

## IGNORING THE NAYSAYERS

A Toolbox for Life  
Rick Warren

*"If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success."* Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

Naysayer: "A person who says something won't work or isn't possible; a cynic who habitually expresses pessimistic views."

### 4 NAYSAYERS DAVID FACED BEFORE GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17:1-52

1. "Now David was the son of a man named Jesse. . . . Jesse . . . had eight sons. Jesse's three oldest sons . . . had already joined Saul's army . . . David was the youngest son. . . . David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem." 1 Samuel 17:12-15 (NLT)

2. "Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why do you come out and line up for battle? . . . Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I . . . kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.' Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the armies of Israel!' . . . On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified." 1 Samuel 17:8-11 (NIV)

*"For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening the Philistine giant strutted before the armies of Israel."* 1 Samuel 17:16 (TLB)

*"As he was talking with them, Goliath came forward and challenged the Israelites as he had done before. And David heard him. When the Israelites saw Goliath, they ran away in terror."* 1 Samuel 17:23-24 (GNT)

3. "David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. 'What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his insults to Israel?' he asked them. . . . But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking like that, he was angry. 'What are you doing around here, anyway?' he demanded. 'What about the sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know what a cocky brat you are; you just want to see the battle!' 'What have I done now?' David replied. 'I was only asking a question!'" 1 Samuel 17:26, 28-29 (TLB)

4. "Don't worry about a thing,' David told [King Saul]. 'I'll take care of this Philistine!' 'Don't be ridiculous!' Saul replied. 'How can a kid like you fight with a man like him? You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!'"  
1 Samuel 17:32-33 (TLB)

## HOW TO DEFEAT NAYSAYERS IN YOUR LIFE

1. "The fear of human opinion disables; but trusting in GOD protects you from that."  
Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)

*"It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you."*  
Proverbs 29:25 (GNT)

*"Don't fear anything except the Lord of the armies of heaven! If you fear him, you need fear nothing else."* Isaiah 8:13 (TLB)

## WHO I AM ALLOWING TO PLAY GOD IN MY LIFE?

1. Nehemiah: "So I replied by sending back this message to them: 'I am doing a great work! Why should I stop to come and visit with you?' Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply." Nehemiah 6:3-4 (TLB)

*Jesus: "Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are."* Matthew 10:26 (MSG)

2. "It is foolish to speak scornfully of others. If you are smart, you will keep quiet."  
Proverbs 11:12 (GNT)

*"When they hurled their insults at [Jesus], he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."*  
1 Peter 2:23 (NIV)

3. "The troops talked about stoning him, for they were all very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God."  
1 Samuel 30:6 (HCSB)

*"The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"*  
Psalm 118:6 (NLT)

*"Show me how much you love me, Lord, and save me according to your promise. Then I can answer those who insult me because I trust in your word."*  
Psalm 119:41-42 (GNT)

*"I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart."* Psalm 119:11 (MSG)

## KNOWING WHAT MATTERS MOST

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Theme verse: "Skill will bring success." Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

Skill #2: Recognizing what's important

My values affect my stress, my success, & my salvation.

### FOUR QUESTIONS THAT WILL DETERMINE YOUR VALUES & YOUR DESTINY

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Where do I get my values?

#### 3 OPTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_  
"The human mind is the most deceitful of all things! It is incurable. No one can understand how deceitful it really is." Jeremiah 17:9 (GW)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
"Don't love the world and what it offers. Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them. Not everything that the world offers—physical gratification, greed, and extravagant lifestyles—comes from the Father."  
1 John 2:15-17 (GW)

#### THE WORLD'S VALUES:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: "If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NASB)

#### WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE WORLD'S VALUES:

"The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

"The fleeting pleasures of sin." Hebrews 11:25 (TLB)

Jesus: "Life is not measured by how much you own." Luke 12:15 (NLT)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." 1 John 2:17 (NIV)

"So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Will I live what I claim to believe?

