

Manufactured Storms

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the big problems today that Christians face is in not understanding the storms that are manufactured by Satan. Over and over again, the father of lies is trying to produce and manufacture storms in our lives. He uses the atmosphere to produce various kinds of storms, outward and inward, to disturb and interfere with the natural order and functioning of man's humanity.

Once he succeeds in wearing down the natural man, the devil can attack the spiritual man within. We often end up trying to salvage the wreckage of our lives instead of entering into God's rest, where He is ready and willing to lead and to guide us into all truth.

In this booklet, we will examine the importance of rest, both in the natural and spiritual realms, and how to always be a winner, regardless of what things appear to be.

Chapter One

ENTER INTO GOD'S REST

“And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

“And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

“And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

“And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

“And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

“And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

“And they feared exceedingly, and said one

to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:35-41).

In this story, the Lord Jesus was sleeping on the back part of the boat. His head was on a pillow, and He was sleeping soundly. Sleep is a very beautiful thing. It is God's provision for the natural man so that he will not go insane. If a man could not sleep, he would go insane. God has a lot of good natural provisions for the humanity of man. One of them is sleep. And if a man gets his proper sleep (the normal amount that God would give him), then he will be better able to rest in the supernatural storms of the atmosphere.

In this particular story, the storm did not wake Jesus Christ. No matter how severe it appeared to be, it did not wake Him. It was not the storm that awoke Jesus Christ.

From the mountains of Galilee, tremendous storms would blow up. The sea would be calm and then a storm would come—a down-rushing wind with its fury, producing the intensity of waves that would beat upon the boat. These disciples were not novices. They were skilled and trained fishermen who had dealt with sudden storms. But in this instance, they went as long as

they could without calling upon the Master. And after going so far, they called upon Him.

Do not be unkind with the disciples. They did everything they could before they came to Jesus Christ. Still, it was wrong for them to come. He said it was wrong. I do not criticize them because I would probably have awoken Him much earlier than they did. However, they were fearful, and Satan's threat began.

Satan always tries to make people live under a threat, in fear, and he does it with storms he has manufactured in the atmosphere. He wants to constantly produce such fear that people will not be able to rest in the midst of a storm.

This portion of the Word of God describes what the storm was all about. Jesus Christ refused to allow the storm to take away His inner peace. He refused to allow the storm to change the natural provision of God's grace for His human body.

God has many natural provisions that He has given us for our human body. The devil's purpose is to produce storms that will completely take away the natural provision for our humanity so we will have to revert into fear from the threat of the storm. Over and over again, Satan tries to produce fear on our human-

ity. Whether it be marriage, our physical health, old age, or whatever it is, God has many natural provisions. Yet, Satan is always trying to produce fear, and he threatens the natural provision that God has established through grace because of His love for His people, for those that He created.

After doing all that they could, the disciples revealed that what they did was natural. Instead of accepting God's provision for the storm, they tried to work up their own provision to save themselves on the boat.

Again and again, God's people try to work up a natural provision instead of accepting rest, the rest of Jesus Christ, to take care of the storm. He was resting, and the Lord Jesus Christ, resting in His faith in the Father, would take care of the storm. But they were not occupied with His rest. They were occupied with works. They were occupied with doing something naturally about the natural storm.

Everything that Satan produces is natural. He uses the natural structure and the natural system, along with supernatural knowledge, to orient our hearts so that we will succumb by fear. Every single thing he does is to get us to react naturally to the natural provision of the

flesh. That is what he did with the disciples, and he was successful.

When they failed to be occupied with the rest of Jesus Christ, who was lying down on a pillow, they did what they could. Exhausted, fearful, and being threatened, they finally cried out, "Master, save us!"

Listen to this carefully. "Save us, lest we perish." The personal pronoun is in a plural. The objective case then turns into a nominative case. Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side," and they said, "Save us, lest we perish." After three years of observing His ministry, after watching Him feed the hungry multitude, raise the dead, heal the sick, save the wicked, and bring grace and peace to their hearts, they were insinuating that Jesus Christ was going to perish with them in the storm and never reach the other side.

