

~ Direction and Life ~

4 Things Need To Be Established To Prevent Resistance

- A) Willing submission
- B) Good communication
- C) **Balanced life to direction ratio**
- D) Solid foundation of maneuvers

Life – The ability to move the horse, with any speed at any time. When the person’s legs are lightly fanned the horse should move their feet in the direction we want, with the speed that we want.

“Get-up-and-go, spirited” – Often fueled by energy (motivation and determination)

Direction – When the slack is taken out of the rein, the horse puts the slack back in the rein with suppleness through the poll and loin.

- a) Vertical Direction – (Atlas Vertebrae) – Up and Down
 - Break in the poll vertically:
 - Nose should be perpendicular to the ground.
- b) Horizontal Direction – (Axis Vertebrae) – Left to Right
 - Break in the poll horizontally:
 - Nose should be directly underneath the eye
 - Should not see any white in the eye (looking back not forward)
 - Poll and loin should make a quarter circle
 - Should make perfect circles and spins

Life

The “life” in our bodies is often driven by our energy level. However, this is not always the case. Take a tired and worn out football player in the final minutes of an overtime game. Although they may not have any physical or dietary energy left in their body, if someone gives an inspiring speech, the words can bring life to their body and give them the ability to finish the game with full strength. Another example would be riding a horse at the end of an 8- or 10-hour day. They are totally drained and exhausted. The horse may have had to be kicked every step to keep the life in him the past 2 hours. However, when you turn and start to go home, and he knows he is going home, he will become filled with life. The horse will have so much life you will have to hold him back from loping home.

Some people are naturally born with a lot of life (motivation and determination) and others are not. Part of this depends on how God made us. Just like Arabians and Thoroughbreds naturally have more life than Quarter and draft horses, some of us naturally have more life. However, our energy level also drives our life, and our energy level often depends on our health. The healthier we are, the more energetic we are, and the more life we have. It is important as Christians that we stay active and work for our food (**2 Thessalonians 3:8-12**). We are the

temples of God and we should take care of our bodies so we can be used by God. We should eat healthfully and stay in good shape in order to give life to our bodies to glorify God. The important thing is that we are using the life that we are given, to glorify God. The Holy Spirit brings life to our bodies. If you feel you are not motivated and determined you may need to submit your life to God and become filled with the Holy Spirit.

The best source of “life” for our bodies comes from God. **“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).** **“Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live” (Ezekial 37:5).** **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).** **“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).** When we become filled with the Holy Spirit we become filled with life (motivation and determination) for the Kingdom of God. However, as I mentioned earlier we are naturally born with life, some more than others. Paul was born with a lot of “life,” he just had it directed in the wrong direction. Think what Hitler could have done for the Kingdom of God if his “life” would have been directed towards God.

Sometimes if we are selfishly using the life that the Lord has given us, like Paul, He will take it away so He can redirect it. Often the Lord will let a sickness fall on us to help us redirect our life. This is what the Lord had to do to me. As long as I am seeking God’s will I am filled with “life” (energy). However, whenever I begin to do things my own way and forget to look to Him, my life is drained. This is a good thing. I have far more life when I am filled with the Spirit, than I could have ever had in my flesh. **“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 6:8).**

Direction

Direction = Sanctification (God’s word and the Holy Ghost)

“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

God’s Word – **“Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth” (John 17:17).** **“And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” (John 17:19).** **“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word” (Ephesians 5:26).** **“For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer” (1 Timothy 4:5).**

Holy Spirit (blood) – **“...that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:16).** **“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood...” (Hebrew 13:12).** **“... through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:2).** **“...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).**

Direction is the most important thing with our horses and with the Lord. Direction can

interchangeably be described as sanctification, and it is the sanctification process that takes away our self-preservation (flesh) and helps us reach maturity (perfection). Sanctification means to “purify” or “make holy.” We are not holy or pure when we are in our self-preservation (flesh). It is only by getting rid of our flesh that we can become holy, and it is through the sanctification process that our flesh is killed off. Scripture says that we are sanctified through God’s Word (**1 Timothy 4:5**), truth (**John 17:17**), Jesus’ blood (**Hebrews 13:12**), and the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:16**). We are sanctified through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives life to God’s Word and we are washed in the blood through the Holy Spirit. Every problem I have in my life leaves when I take time to become sanctified in the blood and spend time in the manifest presence of God almighty.

