

**General Topics :: Need advice, don't know what to do****Need advice, don't know what to do - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/8 12:42**

Hello,
I need advice with the following situation- I was rated at 50% disability by the VA for PTSD that I incurred while in service in Iraq 2003. Because of the disability rating, I receive a lump sum of money every month that I use to pay my home loan. I was saved in 2006 and God healed me of much of my condition, and I have improved steadily over time, so now I don't feel that I have the severity of PTSD that was rated at 50%.
I can request to be re-evaluated, but if I do so, I will most likely lose most, if not all, of my rating, along with the money that comes with it (house payment). I don't want to take advantage of a benefit that I may not deserve any longer, but if we lose the money my wife will have to work full time (we have three small children) or we will have to sell our house. What do I do?
-S

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/8 12:54

Greetings S

You must put your faith and trust in the Lord. He knows your situation and He loves and cares for you and your family deeply. Trust Him in this, pray and walk in what He leads you. If you are feeling convicted because you feel that you are no longer being honest about things then you must repent and trust in the Lord in this.

Consider what a praise it is that He has healed you, do not let the enemy or self fill you with doubt. Trust in the Lord, He cares for you more than you realize or know.

I will pray for you and your family to know His heart on this matter.
God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2010/2/8 13:16

hmmm

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/8 13:21

Thanks,
It's not so much me trying to deceive the government, as soon as I felt that I didn't rate the money, my desire has been to do something about it. My concern is my wife, I've brought this topic up before, and she has been very resistant to the idea. She worries about our finances and our family. I want to provide stability for her, but not by doing the wrong thing.
I pray that God would change her mind and heart. My heart aches with frustration over this...
-S

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/8 13:55

Greetings brother

I understand better what is on your heart now. I will be in prayer for your wife. I know all too well what she is going through. Fear and worry can be a very powerful tool of the enemy. Share with her from the Word how the Lord loves her and your family. Share with her how He tells us time and time again He will never leave us or fail us. Help her to see that by giving in to fear and worry about your family's finances she is actually walking in sin, that is lack of faith and trust. Make sure to keep your own heart centered on Jesus and always respond to her with the love of the Lord in your heart. Pray with her often and continue to seek the Lord on her behalf.

In my own marriage there were times of much heartache because of my own unwillingness (sin on my part) to submit to what the Lord was showing my husband and it took time for me to see that my own behavior was actually a stumbling block to my husband. In the end there were times when my husband had to do what the Lord was putting on his heart for

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our family even though I was not always in support of it. It was hard but it was the right thing to do for our family, following and obeying God must come first in all relationships.

God bless
mj

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do, on: 2010/2/8 14:03

Hello brother,

You have not said whether you are fit for work.

It's easy enough to feel a whole lot better when you are under no pressure, and surrounded by those who love you.

Your wife is, possibly, better able to make an objective assessment of your current capabilities, than you are.

The definition of 'a survivor', is someone who had not only survived trauma, but who has regained the level of health and well-being which they had before the incident(s) they experienced.

PTSD is capable of morphing into a different set of difficulties than those which first presented. The Lord has indeed healed those items brought to Him, but if you are physically incapable of undertaking gainful employment, then one has great sympathy with your wife's resistance.

Perhaps you are eligible for a different kind of financial support?

We have had several fiery threads on SI about the role of women, and there is strong biblical support for 'stay-at-home' moms. However, if you are implying you are capable of taking over her role in its entirety, and you believe this is what God wants you to do, to free her up for a full working week, then I'm sure God would be okay for that, as long as you have no intention of her doing both roles.

For instance, you mention your children are young. You would be fine with getting up every night if necessary, so your wife can sleep through and be fit for work?

You would expect to arrange for food to be delivered, keep on top of the housework, and to prepare most of the main meals all week, take children to and from school as required, and the doctor's when needed and so on?

I'm just wondering if this is what you meant within the expectation of your wife entering full time employment?

Btw, I don't think you have to sell your house, but I do think you have a mountain of research to do, before you decide to get yourself reassessed - because if you can't manage work, and you can't manage the domestic situation, then you do need the disability payment, until you have a serious history of no new PTSD issues surfacing.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/8 14:26

Greetings S

Alive to God does bring up some good points to consider. I did not get from your posts that you were thinking of taking over her role as stay at home mom from what you shared but if that is the case then do think on this and pray about it. Being a stay at home mom is a very difficult job and as mentioned it is twenty four hours and seven days a week:)

When you mentioned that you were considering being reassessed I assumed that this would be done by those in the medical profession and that they would be able to give you their advice based on your case and situation.

