

## True North

### Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

- Inside every believer there is a compass
- An internal force placed by God
- “True North” is something that needs adjustment

In Genesis God spoke “Let there be.”

Right after He spoke these three words, God created the heavens, the earth, the land, and the seas were all spoken into existence by the voice of God

- Then we read...

### Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- As the image of God, man was different from the rest of creation
- He was a self-determined being
- Man had a voice in how his life would turn out
- He was created in the likeness of God

In the beginning God put His mouth on a lump of clay and breathed life into it

- Adam, the first man was made in God's image
- God shared His very breath with him

### Genesis 2:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- Hebrew word for breath
  - To inhale and exhale
- God inhaled and exhaled in the garden and created man

Man went from hearing the voice of God to fearing His voice

The Word became flesh and walked among us

The Holy Spirit and the word of God breathe life into us as believers

### 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by **inspiration** of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Inspiration – “God” “Breathed out”
- NIV – God-breathed

### John 10:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

- God wants us to become so familiar with His voice that we won't fall for the counterfeit
- We have all had experiences when we thought we heard God but got it wrong
- There are so many voices in the world
- The voice of God
- The voice of the devil, yourself or others

### 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

<sup>33</sup> For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

### Proverbs 20:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.

The way God speaks to us and leads us is through our spirits

- We have to be spirit-conscious to receive His direction

### 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- In the OT God dwelt within a temple
  - An outer court
  - An inner court
  - The holy of holies

- In the NT we are His temple
  - Our body is the outer court
  - Our soul (mind, will and emotions) is the inner court
  - Our spirit is the holy of holies
- Body – Soul – Spirit

When God leads us its not by our carnal mind or by our flesh but by our spirit

**Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Your Spirit Can Be Stirred

**Acts 17:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

You Can Be Led by Your Spirit

**Romans 8:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Your Spirit Can Have Purpose

**Acts 19:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”

## You Can Be Bound in Your Spirit

**Acts 20:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,

## Your Spirit Can Give You Peace About the Right Direction

**2 Corinthians 2:12–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, <sup>13</sup> I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

## Discerning God's Will

So many of us try to convince or to talk God into doing our will instead of just doing His will

- We try to get God to bless our decisions and relationships when He has already said, “No”
- God doesn't change His mind because you want Him to
  - See **Malachi 3:6**
- If God doesn't change than who needs to?

So often we fail to ask God before making decisions about relationships, financial investments, major purchases, etc.

- We then try to convince God to bless the decision we already made without His advice
- We keep going back to God asking for peace

We need to follow peace in our decisions, not make a decision and then pray for peace over it

In **Numbers 22** we see that Balak tries to bribe the prophet Balaam to curse the people of Israel

- God tells him no
- When Balaam returns and tells Balak he offers him more money
- God still says no
  - Note: don't make a decision based on money alone
- Balaam continues to try and reason with God
- God says, *"If you want to go, if you insist on going over my will, then go."*

If you persist in trying to get God to say yes to something He said no to, He may just let you have it

- That doesn't mean there will be a blessing in it
- If you make something happen apart from God's will you are responsible for the outcome and maintenance of it
  - It may be painful

Balaam rides off on his donkey to curse Israel

- God put an angel in his path to try and stop him
- The donkey saw it, but Balaam didn't
  - Sometimes we don't see what we should
  - God is gracious enough to surround us with others who can, until we can

Have you ever been so headstrong, so outside of the will of God that no one could reason with you? – *Big Rapids*

- The donkey was a good donkey, yet Balaam repeatedly beat him because he wouldn't continue in the direction of the angel, against God's will
- Then the Lord opened the mouth of the Donkey

### Numbers 22:31–33 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. <sup>32</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. <sup>33</sup> The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

- When you head in your won direction, sooner or later you will see that God has a better way
  - Double back, immediately
- Swallow your pride and thank the people who had the courage to warn you
- I don't want to live like Balaam
- I want God to warn me if I'm about to mess up my life
- God will see things we don't see
- Things we may not see with our natural eyes
- When we ignore His promptings, sooner or later we will regret it
- Listen to that "check" in your spirit

### John 10:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.

- How do sheep know the voice of their shepherd?
- Daily communion with Him
- God will always hear us when we call
- Take time to hear what He says after you call

We need to rest in the Lord and let our spirit lead us

- Your spirit wants to lead you
- Your flesh wants to race ahead!

When we try to force things to happen it is almost always a sign that you are racing ahead of God

**Psalm 23:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

You may not understand the direction the Lord wants to take you

- Learn to trust His peace
- Don't follow turmoil and confusion
- Being led by God brings peace
- Racing ahead of God exhausts our resources

**Story:**

*The house on Highland Drive*

*The house in Ionia*

*The house in Fremont*

*The trip to Ukraine*

We need to make time to spend alone with God

- You must plan it
- Around your responsibilities and family
- You need these times with God
- He will give you direction and confirmation



**Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)**

<sup>105</sup> Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- The word will direct your steps
- We need His direction

God wants to lead us with peace not force us to follow His will

**Psalm 32:8–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. <sup>9</sup> Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *which* have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.

- As parents we understand how important “eye contact” is with our children
- If you can just catch their eye you can warn them or direct them
- You know what they’re feeling or thinking
- They also know what your look means

We can choose to be led by God’s eye or by bit and bridle

- God expects us to realize that He is God
- The sooner we realize that the better
- If you don’t have God’s approval for the direction you’re heading don’t force it
- His ways are not our way, and His thoughts are not our thoughts – **Isaiah 55:8**
- God’s greatest pleasure is for us to trust Him and allow Him to reward us – **Hebrews 11:6**

When following God's voice beware of two extremes

### **Don't Over Rationalize**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- Don't try to make everything logical
- Every door opened, every question answered before you make a move
- Don't wait for God to *"show before you go"*
- You need to *"go and then God will show"*

### **Don't Be Hyper Spiritual**

- God doesn't want us to completely ignore reality
- *"I felt Led"* or *"God told me"*
- To many people use this a line to shield against the advice of others
- People who live this way really don't want the advice of others

**Proverbs 15:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

**Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- You shouldn't be the smartest person you know