

## 1 Inner Navigation

The Lord's way of

## 2 Scripture

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. (Psalm 25:1 NIV)

Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. (Psalm 25:2 NIV)

No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. (Psalm 25:3 NIV)

## 3 Scripture

Show me your ways, O LORD, (Psalm 25:4a NIV)

Teach me your paths; (Psalm 25:4b NIV)

Guide me in your truth and (Psalm 25:5a NIV)

Teach me, for you are God my Savior, and (Psalm 25:5b NIV)

My hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:5c NIV)

## 4 Scripture

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. (Psalm 25:6 NIV)

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

According to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. (Psalm 25:7 NIV)

## 5 Scripture

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he

instructs sinners in his ways. (Psalm 25:8 NIV)

guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:9 NIV)

All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. (Psalm 25:10 NIV)

## 6 Introduction

Neuroscientist Sue Barry wore a hat with a magnet in it every time she went out.

She was hoping it would help her improve her sense of direction, which had always been poor.

## 7 Introduction

Barry's husband, who is also a scientist, rigged up the magnetic hat and set it so that it buzzed every time she turned north.

After wearing the hat around town, she began to anticipate not just which way north was, but also "how things connect," she says.

## 8 Introduction

She eventually swapped her buzzing magnetic hat for a smartphone app, also developed by her husband, that vibrates when facing north.

But with either device, it was worth the effort.

She began associating certain streets and landmarks with north due to the cues from the hat and the phone.

## 9 Introduction

Finally, she could make connections about which streets were parallel and which ones intersected.

Her direction-finding skills improved, and . . .

In effect, she disproved the common notion that if one's sense of direction isn't well-developed, there's nothing one can do about it.

## 10 Introduction

In other words, we can grow in our discernment of what path we're on even though we are "directionally challenged."

All we have to do is pay attention to the road signs and landmarks around us.

Once we are familiar with our surroundings, there is a high probability we won't get lost.

## 11 Introduction

It has long been known that some people seem better at finding their way than others.

All of us form "cognitive maps" of locations we travel frequently.

But some people form "cognitive maps" even for places they've visited only once.

If they ever go back there, they can navigate easily and have an inner sense of where things are in relation to other things.

## 12 Introduction

In his book titled Inner Navigation, which is about direction finding, Erik Jonsson says,

"Our natural curiosity, the interest with which we look at new things, especially those that stand out as landmarks, is enough to create the cognitive map without any conscious effort."

Thus, the level of our curiosity about some features of the natural landscape may determine the quality of our cognitive maps.

## 13 Psalm 25

In Psalm 25, where the psalmist prays,

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths."

In effect, the psalmist is asking God to help him with a sense of spiritual direction and gives him a cognitive map that shows him the Lord's ways and paths.

Or to use a modern metaphor, the psalmist is praying for a spiritual GPS.

## 14 Psalm 25

Traveling God's path implies movement and direction, a response to His word, and a way of living that pleases Him.

In the Psalms, "path" often refers to the kind of conduct prescribed by the Scripture, especially in the laws of Moses.

The Mosaic laws and the books containing them, the first five books of the Bible, were called the Torah.

The basic meaning of Torah, however, is not "rules," but "instruction."

Thus by praying, "Make known to me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth ..." the psalmist is asking for help with navigation so that we might not get lost.

## 15 Psalm 25

Psalm 25 tells us that the godly path is not necessarily a way that we know intuitively.

When the psalmist prays, in verse 4, "Make me to know your ways ... teach me your paths," he seems to be acknowledging that the path of the Lord is not necessarily obvious, but rather a direction that needs to be . . .

studied,

discerned, and

discovered.

## 16 Psalm 25

The psalmist of Psalm 25 also acknowledges that the Lord's way is a path sinners are invited to walk:

"God ... instructs sinners in the way," [See Psalm 25:8]

The psalmist also acknowledges in verse 10 that all the ways of God are characterized by

steadfast love and faithfulness

for those who follow his instruction.

In other words, according to the psalmist of Psalm 25: the way of the Lord is a good path to follow.

## 17 Inner Navigation

Street maps and their intellectual equivalent — general knowledge — have their place, of course, and we draw from our general knowledge in living our lives every day.