#### THAT MAY MEAN . . .

- \_\_\_\_\_  
"Turn my eyes away from worthless things." Psalm 119:37 (NIV)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong." Exodus 23:2 (NIV)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
"Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value."  
Matthew 6:19-20 (TLB)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
"So from now on, we regard no one from a worldly point of view."  
2 Corinthians 5:16 (NIV)
- \_\_\_\_\_  
"I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power." Philippians 4:13 (TLB)

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
"What profit is there if you gain the whole world—and lose eternal life? What can be compared with the value of eternal life?" Matthew 16:26 (TLB)

Paul: "I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ." Philippians 3:7-8 (NLT)



## MAXIMIZING YOUR STRENGTHS

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Skill #1 Ignoring the Naysayers

Skill #2 Recognizing What Matters Most

*"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you." Jeremiah 1:5 (MSG)*

*"You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. . . . You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old." Psalm 139:13-16 (NCV)*

### THE 5 ELEMENTS GOD USES TO "SHAPE" YOUR LIFE

**S** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." 1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV)*

**H** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)*

**A** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." Romans 12:6 (TLB)*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God works through different men in different ways." 1 Corinthians 12:6 (PHILLIPS)*

**E** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"All that happens to us is working for our good if we love God." Romans 8:28 (TLB)*

### HOW DO I MAXIMIZE MY GOD-GIVEN SHAPE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - **BY** \_\_\_\_\_

*"You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted?" Galatians 3:4 (ICB)*

*"You should each judge your own conduct. If it is good, then you can be proud of what you yourself have done, without having to compare it with what someone else has done." Galatians 6:4 (GNT)*

*"Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities." Romans 12:3 (PHILLIPS)*

- **BY** \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Who do you think you are to question God? Does the clay have the right to ask the potter why he shaped it the way he did? Doesn't a potter have the right to make a fancy bowl and a plain bowl out of the same lump of clay?" Romans 9:20-21 (CEV)*

*"Each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them." 1 Corinthians 7:17 (NIV)*

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"To enjoy your work and to accept your lot in life—that is indeed a gift from God. The person who does that will not need to look back with sorrow on his past, for God gives him joy." Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (TLB)*

*"God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13 (AMP)*

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Keep using the gift God gave you . . . let it grow, as a small flame grows into a fire." 2 Timothy 1:6 (NCV)*

*"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's . . . blessings." 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)*

### WHAT HOLDS US BACK?

\_\_\_\_\_  
*"I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground." Matthew 25:25 (ESV)*

### WHY MUST I MAXIMIZE MY STRENGTHS?

\_\_\_\_\_  
*"From where he sits he overlooks all us earth-dwellers. He has shaped each person in turn; now he watches everything we do." Psalm 33:14-15 (MSG)*

*"Offer the parts of your body to God to be used in doing good." Romans 6:13 (NCV)*

## LEARNING TO BE BOTH FAST AND SLOW

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*"There is a right time and a right way to do everything, but we know so little!"*  
Ecclesiastes 8:6 (GNT)

### WHEN TO MOVE FAST

1. *"Jesus said to them, 'Come follow me.' . . . So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him." Mark 1:17-18 (NCV)*  
*"Without delay I hurry to obey your commands." Psalm 119:60 (GNT)*
2. *"If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God." Matthew 5:23-24 (MSG)*
3. *"Run from all these evil things." 1 Timothy 6:11 (NLT)*  
*"Run away from the worship of idols." 1 Corinthians 10:14 (NCV)*  
*"Run away from sexual sin." 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NCV)*
4. *"When you make a promise to God, keep it as quickly as possible. He has no use for a fool. Do what you promise to do." Ecclesiastes 5:4 (GNT)*
5. *"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." Proverbs 3:27 (NIV)*  
*Jesus: "All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, for there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end."*  
John 9:4 (TLB)

6. *"I tell you that the 'right time' is now, and the 'day of salvation' is now."*  
2 Corinthians 6:2 (NCV)

### WHEN TO MOVE SLOW

*"It's smart to be patient." Proverbs 14:29 (CEV)*

1. *"Desire without knowledge is not good— how much more will hasty feet miss the way!" Proverbs 19:2 (NLT)*  
*"What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts!"*  
Proverbs 18:13 (TLB)
2. *"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."*  
James 1:19 (NIV)  
*"Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly." Proverbs 14:29 (ESV)*
3. *"Wicked people bluff their way, but God's people think before they take a step."*  
Proverbs 21:29 (CEV)  
*"Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure."*  
Proverbs 4:26 (ESV)  
*"Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later." Proverbs 22:3 (GNT)*
4. *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. . . . a time to plant and a time to uproot . . . a time to scatter . . . and a time to gather." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 5 (NIV)*  
*"Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which will grow—perhaps it all will." Ecclesiastes 11:6 (TLB)*  
*God: "At the time I have decided, my words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting—it will happen!"*  
Habakkuk 2:3 (CEV)

### A PRAYER

*"May he keep us centered and devoted to him, following the life path he has cleared, watching the signposts, walking at the pace and rhythms he laid down for our ancestors." 1 Kings 8:58 (MSG)*