Abiding When You Don’t Know

A 5-Day Mini-Journey into Making Decisions and Walking into the Unknown with God

By Elizabeth Crooks

Electronic (eBook) Version

Abiding When You Don’t Know: A 5-Day Mini-Journey into Making Decisions and Walking into the Unknown with God

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A Quick Note About Scripture: Throughout this devotional, Scripture references are provided for you to read and explore. Before beginning each day's devotional, take a few moments to read the listed passages in your Bible or online. Let the words of Scripture speak to you personally, and ask the Lord what He may want you to notice as you read.

Introduction

There are moments in life when you simply don't know what to do. You may be facing a decision, wondering whether you're making the right choice, or trying to figure out what comes next. When we don't have answers, it's easy to become stuck, overthink every possibility, or wait for God to give us enough certainty to finally move forward.

I know what that feels like. When the future is unclear, we can start believing that we need to figure everything out before we can take another step. We may search for signs, analyze every possibility, or wonder if we're somehow missing what God is trying to tell us. We can become so focused on finding the right answer that we forget something important: **God has not asked us to know everything. He has invited us to walk with Him.**

But what if you don't have to know everything before you can walk with God? What if you can make a decision without absolute certainty, take a step without knowing exactly where it will lead, and trust that God will be with you along the way? The goal isn't to eliminate uncertainty. It's to learn how to remain with God in the middle of it.

These five days are a short introduction to *Abiding When You Don't Know*, a 40-day journey of learning to make decisions, live with uncertainty, and keep walking with God when the road ahead isn't clear. This isn't about finding a formula for God's will or discovering one perfect answer. It's about turning your attention toward the Lord, bringing Him the whole situation, using the wisdom He's given you, and trusting Him with what you cannot know.

You don't need a complete map for this journey. You don't need to predict every outcome or guarantee that every decision will turn out exactly as you hoped. You can bring what you know, what you don't know, what you fear, and what you hope for to the God who already sees the whole picture. You can ask for wisdom, pay attention to what He has placed in front of you, take the next faithful step, and trust Him with the steps that haven't come yet.

A Gentle Invitation

For the next five days, give yourself permission to slow down. Come as you are. Bring the decision you're wrestling with, the question you can't answer, the future you're trying to understand, or simply the uneasiness you can't quite put into words.

Take a few quiet minutes each day to read, reflect, and talk with God. Let the questions sit with you. Notice what rises to the surface. You may want to write, pray, sit quietly, or simply remember that God is near. If you miss a day, don't start over. Just come back. We're not trying to figure out your entire future in these five days. We're practicing something much simpler: **turning toward God in the middle of what we don't know.** Come with your questions. Come with your uncertainty. Come without having everything figured out.

Each day, ask one simple question: **“Lord, what does it look like to abide with You here?”** You don't need a complete map. You only need a willingness to stay close to the One who does.

You are not walking through the unknown alone. Let's begin.

Day 1 — I Don't Have to Figure Everything Out Alone

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6; James 1:5; Psalm 32:8

Today's Abiding Truth: *I don't have to figure out my life alone. I can bring my decisions to God and learn to walk with Him as I discern my next step.*

There are times when a decision can feel so important that we believe we have to figure everything out before we can move. We want to know what will happen, whether we're making the right choice, and whether we can somehow guarantee that everything will work out. When we don't have those answers, we may find ourselves going in circles—thinking, praying, researching, asking for reassurance, and waiting for the moment when everything finally becomes clear.

But abiding begins somewhere different. It begins by remembering that **you are not making this decision alone**. God is already with you in the middle of the question. You don't have to become all-knowing before you can make a faithful choice. You don't have to understand every possibility or see the entire road ahead. You can turn your attention toward the Lord and bring Him what you know, what you don't know, what you're afraid of, and what you're considering.