When direction comes to our horse, it seeps through the horse’s entire body taking away all self-preservation (stiff poll and loin), and brings suppleness, willing submission, and good communication. When a horse has direction they are no longer driven by self-preservation, and they experience comfort (Holy Spirit – comforter) and companionship with the rider. Nearly every problem I have with my horse, and in my life, can be traced back to not having direction (sanctification). When a person slows down and gets direction, all problems seem to leave. This is because our problems come from self-preservation, unwilling submission, and a lack of communication, and direction eliminates all these problems.

Often when working with a horse, I will work on direction and life independently. A horse can have good direction, but if they do not receive a little life to go with the direction, the horse will eventually become numb and dull and may lose the direction. Once I have direction, I will often give the horse his head and drive a bunch of life into him to get him moving out. Then I will try to direct it once the horse is moving and going somewhere. Sometimes when I bring the life into the horse a little self-preservation might come out. The horse may jump, kick, and play. As long as the horse is not driven by fear, but only by excitement, I do not mind. Once the horse has the life in him, I can then direct it. The Lord does the same thing with us. Often when we become filled with the Holy Spirit our flesh will do things that do not necessarily benefit the Kingdom like shake, laugh, dance, and yell. However, this is just the Lord bringing the life up so that He can use it later to benefit the Kingdom. With a horse, you sometimes have to push them past the little jumping and playing in order to use the life to do the job. The same thing is true with us. Once the fleshly manifestations have passed, then the Lord can begin to use the life to benefit the Kingdom. This is all part of balancing the life to direction ratio, and balancing the ratio is extremely important in reaching maturity.

Life to Direction: Amaia and My Story

I had come off the mountain and told Amaia the direction that the Lord had given me. I had expected total agreement and to start planning the wedding. However, Amaia was not gung ho at the idea of getting married right out of high school. Looking back, I cannot blame Amaia for being a little hesitant, but at the time I did not see what the big deal was. I had gotten the direction from God. All we had to do was follow it.

What I needed to learn is that you can have all the direction in the world, but if there is no life (from the Lord) putting the direction into motion there will be no results. The same thing is

true with a horse. We can tip their nose, but if the reins are not tied to the feet (not literally) putting motion to our direction, our horse will not move. There is a good saying someone told me once, “Your reins show them where to go and your feet get them there.” Many times when we direct our horse they are slow to turn. We then make a mistake of pulling on the reins harder trying to speed them up, instead of bringing life to their feet.

When we pull on the reins harder, this will often cause them to be resentful to the direction and flip their head. The horse does not need more direction. The horse needs more life putting the direction to motion. The same is true with the Lord. We can alter the saying to, “The Scripture shows you where to go and the Holy Spirit gets you there.” We can read our Bible and have direction, but if we do not receive any life from the Holy Spirit, it is hard to follow through with our direction. Also, much like our horses, if all we have is direction and never receive any life, we will eventually become resentful to the direction, leading to “false direction.” We might give on the outside (tip the nose), but remain hard on the inside (stiff poll and loin). We might obey God’s commands on the outside, but have a hard heart on the inside.

I had direction when I came off the mountain, but I needed life to come to the direction. Amaia told her family what I had told her. They didn’t have a problem with me marrying her. They had pretty well expected it someday. However, rightly so, they thought that we were getting married a little too young. Surprisingly enough, the fact that my future wife and her family were a little unsure of us getting married on the day the Lord gave me, did not bother me too much. I figured the Lord had everything under control. I knew my future family was a good Christian family and that they would be praying for direction. It was probably around April of 2003 when the Lord had spoken to me, so I figured I had a good year to pray about it and let the Lord put things into motion.

However, there was something that I did not understand about the date that the Lord had given me. The date, July 14, 2004, was on a Wednesday. It did not make very much sense to get married on a Wednesday and I prayed for confirmation many times. However, every time I would pray, I would keep hearing July 14, 2004. Although it did not make sense, I prayed that if it was His will, that He would speak to everyone involved in making the decision concerning our marriage. Every night I would pray about the date that the Lord had given me and every night I would pray for each individual.

