

Perspectives

Going God's Direction

There is a funny scene in a popular comedy where the two main characters get turned around and are heading the wrong way down an interstate. They notice people trying to alert them. At first, they ignore these people, but eventually realize they are in fact going the opposite way down a one-way road. Heading in the wrong direction may be funny in this type of movie, but in real life, it is not.

The Hebrews were set free from Egyptian bondage by God. And, with Moses at the helm, they set out for the promised land. During their travels, there would be grumbling, failure, and discouragement. However, there would also be God's leading presence, covenant, and promises. They were headed somewhere, a place "flowing with milk and honey"—the promised land (Exodus 3:17). Despite the ups and downs—being led by God—they were going in the right direction.

Whether people realize it or not, their lives are heading in a direction. The question is, *Who is determining the path they take?* Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Being a disciple means forsaking our own direction and following God's direction on the journey of faith.

Following God's leading doesn't mean the path will be easy, free of pain and challenges. In following God's guidance and direction for our lives, we still encounter times on the mountaintop as well as in the valley. However, God promises His presence to those who follow His way. To Joshua God said, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9); to Isaiah, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). Jesus promised His disciples that He would be with them to "the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

As you go through this study, remember, when we travel the God-directed path, we are not alone. As God promised to be with those in the past, He promises to be with us as well: "Be strong and courageous...for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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