

# How Do I Change Direction?

*“God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”*

*-- Acts 17:27*

In our journey toward intentionality we have reflected on some vital questions that must be asked and answered if we are serious about becoming more intentional about our faith. There can be no doubt that somewhere along this journey we must surely have been confronted with a question that called for an answer demanding a change in our lives – a change in direction. And this brings us to the fifth of our **7 Vital Questions**; “How do I change direction?”

As intentional Christians we must make peace with the fact that a certain change in direction is expected by God from each of us; a change in the way we live our lives, a change in the way we think or speak, a change in the way we treat others, a change in the way we work or play, a change in the way we give. But changing direction can be a painful thing, we want to, we need to, we have a desire to, but do we have the strength, can we really change in the face of all the discomfort it might lead to? If we listen carefully to the words of Paul in Acts 17:27 we will find all the motivation we need to change direction.

Firstly, Paul would have us understand the fact that changing direction is a natural part of life; it is one of those uncomfortable – yet vital – necessities. The intentional Christian life is one that is willing to change direction when we are confronted with the need to do so. When we accept the fact that changing direction is one of our created purposes we will be more motivated to do so. Secondly, Paul wants us to understand and accept the fact that this change is not easy. It is very often as though we are stumbling around in the dark just trying to find our way. But even in the midst of this difficulty, changing directions is necessary and worth it! Finally, Paul also wants us to accept the promise that despite the great discomfort of change, despite the fact that it often takes place in times of darkness and difficulty, God is not far from us... He is with us, and this should give us strength to change direction!

As you continue to reflect on this theme, here are some questions that might prove helpful:

1. In what areas of your life do you need a change in direction?
2. What is preventing you from making the changes you need to?
3. Of these changes, which is most important right now?
4. Is there any person who can help you make this change?
5. Will you commit to speaking to him/her about the change you need to make?

## **Prayer:**

Most loving heavenly Father, we confess that our lives have not always followed the paths you have set for us. We have often gone astray and journeyed along roads that we chose for ourselves, rather than the ones you would have chosen. Forgive us. Holy Spirit, give us the strength and grace we need to change direction. Guide us in the paths that we should go and help us never lose our way again. Lord Jesus, would we be bold, and brave and intentional enough to follow you in your example – in the way of life that you desire from us – so that we might bring you glory in all we do. In your name we humbly pray, amen.

## **Food for Thought:**

There is an old saying that goes something like this: “If we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in.” We were made to repent – to change direction – do it!