

What does God (not) want me to do?

²⁵ It is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honour people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

God wants me to stretch in directions

We are part of a

You will never walk alone.

We each have

S

H

A

P

E

Everything is

. . . . **every stretch is in helpful directions** v26-28

Emotions, v26-27

Emotions, v28

Ask the questions

. **a stretch in any direction**, v29-30

Step back in

Key words, v29

Well done good and faithful servant... Come in!

Share your Master's happiness. Matthew 25:23

Step forward in

2 steps forward; 1 step back:

1 step forward; 2 steps back:

I am not God, nor hit the bullseye on every attempt

Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles. Isa.40:31

This week's song selection

Everything that has breath | Let Your Kingdom come | Revive us, o Lord | Be the one (item) | Before the throne of God above | Make me like You | Speak o Lord | Live with abandon

For personal reflection, or group discussion

1. How does it feel to step into a stretching environment?
2. What are some of the factors that often make a stretching environment uncomfortable?
3. How can you help someone who is in a stretching environment, but who cannot step back into their comfort zone?
4. Read v25. What words indicate teamwork? List some advantages of a church team when you are being stretched.
5. Also in v25, what words suggest the ways in which we might be stretched?
6. Is our church right by having ministries that come and go? Why?
7. Read v29-30. How should we treat those who feel like failures? Why?

Watch it again: www.lifechurchpanania.org [then select Full Screen]
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