

WHY GOD, WHY?

We all have questions we want to ask God. Someone gets a cancer diagnosis, or someone else is in an accident. There are terrible news reports every day throughout the day. What we don't hear about as much is all of the things that don't happen that could have happened. Or people who get cancer but are healed in an unexplainable way. There are people who "set their faith" on God and then navigate through some very difficult times. They turn to Him and prayer and ask Him to intervene in situations and HE DOES! People survive plane crashes, or babies are found unharmed up in a tree after a tornado. People pull through surgeries after being given a terrible prognosis and no hope. We can't explain it to ourselves or to one another, but they still happen and they are real.

TRUE NORTH FOR TODAY

Since Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb 13:8), we can choose to depend on Him and trust Him. Just like no one can see the earthly "true north", we can't see God. That does not change the fact that He exists. It doesn't change His declaration about Himself that He is "Faithful and True." His character is merciful, gracious and loving. He loves us through our trials. He will continue to meet our needs, heal our bodies and rescue and deliver us from evil (Psalm 91). We can adjust our spiritual compass and adjust it to our "true north" even if we have been shipwrecked in the past. It is never too late.

If you feel that you have set your compass of life on something other than God (the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit), and have tried to get through this life using your earthly wisdom, your good looks, your family's name or their reputation, you can stop what you are doing right now and talk with God (Pray). "Heavenly Father, I now realize that I have not set my life on You, your Son (Jesus Christ) and your Word (the Bible). I have gotten "off course" and made a mess of my life.

Please forgive me and help me to set my life course right based on who you are my loving Heavenly Father. Help me to adapt to the problems in my life and please heal me. Holy Spirit, please help guide me so that I no longer get "off course." Help me to hear and recognize your voice. Guide me through each day and help me to fall more in love with Jesus Christ every day." Amen.

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True North

**God:
His Unchanging Nature**



STAYING ON COURSE

TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION

Since the beginning of human history, mankind has traveled and explored this world. The Chinese people, the Phoenicians, and the Vikings are just a few of the ancient peoples who explored. Columbus and Magellan also explored. How did these peoples navigate the oceans? How did they get to their new homelands (like the Puritans on the ship called the Mayflower) without the use of computers and digital guidance systems? Despite the thousands of years separating their travels, they all navigated based upon the same concept. That concept is commonly called “True North.”

WHAT IS “TRUE NORTH”?

True North (geodetic north) is the direction along the earth’s surface towards the North Pole. [By the way, true geodetic north differs from magnetic north (the direction the compass points toward the magnetic North Pole)]. The U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Armed Forces publish maps which mark True North with a line terminating in a 5-point star. There is a National geodetic benchmark designating True North on Hacker’s Hill in Casco, Maine. This designation does NOT change. But magnetic north does change and new maps are needed regularly for compass navigation to be accurate. If you try to travel using old maps based on a previous magnetic north, you can end up “off track” or lost.

WHY DO WE NEED THE NORTH TO BE TRUE?

Since geography is based upon this one point, (true north), it must be true, accurate and absolute. If this point could move, change, and fluctuate (like magnetic north does) then finding specific locations could be very hard. Explorers and travelers need a point to be “true” and accurate no matter where they are located so that they will not get “off course” or lost. The results of being off course or lost can be dangerous and disastrous (like the shipwrecks in the past). The results of our decisions NOT based on the absolute and true position, can also be disastrous in our lives.

TRUE NORTH IN OUR LIVES

As humans, we also need a “true north” to help us navigate through life. So much happens to all of us on a daily basis. People are hurting and going through some very difficult times, trials and circumstances. It can be very disturbing and unsettling. People in crisis can feel off balance and spinning when things happen so fast and are so difficult. For some people, these circumstances can affect their spiritual life. They may feel like no one is in control and everything is random. This causes people to reel and falter and stumble. This is a very stressful way to live. Getting through hard circumstances and not getting “lost” or “off course” requires returning to our “True North.” For people, that is not a place or a point, but rather a person: God.

FAITHFUL AND TRUE

The Bible assures us that God (the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit) remain the same. God calls Himself “I AM that I AM” (Exodus 3:14) and “Who was, and is and is to come” (Rev 1:8). Jesus is called “the Faithful and True” (Rev 19:11). Jesus is also called “the Word of God” (Rev 19:13). These descriptions of God by God Himself are unchangeable. In psalms it says: “from everlasting to everlasting You are God” (Psalm 90: 2). When a person sets the direction of their life’s journey on God and the Word of God (the Bible), no matter what happens, they have set their direction on the real “True North” and no storm of life can overcome or shipwreck them.

WHAT ABOUT THE BAD THINGS IN LIFE?

Simply put, the pain and trauma that occurs in our lives are part of our earthly, fallen experience. When Jesus was on Earth, He spoke about both the good and the bad. In fact, He even told a story or parable about the wheat and the tares growing up together (Matt 13: 36-43). So, the fact that bad things are happening to people is not new, and these things are also not a surprise to God. Then why doesn’t He just stop all evil and wipe it out? This is a very difficult question and no one can really understand the mind of God. But even if we can’t fully understand why bad things happen, we can still know that He loves us and is in control.

