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## The Principle of the Path 8: What Map Do You Use?

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*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

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### 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<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> 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*)
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### 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 (*"It will work out somehow" = self-deception*)
  3. Direction –Not Intention– Determines Our Destination
  4. Your Choice: God's Path or Your Own?  
Ps 17:5 Uphold my steps in **Your paths**...23:3b He leads me in **the paths of righteousness**...
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### POTP #3: Your Situation Is NOT Unique – DISCONNECT

1. 3 Truths About Getting Lost (Not on purpose | 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. <sup>22</sup> His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup> He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.*
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### POTP #4: Why Are You Surprised?

1. The Practice of Looking Ahead and Acting on What You See (Prov 27:12)  
*A prudent [man] foresees evil and hides himself; The simple pass on [and] are punished.*
  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*
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### POTP #5: Do NOT Trust Your Heart

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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### POTP #6: Submit to God

1. The Trouble with Timing (*choices are now; outcomes are later*)
  2. We Have an Independence Problem, not an Information Problem (we're no exception)
  3. We Need God "submission to the One who knows where each path leads" (p.83)
  4. We Need to Submit Our Thinking to God (Prov 3:5-6) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
  5. We Need to Submit to God All Life Long (*God's direction begins w/ unconditional submission*)
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### POTP #7: Don't Pray About It

1. Bad Input to Kill Saul: a) conventional wisdom; b) crowd's words; c) cultural norms; d) circumstances "from God," e) moral imperative; f) emotional twist; g) patterns of behavior
2. Instead, David Followed: a) commands; b) principles; and c) wisdom of God

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – August 26, 2015

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### 1. Common Maps

- a. My \_\_\_\_\_ Views through Learning and Experience
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ in Similar Life Positions (117-118) Rehoboam...
- c. My Own " \_\_\_\_\_ " Map (119)

### 2. Counsel Is \_\_\_\_\_ to a Right Destination (123 – Solomon...) ***We don't have enough understanding, experience or time...*** (121-122)

1:5 A wise *man* will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

11:14 Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel *is* wise.

15:22 Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.

19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD'S counsel-- that will stand.

20:18 Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war.

24:6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend *gives delight* by hearty counsel.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Do You Find Counsel?

- a. Understand that the Counsel of the \_\_\_\_\_ Is Bad Info

Ps 1:1 Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful

- b. Begin with the \_\_\_\_\_ as Your Best Counsel

Ps 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Ps 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

- c. Seek Input from Your \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro 1:8-9; 6:20-22; 23:22)

- d. Seek Input from Your \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 4:11-16)

- e. Seek Input from Your Wise, \_\_\_\_\_ Believers (Col 3:16)

- f. **Carefully** Seek Other Input (filtered through the Bible) (Ps 1:1)

### 4. Isn't It Really None of Other Peoples' Business? (130-132)