Proverbs 3:5–6 tells us to trust in the Lord rather than leaning entirely on our own understanding. That doesn't mean we're supposed to stop thinking, stop considering, or stop using wisdom. James tells us to ask God for wisdom, and wisdom requires us to participate. We can gather information, consider our responsibilities, seek wise counsel, pay attention to Scripture, and honestly examine what is in front of us. Trusting God doesn't mean refusing to think. It means remembering that **our understanding is not the only thing holding us up**.

Sometimes we put so much pressure on ourselves to make the perfect decision that we forget what God actually asks of us. We cannot know every future outcome. We cannot guarantee what another person will do, how circumstances will change, or what opportunities may appear later. But we can ask God for wisdom, respond faithfully to what is in front of us, and trust Him with what we cannot see.

You may not have a complete answer today. You may still have questions. You may even feel uncertain about which direction to take. That doesn't mean you have to remain frozen. Sometimes the next faithful step is simply gathering the information you need. Sometimes it is having an honest conversation. Sometimes it is making a decision. Sometimes it is waiting a little longer for something that genuinely needs to become clear. Abiding doesn't give us a formula that tells us which one it will be. It teaches us that **whatever the next step is, we can take it with God**.

So today, let's take some of the pressure off. You don't have to figure out your entire future. You don't have to guarantee that you will never make a mistake. You don't have to know exactly where this road leads. You can bring the decision to God and begin with what you actually know. You can ask for wisdom. You can pay attention. You can take responsibility for what is yours to do and release what belongs to Him.

God is not standing at the finish line waiting to see whether you figure everything out correctly. **He is with you on the road.** And you can learn to walk with Him, one step at a time.

Sit With God: Take a few quiet moments and consider the following questions. Don't pressure yourself to come up with a perfect answer. Let these questions simply help you turn your attention toward the Lord.

1. What decision or situation am I carrying right now?
2. What am I most afraid might happen?
3. What am I trying to know that I may not be able to know yet?
4. What would it look like to bring this decision to God instead of carrying it alone?
5. What might be one faithful next step?

Notes from sitting with God:

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Practice — God, Here Is What I'm Carrying *(journal space on next page)*

Take a piece of paper and write the decision or situation at the top. Then write freely for a few minutes about everything you're carrying around it. What do you want? What are you afraid of? What don't you understand? What information do you have? What questions keep coming back?

When you're finished, read Proverbs 3:5–6 slowly. Then pray: **"Lord, here is what I'm carrying. I don't have to figure everything out alone. Give me wisdom for what is mine to do, and help me trust You with what I cannot know or control. I turn my attention toward You and take this one step at a time with You. Amen."**

Prayer of the Day: Lord, I bring You the decisions I don't know how to make and the questions I don't know how to answer. Thank You that I don't have to have the whole picture before I can walk with You. Give me wisdom to recognize what is mine to consider and courage to respond to what You show me. Help me release the pressure to know everything and trust that You are with me in the middle of this decision. Teach me to turn my attention toward You, listen, discern, and take the next faithful step. Amen.

Truth to Hold Onto: *I don't have to know everything to take the next step. God is with me as I walk.*

God, Here Is What I'm Carrying…

The decision I am weighing:

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Write freely for a few minutes about everything you're carrying around it. **What do you want? What are you afraid of? What don't you understand? What information do you have? What questions keep coming back?**

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When you're finished, read Proverbs 3:5–6 slowly:

New American Standard

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

New Living Translation

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.

Finally, pray: *"Lord, here is what I'm carrying. I don't have to figure everything out alone. Give me wisdom for what is mine to do, and help me trust You with what I cannot know or control. I turn my attention toward You and take this one step at a time with You. Amen."*

Day 2 — Fear Doesn't Have to Make the Decision

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 56:3–4; Isaiah 41:10

Today's Abiding Truth: *I can acknowledge my fear without allowing it to make my decisions. I can bring my fear to God and choose my next step from trust rather than fear.*