Quit Trying to Work It Out

When we work out a natural provision instead of being occupied with rest that comes from the Finished Work, we are insinuating that Jesus Christ cannot take us to the other side. We are saying that we are all going to perish, because if we perish, He has to perish, since we are

hid inside of Him (Colossians 3:3).

The implication that Jesus Christ is going to perish with us is saying that Jesus Christ is not God Almighty. Fear reveals that we don't believe in the character and nature of His omnipotence. Fear also reveals that we don't trust in the character of His promise. He said, "Let us pass over unto the other side." It was a promise: "We will reach the other side." But the storm said, "I'll challenge you." The storm said, "I'll threaten you." They became occupied with the natural results of fear and the flesh as they tried to work out their own deliverance. They were ineffective, and they ended up convinced that they were going to perish.

How many of you think that in your marriage you will perish and that you will not reach the other side? Do you think that in your particular sinful habits you will perish and not reach the other side? You are saying that His promises are not true. Secondly, you are saying that Jesus Christ and you will sink and drown because of a storm. Thirdly, you reveal that you don't understand who causes the storms. Fourthly, you reveal that you don't understand who quiets the waves. And fifthly, you don't have faith because you are occupied with fear.

No matter how severe the storm, it did not wake the Master. Now, you listen, and listen well. Listen carefully and don't let your minds wander. There has never been a storm that could make Jesus Christ fear. I'll show you why.

Rest in Christ, The Living Word

When Jesus says, "Let us go over to the other side," no matter how severely the wind blows and how tempestuous the waves that come against the boat of our life, the boat will not go down because of the Word of Authority that is resting in the back part of the boat, lying down in the green pastures of faith.

Jesus is teaching us that when the storm gets at its worst, be occupied with rest and never do a single thing in the flesh to save your life. Only rest and the Word of Authority can save your life—not the activity of the flesh, striving and straining and working to save those who were on the boat. Rest will save the boat, the Word of Authority will save the boat, but not the activity of Adam.

How many of you have been insecure, judgmental, critical, or harsh because you were trying to save the boat to reach the other side instead of resting in the Word of Authority to ex-

perience life in the storm?

Jesus got up after they awoke Him. He rebuked the wind and He said, "Peace, be still." Three times in the Bible the phrase "Peace, be still" is there, and it means, "Hush! Be muzzled." In Mark 1:25 He said it to demons. In Luke 4:35, He said it to demons. Are you getting the picture? The only other recorded times that Jesus Christ said, "Peace, be still," He was addressing demons.

So, Jesus Christ, using the same words that He used to demons, revealed to our lives that the storm was not caused by the natural elements but by demons who had control of the natural elements. And any time you let your elements, such as your emotional responses, depend upon the natural atmosphere, you will have a terrible storm in your life. Your Sea of Galilee may seem calm, but a storm will beat up against your boat until you're almost certain you will perish. When that happens, be occupied with the rest that comes from the Word of Authority so you can experience the muzzling of the demons according to the word spoken by Jesus Christ when He rebukes the waves and the winds.

Chapter Two

DEALING WITH THE THREATS

In Job 1:12, Satan asked permission to do things to Job, saying, “Job only serves You because You always give him what he wants.”

And God said to him, “Short of taking his life, you have power to use anything you want on the earth.”

So in Job 1:19, there came a great wind, and that wind killed the sons and daughters of Job. That storm was caused by the devil, and the devil used it to kill Job’s own family. The storm and the demons were not muzzled because Job did not have a Body of believers with him, and there was no one to use the Word of Life and say, “Hush.”

Satan is always using his threats. Many people in our Body, our local assembly, are constantly entertaining threats—suggestive threats from the enemy. They live with suggestion of fear instead of the power of faith, so they live in

bondage to the possibility of destruction.