As I prayed for each individual I could feel God’s presence. As His presence would come on me, I would feel my stomach start to tighten up. I would pray until I felt my stomach relax and then I would pray for someone else. The Lord showed me some Scripture later of different men in the Bible that had the same experience when they were praying for people (**Psalms 48:6; Isaiah 13:8, 21:3, 26:17, 26:18, 66:7; Jeremiah 6:24; Micah 4:10; Romans 8:22; Galatians 4:19**). In Galatians 4:19, Paul tells the Galatians that he “travails in birth” until Christ be formed in them. *Travail* in the Greek means “to experience the *pains* of parturition.” **“Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it” (Isaiah 21:3 KJV).**

I have obviously never experienced actual pains of parturition, but I guess in the spiritual

sense, that is kind of what I went through. Sometimes my stomach would only get tight and other times it would hurt pretty badly, doubling me over. I would pray through it and then it would be peaceful. I often still experience the same thing when I am praying for people.

I continued to pray about our wedding and direction for my life. I did not mention the wedding date the Lord gave me very much, but stepped back and let God do all the work. I spent some time at a cow camp and continued to pray and to seek God's will for my life. Although I ended up getting consumed with my job at the cow camp, most of the time (I will tell the story later) the Lord was still able to give me direction and life.

One time as I was praying, I saw Amaia and myself pulling up to a ranch to buy some horses. Oddly enough we were driving an old 66' Ford pickup pulling a 2-horse trailer. When I got there, they lined up all the horses that they had for sale and I approached them for inspection. They had around 12 head and as I first walked up to them they all looked fine, except one. One of the horses only had 3 legs. The 3-legged horse looked similar to the rest, but the poor thing only had 3 legs and was obviously not my first choice.

However, the longer I looked at them, the better the 3-legged horse looked and all the others began to look poorer. They transformed to the point that the 3-legged horse was one of the best-looking horses I had ever seen, and the other others were old, starving with all their ribs and hipbones showing, ugly heads, and poor coats, the most hideous horses I had ever seen. Amaia and I made the decision to take the 3-legged horse. We loaded him up and took him home. When I arrived home my brother and my dad were not impressed with the choice. They looked at the 3-legged horse we had picked and were thinking, "What the heck were *you* thinking buying a 3-legged horse?" It did not seem very practical at all to pay money for a 3-legged horse. What good could it possibly serve? My mother and sister, although not thinking as practically, did not see anything wrong with our decision. They thought, other than missing a leg, it seemed to be a very kind and good-looking horse. They thought the horse was very cute and wished us the best of luck.

I kept praying and I saw myself breaking the colt. The horse was without a doubt the best horse I had ever started. I bridled him up and he became an outstanding horse. He could spin on a dime both ways, and work a cow. He could do anything a normal horse could do, only better. As I saw this, I asked the Lord how this could be. I then saw that the horse had not been missing a leg, he only had a leg that could not be seen by our worldly eyes. The leg that we could not see was a supernatural leg that had come from God and was made out of solid gold. With this leg the horse was able to do things that far exceeded anything a normal horse could do. However, it would never make sense to the world.

The Lord showed me there would be many things in Amaia's and my life that would not make sense to the world. However, like the horse with 1 leg, David against Goliath, Paul saying he was strong when he was weak, if we are following the will of God He can work supernaturally in our lives making the impossible possible. The Lord showed me that getting married so young may not make sense to the world and the date that He had given may not make sense to me. However, He had a special plan for our lives, which would one day make sense.

I prayed for 2 or 3 months. Then Amaia's dad told us we should get married whenever we felt God was telling us to get married. I kept praying, and around early December Amaia's mom called me after she had gotten out of church. She felt she was supposed to tell me I had her blessing to get married whenever we felt like the Lord wanted us to. I am not saying that I am the only one that prayed and it was only because of my prayers that anything changed. Amaia and her family had been praying for direction as well. It had been by the power of the Holy Spirit and everyone's prayers, through which the direction was brought to life.

After Amaia's mom gave me her blessing, I decided to propose to her on Christmas Eve. I proposed to Amaia in the form of a cheesy poem on Christmas Eve. I proposed to her in front of her family and this is the poem that I told her.

