
The Principle of the Path 6: Submit to God

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?
 - 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)*
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*

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

"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)

1. We Lie to Ourselves (p.61)
2. We Don't Know Where We Are
3. We Cannot Trust Our Heart
*Jer 17:9 The heart [is] deceitful above all [things],
And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*
4. The Truth, Not Our Own Heart, Sets Us Free (John 8:31-32)

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1. The Trouble with _____

"The challenging aspect about picking the right paths is that the choices are *now*. The outcomes are *later*. The decisions you make today have ramifications *down the road*. ... most of the time the outcome of our decision won't be felt until later. Much later. ... Unfortunately, you and I don't know the outcome of many decisions we make until it's too late to do anything about it. ... There's no way to unmake those decisions--which is why it's so crucial for us to make the right decisions." (p.80)

2. We Have an _____ Problem, not an Information Problem

*We trust ourselves (our heart). We think we will be the exception.
We have information – but information doesn't work alone.
Ed & Linda "doable" (p. 82)*

3. We Need _____

*"Specifically, submission to the One who knows where each path leads, as well as where it doesn't lead." (p.83)
Solomon recognized his need! (1 Kings 3:7-13)
"My point..." (p.86)*

4. We Need to Submit Our _____ to God

- **Trust**
 - *In the Lord*
 - *With all your heart, and*
- **Do Not Lean**
 - *On your own understanding*
- **Acknowledge Him,**
 - *In all of your ways*
- *And He will direct your paths.*

"So, instead of sending us a matrix for decision making or a GPS, he's asked us to trust him." (p.90)

5. We Need to Submit to God _____

Where Solomon Went Wrong... p. 90, 91, 92, 93, 94

"We need to live with a posture of dependency." (p.93)

"But what we do learn from this narrative is that apparently pride, fear, and lust all have the potential to override wisdom, discernment, and insight." (p.93-93)

3 questions (94-95), and final paragraph...

Divine direction begins with unconditional submission to God.