Daily Devotion #81

Turn Here

*1 Corinthians 14:33 – “God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”*

Do you remember the days when you were on a trip and you had to use a map? I’m talking about the paper ones that took a college degree to know how to fold it back into its right shape when you were done with it. Those were the days.

Just recently my wife and I took a trip to Chicago. And I am so thankful for the GPS. Even though it can be frustrating at times, it is a great invention for those of us who love to know exactly what is going to happen ahead of us. You know how they work: you plug in your destination and off you go listening to the constant sound of the computer generated voice saying, “In 500 feet, turn right” and as you get closer to the turn it says “turn here”. The best part is when you reach your destination the voice changes just a bit to show the excitement of finally arriving.

Wouldn’t life be wonderful if we had a built in GPS for every decision we had to make? I can hear it now, “In two days, make this or that decision, and in a week, you need to say ‘yes’ to your boss or spouse, or in a month from now you need to have this or that conversation with your children”. That would make life so much easier, wouldn’t it?

Well God decided that wasn’t going to be the plan. He left us with trusting Him for the journey. He didn’t give us any road maps, no GPS, no compass, not even someone who knows perfectly what to do in every situation. But what he did give us is Himself. He promised us that if we would stay in tune with Him, He would lead and guide us through the uncharted paths of life. (Proverbs 3:5-6) And the best part is He gave us a huge hint as to when we were making mistakes. He gave us the ability to understand that when we follow Him, He will not cause us to be confused over what we are to do.

That doesn’t mean we won’t be challenged with what to do, but when something or some decision is from the Lord, there won’t be confusion in it. He will be clear. He will guide us turn by turn. It’s not that He will speak audibly or give us some miracle, not that He couldn’t, but He doesn’t typically operate that way. Mostly God guides us by the conviction of our hearts and His Word. (Psalm 199:105) He uses our consciences and our ability to discern to guide us by His Spirit. And when He guides, He always leads us clearly through every situation.

As long as you and I understand that God does not challenge us by throwing a lot of confusing situations at us, but that He leads us with clarity and focus, we will not be thrown off by following something or someone blindly. He has no interest in confusing us because He is not a God of confusion.

Satan, on the other hand, is a master of confusion and creating confusing situations. He loves to confuse us so that we get blown off the course of a good and holy life by listening to our emotions or what others tell us instead of focusing on what God has said.

The point is, beloved, God loves us so much that He wants us to know that when we are in a confusing situation, we should stop and pray and ask for clarity. (James 1:5) Possibly it means we need to wait on making a decision until God gives us understanding. Sometimes it means we change course completely.

Our world is greatly confused by many things. Be careful that you don’t follow in the footsteps of others who are being led by their emotions or how they think about a particular subject. When you don’t know what to do, ask God. He wants nothing more than for you to have clear, step-by-step directions so you are able to finish your race with joy. (2 Timothy 4:7)