happenings. But as believers we **MUST** stay focused on what God says and remember that **WE WIN!** The first portion I want to address is the "What If". Again, we are bombarded by the what ifs in the news media, general discussion, and every part of our environment, including ourselves. Which is where I want to focus first.

What if...

These are two words that can become a land mine in the midst of our journey of faith. They are two of the enemy's favorite words to throw at the faithful Believer, just before they drift off to sleep or venture out in faith. How often is it that you are enjoying the beauty of the Lord, and just as you begin to feel that all is well, those two words come and hit you like a bucket of ice water in your face?

What if I didn't hear God?

What if I fail?

What if I just imagined the vision?

What if God didn't say what I thought that He said?

What if my hopes are dashed?

What if my family/loved one leaves me before I parole?

What if I don't get parole?

Cue the ICE WATER!

Wait, does this sound familiar? One of the first stories we read in Scripture is about the serpent (the enemy) and it has to do with this very thing. *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You can't eat from any tree in the garden"?"' (Genesis 3:1 HCSB)*

The words aren't exact, but the meaning is the same! *What if God didn't say that?*

Have you ever had one of those nights that turned into a sleepless night because of those negative "what if" thoughts? I used to have them often when I was first stepping out in faith. Those thoughts and fears were rooted in not trusting in the goodness of my Father and the plans He had for me and my future.

These questions that the enemy is quick to throw at the obedient Believer can take them on a fast-track from their heart to their head.

The "what if" questions can come in the midst of your peaceful walk through green pastures with the Lord. Suddenly, there is the serpent whispering questions that only have lies for answers; they exploit your greatest fears. It's like having land mines explode unexpectedly beneath your feet. But you can know

that this is NOT the voice of your God because *"God is not a man, that He should lie..."* (Numbers 23:19).

If this has ever happened to you, then be encouraged, because the enemy rarely asks this question if you actually haven't heard from the Lord! When you hear and obey, you can pretty much guarantee the first attack will begin with this question: "Did God really say...?"

Remember the Lord directs our steps and makes them sure! One thing I know is that after hearing God's voice, with every step of faith you take, you can know that He has gone ahead of you to prepare the way. It often looks different than we expect, but there is a plan and purpose. Sometimes that purpose is much greater than we could have ever imagined, and sometimes it appears like it is purposeless; yet these are the times when our *character* and *endurance* are formed, if we keep our hearts and eyes set on Him.

When the enemy comes with the questions that have the words "What if" or "Did God really say," within them there is only one answer, and that is this: "If I have not heard the Lord and have made plans outside of His will, then God **will** re-order my steps in the right direction, even in the midst of my plans!"

Here is a scripture to back this: *"A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure"* (Proverbs 16:9).

I have seen this again and again in my life and in the lives of other believers. Yes, we get our plans wrong sometimes and God has to move in and reorder things. But He always orders the steps of a righteous man or woman. **Don't put your trust in your ability to hear and interpret His wisdom, put your trust in HIS ability to order your steps and to cause you to walk in His ways.** God will be faithful to rescue you and direct your steps on a sure path as you trust in Him.

Know this: He is a faithful Father. As you commit your steps and plans to Him, He will keep you on a sure path. Don't judge your journey harshly. Some paths are rocky and cause us to learn to have our foundation in Him alone, and some paths are smooth and full of fruitfulness. Both are necessary for our growth.

We must not put our confidence in our gifts or even in what we see, but rather in the absolute truth that He is a faithful Father in the midst of all of our humanity. He honors and adores every overture of love that we make for Him. Make all that you do become worship to Him. Obeying God's voice is not always the easy path, but it is always the best path.

There is an old Rita Springer song called, "Worth It All." This song is a declaration as God calls His people into unknown paths that require faith and obedience. Know this: no matter what it looks like, when done "unto Him," it is going to be worth it all.

So, the next time the "what if" questions begin to spin you in circles, try turning them around by changing the narrative to something positive. Ask different "what if" questions:

What if my greatest longings are fulfilled?

What if I fly rather than fall?

What if God exceeds my dreams and expectations?

What if I'm about to embark on the greatest journey of my life?

What if it's better than I imagine?

What if I find crazy favor every step along the way?

Now why do I think this is so, you ask? Well because, God made you. *“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.”* Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

No two people are the same. You are unique in every single way. You have a unique voice, eye color, and thumbprint. Even your heartbeat is unique. Your calling and anointing is unique. God doesn't clone anything. No one in all of history—and in all the future—is like you. God uniquely shaped you to fulfill a unique purpose on planet Earth—to make a unique contribution. you've likely seen **SHAPE**, the acronym to describe the unique way God shaped you to serve him.

Here's what makes up your **SHAPE**:

Spiritual gifts: When you become a Christian, God gives special abilities so we can better serve others.

Heart: You have passions—things you enjoy doing.

Abilities: From birth, God has given you natural abilities—anything from athletics, to art/music, to accounting.

Personality: Some people are introverts; others are extroverted. Some people love to plan everything; others work best at the last minute.

Experiences: God uses your experiences—family, education, occupation, emotions, and more—to allow you to help others.

No two people have the exact same SHAPE. God has made you unique, and he has unique ways he wants you to serve other people. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10, *“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing”* (NCV). You'll spend all of eternity serving God in heaven. God wants you to practice by serving other people on Earth. The Bible calls the serving of others your ministry.

God calls every Christian to be in ministry—not just pastors and missionaries. You can use whatever you're good at, have a passion for, gives you fulfillment - and all the unique ways God has SHAPE'd you - to minister to others.

So, let's change our “what if” thinking to God's ways and thank Him for desiring these good and perfect gifts for us to bless others for the Kingdom! Every step of your journey will be worth it!

Praying for you and knowing that Father has only the best for the children He has SHAPE'd!

For His glory,

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

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Felon



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