

ONWARD

from the desk of Chris Greer



Hey . It's Chris here.

In a world with so many choices and a vast array of needs, do you ever suffer from paralysis of analysis?

I do. *A lot.*

Full disclosure? I'm wrestling with it **right now** while trying to write this issue of ONWARD!

I've collected dozens of ideas, stories, Scriptures, and spiritual practices that I know will encourage and help you to walk with Jesus, but today I can't decide which — if any — to use in this email! I literally just spent an hour writing, rewriting, and then finally *deleting* a story from my childhood that I couldn't decide whether to use for the beginning of this email. (Sigh)

But instead of staying paralyzed by indecision, I'm opting to just *do something*, praying what I'm experiencing now will help you more than a story from my past.

So...let's do this. And by God's grace, it'll help us both get unstuck and keep moving onward with Jesus.

quote of the week

"The price of inaction is far greater than the cost of making a mistake."

— Meister Eckhart

For years I struggled with a significant fear of making wrong decisions: a fear that negatively impacted my relationships, my work, and my faithfulness to Jesus.

With God's help, it's no longer crippling. But its shadow still lingers.

For instance — in this particular season of life — I get bogged down considering the sheer number of needs in the world and the array of desires in my heart.

Our world is replete with desperate needs and our personal lives are crammed with new opportunities.

And as Jesus people, we regularly ask ourselves these important questions...

- To which needs and what opportunities am I called?
- If God isn't clear, how do I make faithful decisions?

And, how do I fight the real temptations to...

- use prayer to avoid other kinds of action?
- use other kinds of action to avoid prayer?
- give in to decision fatigue, uncertainty, overwhelm, and/or fear and end up doing nothing?

Now, for the record, I'm still a work in progress on this deal. But I've got four things I believe are worth trying.

1. Do Something

The old sayings "Don't just stand there, do something" and "You can only steer a moving ship" are cliché, but they're wise. Sometimes, the best action to take — particularly when fear paralyzes us — is to just get moving. Do *something*. Anything.

As the demonic horror of human trafficking multiplies, I'm overwhelmed by the dire need of the enslaved. (Have you seen "Sound of Freedom" yet?) So...not knowing exactly what to do...I've decided to just do *something*.

I reached out to two anti-trafficking ministries to offer what little help I can. It's a step. Once I hear back I can pray, consider the options, and then do the next thing.

2. Do One Thing.

I encouraged you in [ONWARD Issue #6](#) to do "only *one* new thing" when you're overwhelmed, frustrated, or fearful. The same applies here.

When indecision freezes you, don't try to do a lot. Take just the first step.

I'm reading *Dirty Glory* by Pete Greig, and it's refreshed my memory that prayer is powerful and inseparable from mission and justice.

Greig's book fires me up. It makes me want to reach *everyone* who doesn't know Jesus, *fight* the above-mentioned slavery, and *start* a 24/7 prayer room...*this week!*

I certainly can't do them all at once. But I can do one thing.

So I dropped one weekly commitment (more on that in next week's ONWARD) so I can dedicate that time to pray intentionally and diligently for victims of slavery and those without Jesus.

And, I can invite others to pray with me. They might. They might not. It may grow to something more. It might not. Regardless, I can begin to help by doing this one thing.

So, , that's two ways we can start.

I'll describe the other two ideas (called "Why" and "Umbrella"!) in the next edition of ONWARD.

Until then, let's keep *this* in mind when we struggle with what to do next in a world full of needs and a life full of choices:

- **God's the sovereign source, sustainer, and redeemer of all things: not you or me.** (Matt 10:29-31, Col 1:14-16, Is 45:7-9)
- **God's call for our lives is simple: love him with all you've got, and love him by loving others.** (Matt 22:37-40)

And today, you and I can Do Something or Do One Thing.

And that will be enough.

Onward,

Chris

dad joke of the week

What do you call it when James Bond takes a bath?

Bubble 07.

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