

THE NEXT TURN

Learning to discern where God is leading and having the courage to obey the next instruction.

BIG IDEA: You don't have to know the whole route to obey the next turn.

FROM LAST WEEK

We learned that **Mission, Purpose, Calling, and Assignment** work together, but they are not the same. This week moves from **WHAT they are** to **HOW we discern where God is leading us**.

MISSION	The destination	What are we here to do?
PURPOSE	What God put in the car	Why me?
CALLING	The route	Where?
ASSIGNMENT	The next turn	Where, who, and when?

THE GPS PICTURE

You can enter a destination into a GPS and begin driving even when you do not know every road, every turn, or what you will encounter. You move because you trust the voice giving you directions. Our struggle with God is often that we want the **whole route** before we are willing to start moving.

Genesis 12:1

"Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

God gave Abraham enough information to **go**, but not enough information to see the entire journey. The pattern is often: **YOU GO. I'LL SHOW.**

Sometimes DIRECTION comes through OBEDIENCE.

There are some things you will not understand standing still. There are some things God will reveal only along the way. As Pastor Jerry once shared: **"He gives you more along the way than He does at the start."**

HOW DO I DISCERN MY NEXT TURN?

Four questions to help us recognize where God may be leading.

1. GOD'S VOICE WILL NEVER CONTRADICT GOD'S WORD

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Before trying to figure out what God is saying now, start with what God has already said. A lamp does not illuminate five miles of road. It gives enough light to see where you are and where to step next.

REFLECT

ASK: What has God already said?

2. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY PUT IN YOU

Romans 12:6

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."

God has already placed gifts, abilities, experiences, passions, skills, personality, and anointing inside of you. Stop overlooking what comes naturally, what people consistently come to you for, and the places where you consistently see fruit.

REFLECT

ASK: What has God already put in me?

3. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT KEEPS PULLING ON YOU

Nehemiah 1:1-4

Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem's walls were broken down. He wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed.

Other people knew the walls were broken too, but Nehemiah could not simply hear about it and move on. What broke his heart became something God used his life to address. Sometimes your calling begins with something you cannot ignore.

REFLECT

ASK: What keeps pulling on me? Who am I drawn to help? What problem can I not walk past?

4. LOOK AT WHAT GOD IS ASKING YOU TO DO IN THIS SEASON

Assignment

Your calling may remain consistent while your assignment changes.

The route can stay the same while the next turn changes. Yesterday's instruction may have gotten you here, but you still need God to show you what obedience looks like now. A new instruction does not mean the old instruction was wrong. It may simply mean you have reached the next turn.

REFLECT

ASK: What has God put in front of me RIGHT NOW?

KEY TRUTH: I cannot become so attached to the last instruction that I stop listening for the next one.

CONFIRMATION ALONG THE WAY

Sometimes the sign is already on the route.

When you are driving, you cannot see every road sign from the starting point. A sign that says "I-75 South - 1 Mile" has to remain one mile from the turn for the sign to be true. You have to travel far enough to see it.

In the same way, some of us are asking God for confirmation we have not traveled far enough in obedience to see yet.

Some confirmation comes along the way.	Some answers come along the way.
Some relationships come along the way.	Some resources come along the way.
Some doors become visible along the way.	Some clarity comes as you keep moving.

The sign you're praying for may already be on the road you're afraid to travel.

WHAT IF I MISSED THE TURN?

RECALCULATING...

Maybe God told you to move and you did not move. Maybe fear stopped you. Maybe you made the wrong decision or went in the wrong direction. A missed turn can have consequences, but it does not have to become the end of the journey.

A MISSED TURN DOESN'T HAVE TO BECOME YOUR PERMANENT ADDRESS.

You can turn around. You can repent. You can surrender. You can listen again. You can obey again. You can take the next turn.

Stop spending all your time grieving the turn you missed and listen for the next instruction. **You cannot go back and obey yesterday, but you CAN obey God today.**

THIS WEEK

Don't try to figure out the whole route. Listen for the next turn.

PROCESS

1. WHAT HAS GOD ALREADY SAID?

Return to Scripture before looking for signs, dreams, feelings, or confirmation.

2. WHAT HAS GOD ALREADY PUT IN ME?

Pay attention to your gifts, abilities, experiences, burdens, and places of consistent fruit.

3. WHAT KEEPS PULLING ON ME?

Notice the people, needs, problems, and places you cannot seem to ignore.

4. WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF ME IN THIS SEASON?

Look at what and who God has placed in front of you right now.

MY NEXT TURN: Identify one clear step of obedience and take it this week.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER

Lord, let me HEAR.

Silence every competing voice and help me recognize Your voice.

Lord, let me SEE.

Help me recognize what You are doing and what You have placed in front of me.

Lord, give me COURAGE TO MOVE.

When I know what You are asking me to do, give me the courage to say yes.

HERE I AM. SEND ME.

GO DEEPER

Read: Genesis 12:1-4 • Psalm 119:105 • Romans 12:6-8 • Nehemiah 1:1-11 • Acts 16:6-10

Journal: Where am I asking God for the whole route when He has already shown me the next turn?

Act: What is one step I can take this week without waiting for every detail?

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