Fear has a way of becoming very persuasive when we don't know what comes next. It can make a decision feel much bigger than it actually is. We may begin imagining everything that could go wrong, trying to protect ourselves from every possible outcome. We may tell ourselves we're being careful when we're actually afraid to move. Sometimes fear looks like rushing into a decision just to make the uncertainty stop. Other times it looks like endlessly waiting, researching, analyzing, and asking for reassurance because choosing feels too risky. **But fear doesn't have to make the decision.**

That doesn't mean we should ignore fear. It can alert us to a genuine risk, remind us to ask a question, or show us where we need to prepare. If you're considering a major financial decision, for example, fear might remind you to look carefully at the numbers. If you're entering a new relationship or opportunity, fear might encourage you to slow down and pay attention to what you're seeing. Wisdom doesn't require us to pretend we're not afraid. The difference is that **fear can inform our decisions without becoming the authority over them**. We can listen to what fear is telling us without automatically obeying it. Sometimes fear points toward something we genuinely need to address. Sometimes it is responding to uncertainty by imagining the worst possible outcome. Sometimes it is simply saying, "I don't know what will happen, and I don't like that." Those are different things, and learning to tell the difference is part of discernment.

Psalm 56:3 says, "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You." Notice that the verse doesn't say, "When I am afraid, I will wait until I am no longer afraid." Fear and trust can exist in the same moment. You can feel afraid and still turn toward God. You can have questions and still take a faithful step. You can recognize a risk without assuming that every risk means you must stop.

This is where abiding changes the way we approach decisions. Instead of asking fear to tell us whether we are safe enough to move, we can bring our fear into God's presence and ask, "Lord, what is this fear showing me? Is there something I need to prepare for? Is there something I need to release? Is this something I simply cannot know yet?" Those questions help us respond to fear rather than becoming controlled by it.

You don't have to wait until you feel completely brave before you move forward. Courage isn't the absence of fear. Sometimes courage is simply refusing to let fear hold the steering wheel. You can acknowledge what you're feeling, gather the information you need, take reasonable precautions, seek wisdom, and still choose to move forward when it is time.

So, if you're facing a decision today and fear is loud, don't shame yourself for being afraid. Turn your attention toward the Lord. Tell Him honestly what you're afraid might happen. Let Him meet you there. Then ask what is actually yours to do. You may discover that there is something practical you need to address. Or you may discover that you've been trying to solve a future that hasn't happened yet. Either way, you don't have to let fear make the decision for you. **Fear can ride in the car, but it doesn't have to hold the steering wheel.** You can bring your fear to God, receive His presence, use wisdom, and take the next faithful step with Him.

Sit With God: Take a few quiet moments consider the following questions. You don't have to convince yourself that everything will work out exactly how you want. Bring your fear honestly to God and let Him meet you in it.

1. What am I most afraid will happen if I make this decision? Is my fear pointing to something I genuinely need to prepare for?
2. What is wisdom telling me that fear may be making difficult to see?
3. What would it look like to trust God while still acknowledging that I am afraid?
4. What is one small, faithful step I can take without waiting for all my fear to disappear?

Notes from sitting with God:

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Practice — Fear Can Ride in the Car *(journal space on next page)*

Write this sentence at the top of a page: **"If I make this decision, I'm afraid that…"** Finish the sentence as many times as you need to. Let yourself be honest without judging what comes out.

Then look at each fear and ask:

- **Is this something I need to prepare for?**
- **Is this something I need to release?**
- **Is this something I simply cannot know yet?**

Choose one thing from the first category that you can responsibly prepare for. Then choose one thing from the second or third category that you will practice releasing to God. Finally, pray: **"Lord, I don't have to pretend I'm not afraid. I bring my fear to You. Show me what I need to pay attention to, what I need to prepare for, and what I need to release. Help me make this decision from trust rather than fear. Amen."**

Prayer of the Day: Lord, You know exactly what I'm afraid of. You know the possibilities I keep imagining and the outcomes I'm trying to protect myself from. Help me bring my fear to You instead of allowing it to quietly make my decisions for me. Give me wisdom to recognize legitimate concerns, courage to prepare for what I can, and trust to release what I cannot control. Remind me that I can be afraid and still walk with You. Help me take the next faithful step without requiring myself to feel completely fearless first. Amen.