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But the way of the Lord is a special application of knowledge guided by the Holy Spirit.

Thus, we need God's help to develop our intuitive spiritual sense and align ourselves on God's path.

## **18 Promise of the Holy Spirit**

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 31:31 NIV)

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33 NIV)

No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 31:34 NIV)

## **19 Promise of the Holy Spirit**

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. (John 14:15–17 NIV)

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26 NIV-GK)

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. (John 15:26 NIV-GK)

## **20 Purpose of the Five-fold Ministry**

So then, if we don't need anyone to teach us then why do we need to go to church?

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (Ephesians 4:7–8 NIV)

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) (Ephesians 4:9–10 NIV)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . . (Ephesians 4:11–12 NIV)

## **21 Purpose of the Five-fold Ministry**

So what, it seems, we have here is Jesus coming from the earth after triumphing over the enemies of heaven and purchasing men for God.

And like any triumphal general returning from victory parading before everyone in his capital city with cheers from the gathered crowd, so is Jesus.

However, instead of receiving gifts, Jesus is bestowing gifts.

And what are these gifts?

According to the Apostle Paul, they are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

## **22 Purpose of the Five-fold Ministry**

So then, what do these gifts among men do?

They prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all . . .

reach unity in the faith and

in the knowledge of the Son of God and

become mature,

attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12–13 NIV)

Or as the Apostle Paul says in 1Corinthians, The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: . . . [Why? Because he has] the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:15–16 NIV)

## **23 Matter of Prayer**

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For this reason, since the day we heard about you, (Col. 1:9 NIV)

we have not stopped praying for you and

asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

And we pray this in order that you, ... (Colossians 1:10 NIV)

may live a life worthy of the Lord and

may please him in every way.

## 24 Matter of Prayer

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. (Ephesians 1:17-19 NIV)

eyes of your heart may be enlightened.

know the hope to which he has called you,

the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

his incomparably great power for us who believe.

## 25 Matter of Prayer & Doing

And this is my prayer: (Philippians 1:9–11 NIV)

that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

[why?]

so that you may be able to discern what is best, and

may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.

## 26 Matter of Doing

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1–2 NIV)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2a NIV)

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1–2 NIV)

## 27 Summary

If you want to have "Inner Navigation," so that you won't get lost in a world that has no maps, then apply yourself to the following . . .

God reveals himself to us when we walk in Jesus' commands, so pray that our love grows more and more.

Worship is offering our bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God.

Doing so will, . . .

transforms our minds, thus

giving us the ability to have the "mind of Christ" where we can discern God's good, pleasing and perfect will, and keep ourselves on the right path where we can reach our final destination.

## 28 Summary

Again, why this is so important is because there will be terrible times in the last days.

People will have a form of godliness yet will be living like the devil.

False apostles, prophets, and teachers will be everywhere promoting doctrines of demons as gospel truth—deceiving many.

So then, if we have little or no discernment, how in the world will anyone be able to keep themselves under the shelter of God's wing?



## 29 Counterfeit

Nevertheless, in our attempt to have discernment or inner knowledge, we shouldn't be deceived by its counterfeit, which is mysticism (or gnosticism).

Mysticism teaches we can have access to hidden knowledge of the divine or spirit world through contemplation—deep reflective thought, prayer, or repetitive chanting or singing.

While the Bible promotes meditation, its focus is on thinking and understanding not on having some esoteric illuminating experience.

As the Scripture says, Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. (Joshua 1:8 NIV)

## 30 Mind of Christ

God reveals himself, first of all, to us through his word.

When we walk in his will and his ways, he gives us an intimate knowledge of himself that gives us understanding to the deep things of God—the mind of Christ.

It is the possession of the "mind of Christ," which will give us inner navigation to keep ourselves on the path of life, when life is chaotic and confusing.

Without it we will be tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. (Ephesians 4:14 NIV)

## 31 Exhortation

The Lord guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his ways. (Psalm 25:9)

The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. (Psalm 25:14 NIV)

For the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence. (Proverbs 3:32 NIV)

To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. (Revelation 2:17 NIV)

Blessed are those who have oil for their lamp stand so that when darkness, confusion, and bewilderment reign, they will have the light of life to guide their paths and so find their bridegroom.