“Perish!” That’s what the demons say as they beat upon the boat of your life as it travels with Jesus to the other side. “Your situation will perish. Your life will perish. Your emotions will perish. You will never make it as a Christian. Your children will perish. You won’t make it. You are going to perish!”

Finally, as the storm rages on, you agree with the devil and you tell Jesus, “Come on, Jesus, wake up! Don’t You see we are perishing?” All you have done is quote the devil’s suggestion. You confessed fear instead of faith in the rest of the Man who is lying down, trusting His Father.

It is unfortunate to have God Almighty on the boat of our hearts and yet to talk about something perishing. That is so unnecessary. Satan is always going to manufacture storms. Do you know why? He is the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). He is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), and we wrestle against his principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12).

And that is why some people always live with the suggestion of a threat, in the fear of perishing in some area of life or some domestic

scene on the horizon. We will always be subjected to the voice that says, "Feel the waves. Feel the wind. You're not novices, but there is nothing you can do. Bail out the water! The boat is rocking. You're going down. It isn't stopping. You've got to do something. Don't try to rest. Don't rest in Christ. Get busy!" And we get busy. We bail out the water and the boat is rocking. The situation enters into chaos and we fear and have more fear. The word "perish" comes, and everybody acts in reaction to the suggestion that we are going to perish.

You will perish with alcohol. You will perish with lust. You will perish with lying. You will perish with emotional disturbances. You will perish with passivity. You will perish with your religious efforts. And the word "perish" comes. Then Jesus Christ finally gets up and says, "How is it that you have no faith?" Why was He troubled? It wasn't the storm that troubled Him. It was because they woke Him out of His sleep.

Listen carefully. For almost three years they had seen Him as the Master. When it came to the bread and the fishes, Jesus Christ multiplied them. They saw it. They knew He was the Master of multiplication. When it came to leprosy, they saw with their own eyes what the Master

could do to leprosy. He healed it (Luke 1). When it came to the hand that was withered and could not serve God, He said, "Put out your hand." And the man did, and his hand was restored. They saw it.

When it came to the twelve-year-old girl in Luke 8:54, they saw Him. They went in with Him. He was mocked and He was laughed at. But the disciples Peter, John, and James saw it. The Lord said, "Little damsel, arise." He was the master over death.

If you have been born-again, He saved you from spiritual death. You have already seen Him resurrect, because you are the one who was resurrected! He is the master over death in your life.

When it came to guilt and condemnation, He said to the woman taken in adultery, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). He was the Master over guilt. They saw it with their own eyes.

When it came to temptation, for a season in the early part of His ministry He was tempted by the devil for forty days and nights (Matthew 4). He related to men. He understood what it was like to be human and very weak, yet He didn't fail and He wasn't overcome. He was

master over temptation.

When it came to those who deceived Him and tried to stone Him and kill Him (John 8:58), He hid. He was master over a false effort by the enemy to destroy Him. He was master and He was able to hide Himself and be salvaged until, in God's time, He was to lay down His life to die on the Cross.

You see, by sight the disciples had seen Him do all of this. And may I say this? Sight never builds me up in faith for the next situation. The only thing that will build me up for the next situation is faith in a revelation of the Word of God. If God allowed you to see the dead raised (as some of you have probably wanted to in the past months), and if He allowed you to see everything that you call "spiritual" happen, that would never produce faith in you. It would only produce another desire to see it happen again.

What Jesus Christ wants more than anything is that when He reveals the Word of God, you would love it, treasure it, be occupied with it, and rest with it, no matter how bad the storm is!

Satan is always manufacturing a storm. He manufactured every single storm that Job had, taking his seven sons and three daughters, the camels, the oxen, the asses, leaving him with his

nagging wife, his boils, and silence from his friends. Satan manufactured those storms.

Goliath, the nine-foot six-inch giant, came out against little David. Before David took spiritual weapons to go against him, in 1 Samuel 17:23, Goliath constantly made the Israelites and Saul fear. He continually threatened and mocked and made them fear. They were occupied with fear, and they never looked to God. They kept looking at the giant and they never looked at faith. They looked at fear. They could not rest because they didn't give God a chance to reveal His Word. They were walking by sight, and their sight did not produce faith. It only revealed fear.

