

GOD'S POSITIONING SYSTEM

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Psalm 1:1-6

1. On December 23, 2018 I received a text from one of my sisters letting me know that she, her husband, one of her son's, and his wife, along with many of her extended family, were in Cashiers, NC.
2. They had rented a three building property that allowed much of the group to be together in one place.
3. Sandra and I decided to drive to Cashiers on Christmas Eve to spend some time with everyone.
4. Thanks to GPS (Global Positioning System) all we needed was an address to find where we needed to go.
5. At every point on the trip a blue dot on my phone showed me where we were in relationship to where we were going.
6. A blue line showed me the recommended route and ended at our destination.
7. As I was preparing to preach a message from Psalms I thought about God's Positioning System—the system God has devised to guide us in this life that we might end up where He wants us to while accomplishing His will along the way.
8. Psalm 1 reveals some great truths that we need to grasp.
 - a. Blessed is the man who does not listen to those he should not listen to.
NOTE: Who we get directions from matters.
 - b. Blessed is the man who does listen to God.
NOTE: The life of such a person is compared to a fruit tree that is carefully planted by and watered from several sources. It is planted in good soil, it produces good fruit, and it is pleasing to look at. Ps 92:12-15
The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, 15 To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
 - c. Blessed is the man whose way God approves or has regard for. 6
9. God's Positioning System shows us where we are in relationship to God, where we can be in relationship to God, and how to get there.
10. Prayer is the means by which we communicate with God related to every aspect of our journey from beginning to end.
11. There was a time in my life when God initially showed me where I was in relationship to Him—spiritually blind, dead in my trespasses and sins, and without hope.
12. It was through the agency of prayer that I was able to express my repentance and my faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and to commence my journey with God.
13. Let's look at four components of God's Positioning System.

I. The Word of God.

- A. "How blessed is the man who delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night." (paraphrase)
- B. Several passages immediately come to mind from Psalm 119.
 - 1. Ps 119:9-11
How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. 10 **With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments.** 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.
 - 2. Ps 119:18
Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.
 - 3. Ps 119:105
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- C. A comprehensive knowledge of God's Word must be the goal of any serious follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. The Spirit of God.

- A. Note David's prayer in Psalm 145:10.
Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
- B. The Holy Spirit is, as one writer put it, Heaven's throne gift.
- C. The Holy Spirit was promised and sent by Jesus Christ as the manifest presence of God in our lives. John 14:16-19
"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."
- D. Paul made it clear that the Holy Spirit is to be the guiding force in our lives.
 - 1. Rom 8:9-14
However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.** 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**
 - 2. Gal 5:16
"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

III. The people of God.

A. Here is another prayer David prayed. Ps 141:5

Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; it is oil upon the head; do not let my head refuse it.

NOTE: Have you ever prayed such a prayer?

B. Paul clearly taught that we have a responsibility to be accountable to others and to hold others accountable.

1. Rom 15:14

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

NOTE: The word "admonish" means to warn, caution, reprove.

2. 1 Thess 5:14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

C. One of the great weaknesses of the modern American church is a lack of personal accountability to God and to each other.

IV. The activity of God.

A. By the activity of God I mean the manifestation of His sovereignty over the affairs of our lives.

B. He allows and disallows, opens doors and closes doors, provides and withholds, and blesses and withholds blessings.

C. An example is found in Acts 16:6-10

They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the **Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the **Spirit of Jesus** did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that **God** had called us to preach the gospel to them.

APPLICATION

1. Wherever we are in relationship to God is not a destination, rather it is simply a temporary place; part of a life-long journey of becoming and doing.

2. Who is in control related to your walk with God—you or God?

3. If it's you, and you are a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in a precarious position.

4. If it's God then you know something of what we have been discussing today.

5. You are blessed!