Truth to Hold Onto: *I can feel afraid and still move forward. Fear can inform my decision, but it doesn't have to make it.*

Fear Can Ride in the Car

My Decision: _____

If I make this decision, I'm afraid that…

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Then look at each fear and ask the following questions. Write notes from your observations:

- **Is this something I need to prepare for?**

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Choose one thing that you can responsibly prepare for and take action on:

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- **Is this something I need to release?**

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- **Is this something I simply cannot know yet?**

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Practice releasing what needs to be released and everything you cannot know yet to God. Pray: **"Lord, I don't have to pretend I'm not afraid. I bring my fear to You. Show me what I need to pay attention to, what I need to prepare for, and what I need to release. Help me make this decision from trust rather than fear. Amen."**

Day 3 — What If There Isn't One Perfect Choice?

Scripture: Romans 12:2; James 1:5; 1 Corinthians 10:23–24

Today's Abiding Truth: *Sometimes there may be more than one faithful choice. I don't have to find a hidden perfect option before I can make a wise decision and move forward with God.*

One of the reasons decisions can feel so overwhelming is the belief that there is one perfect choice somewhere out there, and our job is to discover it. We may think, "What if God has one specific answer and I choose the wrong one?" Suddenly an ordinary decision can feel like a spiritual test. We search for signs, wait for perfect peace, analyze every detail, and wonder whether we're somehow going to step outside of God's plan if we choose incorrectly. But what if some decisions aren't about finding the one secret answer? What if God has given you wisdom, Scripture, freedom, responsibility, and the ability to choose—and there are times when more than one option can be chosen faithfully?

Scripture certainly gives us clear direction about how we are to live. We are called to love God and others, walk in truth, practice wisdom, act with integrity, and consider how our choices affect the people around us. But Scripture doesn't give us a detailed answer for every ordinary decision we will face. It doesn't tell us which job to apply for, which color to paint the room, where to live, or which of several reasonable opportunities we should pursue. That doesn't mean God doesn't care about our lives. It means our relationship with Him isn't dependent on discovering a hidden answer to every question.

James 1:5 tells us to ask God for wisdom. Wisdom is different from receiving a detailed blueprint of the future. Wisdom helps us see what is true, recognize what matters, consider consequences, respond with integrity, and make faithful choices. Sometimes, after doing that, we may still have several good options in front of us. This doesn't mean every choice is equally wise or that our decisions don't matter. They do. We still need to consider Scripture, responsibilities, consequences, circumstances, wise counsel, and the people who may be affected by our choices. We should not use "God gives me freedom" as an excuse to ignore wisdom. But once we have honestly considered what is in front of us, we may need to give ourselves permission to choose.

And here's something else that can be difficult to remember: **a good decision does not guarantee a perfect outcome.** You can make a thoughtful, faithful choice and still encounter something you didn't expect. You can choose wisely and later discover that circumstances changed. Walking with God means the relationship continues after the decision. You don't have to make one perfect choice and then spend the rest of your life wondering whether you somehow ruined everything. You can choose, move forward, pay attention, and continue listening. If you learn something new, you can adjust. You are still walking with God.

So, if you're facing a decision with two or more reasonable possibilities, take a deep breath. You don't necessarily have to find the option that comes with a supernatural feeling of certainty. You can ask, "Which choice is wise? Which choice allows me to live with integrity? What responsibilities do I need to consider? What do I know? What do I need to prepare for?" Then, when you've done what is yours to do, you can choose. You are not one decision away from losing God's presence. You don't have to live afraid that one imperfect choice will somehow separate you from Him. **God is not only with you when you finally figure out the answer. He is with you while you discern, while you choose, and while you continue walking.**

Sit With God: Take a few quiet moments. Let these questions help you move from the pressure of finding the perfect answer toward the freedom of making a faithful choice.