Please, remember that fear is produced by sight and opinion. But faith comes by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). And with the Word of God He reveals love, rest, peace, power, victory. The Word of God will always produce faith when received and responded to in grace. Sooner or later, sight will always produce fear, and you will live with the suggestions of a threat.

Satan will manufacture many storms in our lives. When we have our greatest victories and are established in God's love, he will still begin

to bring the storms. But when Jesus addressed him from the boat, the Greek text reveals that He spoke to him very normally like you would say "hello." He stood up and He said, "Storm, be muzzled." Then He used one more word in the Greek, "Hush." And then He went back down and back to His disciples.

I can deal with the demons and storms best when I've been resting in the Word of God's promise and when I am experiencing total rest in God. I do not need pseudo emotional repetition of vain rebuking to the demons like so many do. I can just say, "Peace," or "Be muzzled. Hush," and then go on. Why? Because the storm cannot be executed in the face of faith-rest. And when the words of rest come from a heart of rest, the storm has to be released back to God's natural order. Then, God's provision for the natural humanity of man can be experienced, giving us a capacity for God.

Our victory is so simple! It is being occupied with a faith in His rest, or "faith-rest" (Hebrews 4:9). His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. There is no storm that can challenge it. We will reach the other side, and the boat will never go down with Jesus Christ resting in His Word with us.

The disciples were saying in so many words, "The Kingdom is going to fail, and we are all going down. We've seen Your Kingdom authority, but now we're all going to perish." That's what they were saying. But Jesus said, "You're using a personal pronoun in the plural, and you're changing the objective case to the nominative case." Or, "What's the matter? Where is your faith in Me?"

"You have seen Me be master over everything, and if I'm master over everything, don't you realize that I'm master over this storm? Furthermore, I can master the storm while it's going on by resting against its threats, by resting against its noise, by resting against the feeling of its swift wind. I will rest. My response will be rest, not natural production. My answer will not be natural emotional disturbance striving to bail myself out and save My own life. My answer will be abiding on the pillow, lying down in the green pastures."

The disciples were trying to be their own Savior instead of letting rest in Him save them.

Chapter Three

HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN AND REST

When anybody in this congregation will not accept forgiveness, it means you will not accept the fact that God has forgotten your sins forever (Hebrews 8:12). You refuse to accept the fact that He is never going to leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20). You refuse to accept the fact that you've been sealed with the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, the redemption of your bodies (Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:23). You refuse to accept the fact that your gift is eternal life (John 10:28) because it was eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12). You refuse to accept the fact that you have been baptized by God into the Body corporate (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) and you were made to drink of the same spirit of faith-rest. You refuse to accept the divine provisions that God has for your natural humanity to survive.

God not only wants to save us spiritually, but He wants to save our natural humanity from disease, affliction, emotional problems, and physical hazards. Through total abstinence, He wants to save your body from cigarettes, alcohol, lust, and every disturbance that Satan can manufacture through a storm to make you fear. Instead of going on in natural reactions in your emotions, He wants us to have faith-rest in Jesus Christ's promise, "Let us go over."

Then the whole test comes. If you love God's Word, no matter what anybody says to you, you cannot be offended, but you will have great peace. Psalm 119:165 says great peace have they that love His word, and nothing shall offend them. That word "peace" is a magnificent thing.

Three times Jesus said, "Peace, be still." Each time He said it to demons because Satan is the prince of the air causing storms and winds. God has given Satan power over the elements and over the lower part of the creation. He has power over the lower part of the animal kingdom, which includes man's sin nature and wild animals, such as the lions and tigers. That's why they're wild. He has power over everything that is on the lower side of creation because he was demoted to the lowest sphere of the Kingdom

(Ezekiel 28:15-24; Luke 10:18).

