



DIRECTION WITHOUT DOUBT

How the condition of your heart
determines the direction of your life

There are really only two directions in life, and they go in opposite ways and lead to opposing destinies. You can either walk toward the Lord Jesus Christ into eternal life or away from Him into eternal death. And the determining factor is the state of your spirit.

Luke 15:11-24 KJV

[11] And he said, A certain man had two sons: [12] And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me . And he divided unto them his living. [13] And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. [14] And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. [15] And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. [16] And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. [17] And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! [18] I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, [19] And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. [20] And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. [21] And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. [22] But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: [23] And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it ; and let us eat, and be merry: [24] For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Where do I fit in to this story?

WAYWARD SON - he grew up with plenty, had everything he needed but perhaps he was bored and felt he was missing out. He may have thought everyone else was having fun but he was stuck just working hard with his brother. He wanted what he thought would bring him happiness. This is where satan lies to us convincing us this is what we need, what we deserve; just go out there and get it. He decided to trade boundaries for his own wisdom and off he went only to lose it all by living in the flesh. The "far country" spoken about means away from God, one can not go anywhere at all and be in a far country.

It's always expensive to live in sin. Wandering around aimless is expensive. The wrong crowd will always live off your gifts and leave you when they're gone. By wasting our talent, gifts, or wealth, we deny God of the investment he made in us. satan knows how to blind us from the destruction we're heading into. You cannot change a single principle, you are not an exception, your sin will ultimately find you out. You will reap exactly what you sow, you can't plant corn and harvest tomatoes. When he arrived at the bottom, he humbled himself when he realized he couldn't overcome the condition he had created for himself and if there was a blessing in this boys life, this was it. Many exist for the rest of their lives in defeat, they exist but they died long ago. It takes guts to face where you are and decide to turn away from your sin. This is a blessing, that God gives you that you may not realize at the time.

The downward steps of the prodigal son:

1. **DESIRE** - this young man's heart was filled with a desire for freedom. He had begun to view life in his father's house as restrictive; therefore, he asked his father for his share of the estate. Despite the fact that the inheritance was normally received after his death, this father complied with his son's request and gave him his portion of the estate.
2. **DECISION** - shortly thereafter, the son decided to leave home to pursue his desires unhindered. One of Satan's goals is to convince us that having our own way and leaving God's restrictions behind is the beginning of real life.
3. **DEPARTURE** - the son went away to a far country. For our purposes, we can consider a far country as anywhere we choose to go outside of God's will. It could be a block away or across the globe because it speaks of the condition of our heart, not the location of our bodies. The devil stirs up discontent by pointing out what we are missing. Then he paints us a picture of the good life that awaits us if we'll follow him. However, he always omits the end result of a life of sinful indulgence.
4. **DECEPTION** - the Prodigal Son fell for the devil's lies without considering the consequences that would inevitably follow. He squandered all the money "with loose living" (Luke 15:13). Life looked good for the moment.
5. **WANDERING** - the problem with living for our own pleasures is that the novelty soon wears thin. The enjoyment we once experienced diminishes as we discover that sin's satisfaction is temporary. In an attempt to regain the pleasure, we may wander from one experience to the next, only to discover that there is no lasting pleasure in sin.
6. **WANTING** - the young man soon found that not only was his satisfaction waning, but his funds were diminished. Following his desires had left him bankrupt and friendless. To make matters worse, a famine came to the land causing a scarcity of food. Satan never reveals the outcome of following his temptations because his goal is to destroy and ruin people. His path to pleasure is littered with broken homes, lives, and the bodies of those who believed him.
7. **DESPERATION** - the Prodigal Son hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country and found himself in the lowest place a Jewish man could end up—in a hog pen feeding pigs. He was so hungry even the pods he gave to the pigs started to look good to him. Sometimes it takes the direst of circumstances to open blinded eyes. No matter how many people may have warned him of the dangers of heading down this path, he couldn't see the foolishness of his choices until he came to the end of the road. That's when the young man came to his senses and thought, "How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!"

What is the condition of your heart today? One way to determine this is to examine the path you are taking. Are you drawing closer to God or running away from Him? Have you ever been reluctant to return to the Lord after a season of wandering because you are embarrassed or fear that you have made too big a mess of your life? How does the story of the prodigal son contradict that perception?

Finding direction without doubt:

Just as the Prodigal Son was welcomed home by his father, so God will welcome all who come to Him for salvation. There was no reluctance on the father's part to embrace and clothe his young son and celebrate his homecoming. And this is exactly how the Lord God welcomes all who come to Him, even those who have made a mess of their lives. There's nothing to lose and everything to gain.

MAKE A DECISION. After coming to his senses, the Prodigal Son decided to go back to his father. Full of shame and guilt, he planned his confession and left for home. This is the only solution for anyone who wants to come home to God. The feelings of shame, guilt, and conviction are the result of the Holy Spirit's work as He draws each prodigal back to the heavenly Father. God is willing to forgive everyone who comes to Him in humble repentance, confessing their sin, relying on the blood of Christ for cleansing, receiving Him as Savior by faith, and surrendering themselves to Him as Lord.

1. **CLEAR THE PATHWAY** - Deal with any known sin in your life. So God's purity is not mixed with our own unrighteousness.
2. **EXERCISE PATIENCE** - By not waiting, we are saying, "I can't trust you, God." Sometimes God uses others to help us and he waits for them to be right.
3. **BE ALERT TO PRESSURE** - Exterior pressure comes from others, interior pressure comes from our own desires. Ask, "Does this come from God?"
4. **PERSIST IN PRAYER** - How much time do we devote to God each day or week? Prayer is fellowship, not just request time. God is preparing us for an answer.
5. **REST IN GOD'S PROMISE** - His promises throughout scripture help us to build our faith. The scripture will also show right and wrong directions.
6. **WAIT FOR HIS PEACE** - When it's the will of God, He will also give you peace with the answer. A rest will come over you that God is in control of your situation.

God is willing to give us direction without doubt in all decisions in life.

Psalm 25:12 KJV

What man is he that feareth the Lord ? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Proverbs 20:24 KJV

Man's goings are of the Lord ; how can a man then understand his own way?

Psalm 119:59 KJV

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.