
The Principle of the Path 9: Define “Direction”

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 – Principle of the Harvest (You REAP what you SOW.)

Gal 6:7-10⁷ 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.

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. Direction –Not Intention– Determines Our Destination
3. 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...

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. 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 (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 | We Don’t Know Where We Are | We Cannot Trust Our Heart
The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], And desperately wicked; Who can know it? (Jer 17:9)
 2. 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 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; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (Prov 3:5-6)

4. 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
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➤ We Drive in the Direction We Are Looking

- I drift in the direction of what has my attention.

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – September 9, 2015

1. Two Choices

- a. Let Things / People _____ or Capture My Attention
- b. _____ Attention to Things

2. A.D.D. (pp. 139-140)

- a. What Gets My _____
- b. Determines My _____
- c. Which Determines My _____
As your _____ goes, so goes your _____. (p.140)

3. You Are Not an Island (p. 142)

- a. Beyond your circle of _____
- b. Beyond your _____

4. Pay Up or Be Grabbed (p.142-143)

5. Bible Basics

a. Deut 7:12

Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.

b. Psalm 119:35-37

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.

c. Matt 6:22-23 (p. 147)

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

6. Attention! Attention! Questions to Ask

- a. _____ or _____ has your attention right now?
- b. _____: Has anything or anyone captured your attention or affection in a way that is distracting you from what God would have you to be or do?
- c. _____: Is there something or someone you need to begin paying more attention to?

7. Final Words (p. 152 / 153 / 154 / 154)