For the gal that weds a cowboy,
Might as well get set to learn,
For the cowboys later return.
Well, the guy that works with cattle,
Don't work by clock or sun.
And the gal that can't wait supper
Hadn't ot' to marry one.
Well, the gal that weds this cowboy
I hope she'll always know,
That she's found a man that loves her,
And will never let her go.
Well, I am a stubborn cowboy,
It's bred deep in my roots.
But with God and the love between us,
I hope to give my pride the boots.
I will love you always and forever,
And all the rest my life.
You have my heart, will you take this ring
And be my little wife.

Yeah, I know, pretty cheesy. But hey, they either really liked it, or really hated it, because there were definitely some tears flying after the poem. Well, poor Amaia being so young and so naive, not having a clue what she was getting into, said yes. Amaia had agreed to marry me on Christmas Eve, but there was still the wedding date that we needed to nail down. I thought if it was the will of God that we get married on July 14, 2004 that it would come to pass with prayer. I did not want to get in any arguments with Amaia over the wedding date. July 14 was on a Wednesday and rightly so, she did not want to have her once in a lifetime wedding on a Wednesday when only a few of her friends and family could come. Like most girls, she had dreamed of this day since she was a little girl and she wanted to have a big wedding.

So I left it totally in God's hands and continued to pray. I let Amaia pick the date and decided if it was God's will then she would pick the date that God had given me. Amaia's first choice for the wedding was in 1 year at the same time, a Christmas wedding. This would give her another semester of college under her belt and she had always wanted a Christmas wedding.

However, getting married the next winter didn't end up working out because Amaia's sister and her husband and 3 girls were being led by God to teach in Armenia, and they were leaving the next fall. So with the spring being way too soon, this left us with a summer wedding.

After bouncing around to different dates, Amaia ended up picking the 17th of July. She picked the 17th, because it was on a Saturday and close to the date that the Lord had given me. I was totally amazed. I was totally amazed that the date that we ended up with, was 3 days from the date that the Lord had given me. As we started to get closer and began planning the wedding, I began to see why the Lord had given me July 14th, 3 days before our wedding.

Amaia and I have both been blessed with many family and friends. Both Amaia and I wanted our friends to come to the wedding and by the time we invited all our family, we had invited all of Owyhee County. If you have ever seen the movie, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" you have some idea of our wedding. Actually if we know you at all, or thought we knew you, you probably got an invitation and were there. But for those of you that couldn't make it, that is what we had, a "Big Fat Basque Wedding."

Amaia had 9 bridesmaids, so I had 9 groomsmen. We had 6 flower girls. We rode in a horse and buggy with 5 outriders to the reception, and around 1,000 people came to our reception. I had the time of my life. It was without a doubt one of the single greatest days of my life. Amaia's dad married us, and although he had not performed many weddings, he did a fantastic job. He did such a good job that after our wedding many other people approached him to perform their weddings. My father-in-law is an amazing preacher and many lives were touched during the ceremony.

Amaia and I got married on July 17th, our wedding certificate says July 17th, and we consummated our marriage on July 17th. However, we were already married when we said our vows on July 17th. The Lord had given me July 14th to get married on, so Amaia and I got married on July 14th. We went up to Ted and Dorothy Payne's ranch in Jordan Valley, with a small group of our brothers and sisters in Christ and we got married. We gathered around in a newly cut hay field, next to a stream in the mountains, and sang praises and worshiped the Lord to start the ceremony. After we had worshiped, I gave a small testimony of why we had gathered together, and why Amaia and I were having 2 weddings. I explained that the first wedding was designed to be a total spiritual wedding. The focus of the entire wedding was Amaia, me, and God, uniting ourselves together.

Doug performed the wedding, Amaia and I spoke what was in our hearts on the spot for our vows. We exchanged rings, kissed and then returned back to God, to praise and worship. We then had all our brothers and sisters in Christ lay hands on us and pray over us. They agreed to continually pray over us and be our spiritual supporters, as we went forward in our marriage trying to follow the path that the Lord has set before us. The Lord showed me that our second marriage focused on God, showing through Amaia and me, and was to be a spiritual example for our friends and family and was to be a celebration.

The first wedding went from our brothers and sisters in Christ, through Amaia and me, and focused entirely on God. The first marriage was a spiritual devotion between Amaia and me,

with our brothers and sisters in Christ standing behind us for prayer and support. The first wedding was focused primarily on the unity of our Spirits, and the second wedding had more to do with the unity of our flesh, with friends, family, and a celebration.

