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Episode 209 - True North

What are ways you can determine God's leading in your life?

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Jerry Green:

Welcome, friends, to this March 8th season of Faith Made Simple with our pastor and teacher, Todd Smith. I'm Jerry Greene, and for the past seven seasons, I've had the privilege of serving as host of the podcast, and we're so grateful the Lord has afforded us the opportunity to meet with you each week and share his infallible word. Our teacher, Pastor Todd, has a passion for explaining Scripture because, as we've said all along. Understanding and obeying God's Word is key in the Christian's life. James 1:25 tells us that God blesses those who are obedient. So let's listen now as Todd shares his thoughts for today.

Todd Smith:

Well, welcome — it's the month of November, and we are counting down the days to the end of the year. Time is a thief for sure. Today I want to talk about something our church is studying in a series entitled Divine Truth. We're going through Colossians and chasing after the way, the truth, and the life — the Lord Jesus Christ.

In many ways this could be titled "Finding Your True North" — working and living in such a way that you are directionally focused on the right person and the right direction. Isaiah 30:21 says, "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" That's a powerful word: God gives a direction to walk in.

The Old Testament gave God's people moral and ceremonial law — a right way and a wrong way. The prophet called them to walk in the way God had prescribed. I like the compass image: a compass has a magnetic north that shifts, but a true north on a map is fixed. As Christ-followers we want to head toward that true north — not a shifting magnetic north.

True north is stationary and objective; it always points the same way. For us the true north is Christ. We don't walk this trek alone: we have the Spirit of God guiding us, the living Word of God to read, and a Christian family to help keep us pointed the right way.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Keep your eyes on Him. Hebrews tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. One of the easiest ways to go left or right is to fix your eyes on something other than Christ — earthly things will steer you into ditches.

So here's a brief spiritual check: how are you tracking? Are you off a few degrees to the left or right? If so, rectify it — confess, repent, renew devotion and discipline, and walk in the way the Lord has directed. The Spirit may be nudging you back to true north; listen and follow Christ.

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. Before we go to a couple of questions, let me remind our friends that Faith Made Simple is a free ministry — subscribe, share on social media, and leave a comment and a rating. Most Christians want to walk faithfully with the Lord. What are some ways we can determine God's leading in our life?

Todd Smith:

Great question. Start with the resources God has given us. First and foremost: Scripture. Second Peter 1:3 reminds us God has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness — thus, start with the Word. Next, the Spirit in us will guide and convict. Third, there's wisdom in many counselors — godly men and women who speak Scripture and wisdom into our lives. Finally, persistent prayer — an ongoing conversation with God — opens our hearts to the desires He implants and the direction He gives.

Jerry Green:

It's good to listen to counsel from friends who walk with the Lord, but there's no substitute for knowing Scripture — that's the foundation of everything we do.

Todd Smith:

Absolutely. Godly brothers and sisters often paraphrase Scripture in ways that help us hear it more clearly. Let Scripture, the Spirit, wise counsel, and prayer direct your steps.

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. That brings us to the end of this episode of season eight. Lord willing, we'll be back next week with another podcast. We wouldn't sign off without inviting you to visit Crossroads Community Church in Valencia, California, where God's Word is taught verse by verse. For more information about the podcast or the church, visit FaithMadeSimple.net. On behalf of Todd and the team here at Faith Made Simple, we look forward to our next visit. Until then, live blessed by being a doer of God's Word.