



P-A-U-S-E Before You Act!

Calvary Baptist Church

July 17, 2011

Proverbs 22:3



I. P – Pray (Mt. 26:39)

Have I taken this matter to the Lord in prayer and have I waited for His leading?

A. Prayer Can Stop Us (Acts 16:1-7)

- When we pray, God can stop us from doing something that seems so natural, so logical to do.
(Acts 16:1-7)

APPLY! – You may feel that what you are about to do is logical, justified, reasonable. You need to pray. Find a place to get alone and pray.

B. Prayer Can Start Us

- When we pray, God can lead us to do something that seems so unreasonable, so illogical, so dangerous.

ILLUS: The church at Antioch sending away its best workers to the mission field! (Acts 13:1-3)

ILLUS: **Peter** being led to go to Cornelius. (Acts 10:9-23)

APPLICATION (2 Sam. 2:1; 5:19; 1 Chr. 14:13-14; Isa. 58:11; Jn. 8:12; James 1:5)

- God is **willing** and **able** to guide us.

- We must be willing to pray and **wait!**
- This is evidenced in the life of **David**.
- Note in these verses the idea that God can not only start and stop us, but he can **steer** us!

♪ What a Friend We Have in Jesus

APPLY! – How about you? Do you have a habit of **rushing** into things that you later **regret**? What **cliff** are you about to run over now?

ILLUS: Gary Bill's prayer – "Lord, don't let me **blow nothing up** today!"

II. A – **Attitude**

(1 Sam. 25:17; Prov. 3:7; 14:16; 16:32; 22:24; 25:28; 29:11)

Have I waited until my **emotions and my spirit are in **check** before I act?**

- If we are not careful, we will act in anger.
- In our **haste** to "do something" we will make matters worse.
- We must guard against the "**knee-jerk**" reaction, etc.
- We must wait until we are in **control** of ourselves.
- We want to be in a frame of mind to **help** the situation, not **hurt** it.

QUOTE: To deal with a situation in anger is to pour **gasoline** on the fire instead of **water**.

ILLUS: King Saul, acting in **rage** throws a spear at David; acting in **fear** consults the witch at Endor.