

*Whether you
turn to the right
or to the left,
your ears will
hear a voice
behind you,
saying, "This is
the way."
(Isa. 30:21)*

GOD'S GPS

MY HUSBAND AND I recently purchased a car with a GPS (Global Positioning System). It includes a little screen with a map and a bossy woman who tells us exactly what to do. She and I have a somewhat challenging relationship. I try to comply, but the words she most often speaks are still "Make a u-turn if possible." If I could have designed the system, she would say, "I know you've had a hard day. Why don't you pull over and get a mocha?"

Fortunately, I do have another GPS in my life. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as our guide and said, "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come" (John 16:13).

There are some important differences between the Holy Spirit and an ordinary GPS. First, the Holy Spirit knows and loves us. Second, He is connected to the ultimate source of truth. And finally, the Holy Spirit is living and active. He is able to creatively respond to whatever circumstances we may face.

A GPS may help us get through traffic, but the Holy Spirit will help us get through life. All we have to do is listen and obey.

—Holley Gerth

Drive a different route today and reflect on how God wants to guide you.

SAFE ON ALL SIDES

WHENEVER THE PRESIDENT of the United States goes out in public, he is surrounded by Secret Service agents. These highly trained agents take an oath to protect the President at any cost, even if that means they give their lives to save his. They usually try to blend in with the crowd and not draw attention to themselves, but they constantly scan the crowd and the surrounding area, looking for any sign that the President may be in danger. At the slightest sign of trouble, they quickly move to guard him and remove the potential problem. Even though they stay in the background, they form a wall of security that allows the President to move about freely.

When Satan approached God about testing Job, he noted that God had built a hedge of protection around Job. God also was present in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to keep them from harm. David called God his strong tower and his refuge. All of these men knew God's amazing power, strength, and protection would never fail them.

Are you feeling weak? Defenseless? Vulnerable to the Enemy? God will not leave us to fight our battles alone. He may seem to linger in the background, but He is ever vigilant when watching over His children, and His help is always right on time.

—Jeff Friend

*Guard my life
and rescue me;
let me not be
put to shame,
for I take refuge
in you.*

(Ps. 25:20)

NEW HEART, NEW SPIRIT, NEW LIFE

THIS MARRIAGE IS IRRETRIEVABLY BROKEN. The magistrate's words devastated my heart. I left the courtroom in tears, drove home sobbing, and sat in my living room and wailed. I couldn't believe I was truly divorced.

Though the county court had declared my marriage dead, the heavenly court had planned a different verdict.

Over the next few years, God worked relentlessly in my heart and in the heart of my ex-husband. He showed us our sin—the disrespect and disregard we had demonstrated to each other—and He showed us His grace and love. Then one day He did something amazing. He gave us back to each other—not to pick up where we'd left off four years earlier. Not to patch up our old marriage. No, He gave us new, soft hearts, new spirits of love, and a completely new relationship. We both realized what we had in each other, and we began to evaluate misunderstanding and miscommunication in light of this new thing God had created: Was being right worth risking this precious relationship? Never!

Your situation may or may not be as dramatic as mine, but whatever your situation, God can give you a new heart and a new spirit. As a result, you'll begin to see life from a new perspective—His—and what you receive will far surpass whatever you may have lost. I'm living proof!

—Mary McNeil

*Rid yourselves of
all the offenses
you have
committed and
get a new heart
and a new spirit.
(Ezek. 18:31)*

Ask God to show you His perspective on a difficult circumstance or relationship.