



I am not one of those individuals born with a built-in sense of direction. You know the ones I am talking about; they give you directions to a location by saying stuff like – “go north at Hwy 6” or “when you get to Jones Road go east.” Instead, I place things. So, I say things like - “at the donut shop turn left...then take a right at the pizza hut...if you see the supermarket you have gone too far.” I don’t think I am the only one that struggles with directions. In fact, you cannot hardly purchase a car or truck these days that does not have a navigation system built into the vehicle. The truth is that finding our way and navigating our journey can be difficult. It is always good to have a little help.

So, for me, a map is important because it identifies where I am and where I want to go. The trouble is I can get sidetracked. After all there are shopping centers, friends’ homes, and food places all along the way. The new navigation systems will quickly advise you when you have gotten off track. “At the next intersection make a U turn and return to route.” When you are persistent with the detour they will eventually give in and begin to “recalculate” the route in order to still get you to the intended destination.

The same is true in our spiritual journey. We know where we are and we know where we are headed. Unfortunately, we can get sidetracked on this journey as well. We allow worry, anxiety, parenting, relationships, busyness, temptations, pride, and any other number of things to distract us from our intended destination or at the very least slow our forward progress. In Proverbs 4:23, 25-27 we are told to “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life...Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don’t get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.” Wouldn’t it be nice if there was something that acted like the magnet on a compass, pointing us in the right direction and thereby keeping us on the straight and narrow?

Then it dawned on me that we do have that pull toward faithful following of God. John 6:44 puts it this way: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 12:32 reads: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself.”

If we look for the ways that God is drawing us to Him we will see them, feel them, hear them because He has promised. But the magnet will not work alone. There is both the magnet and the object being drawn by that magnet. Each has a part to play one is cause and the other is effect. One is drawing the other is responding. Raymond Lull put that longing this way:

“As the needle turns to the north when it is touched by the magnet, so it is fitting, O Lord, that I, your servant, should turn to love and praise and serve you; seeing that out of love to me you were willing to endure such grievous pangs and sufferings.”

So, if we find ourselves loving, praising, and serving the Lord, then chances are good you are feeling and responding to His draw on your life. But if those things are not true, you just might have gotten sidetracked. It may be time to recalculate and get back on the right path.