

# The Driving Lesson

Early one morning, I decided to stop by the church to pray before going to work. After spending time before the Lord, I got into my car and began heading for I-295. As I checked the time, I immediately heard an inner voice say, "It's going to take fifteen minutes to get there." Just as immediately, I heard this: "It's not going to take fifteen minutes to get there."

As I drove, I convinced myself, based on what I last heard, that I could indeed get to 295 in less than fifteen minutes. Well, along the way I encountered some unusually heavy traffic. Instead of getting flustered, I remained totally at peace. At several points, I heard the Lord say, "You're not getting upset." He was right, and it felt good to know that I was finally growing in patience.

After slogging through the traffic, I made it to 295 in exactly fifteen minutes. I immediately said, "Lord, I thought you said it wouldn't take me fifteen minutes to get here!" Immediately the Lord replied, "I never said that." Confused, I stammered, "Then who ...?" Before I could finish my question, the Lord said, "Thou shalt surely die." "Thou shalt not surely die." "It'll take fifteen minutes to get there." "It's not going to take fifteen minutes to get there."

Immediately I got the revelation. God, in His love, had told me that it would take fifteen minutes to get to the highway. By doing so, He was regulating my expectations based on His knowledge of how long my journey would take. When our expectation is founded upon truth, we are never frustrated.

Knowing this, Satan came behind God and said it wouldn't take fifteen minutes to get to the highway. Satan did this because he wanted me to put my hope in something that wasn't going to happen. He also knew God was working on producing greater patience in me on the roadways. What better way to frustrate the grace of God than by convincing me that my trip would be shorter, only to discover as I journeyed that it was taking longer?

Satan was trying to get me frustrated, early in the morning, after spending quality time with God. I understood now why God said several times as I waded through traffic, "You're not getting upset." God was commending me for remaining calm in the face of Satan's deception.

More importantly is the lesson: just as God told Adam that he would surely die if he ate the forbidden fruit, God told me that it would take fifteen minutes to get to the highway. And just as Satan contradicted God's word by telling Eve, "Thou shalt *not* surely die," he lied to me as well, saying, "It's *not* going to take fifteen minutes to get there." Satan always contradicts God's Word, often with a subtle "not." God says you're healed; Satan says, "No you're not." God says it's going to work out; Satan says, "No it's not."

God speaks the truth into our lives and He speaks it first. Satan comes behind Him and tries to steal the Word by speaking lies and deception. Let's not be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11).

If you are walking in obedience to God, know that He will lead you and guide you by His Spirit. He will show you the way you should go and will tell you of things to come (John 16:13). And He will speak first. Satan-coming later will then try to nullify God's promise through contradiction.

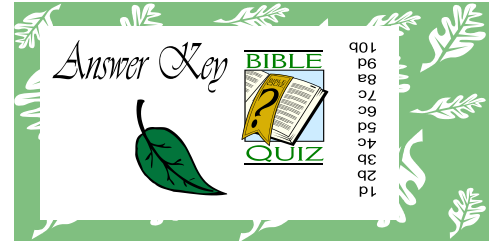
Now, if you're in disobedience or out of the will of God, you're susceptible to hearing Satan speak first, and God in His mercy may speak second to save you by His truth. But if you are walking in faith and love, obeying God's commands, God will always speak to you first. Pay heed and don't let Satan talk you out of your blessing.

When God tells you you can and you will, expect Satan to say you can't and you won't. When he does, slap him upside the head with your faith and God's truth, and let him know that you recognize the voice of your Shepherd and the voice of a stranger you will not follow. Resist that old lying devil, and rejoice in the Lord as he turns on his cowardly heels and takes flight!

Please be  
Praying with us for...

"Amy and John and family"  
Beverlee Antonoff  
Joseph Baker and family  
David Brockett  
Debbie Brockett  
Mark Brockett  
Teddi Brockett  
Darryl Brown  
Henry Brown  
Steve Conley, Jr.

Kevin Edwards  
Beverly Fannell  
Cathy Fannell  
Angelica Hackett  
Myra Hackett  
Tiffany Johnson  
Sally Kelly  
Mrs. Pyllos  
Tanya Teal and family  
Donna Walter



The Jordan represents separation from our promise.

Don't let a snapshot define who you are, when your life is a full-length motion picture.

God said that He would perfect those things that concern us, but we have to tell Him what they are.

Obedience is your reasonable service.

If you're going to make a change, you are going to have to really change.

WE DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHY TO DO IT. WE JUST NEED TO KNOW WHO SAID TO DO IT.

Make sure you're ready for the answer, before you ask God the question.

**Someone else's future can be compromised by what you do in your present.**

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God didn't say debate. He said believe.

A Father who knows Jesus has a great impact on children knowing Jesus.

## On Good Ground



A FREE Christian Newsletter distributed by

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By inspiration of The Holy Ghost.

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*May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!*

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## Of Water & Wine



The wine had run out. Nearby were six waterpots each capable of holding “two or three firkins apiece” (John 2:6). That’s about 30 gallons each. Jesus told his disciples to fill the pots with water. They did as instructed and Jesus made the best wine man had ever tasted. It was a wondrous miracle; the first of Jesus’ many miracles recorded in the Bible. But let’s rewind the tape. Before the wine there was water, which means without the water, there’s no wine! And the water – all 180 gallons of it – was poured into the pots through the obedience and hard work of the disciples. Today you need a miracle, yes; but are you willing to obey and work hard? Are you willing to draw the water required to make the wine? Be sure to resolve this question within yourself *before* you go before the throne of grace to ask God to answer your prayers.