1. Am I assuming there is one perfect choice I have to discover?
2. What does Scripture clearly tell me about how I should approach this decision? What wisdom, information, or counsel do I already have?
3. Are there multiple options that could honestly be considered faithful choices?
4. What would change if I gave myself permission to make a wise choice instead of finding a perfect one?

Notes from sitting with God:

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Practice — Give Yourself Permission to Choose *(journal space on next page)*

Choose one decision you're currently facing and write down the realistic options in front of you. For each option, ask:

- **Does this align with Scripture?**
- **Is this consistent with my responsibilities and values?**
- **What are the likely benefits and costs?**
- **What do I need to prepare for?**
- **What information or wise counsel do I still need?**
- **Is my hesitation coming from wisdom—or from wanting a guarantee?**

After you've considered these questions, write this sentence: **"I give myself permission to make a wise and faithful choice, even if I cannot guarantee the outcome."**

Prayer of the Day: Lord, I bring You the pressure I feel to find the one perfect choice. Sometimes I am afraid that if I choose incorrectly, I will somehow miss Your will or make my future go wrong. Help me remember that You have given me wisdom, Scripture, responsibility, and freedom. Teach me to discern carefully without becoming trapped by the need for certainty. Help me make thoughtful and faithful choices, and then continue walking with You instead of constantly looking backward. Thank You that Your presence is not dependent on my ability to make perfect decisions. Amen.

Truth to Hold Onto: *I don't have to find the one perfect choice. I can make a wise, faithful choice and trust God to walk with me.*

Give Yourself Permission to Choose

Choose one decision you're currently facing and write down the realistic options in front of you:

My Decision: _____

My Options:

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For each option, ask:

- **Does this align with Scripture?**
- **Is this consistent with my responsibilities and values?**
- **What are the likely benefits and costs?**
- **What do I need to prepare for?**
- **What information or wise counsel do I still need?**
- **Is my hesitation coming from wisdom—or from wanting a guarantee?**

Notes from questioning my options:

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After you've considered these questions, write the sentence below as a reminder:

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"I give myself permission to make a wise and faithful choice, even if I cannot guarantee the outcome."

Day 4 — I Don't Have to Solve Tomorrow Today

Scripture: Matthew 6:34; Proverbs 27:1; Psalm 31:15

Today's Abiding Truth: *I don't have to solve tomorrow today. I can prepare for what is mine to prepare for, release what I cannot know, and trust God to meet me when tomorrow becomes today.*

Once we've made a decision, or even while we're still making one, our minds can immediately jump to everything that might happen afterward. We don't just want to know what to do today. We want to know whether it will work, what happens six months from now, how other people will respond, what opportunities will come next, and whether we'll be okay. We start living in tomorrow before we've even finished living today.

Jesus speaks directly to this tendency in Matthew 6:34: “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.” He isn't telling us to be irresponsible or to ignore the future. Scripture gives us plenty of encouragement to plan wisely and consider consequences. Jesus Himself spoke about counting the cost. There is a difference, though, between **preparing for the future and trying to solve the future**.

Preparation is something you can do today. You can make a budget. Ask a question. Save money. Make a plan. Have a conversation. Gather information. Pack the bag. Submit the application. Make the appointment. Those are present-tense actions. But you cannot guarantee how everything will turn out. You cannot know every circumstance that will arise or control how other people will respond. At some point, preparation reaches its healthy limit and turns into an attempt to create certainty.

That can be especially difficult when we care deeply about the outcome. We may tell ourselves, “If I just think about this a little longer, I'll finally figure out what will happen.” But more thinking cannot give us information that doesn't exist yet. We can spend hours mentally rehearsing possible futures and still be exactly as uncertain as we were before. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is recognize the difference between something that needs our attention and something that belongs to tomorrow.