When Satan said, "I will ascend," God said, "You won't. You'll go down." Satan said, "I will" five times, and God said, "You will go down. You will finally go down into Gehenna where you'll abide forever and ever. And one thousand years after you're put there, Satan, you will still be tormented day and night" (Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-11).

Satan thought he was going to ascend higher, and the Lord showed him he was going to descend lower. He was in heaven at first, but he would be demoted and always go down. The only ones that he can have power over are those that choose to live in the lower nature of the soul instead of the higher nature of the human spirit through redemption and the Word of God.

Satan has all kinds of power over your soul nature. And unless you go to the Cross and lose your childishness, with regard to your fears, accusations, and suggestions, unless you get out of the realm of fear and self-pity, you will always be living under his kingdom, in his dominion, in self-condemnation. You will never ascend higher because you are aligned with him and he cannot ascend.

No amount of counseling or church services

will do it. No amount of social evangelical times will do it. Either you let Jesus Christ make you rest in heavenly places, seated above it all (Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 1:19-23) and rest together with the Body of Christ above it all, or you will live below in your lower nature, always being a subject and an object for the manufactured storms of the devil at his will.

We have a choice. Having faith in His rest makes us ascend together with Him. By refusing to exercise faith, we allow the storm to make us react naturally in fear. By thinking we're going to perish, we live in the lower nature, trying to save our lives without the resurrection power of the Cross.

So, when the Lord Jesus said, "Be muzzled," no matter how much they feared (and they did), no matter how much they confessed that they were going to perish, the Word of God says, "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

"And he said unto them, Why are you so fearful? how is it that you have no faith?"

Jesus was saying, "By sight, you have seen Me be the master over everything. And yet, you have no faith, but you are filled with fear." And

Jesus Christ said, "Why?"

That's what He asked. But do you know what He did? They enjoyed His rest without faith. Faith would have pleased Him, but crying out in defeat reached His heart of mercy.

Mercy Rejoices Against Judgment

How many times we have had no faith but we knew enough to cry out (which only revealed that we didn't have it)? And Mercy said, "Okay, listen carefully. You have no faith. I don't know why after all you've seen Me do, but I'll tell you what. I'll be your faith and you won't need to have any. Just rest in My word of command." "And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.... who loved me and gave Himself for me." There it is, in Galatians 2:16 and Galatians 2:20.

So if you have no faith today, you'll still not perish. But be sure you cry out and use His faith with the Word of Authority so that the demons will be muzzled and you can simply rest in what He said to them as you abide in who He is, with Him.

The Lord Jesus has made it so simple. He doesn't want the body to be sick. He doesn't want the emotions disturbed. He doesn't want

us to be double-minded. He doesn't want our souls to reign unto Satan's kingdom in the lower animal nature. And the way that we are translated experientially is to call on Jesus Christ without doing anything except trusting in Him.

And when the disciples cried out, He responded, but He said, "You have no faith. But now My word will show you that I'll be your faith. And when My words dwell in you richly, then My faith will dwell in you richly, and you can execute the same authority that I have. You can enter into the same rest because you have the same life. And with the same words that produce the same faith in the same life, you can execute the same sentence over the demons—"Be muzzled!"

In the delegated authority of His faith, having read one testimony after another, we can say, "Be muzzled!" and "Hush!" because we've been raised together with Him to abide in His rest. He arose and rebuked the wind, and we have risen with Him. We are seated together with Him, elevated with Him, and so we can say, "Be muzzled, demons. We are above you."

Seated with Christ, far above principalities and power, we have so much more power than they do, they can't even begin to figure out our

next move. God's movement is eternal and not confined to time.

We ought to fast and pray because we need to learn how to rest in the future storms. Satan does not like what God's rest is doing in this Body of believers. He doesn't like our emphasis that it isn't natural reactions but it is Jesus Christ acting in our behalf. He doesn't like the Word of Authority that we have learned to execute and love. He doesn't like our persistence. He doesn't like the fact that we won't lie down in defeat. He doesn't like the fact that no matter how bad the situation is, we keep right on believing. He doesn't like that. He's going to manufacture storms.

