

Where Do I Go Now?

Many of us come to a time in our life when we ask the question "Where do I go now"? The question can be caused by many different events or times in our life usually though it is a very sad time. Examples can be the loss of a spouse, friend, or loved one. In my case, this question comes from losing my job, going through a divorce, getting older, going blind, and wondering where my dream went. You can add to this list, I am sure. All of us have huge challenges that we face as we grow older.

For me, I started by career and life at a dead run after college. I went to work for American Family Insurance Company in St. Joseph, Missouri. I had a successful career with them for 34 years with several promotions and transfers. I got married, purchased homes, new cars, raised a wonderful son Chad, have two grand children, Emily and Ethan, and basically had it made. Then the tide turned for me. I filed for a divorce; my vision progressed to only seeing shadows, light, and dark. My thoughts were, I have my faith in God that would carry me. And I still have a great job with American Family. My family and friends supported me through the divorce process.

For two years I grew stronger. My dream of finding happiness seemed to be coming clearer. My question was, God where do I go now? See God carried me through the toughest two years of my life. My thoughts changed to, "I feel like I had made it". Financially I was starting to recoup. Then it hit. Reorganization at work left me without a job. My first thought was, "Oh Lord why"?

Then I realized that the good Lord has decided it is time for me to have a fresh start. Don't get me wrong, I cried, spent many nights without sleep, felt sorry for myself, and doubted my value. It has been 4 1/2 months since losing my job. I woke up today feeling a sense of peace. My spirit is telling my mind and heart that it is okay. I still have that same question, "Where do I go now"? I am sure that you can relate to the heart ache and pain and I hope you have found the peace.

I realize too many of you my heart aches cannot compare to yours. Some of you have lost your parents, spouse, child, or that lifelong friend. Some may have thought that you found the perfect person to make your life complete. The loss of love due to death, divorce, or just breaking up can shatter your heart and dreams. The main thing to remember is that you are never alone. Many of us have our faith and God will help us through this rough time. Others have a strong family or friend foundation to fall back on. The first thing to do is never give up. It is okay to take time to grieve but the quicker you can get back on your feet the better.

I do not claim to have all the answers. I just know what works for me. I go for a long run, pray, think, cry, laugh, and then give thanks for all my blessings. For you it may just be thinking about a wonderful memory or a time in your life that gives you joy. The hurt or pain will always be there but if you focus on the things that make you smile it helps.

Don't be afraid to live today and think about tomorrow. Yesterday cannot be changed but today you can shape what tomorrow will be. My plan is to work so I can have my dream back. Let's help one another find joy, laughter, and happiness. God has made me realize that I definitely have a lot to offer a new employer. The loss and hurt I feel now will turn into wisdom, strength, and help me encourage those that will also face these challenges. Lord, help me make a difference with my life and strengthen those that do not know where to go.

Now the question may come up again, where do I go now? I am not afraid of this question now. I faced the battles and survive through the grace of God. Yes I am older, divorced, unemployed, blind, and a crazy marathon runner, but now I think what a great catch I am for a beautiful woman! Okay that is my opinion. Remember this is my story so I can write what I want.

I am expecting a renewed life full of amazing joy. Will you join me in overcoming the pain, hurt, and loss you are facing or will face. Now here is some advice from a blind crazy marathon runner. Be not afraid but hit your fears head on. Never let your fear stop you from knowing where to go and what to do.

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