

Cribbs Note – August 12, 2007

There is so much going on all around us everyday that it is impossible to keep up. Even with the tools of technology at our fingertips, the rapid advancements of science and medicine excel at a pace we are not able to capture at once. Mass communication reduces the scope of the world to instant messages almost everywhere; mass transportation now offers civilian trips to Outer Space. Facts and information speed at us in stacks that stuff both our mailboxes and e-mail addresses with useful notices and useless spam. What's next? Where are we heading?

The other day while driving to school, I could not help but notice the numerous billboards along the freeway. For the most part, they seem to litter the skyline. Promotions for gambling dens, adult entertainment centers, and booze dominated the high-priced advertising spaces. Mixed among them were seducements to take out loans and borrow on credit. A casual observation of all the signs along the roadway could lead to fascinating conclusions about American society.

Where are we heading? Or, as the kids in the back seat often ask, "Are we there yet?"

Memory is an important, powerful influence as we navigate our way into the future. It provides a sense of knowing past outcomes that could help us determine our decisions now. The past gives us sets of lessons that can be instructive if we take time to remember, analyze, and adjust our awareness of today's circumstances to apply the wise counsel of another era. Memory offers us stories and experiences that can help us avoid making the same mistakes. We should not rush to forget where we and others have been as we dash toward unknown and uncertain destinations. Where are we heading?

Abraham answered God's call to leave home and explore new territory. His was an act of faith. I often say, "The hardest part about doing anything new, different, or challenging is thinking about it." We can spend a great deal of time fretting about possible outcomes without ever making an effort to act. Abraham may have thought about his response to God's call, but more importantly he acted faithfully and obediently. Did he know where he was heading? I think not. He just went and, presumably, followed the Spirit.

At our very best with all available information, we can never be fully certain about what is coming next. As people of faith, we believe God is leading our lives. Our actions are based on faith. To the uninitiated this doesn't make any sense. To them, it is reckless and irresponsible. Let us not argue about this matter. People of faith place our lives in God's hands with an intentional consciousness that we have no choice. Our very identity is based on our faith and relationship with God.

Where are we heading? If our lives are devoted to God, then does it really matter? It may be God has a plan to turn us in a direction we had never considered. There, we might find our way to the place where we are supposed to be. That is the power and purpose of faith.