

JUDGING DISTANCE

Most of us learn the basic use and concept of the compass; but what about the “moral compass” of our life’s journey; how do we stay fixed to a point or place that is absolute like the North Star – or the principle direction of a compass?

One way of judging distance (or determining travel mileage) is to plot a point of reference (or origin) and, using time and speed, calculate your distance considering the course or direction. With a reference point, the distance (and course) enables another plotted point in the journey...and so on. On the sea – and in prior navigation (before GPS) – a sextant was used to determine such points. Other equipment may have also been used...

Though I am probably simplifying the procedure – or am leaving out critical information – the association is that **a beginning, absolute, fixed and confirmed point is needed** to map your course, etc. Without that point, you have no reference or mark from which to determine how far you’ve traveled and precisely where you are going. Fixed points (such as the sun) serve such needs – but the general quality of being “fixed” or absolute is the matter I really want to address.



GETTING YOUR BEARINGS is about the “compass for life”; it is about making good, wise decisions based on an absolute or fixed point of reference. “Judging Distance” gives us some sense of how far we come, how much we’ve matured, and what we learned...and accomplished. Life is going to present some real challenges for you (it already has!); and because so much depends on how you respond – even more than your initial choices, **a firm reference point is critical**. If God is your *firm foundation* or fixed point, than his word must be a map to help you find your distance, direction...

Proverbs 16 (from *The Message*), tells us: “We plan the way we want to live; but only God makes us able to live it.” It may seem as though you are a *small boat* traveling in a big sea – with little knowledge or no attention by God; yet in his providence and purpose, God is the most experienced of captains who genuinely loves and cares for you – whatever size your boat! Yes, the ability of God to “makes us able to live (our plan or way)” comes through pray (of others for us and ourselves) by personal faith and trust in his promises. Sure he gives us tools and techniques to follow but, if the scripture is real, he ultimately determines the distance traveled for the traveler (or person) who trusts him.