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Of course you should consider what your wife has on her heart but if it is that she is just giving in to being fearful and worrying then that does need to be addressed in a loving Christ like way. Please do pray about what I have said as well as what others have shared first. I do not mean to imply I have any answers for you just offer some things for you to consider based on what you have shared here.

God bless
mj

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do, on: 2010/2/8 15:37

Hi S

When you were first evaluated, prior to coming to Christ, were you honest with your evaluators? How long have you now felt that you have been healed of these stresses? Is this just a lull or do you believe that the Lord has delivered you from this condition? Most important question, what do you feel in your heart, what does the small still voice say to you? The reason I did not ask that question first is because men can be so resitant to being ill. They can convince themselves that they are fine, especially in matters of the mind which by its very nature is very subjective. If you are completely healed and delivered brother, then you probably already know the right answer in spite of your wives fears. If you still have "some problems," then again, it is subjective. I personally hope that the answer is that you are completely healed and that you can be used mightily by the Lord as a witness because so many soldiers returning from war and horror are permanently wounded in their minds. This can cause untold chaos such as divorce and alcohol abuse and a thousand other things. Yet, as always, Christ is the answer to every problem and can healed the most troubled of minds and bring us to a place of peace.....Frank

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/8 15:41

Thanks,

I should have clarified- I'm able to work, I've had a full time job since I got out of the Marines in 2004. In my opinion, I feel better than I did before I was diagnosed, but the Lord had everything to do with that. As far as I can tell, I am functioning well, I teach adult sunday school at my church, I'm an assistant to my supervisor at work, my marriage and family life is stronger than ever...the things that plagued me when I was diagnosed are gone: no more hypervigilance, no more paranoia, nightmares, anxiety, ect...

I still have memories, those will never fade, but they are put into perspective with my relationship with Christ, they remain memories and nothing more.

I help my wife with the house and kids and have no problem doing so, it has simply been our desire to have her stay at home with them. Thanks for wanting clarification though, and for the prayers.

-S

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/8 15:54

Yes, I was honest when I was evaluated, I didn't want to play up my issues to the doctor, but I wanted to try and be honest about what I was feeling. It actually got worse when I got out of the Marines and returned home, I put my wife through so much, sleeping with a large knife under my pillow, not wanting to stand in front of our house because I didn't feel safe; feeling surrounded because I felt my neighbors would attack us as we slept, not feeling safe without a firearm, dreams about murdering members of my family (that comes with the learned ability to kill without emotion, necessary for an infantryman...) All of that is gone, my heart, once filled with fear, the desire to kill, and hate has been filled with love for my enemies.

I truly feel that I've been delivered, this issue of disability money has come up in my spirit several times before, and I've always prayed that God would make it abundantly clear, as I didn't have the courage or faith, perhaps, to do something about it unless I really knew that it was God. I suppose I'm waiting to trust Him until it's safe to do so, which is silly.

-S

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/2/8 16:24

If you have the time, read the following, this should help you decide.

Taken from "Answers to Prayer" by George Müller

HOW TO ASCERTAIN THE WILL OF GOD

I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people generally is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If so, I make myself liable to great delusions

3. I seek the Will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

4. Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's Will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

5. Ask God in prayer to reveal His Will to me aright.

6. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

God bless you brother!

Re: , on: 2010/2/8 16:40

Hi S

Seems to me like you are a very honest man who is seeking to do what is right before the Lord. I have no doubt that is exactly what you will do. No one on here can tell you what to do brother unless there was a clear violation of Scripture. Seems to me this is an issue of the heart. It has been my experience, that in matters such as these, brothers and sisters already know what to do because of the Spirit of the Lord that dwells in them. God bless you and praise God for your deliverance.....Frank

ps, more often than not, the right thing to do is the hard thing to do, its a narrow path.

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do, on: 2010/2/8 17:58

Shamefaced said

Quote:
-----I truly feel that I've been delivered, this issue of disability money has come up in my spirit several times before, and I've always prayed that God would make it abundantly clear, as I didn't have the courage or faith, perhaps, to do something about it unless I really knew that it was God. I suppose I'm waiting to trust Him until it's safe to do so, which is silly.

Thank you for this wonderful testimony, and clarification of your situation. :-)

As appolus said, only you can know what God wants you to do. And after your description of how you felt only a few years ago, I suppose the one thing that comes to mind is, that you really *must* keep in step with God in every decision you make, beginning with whether to be reassessed.

