

“True North” - - Aug. 4, 2021

WW-II - April 16, 1942; 300 miles E of Cape Hatteras, N.C. A German submarine surfaced and opened fire on American merchant ship *SS Alcoa Guide*. The unarmed ship was hit, caught fire, began to sink. Sailors got in lifeboats equipped w/a compass - used it to guide them W to shipping lanes closer to shore. After 3 days, a patrol plane spotted their lifeboat. The next day, American destroyer *USS Broome* rescued the men. 27 crew were saved.

Compass – is used to guide you. It’s a magnetic instrument that points to the *Magnetic North Pole*. It’s not the same as *True North*, the *geographic north pole*; that’s more than 100 miles apart & changes b/c the magnetic north pole can drifts several miles a year.

In contrast, True North is a fixed spot on the globe: it is unchanging.

What is your True North? What guides you? What propels you forward?

- **God** should be our **true north**. Pleasing Him; Loving...

To know how to live, not be lost at sea... we need to “fix our eyes on Jesus” ([Hebrews 12:2](#)).

“Let us run with endurance the race marked out for us by fixing our eyes on Jesus”- Heb. 12-1-2.

He is constant; unchanging source of truth & life.

- He is “the same yesterday and today and forever” ([Hebrews 13:8](#)).
- Philosophies & theories constantly change. We live in a world of flux.
 - “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” ([Isaiah 40:8](#)).
- It’s hard to know what to do... how to live. Spank or not? Mask or not?
- But God isn’t altered by new facts... He is a steady guide.
 - “We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.” ([Ephesians 4:14](#)).

God as true north means – our moral standards align with His nature.

We are truthful people. Peaceful. Dependable. Compassionate. Servants.

- **WWJD** keeps you on right course, just as a compass points the way.

Compass gives the way... you still have to follow.

- Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. – **Psalm 119:105**
 - **Lamp** gives you just enough light to keep moving. Next few steps.
 - You don't have to know how it will turn out, you just need to know you are doing the right thing.
 - We want to manipulate/control life... Just do what u can do. Do what is right. **Do what Jesus would Do.**

4 - Practical Points:

1. Compass won't help you if you **don't move**. **Do what God puts in heart.**
2. Level surface needed; if compass is **tilted**, it doesn't point accurately.
 - God's word needs to be used correctly. Don't pick and choose.
 - Read a scripture in context - "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13) - it's not about winning, it's about enduring
3. Compass doesn't help if you fall victim to "**confirmation bias**" – the tendency to see things that confirm you're right & miss seeing things that show you're wrong.
 - Don't talk to just the people who will agree with you. Godly wisdom.
4. Compass must be kept free from other magnets & metals
 - Must disregard distractions & influences ... alter your course/stop you.
 - Need to constantly calibrate ourselves to the example of Jesus.

God will meet you where you are... to take you where He wants you to go.

- True north is a precise direction; no matter where you start on the globe, true north will lead you to the same location.
- It doesn't matter where you start in life, it matters when you end.

(pre-song) "True North," a song by Twila Paris,
Rend Collective – "True North" – song of the week.