

When the Going Gets Tough

Ezra 8:21-34

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April 27, 2008

When the going gets tough...

A. **Petition God through prayer and fasting (verses 21-23).**

“Things go terribly wrong when we try to assume control of our lives and those around us. For one, we sentence ourselves to a heavy load—we call it the weight of the world—that God ever intended us to carry. Running our world is too much for us, no matter how hard we try. To try to be God—something I find I am really bad at—without having the wisdom and power of God is a ridiculous proposition, a daunting task. Attempting to orchestrate the world around us, even for a day, leaves us stressed and spent.”

I am Not, but I Know I Am by Louie Giglio, Copyright © 2005
by Multnomah Publishers, Inc., pp. 77-78.

Application Question:

What role is prayer and fasting going to play as it relates to the challenge in my life?

B. **Be faithful (verses 28-30).**

Application Questions:

1. What does being faithful look like as it relates to my challenge?
2. Am I being faithful from a place of fear and anxiety, believing the outcome depends on me or am I being faithful from a place of peace and rest trusting that the outcome is up to God?

C. Step out in faith (verses 31-32).

Application Questions:

What does stepping out in faith look like for me?