It occurs to me that you could look for other ways to make the necessary money, (like you take a second job?) and if you

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are managing not to use the disability money, pay it back retrospectively.

I'm interested in the username you chose for yourself here, as I can't think of a good reason for a Christian to present th at 'face' to the world. Perhaps you feel guilty, or expected to be condemned, but I don't think God is thinking bad things about you. He hates war and violence, and is very tender-hearted towards your needs, after being in such a situation.

Once, I too had something on my mind. It was to contact someone I had not spoken to for ages. It took months to get t o the point of ringing them, and they said if I'd called a day sooner, it would have been too soon, but on *that* day, they we re truly blest. This taught me something about the way God works. He knew when I was going to make that call, and ho w it would relate to the other person when I did, and He began the work of prompting me long enough beforehand, for m e to be ready to make the call on the 'right' day.

I shared that to show you that obeying God is not a risky business. But, with regard to your condition being medically re assessed, you do need to think long and carefully about any residual effects which you have thought comparatively trivia l, but which are, nevertheless, a result of your service.

With these in mind, how would respond if daily life became more pressuring? I wonder too, if your wife - after what you described - is ready to go to work, or, she is still jangled by how distressed you were, and feels she has good reason to worry about how honestly she could commit herself to employment with three young children at home. Or, perhaps both of you could do some part-time work, if you have help with the children from reliable family members.

Is God asking you to trust Him for the money, or, you are willing to move to a less expensive house, or, you do simply se e it as a matter of earning whatever money is needed, if your disability is reduced, or removed.

Often we think we know what God is thinking with regard to the solution to a problem, and often there is more than one n atural way to solve it, but those are not necessarily what God has in *His* mind. As you proceed, do *love your wife*. She needs to know that you have not merely moved your sense of duty from one organisation (the Marines), to the Church, while 'home' is falling through the cracks.

This could be a concern of hers - that you might not give up any of your activities, even if she *did* go out to work full time. It makes a lot of difference to the woman, to be supported at home, and I think she has valid questions about how 'hom e' is going to survive without her.

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/8 20:33

Thanks for the thoughts, and the insight... I don't know what to do, I see alot of things in black and white, and in this inst ance, it just seems like I need to do the right thing, regardless of the consequences. That is where the delimma lies, the conviction to do what seems right, coupled with concern for my wife and family.
-S

Re: - posted by hoochoou (), on: 2010/2/8 22:35

Quote:
-----That is where the delimma lies, the conviction to do what seems right, coupled with concern for my wife and family.

I can certainly understand that. You'll be in my prayers. I've been torn myself. It seems an easy decision until you're lo oking your wife in the eye and then, uh, never mind. We want to make them happy, God happy. There should be no ch oice, but it's easier said than done. Again, I'll be praying for your situation. A corpsman's ('99-'04) work is never done. Semper Fi now to Christ.

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Re: Need advice, don't know what to do - posted by Veronica226 (), on: 2010/2/8 22:47

S,
I can't really "advise" you about what to do, seeing that I don't have a family of my own. (I am single and still living at home.) However, we (my parents and sisters and I) have been going through something similar. My parents owned their own business for a long time. Last spring we shut down the business and a few months later my dad got a job at Sam's Club. But it's part time so it in no way pays our bills. It can't even cover our house payment let alone utilities, groceries, orthodontist for little sister, etc. But God has been incredibly faithful. We start getting low on food, people bring us food, without us asking! He has put the desire into several of our relatives to give us money and food. My dad occasionally mentions that we will have to move (he is not a Christian), but God has always come through and provided!
I cannot tell you whether or not to keep taking the money. But as one who has been through something similar (many times actually, the business almost tanked more than a few times!) I would encourage you to trust God with your whole heart! He WILL provide for you and your family! Remember Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." The "things" He is talking about are food and clothes. So know that God will provide! Even if you do have to move to a smaller house. Just trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding! (Proverbs 3:5-6)
I pray that God will make His will known to you in this situation! And I pray that you will have the faith and trust to obey!
In Christ,
Veronica

Re: - posted by HeedWatchmen (), on: 2010/2/9 8:45

Shamefaced

I pray that God will help you to do the right thing about these disability checks.

God has been speaking to my husband and I a lot through Matthew 5:24-34 in the past few years. He has been teaching us a lot about trusting in Him to take care of all of our need (Philippians 4:19).