Sometimes the Lord tells us something and gives us direction. At first it may not make sense and nothing may be lining up. However, through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit, life may be brought through to our direction and we can fall in the perfect will of God. The same thing is true with our horse. If we tip their nose and nothing happens, instead of pulling harder, just wait on the feet and the feet will bring life to the direction causing them to fall perfectly in our will.

Direction and Life: Cow Camp

I thought I would elaborate a little more on what the Lord told me while I was at cow camp, and what I learned about direction and life in-between getting the direction from God for our wedding and our actual wedding. When I left Treasure Valley Community College and spent some time helping Ted and Dorothy Payne before going to the cabin, I helped their son Jack as well. Jack was kind of in a bind and needed a person to stay at a cow camp to keep 600 head of mother cows pushed out of a mountain range that had just been burnt. I immediately volunteered for the job. I thought this would be perfect. I could spend time alone with the Lord, and He could continue to minister to me. I thought for sure I would come off the mountain as Moses did, with God's radiance beaming off my face, **“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD” (Exodus 34:29)**. Little did I know that the Lord had more to teach me about direction and life.

My time at cow camp was very good, and looking back I can see all the things that the Lord taught me. However, while I was at the cow camp, I had a little trouble seeing all of these valuable lessons. The name of the cow camp was Bull Basin and it was southwest of Jordan Valley about 2.5 hours, back up against the East Fork of the Owyhee, bordering Nevada. It took an hour to travel the last 8 miles into the camp, because for most of the way a person could not travel over about 5 miles an hour due to all the rocks.

I took 1 semi-broke horse and 11 colts to cow camp. Two of the colts had a week on them and the other 9 head had only a couple of days. We had the horseshoer come out and quickly tack a set of shoes on them before I left. The horses had not been handled very much up to this point, so the horseshoer just tried to get the shoes on as quick as he could. Dad had to rope a hind leg from another horse to put on many of the hind shoes. I had not shod many horses up until this point, and for the ones I had shod, I was always around somebody to bail me out when I got lost.

The first 2 weeks at cow camp were a total wreck. From where my cow camp was to where I had to keep the cows pushed out was about 8 miles, over what they called “Rock Flat.” My colts were out of shape and quickly became tired and worn out before I could get where I needed to be. I started taking a couple of horses, and would stake them out on trees. I could then come back and get a fresh horse. However, even staking out the colts and trying to switch, I was still

riding them way too hard and I was taking the heart out of them.

The young horses would be tired and exhausted, but would have to go further until I could get back to another horse or back to camp. The colts would quickly go from having lots of energy, wanting to buck or run off, to dragging their feet and having to be peddled every step. The horses would get dead footed, not picking up their feet in the rocks and several times I almost went head over heels. I had several close calls, thinking for sure I was going all the way over, but each time the Lord kept my head from digging a trench through the rocks.

I did get to the cows and tried to push them out of the burned field. The cows had come from a farmer down in the valley, and had not been trailed long distances. The cows would not line out and were very tough to move. I would try to move them all in one big bunch, but the bunch was too big, and as soon as I stopped pushing one side to go and push the other side, the side that I had just been pushing would stop moving, or fan out.

I spent the entire time running back and forth from side to side. My colts quickly ran out of energy and I could not push the cows where they needed to be. I would have been better off taking smaller bunches, but I needed to get all cows out, so they didn't get in trouble with the BLM. There were 600 head of cows with calves that I needed to push about 10 miles, after I had trotted 8 miles to get to the cows. Every day was a total failure. I would push them as far as I could and the next day they would all be right back in the field that I had just pushed them out of.

To top it all off, it rained the first 2 weeks and the deep mud was jerking off my horse shoes right and left. Putting back on the shoes was a disaster. They were tough to shoe, I was a very inexperienced horseshoer, and I had forgotten an anvil and ran out of horseshoe nails the first week. I found a piece of metal out in the brush, and shaped my shoes on that and the back of the old 58' Chevy stock truck that I used to get up there. To solve the nail problem, I found an old box of nails that had some pulled horseshoe nails in it.