He's going to manufacture more storms, but I'm not worried. Do you know why? Jesus is on the boat, and He's not working His way across. He's not rowing, He's resting. And if a storm comes up that threatens to end our journey with Jesus, I know it can't because that is impossible. His character reveals that all of His promises are yea and amen (2 Corinthians 1:20). And my response to that Word in 2 Corinthians 1:20 is a Matthew 5 response: "Let my yea be yea." And when Jesus Christ says, "We'll go on to the other side. Come on, let's go. We'll reach heaven," all I have to do is say, "Yes, Lord. Yea." I don't worry,

I don't question, I don't doubt, and I don't try to bail out the water. I say, "Yea, Lord."

But Satan says, "Can't you feel the wind and the waves? Don't you see that the boat is just about ready to capsize?"

Don't answer him. Let the Word of God answer him. And the Word of God answers him with, "Shut up. Hush! Be muzzled. Be quiet." And when Jesus Christ says that, he cannot do one single thing with the elements or with the lower kingdom. The only thing it takes to change the lower kingdom is the higher one. All it takes to change a conversation in the flesh is a heavenly one. All it takes to change a natural mind is a supernatural mind. And all we have to do to experience rest is to abide in the words of the One who is resting in us.

When we cooperate with the will of God, we do away with passivity and inactivity of our human will. Jesus Christ said, "Not my will but Yours be done." But we say, "Yea, Lord, but we're going to perish." And He says to the storm, "Be muzzled!" Then, He says to us, "Come on, let My faith rest in your hearts so you'll be able to speak the Word instead of Me. I'll let you do it if you'll let Me produce the word of faith in you."

You have two options tonight. If you don't have any faith, then let Jesus speak. But if you'll let His Word abide in you, then you use the authority He delegated, and you do it.

Manufactured storms? They manufactured fire, but they couldn't burn the three Hebrew boys (Daniel 3). The wild lions with their lower nature were starved, but they could not eat up Daniel. He rested in faith during the time they were the most hungry (Daniel 6).

You can manufacture the darkness and dungeon of a jail, but you can't keep Paul and Silas from singing. With his squeaky voice and his contemptible speech (2 Corinthians 10:10), Paul sang with Silas in the jail at midnight (Acts 16:25). They sang praises unto God. Satan manufactured some storms but it didn't stop the joy in their hearts because they had the power over their lower natures. That's when storms begin to cease, when you personally experience life because you are resting with the Master.

CONCLUSION

Satan will manufacture storms to get at your emotions, storms to violate the gift that God has given. He will come in and intervene with manufactured storms to get you to be occupied with the waves and the wind. He'll manufacture storms in your marriage, storms against your fellowship, storms against your healing, storms against your growing, storms against your progressing in sanctification and the Word of God, against your baptism in the Spirit, against the gift of the Spirit, against oneness with God and the Body. He will manufacture storms against your children. Storms, storms, storms! But thank God, it doesn't take a long time to stop it. It's simply "Be muzzled. Hush!"

Recognize rest and you will be released. But acknowledge the storm and you'll live a restless life in bondage. Leaving the place that God put you won't stop the storm in your life. That will only reveal that you have a cancer in your heart

that needs to go to the Cross in rest and in grace, through love and redemption.

Do not allow somebody to manufacture a storm in your life so that you're always relating to what they've manufactured instead of what Jesus Christ has done about it. Never be occupied with what Satan says about you. God has said too many good things since He saved you.

Don't be occupied with what Satan has done to you. People don't need to hear what Satan was successful in doing to you. That won't help them to realize what Christ has done for them.

If you are a storm that Satan has manufactured or you are in a storm that Satan has manufactured, it doesn't have to go beyond a sentence of faith. Remember, even if you don't have any faith, the storm will still cease if you call out to Jesus Christ. And if you do have faith, you can be the one who speaks the Word of Authority to make the storm cease. So, you're a winner even if you don't have any faith, but you are a victorious overcomer if you do.