I would strongly encourage you to take a step of faith and see what God will do in taking care of you and your family. Peter had to take a step of faith in getting out of the boat before he was able to walk on water. One of the great things we see in Peter's life is that he allowed the Spirit to move him before his mind caught up and told him that it was not possible. Later he started to doubt, but Jesus took care of him.

When we are trusting in God, it does not mean that life is easy. He teaches us a lot about stewardship and what things are important, as well as what things we should not be using our resources for. My husband and I have been challenged in many ways. God has shown us that some things that we would have thought absolutely necessary in the past are not so necessary after all.

I am not attempting to tell you what you need to do, but I am trying to encourage your faith.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do, on: 2010/2/9 10:05

Brother Marine,

first off, let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for your service, God bless you beloved. I too served, Navy, Korea, a Korling, from 77-81. I have a good idea where you were, and what you saw, and there are no accidents in God. It was no accident you were there, no accident that you survived, no accident that your spirit was broken, PTSD is a breaking of the spirit, it can happen in war, it can happen in childhood, and it's no accident that you are provided for by the VA, via the 50% dis. Many a brave Marine came back from Tarawa, or from Iwo, or from Korea, bearing that hidden wound, that in those days was not realized, nor such clinical assessments available, and they suffered alone, or they suffered in poverty, because folks who haven't lived through the hell and the smell and the horror of war didn't realize how something as a car backfiring, or a door slamming, or the smell of bad meat, or a tire burning, can just bring it all back...in an instant.

Don't mistake my words, Jesus heals. Praise His Name! But just take it before God, and the Holy Ghost, and He will speak Truth into your heart, and I say this dear dear brother, the VA is the hand of a grateful nation, and I know you did not serve "for the money", but for love of country and love of the Corps, but in my humble opinion, this 50% dis monthly lump is THE LEAST we can do for you and your family, you hear me brother? the LEAST.

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your brothers who laid down their lives at Falluja, Anbar prov, they would want you to have it....but God pricks your heart. ..maybe He's saying to you, I gave you this, so you can serve Me.....maybe, i dont know...maybe He's saying you served the corps, now you serve Jesus....i dont know, but if it was up to me, to decide for you, this grateful American would make sure YOU KNOW, not only do we love our boys and girls in uniform, but we are thankful and grateful that there are still some squared away men to man the ramparts. They deserve EVERY good thing.

so, unless God the Holy Ghost REALLY rings your bell, my humble advice is to keep your VA benefits, AND to serve the Lord, where and when He calls you. The Call is whats important. You KNOW what its like to be broken, lost...there is a whole country, a whole world full of lost hurt broken people OUT THERE who need Jesus, desperately.....and now you understand the love of Jesus, an impossible Love, ardent.

once upon a time you were a killer,(as you needed to be , as a Marine should) now Jesus has made you into a lover ...of the lost. Just consider that dear brother.

I pray my words were not of the flesh, much love in Christ Jesus, neil (USN, ret)

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/9 12:24

Thanks for the prayers,
I really feel that God is leading me to trust Him with our finances, I've recently felt a hunger for deeper spiritual communion with Him, and have been in the process of restitution for over a year now, returning or reimbursing items I've stolen. I've had the desire to serve God full time for the last three years, and am considering enrolling with Moody Bible institute this next fall, but so much has gone on in the last two weeks, a totaled car, surgery for my wife, finances bad. I suppose it can only be God who would move me to risk my disability income at a time like this.

Perhaps I should give my wife more credit, I'm dreading telling her that I want to be re-evaluated, I don't want trouble with my wife. Neil, thanks for your words, but the VA isn't paying me for my time in service, they're paying me for a specific disability that I incurred due to my service in Iraq.

Thanks all for the scriptures, they mean more than you know
-S

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do, on: 2010/2/9 12:48

Hello again, S,

Quote:
-----Thanks all for the scriptures, they mean more than you know

There is something on my mind, to do with you and your wife being 'one flesh'. If you read Lev 18 far enough into the chapter, you will see there are many repetitions of this truth.

Quote:
-----Perhaps I should give my wife more credit, I'm dreading telling her that I want to be re-evaluated, I don't want trouble with my wife.

It is really important that you receive from the Lord more than enough confidence to reassure your wife that you are taking into account, her 'helpmeet' spiritual, psychological and intellectual contribution to your role as her head, and that you bring her on board with your leading from God, so that she is completely included, and looking to God just as much as you are, for all your needs.

