

The Principle of the Path 5: Do NOT Trust Your Heart

The Principle of the Path: How to Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be

Andy Stanley – Thomas Nelson (March 21, 2011) – ISBN-10: 0849946360

POTP #1: The Principle Applies to YOU

1. What You Choose Determines Your Outcome (*Paths lead to predictable places.*)
2. This Is a Principle (*Applies to everyone everywhere, known or unknown*)
3. Your Choices Regarding a Principle (*Learn and leverage it; ignore and regret it.*)
4. The Principle of the Harvest (You REAP what you SOW.)
Gal 6:7-10 ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
5. Results of Embracing the Principle of the Path (*Avoid regret and wasted time*)

POTP #2: Why Bad Things Happen to Smart People: The Principle Introduced

1. Know the Difference Between Solution and Path (*Quick fix vs time + change of direction*)
2. What Is Usually Needed: A Change of Direction
3. Decisions Are Simply Steps on a Chosen Path (*"It will work out somehow" is self-deception*)
4. Direction –Not Intention– Determines Our Destination
5. Your Choice: God's Path or Your Own?
You don't have problems to fix; you have directions that need to change. (p.17)
 - Ps 17:5 Uphold my steps in **Your paths**, *That* my footsteps may not slip.
 - Ps 23:3b He leads me in the **paths of righteousness** For His name's sake.

POTP #3: Your Situation Is NOT Unique – DISCONNECT

1. 3 Truths About Getting Lost (Not on purpose | We don't know when | Road, not intentions)
2. A Look from the Window (Proverbs 7:6-27)
3. Questions to Ask: *Disconnects in your life? Desires vs doing? Intentions vs direction?*
Prov. 5:21-23 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths. ²² His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. ²³ He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

POTP #4: Why Are You Surprised?

1. The Practice of Looking Ahead and Acting on What You See
*A prudent [man] foresees evil and hides himself;
The simple pass on [and] are punished. (Prov 27:12)*
The PRUDENT
 - a. **Looks Ahead** – *The future is connected to my present choice*
 - b. **Decides Accordingly** – *Choose paths that miss danger***The SIMPLE**
 - a. **Ignores Danger** – *Has same options; just doesn't connect dots*
 - b. **Pays Dearly** – *Punished by their refusal to act wisely*
2. The Truth About Paths and Consequences of Our Decisions
 - a. *Forgiveness changes a relationship, not the outcome*
 - b. *Prayer changes the way forward, not the past*
 - c. *Repentance changes your path, not your consequences*

Ways to Learn Apart from Your Own Experiences:

*Scripture | Pastors | Parents | Seasoned, Older, Wiser Believers
Seasoned in Spiritual Things, in Life, in Marriage, in Children*

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – June 17, 2015

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*"Our problem rarely stems from a lack of information or insight. ... Our problem stems from the fact that we are not on a truth quest. ... We are on a happiness quest." (p. 57)
The problem with the happiness quest is that happy today does not necessarily equal happy tomorrow. Decisions and experiences that fill me with happiness today may very well fill me with regret tomorrow. (p.59) #smoking # credit card debt #eating #vehicles*

1. **We _____ to Ourselves (p.61)**
 - *We begin selling ourselves on what we **want** to do rather than what we **ought** to do.*
 - *We listen to our hearts, and then we assign our heads the responsibility of building a case to support our hearts' decisions.*
 - *Reasons **follow** the decisions... Not the real reasons for our decisions.*
 - *Money; marriage (p.64-65) "love conquers all—including prudence and common sense."*

Our problem is rarely a lack of information or insight. It's not that we fail to see trouble brewing on the horizon. It's a lack of honesty. (p.65)

2. **We Don't Know _____ We Are**
You can't get to where you want to be in life until you are willing to admit where you are to begin with. Self-deception makes that next to impossible. (p.66)

3. **We _____ Trust Our Heart**

**Jer 17:9 The heart [is] deceitful above all [things],
And desperately wicked; Who can know it?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Every heart</i> • <i>Desperately wicked</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We cannot beat it.</i> • <i>We cannot understand it</i> • <i>We cannot trust it</i>
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Once you settle on the fact that your heart can't be trusted, it becomes easier to pause and evaluate before charging down whatever path your heart urges you follow. (p.70)

4. **The _____, Not Our Own Heart, Sets Us _____**
**Jn 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him,
"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

But when you decide to quit taking cues from your heart, your brain has a new role. Now instead of looking for excuses to prop up your heart decisions, your brain starts looking for the real reason you want to do things. And by examining the real reason, you will free yourself from the deceptive power of your heart.... But once you decide to get painfully honest with yourself, it can be extraordinarily liberating. (p.71)

Hebrews 3:12-13 | 3 questions (p.74)

<i>H _____ as a Wrong Basis for Life</i>	<i>T _____ what Is True (Phil 4:8-9)</i>
<i>E _____ as a Terrible Director</i>	<i>R _____ Heart's Dishonesty & Deception</i>
<i>A _____ Deceitful</i>	<i>U _____ Our Need for Help</i>
<i>R _____ Follow Decisions</i>	<i>T _____ what Is True</i>
<i>T _____ -Ignoring Choices</i>	<i>H _____ Follows Head</i>