Psalm 31:15 says, “My times are in Your hand.” That doesn't mean we stop participating in our lives. It means we remember that our lives are not held together by our ability to predict everything. We can do what is ours to do today while trusting God with the parts of the story that have not unfolded yet.

So ask yourself: **What can I responsibly prepare today? And what am I trying to solve that I simply cannot know yet?** Those questions can help you recognize when preparation has become control. Maybe there is one practical thing you can do, and then you need to stop. Maybe there is nothing more to do today, and the next faithful action is to live the day that is actually here. You don't have to mentally visit every possible version of tomorrow before you allow yourself to rest today. You don't have to solve every potential problem before it exists. You can prepare what you can, release what you cannot, and trust that when tomorrow becomes today, God will meet you there just as surely as He is meeting you here.

You are allowed to live the day you're actually in. You can care about the future without carrying it all at once. You can make wise plans without demanding guarantees. And you can turn your attention toward the Lord whenever your mind starts racing ahead, remembering that tomorrow is not asking you to live it today.

Sit With God: Take a few quiet moments and consider the following questions. Let yourself notice the difference between **preparing for tomorrow** and **trying to live tomorrow today**.

1. What part of tomorrow am I trying hardest to solve today?
2. What am I trying to know or control that cannot be known or controlled yet?
3. What would responsible preparation look like in this situation?
4. What would it look like to stop after doing what is mine to do?
5. What might change if I trusted God to meet me when tomorrow becomes today?

Notes from sitting with God:

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Practice — Prepare What You Can, Release What You Can't *(journal space on next page)*

Take a piece of paper and divide it into two sections.

- **What I Can Prepare Today**: Write down the practical things that are genuinely yours to do right now. Choose one and do it if appropriate.
- **What I Cannot Know or Control Yet**: Write down the outcomes, other people's responses, future circumstances, timing, and other things you cannot guarantee.

When you're finished, place your hand over the second section and pray: **"Lord, I have done what is mine to do today. I give You what belongs to tomorrow. Help me prepare wisely without trying to control the future. When tomorrow becomes today, meet me there as You have promised to be with me here. Amen."**

Then give yourself permission to return to the day you're actually living.

Prayer of the Day: Lord, You know how easily my mind runs ahead of me. I want to know what will happen, how everything will turn out, and whether I'll be okay. Help me recognize when I'm preparing wisely and when I'm trying to solve something that isn't mine to solve yet. Give me wisdom for what I can do today and peace to release what I cannot know or control. Teach me to trust You with tomorrow instead of trying to live it before it arrives. Thank You that when tomorrow comes, You will already be there. Amen.

Truth to Hold Onto: *I don't have to solve tomorrow today. God will meet me there when tomorrow becomes today.*

Prepare What You Can, Release What You Can't

GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE DAY YOU'RE ACTUALLY LIVING

What I Can Prepare Today: Write down the practical things that are genuinely yours to do right now.

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One step I can take from the list above:

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What I Cannot Know or Control Yet: Write down the outcomes, other people's responses, future circumstances, timing, and other things you cannot guarantee.

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Place your hand over this list and pray: *"Lord, I have done what is mine to do today. I give You what belongs to tomorrow. Help me prepare wisely without trying to control the future. When tomorrow becomes today, meet me there as You have promised to be with me here. Amen."*

Day 5 — I Don't Know What Comes Next, But I Know Who Is with Me

Scripture: Matthew 28:20; Psalm 23:1–6; Proverbs 3:5–6; Hebrews 13:5–6

Today's Abiding Truth: *I don't have to know what comes next in order to move forward with peace. I know God is with me, and I can continue walking with Him one step at a time.*

There is a moment in almost every journey when you've done what you can do and you still don't know what comes next. You've prayed. You've thought it through. You've considered your responsibilities. Maybe you've sought wise counsel and made a decision. And yet the future is still the future. This is where we discover whether our trust in God depends on having information from Him or on **being with Him**. We naturally want God to show us the whole road. We want to know that everything will work out, that we've chosen correctly, and that the next chapter will unfold the way we hope. But Jesus' promise in Matthew 28:20 isn't a promise that we'll always know what comes next. It is a promise of His presence: **"I am with you always."**