In the leading post in this thread, you seemed to see the solution to possibly losing your disability payments, entirely in terms of your wife finding full time employment. Veronica's post was extremely encouraging, but you yourself need to be sure it is God who is calling you into faith for provision, or, to undergo another assessment which may find you too fit to receive anything more.

There would be nothing wrong with your wife going to work instead, if God is leading her this way, but I think you owe it to her to listen very carefully to her objections, and to pray about them together, until you see that God has taken away her fears. An hour is a long time in eternity! Much can change. One thing I'm trying to say is, that if your wife now needs

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healing because of the strain of bearing with you in your distress, then it is very much okay with God, for you to see her pain as your pain, and delay applying for a reassessment - even if you are totally sure you have to do that soon. Please, please, take time to bring your wife with you on your spiritual journey. She may well be 'wrong' in seeming to hold you back right now, but you owe it to yourself, to win her over as much as possible, before you act.

I have a question about Sundays, when you're teaching the kids: who is helping your wife with your children right then?

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/2/9 15:31

I teach an adult sunday school class, my wife is in class with me, we keep my one year old in class with us and our other two go to their own class

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do - posted by rbanks, on: 2010/2/9 21:02

Having no desire to participate in the threads but felt compelled to comment in this one because of the great posts of aliv e-to-God and Natan offering such great help to another fellow brother.

I maybe wrong but I don't think that you have really listened to the compassion and wisdom in their posts in striving to be helpful to you.

The word of God tells you to love your wife as Christ loved the church and also you have small children. You are responsible for them and you can make it better for them or you can make it hard on them and so brother it is not just about you.

I read the most gracious post that Natan wrote to you and it seemed to go right over your head and you really missed the heart of what he was really saying to you. You said the marines were not paying you for your service but because of what you went through in Iraq, which you say, you are mainly healed of now. I believe you missed his post because you would have never gone to Iraq and gone through all the horror if you hadn't been in the marines in the first place.

Didn't you say that Jesus healed you and has made your life better? Didn't you risk your life and suffer so much as a marine for your country? If the marines had made you better and healed all your wounds and also given you a job to provide for your family then it would be wrong to take the support for something they healed you from. God is good brother and loves you and your family. He heals and blesses.

He can heal you and bless you with an income where your wife can look out for your children and doesn't have to work outside the home. When God gives you an income along with the healing that does not make your wife and family suffer then give up the 50% disability. Why wouldn't God heal you and provide for your family without undue hardship on your wife and children.

All I'm doing in spending valuable time and trying to say to you brother is don't get ahead of God in trying to please God, at the expense of your family in whom you are suppose to love more than yourself.

My conscience is clear.

Blessings to you and yours!

Re: Need advice, don't know what to do, on: 2010/2/10 5:18

Good morning, S, :-)

Quote:
-----I teach an adult sunday school class, my wife is in class with me, we keep my one year old in class with us and our other two go to their own class

Thanks for clearing this up for me. Now I understand. May you be blessed more and more as you study God's word and do it.

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Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/3/10 16:16

Thanks all for the advice,
It's been about a month since this issue came back to the forefront of my mind again, and here it rests once again. I talk ed with my wife about the issue and we are going to seek counsel from our pastor tonight, please pray for us. My wife h as been gracious, we both have reached a point in our lives that we need renewal in Christ, a renewed obedience and p urpose of service towards Him. I'm at the point where I know if I don't settle this issue it will continue to come back to m e and cause me grief. I believe that God is leading our family in a new direction, but I'm just still afraid to make that pho ne call to the VA. I know that God will provide for us if we obey Him, but it's hard to overcome my fears about finances a nd provision for our family. My wife and I prayed together last night, for our family, and for eachother. She even prayed that God would give us peace and strength to obey Him.

Re: - posted by Shamefaced, on: 2010/3/10 16:27

To clarify-
This disability money has been provided to me based solely on the percentage of the disability that I was rated at by the VA. It is not a compensation for service in Iraq, or service in the Marine Corps; it is strictly compensation for a service c onnected disability, PTSD. As the severity of my disability has decreased (or disappeared), the corresponding percenta ge of compensation may decrease as well. To me it is being honest, I am recieving money for a condition that has vastl y improved, or in my opinion, been healed.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/3/10 17:41

Quote:
-----To me it is being honest

An extreme rare quality in this world. If you were to call VA and share with them, someone may fall out of his chair!
They may think your mind is indeed still impaired!

God bless you and your wife!

ginnyrose