So, I would spend my evenings trying to pound old used nails through my poorly shaped shoe, on my poorly leveled foot, on the stupid colt that would not stand. Needless to say, the frustration level was a little high during the evenings and I was not exactly singing praises to the Lord. I spent the majority of my time mad, frustrated, or confused, trying to figure out how to accomplish the job at hand with the material I had to work with. If the cows would have moved, or if I had older horses that could withstand longer days, it wouldn't have been so bad. However, the combination of the 2 and the all out wars to get a horse shod was a little frustrating. I was frustrated because I could not get my job done, and I was frustrated because I was not getting to spend time with the Lord and was totally consumed with my job.

After the first few weeks it got a little better. I went down to the valley and got a couple of dogs, my stock whip, and all the birdshot I could carry. It quit raining allowing the ground to dry out and let me put longer rides on my colts. They also built a fence around the burned field and helped me push the cows back over the mountain onto another BLM allotment. I then only had to keep them out of the basin in which my camp was and out of a few watering holes a few miles from my camp. I say it got better, but I still had about a 25- to 50-mile circle every day, and I was still pushing cows that would not move over a big mountain, and riding a bunch of green

colts that gave out quickly. The dogs ended up being good help, but were only a year old and could not be used very much, or they too would give out. I took one dog on too long of a ride and lost him. I left my jacket by a tree and came back the next day to find him with his feet rubbed raw. He healed up ok, but I was unable to use him again while I was up there.

Through all of this, the Lord showed me the importance of direction and life. I had the direction, I wanted to serve God, and He had showed me how He wanted to use me. However, I needed to learn how to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit during stressful situations. I needed to learn how to lead by example, to stay in the Spirit and not fall into the flesh during stress. It had been easy to spend time reading my Bible and pressing into God, remaining in the Spirit while I had been at Treasure Valley Community College. However, when I went to the cow camp, it was a different story. The Lord showed me later that this is where a person is truly a light for Christ, in dark places.

There were many people throughout history that have ordered armies to attack and have achieved victory. However, the greatest and most miraculous stories of battles have been when these armies have been led into battle, by a great leader. God showed me He does not want me to preach the Gospel, but to demonstrate the Gospel. I needed to learn how to live my life with the same power and unity I had with God at TVCC, and transfer it to a stressful day moving cows or shoeing a horse. It is then that a person can start reaching people. It is then that God can start using us.

I have not come close to achieving this yet, but it is like Tom said, “Remember what happened right before what you did not want to have happen, happened, and remember what happened right before what you did want to have happen, happened.” I told my class if they can recognize what steps took place before the wreck occurred and try not to make the same mistakes again, they can avoid the wreck. By a process of elimination, if they get into enough wrecks, pretty soon they will be doing something right. What I have learned from all my wrecks and failures is that I cannot do it by myself. If I am not spending time with God and being filled with the Holy Spirit daily, it is easy to fall back into my flesh and lose my temper when I get into a stressful situation.

The same is true with our horses. If we are not operating through willing submission and a soft feel (Holy Spirit), when we bring the tempo up, our horse will fall apart, and self-preservation (flesh) will take over. Our horse needs direction, but our horse also needs life. We can tip their nose, but if there is no life that comes to the feet, we are limited in what we can accomplish. In contrast, if we have all life and no direction, the horse will eventually have a runaway. The life will eventually escalate until there is no control. The Holy Spirit will never lead somebody away from God because the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit speaks the truth, **“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words” (1 Corinthians 2:13).** The Holy Spirit will always direct us back to Jesus and line up with the Bible.

However, there are times when our focus can become so consumed with the Holy Spirit and the pleasures that we receive in the Spirit that we begin to forget about Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and His goodness. We begin to think that if we do not experience something new in the

Holy Spirit that something is wrong. We begin to fall in love with the pleasures of God, instead of with God Himself. We begin to take the comfort that we receive from the Holy Spirit for granted and expect it. We begin to get greedy when we come to God, and if we do not experience something supernatural when we come to Him, we are disappointed. We may also become judgmental of people that are not experiencing the same thing we are. Instead of being happy that people are spending time in the Spirit and are growing, we try to direct them, instead of letting the Holy Spirit direct them. We must remember to keep a balanced life to direction ratio. If we have all life and no direction it is awful hard to accomplish a job and we could easily get into a wreck. However, if we have all direction and no life our horses will become resentful to the direction. The same is true with our life and the Lord.