Psalm 23 gives us such a beautiful picture of this. The Shepherd leads, provides, restores, and walks with His people. And then the psalm reaches the valley. The valley isn't proof that the Shepherd stopped leading. In fact, the comfort of the psalm is that **He is there in the valley too**. David doesn't say, "I am not afraid because I know exactly where we're going." He says, "I fear no evil, for You are with me." That changes the question we're asking. Instead of making our peace dependent on knowing the future, we can learn to let God's presence become our anchor in the middle of an unknown future. We can say, "I don't know how this will turn out. I don't know what I'll face next. I don't know what opportunities or difficulties are ahead. But I know where I can turn. I know who is with me."

This doesn't mean we stop planning, discerning, or paying attention. It doesn't mean every outcome will be what we hoped for. Trusting God isn't the same thing as receiving a guarantee that everything will go according to our preferred plan. It means we don't have to make ourselves responsible for knowing what only time will reveal. We can walk into the future without having to mentally live through every possibility first. And when you don't know what to do, you can return. When you feel afraid, you can return. When you make a decision and begin to wonder whether you've chosen correctly, you can return. When you feel lost, you can return. Abiding isn't about getting everything right and then moving on. **It's learning where to turn again and again.**

Maybe that's the deeper lesson of these five days. You don't need to become someone who always knows what to do. You don't need to become someone who never feels afraid or uncertain. You don't need to develop a perfect ability to predict God's plans. You are learning something much more relational: **how to walk with God when you don't know.**

So, wherever you are today, take a breath. Look at what is actually in front of you. You may not know what comes next. You may still have questions. You may not be able to see how the pieces will fit together. But you are not walking into an unattended future. God is already there, and He is with you here. You don't need the whole map. You don't need to guarantee the outcome. You don't even need to know exactly what the next chapter will look like. **You can take the next faithful step with the One who is walking beside you.**

Sit With God: Take a few quiet moments with the Lord and consider:

1. What about my future am I most tempted to worry about right now?
2. What do I wish God would tell me about what comes next?
3. Where do I need to trust God with an outcome I cannot control?
4. What is the next faithful step that is actually in front of me?
5. What would it look like to walk into the unknown with God rather than waiting until I know everything?

Notes from sitting with God:

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Practice — Take the Next Step *(journal space on next page)*

Draw four sections on a page:

- **What I Know**: Write down what is actually true right now.
- **What I Don't Know**: Write down the questions about the future that don't have answers yet.
- **What Is Mine to Do**: Write down the responsibilities or actions that belong to you today.
- **What I Am Trusting God With**: Write down the outcomes, timing, circumstances, and unknowns you're releasing to Him.

When you're finished, look at the third section and identify **one next faithful step**. Finally, complete this sentence in your own words: **"I don't know what comes next, but I know…"** Let your answer become something you can return to when uncertainty rises again.

Prayer of the Day: Lord, I don't know what comes next. There are things about my future that I cannot see, questions I cannot answer, and outcomes I cannot control. But I thank You that I don't have to know everything in order to walk with You. You are my Shepherd, and You are with me in the places I understand and the places I don't. Help me trust Your presence more than I trust my ability to predict the future. Teach me to take the next faithful step, return to You when I feel lost, and keep walking with You even when the road ahead isn't clear. Amen.

Truth to Hold Onto: *I don't know what comes next, but I know who is with me. I can keep walking with God, one step at a time.*

Take the Next Step

You may not know what is next, but you know Who is with you. Write out a plan for your next step.

What I Know: Write down what is actually true right now.

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What I Don't Know: Write down the questions about the future that don't have answers yet.

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What Is Mine to Do: Write down the responsibilities or actions that belong to you today.

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What I Am Trusting God With: Write down the outcomes, timing, circumstances, and unknowns you're releasing to Him.

