

DIRECTION NOT INTENTION

New Year's resolutions can be good intentions.

Intention: is an idea, a goal, an aim, or strategy that we plan (or intend) to carry out. Something we desire to do, whether we do it or not!

Despite our good intentions what is your current reality?

Where is your health, marriage, finances or *that* bad habit going to take you if you keep doing the same things?

It is easy to join the dots from other people's decisions but it's hard to join the dots from ours!

When we walk in the wrong direction, we don't need a solution, we need a new direction.

Question: What direction is your life headed in 2023 if you don't make changes?

BIG IDEA: Direction - not intention - determines our destination.

We attract life's experiences by the paths we choose to follow.

We may not have problems to fix; but directions that need to be redirected.

Wise people look as far down the road as possible when making decisions.

Wise choices will watch over you (protect us).

*Understanding will keep you safe. **Proverbs 2:11** (nlt)*

*Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. **Psalm 25:4** (tlb)*

The difference between the wise compared to the foolish is not **what** they see but **how** they respond and **act** to what they see.

The wise react to what they see on the horizon - they join the dots from their current choices.

Our problem is rarely a lack of information. It's failing to see trouble brewing on the horizon.

We sell ourselves on what we **want** to do rather than what we **ought** to do.

God's **antidote** to our self-deception is to...

Trust the Lord completely, and don't depend on your own knowledge. ⁶ With every step you take, think about what He wants, and He will help you go the right way.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (erv)

If we trust God with all our hearts, and refuse to lean into our limited understanding, and submit every aspect of our lives to Him, He will provide a clear path for us to follow.

Divine direction begins with unconditional submission.

To ***trust*** Him. To ***lean*** on Him. To ***acknowledge*** His right to rule in our life. In exchange, **He will make our paths clear.**

Teach me, Lord, what You want me to do, and I will obey You faithfully; teach me to serve You with complete devotion. Psalm 86:11 (gnb)

Good decision making for the Christ follower is not borne from talent, status, information, or insight rather ***submission*** to and ***application*** of God's ***wisdom*** and ***principles***.

We need to live with a ***posture of dependency*** on God, acknowledging Him in all our decisions.

We will never accomplish the will of God for our lives by disobeying His Word or snubbing His values or ignoring His wisdom.

Ask these three questions before you make a significant decision:

- Does this decision disobey God's Word?
- Will this decision violate my Christian values?
- What is the wise thing to do?

Question: What direction is your life headed in 2023 if you don't change direction?

God joined the dots and could see on the horizon the direction mankind was headed as they followed their evil desires following Adam and Eves disobedience.

In the moment of human failure, God's mercy enters with a promise of salvation.

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.

Jesus willingly embraced suffering and death at Calvary.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the supreme demonstration of His triumph over Satan's works.

Crushing Satan's head disarmed him of his weapons that spearhead his every attack: **sin, condemnation, sickness, and death.**

We now share Jesus' victory over sin, condemnation, sickness, and death.

The direction of God's great plan of redemption always had a destination in mind – Jesus would eventually ascend back to the Father's side once He completed His mission on earth!

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