

4 Steps to Starting Something New

It was one of those days. I hit the start button on my blender and watched as the contents of my smoothie propelled out of the too-loose lid, up to the ceiling, back down on me, and all over the counter.



As I began cleaning up the colossal mess, I realized that my spirit was feeling about as stirred up as my shake currently was. Lately, God was whirring up something new in me, and I wasn't quite sure what to do about it.

Something New in You?

Do you ever feel that way? God lays something new on your heart and you think about it, and think about it some more. If you try to ignore it, you may feel as if you're about to explode with pent-up emotions.

This very thing happened to two men in the Bible, Zerubbabel and Joshua. Haggai 1:14 tells us that the Lord stirred up their spirits because he had a job for them to do – to head up the committee to put God’s temple back in order. It was a big job, but God was with them. They got moving and got it done.

As I was reading this tiny book in the Bible, it made me realize that when God stirs up our spirits, it’s for a reason, and how we handle those feelings is important. I’ve identified a few steps to help you get moving.

Step #1: Pray and Ask

While this may seem like an obvious step, it’s surprising how often we overlook it. First we need to discern that these stirrings are part of God’s plan. Too often I have charged ahead with my own plans *or* buried my head in the sand because I wasn’t thrilled about being the point person.

Taking the time to be certain of God’s leading on something new is important because

we should not be saying yes to every thing that comes our way, just the things God calls us to.



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I love this quote from Mark Batterson’s book *Draw the Circle* regarding praying. “Our responsibility is to simply discern what God wants, and then humbly yet boldly to ask Him for it.” So don’t be shy. Be specific in your prayers.

Once you feel confident in His leading (and this may take a while), move on to step #2.

Step #2: Take a Step of Faith



This step will look different for each one of us, depending on what we're being called to. It will most likely involve the following:

- **Research.** Whether you're starting a business or leading a Bible study, you don't want to blindly blunder in. Make sure you take the time to explore options, determine costs (both time and money), find needed resources, and line up any help you may need.
- **Prepare.** Perhaps you need to learn a skill, get a certification, take a refresher course or otherwise prepare for what is next. Seek wise counsel from someone you trust.
- **Establish a timeline.** When do you want to start? Have a goal in mind otherwise preparing will stretch on indefinitely.

Step #3 Experiment

Do you need to create a product or offer a service? Spend the time you need to create, test, and refine. Where you can, learn from what others have done/are doing so you don't have to reinvent the wheel on everything. Continue to pray through.

Step #4 Launch Your Something New

There comes a time when you have to hit the Go button! Will you ever feel fully ready? No. Will you struggle with thinking that someone else could be doing this better? Probably. Will you make some mistakes? Most definitely. But what God told the people in the book of Haggai as they responded to the stirring in their hearts is true for us too:

Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the Lord; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the Lord of hosts. 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!' Haggai 2:4-5

I'd love to hear what God is stirring up in your heart lately. Leave a comment below about your "something new" so we can pray for you!

Jane

Resources: Note that Mary and I are affiliates for CBD. We only recommend titles that we use and like.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge By Mark Batterson / Zondervan
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears By Mark Batterson / Zondervan

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