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When you're finished, look at the third section (**What is Mine to Do**) and identify **one next faithful step**:

_____
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Finally, complete this sentence in your own words. Let your answer become something you can return to when uncertainty rises again. **"I don't know what comes next, but I know…"**

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Conclusion

You've spent the last five days practicing something simple but deeply meaningful: turning your attention toward God when you don't know what to do or what comes next. You don't have to have every answer. You don't have to eliminate every fear. You don't have to find one perfect choice or solve tomorrow before it arrives. You can bring your whole life to God and learn to walk with Him right where you are.

Maybe you noticed something during these five days. Maybe you realized how often fear has been making decisions for you. Maybe you recognized how much pressure you've been putting on yourself to find the "right" answer. Maybe you discovered that there are things you can responsibly prepare for and other things you simply have to release. Or maybe the biggest thing you are taking away is the reminder that God's presence doesn't disappear just because the future isn't clear.

This is the heart of abiding when you don't know. **We don't abide so that we can finally figure everything out. We abide because God is with us while we are figuring out how to live.** We can listen, think, discern, choose, move, adjust, and return to Him along the way. Our relationship with God doesn't begin once we have certainty, and it doesn't disappear when we make a mistake.

If there is one thing I hope you carry with you, it's this: you don't have to know what comes next to take the next faithful step. You can be uncertain and still move. You can be afraid and still trust. You can make a thoughtful choice without guaranteeing the outcome. You don't know what comes next, but **you know who is with you.** And you can keep walking with Him.

What If You Kept Walking?

If these five days helped you see your decisions, your uncertainty, or your future a little differently, you don't have to stop here. ***Abiding When You Don't Know*** is a 40-day journey of making decisions and walking into the unknown with God. It takes the ideas you've experienced here and gives you more time and space to practice them—not as a formula for figuring out God's will, but as an invitation to learn how to remain with Him when you don't have all the answers.

Over the forty days, you'll explore how to bring your whole decision to God, discern through wisdom and Scripture, recognize the difference between fear and guidance, make faithful choices without demanding certainty, live with uncertainty without trying to control the future, and keep moving forward when the road ahead isn't clear. Because the goal isn't to become someone who always knows what to do: **It's to become someone who knows how to walk with God when you don't.** You don't need a complete map. You don't need to guarantee the outcome. You don't have to feel completely ready. You can turn your attention toward the Lord, take the next faithful step, and keep walking with Him.

Abiding When You Don't Know: *A 40-Day Journey of Making Decisions and Walking into the Unknown with God*

Get the Full Devotional on Amazon and visit www.elizabeth-crooks.com for more information

Thank you for taking this journey into remembering the power you have to decide with God

About the Author

Elizabeth Crooks is a Christian author and teacher who helps people discover what it means to **live with God, not simply for God**. Through her writing and teaching, she encourages people to move away from striving, spiritual pressure, and the belief that they have to get everything right, and toward a life of relationship, trust, and wholehearted walking with God.

Elizabeth is passionate about helping people learn to turn their attention toward the Lord, receive His truth, respond in faith, and remain aware of His presence in everyday life. Her work explores what it looks like to abide with God in the ordinary places where faith becomes real—our decisions, emotions, relationships, uncertainty, work, waiting, and everyday choices.

Abiding When You Don't Know grew out of Elizabeth's own desire to understand how to keep walking with God when the answers aren't clear. She writes for those who have wondered whether they're waiting on God, making the right decision, or somehow missing His direction. Rather than offering a formula for discovering God's perfect will, Elizabeth invites readers into a simpler and more relational way of living: **listen, discern, take the next faithful step, and keep walking with God.**

Through her ministry, *Praise Our Lord with Liz*, Elizabeth creates devotionals, Bible studies, and practical teaching designed to help people experience the freedom of living fully with God. Her hope is simple: that you would learn to turn your attention toward the Lord, trust Him with what you cannot see, and discover that you don't have to know what comes next to know that you are not walking alone.