

~ Balanced Life to Direction Ratio ~

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
 - 1) Mechanical
 - 2) Mental

Balancing the ratio

The ratio is determined by the speed to which we can willingly bring the life up and willingly direct it on a set line (straight or curved), without losing “direction” (suppleness through the poll and loin).

Balanced life to direction ratio = Suppleness through the poll and loin with speed
Suppleness through the poll and loin = Sanctification
Sanctification = God’s Word and Holy Ghost

We need to learn to direct the life and stay in His perfect will. We have to learn to stay in His perfect will, just like the horse has to. Like the horse, start simply with a straight line. Spend a day alone with the Lord and keep direction all day, 2 forces moving together as one. Then, like the horse, get more complicated, curved lines, at work, with other people, during distractions. If direction is lost regroup and start over. Perfection is always the goal. Whenever direction is lost, regroup and return to a state of perfection.

God’s Word and the Holy Spirit go hand in hand. We are no different from our horses. If we begin to feel tight and stiff in our job, we need to slow down and get direction. Then we can speed up and accomplish more in our job. However, if we never slow down and get direction (sanctification), we will get tighter and tighter, until we eventually lose all confidence and fall apart. Get direction and then bring the life to the direction. Whenever the direction is lost, slow down and get direction, and then bring the life back to the direction. Pretty soon the life to direction ratio will become balanced, and you can go at full speed without ever losing direction.

Balancing the Life to Direction Ratio

When I first started teaching my class at MSU I did not have “balancing the life to direction ratio” as one of the things needed to prevent resistance. I thought that this concept pretty well fell under the previous three. However, as I began to teach the class, I realized the importance of drawing my students’ attention to their life to direction ratio. If their ratio was off, then it had a dramatic impact on the previous 3 factors. I also noticed the impact that balancing the life to direction ratio had with my own horses in getting a horse to turn around. As I talk about in “Stage 4” in the “Solid Foundation of Maneuvers” section of my class handout, I had 2 major problems that limited my ability in getting a horse to turn around. These 2 problems were: 1) too

much kicking, and 2) too much pulling through the turn. Both can be attributed to too much direction and not enough life.

The horse should willingly move off our legs in a forward and lateral motion (life), and should put slack in the rein when the slack is taken out, with suppleness through the poll and loin (direction). What had limited my ability in getting a horse to turn around was if I showed the horse where to go and he did not move, I would often put more pressure on the reins and kick with the outside leg. This would cause the horse to become tight and stiff, elevating his head, curving his ribs to the inside of the turn instead of the outside, and swinging his hindquarters out of the turn, instead of holding a pivot foot. The revelation I received one day, which made all the difference in my turns, was balancing the life to direction ratio.

My horse did not need more direction in the turn (pulling on the reins), he needed more life (moving off my legs in a lateral motion). By not having adequate life to push the direction, and instead increasing the direction, the horse became resentful to the direction, shown by elevating his head. Once resentment to the direction crept in, then all hopes of a willing turn vanished. What I realized one day is that I needed to get the life and then direct it. I got my horse to willingly move off my leg at a trot in a straight line and in a big circle (Stage 3). Then I would bring the life back into the turn (Stage 4). Once I started riding my colts with this simple concept, my horses became more **willing** in the turn, the level of **communication** increased, and they made a dramatic improvement on the **foundation of maneuvers**.

What had enabled me to build on the other 3 factors that prevent resistance in accomplishing the job, was balancing the life to direction ratio. My dad had told me this simple concept of bringing the life into the turn for years. However, like so many things, I had to receive revelation for it to become real in my life. The Old Covenant was all direction and little life. The New Covenant is centered on bringing life to the direction, so that we do not become resentful to the direction. Paul tells us that the letter kills but the Spirit brings life, **“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6)**. If we do not bring life to our direction with our horses, then we will experience death in our willing submission and communication, and all hopes of building a solid foundation of maneuvers vanish.

The same is true with the Lord. If we do not receive directed life when trying to accomplish a job, then we are certain to run into resistance (flesh) and often into disobedience. The Devil knows this. He knows that the only way to keep us away from God is to keep us in the flesh. He likes it when we are in the flesh running away from God, but it is even better sometimes, when we are in the flesh trying to serve God. If he can keep people in the flesh serving God, then he can accomplish 2 things. Number one, Christian churches would have created a false God, a powerless God. This God will live far way in heaven and will one day return and we will be able to have a real relationship with Him. In the mean time, this God will not have any power to work miracles in our life. We will read stories in the Bible of a God that had power for His people and even hear of stories today. However, we will think that this is not for us. We will have **“....a form of godliness but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:5)**.

The other thing the Devil is able to accomplish by having God’s children full of false direction and no life, is that we will be a poor example to non-Christians. Not only will God’s

children never come into the fullness of Christ, but we will also drive non-Christians away from God instead of to God. Non-Christians will believe that all Christians are hypocrites and we serve a make-believe God. They will think our God must be make-believe, because like all make-believe things, He cannot be seen. They will not see God manifested in our action, or in our life. We will be full of sickness and disease, broken hearts, bitterness and selfishness. They will think that if our God was real, then He would show Himself, and He would help His people. It is vital to our success with our horse and with God that we keep a balanced life to direction ratio.

It is important to realize that 3,000 people were saved after seeing the tongues of fire fall on the early disciples, on the day of the Pentecost (**Acts 2:41**). And 5,000 people were saved after seeing a healing of a crippled beggar. This is what the skeptics had to say, **“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, what shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it”** (**Acts 4:13-16 KJV**). These are the powerful results than can happen by bringing life to our direction and demonstrating the Gospel instead of preaching it. Whenever the power of God is manifested among His children, large numbers are saved and people cannot deny His power.

Life and Direction: Temptations of Jesus

After Jesus was baptized and received the Holy Spirit, Satan tried to tempt Him in 3 ways when He was in the wilderness. First, he tried to get Him to live on words that did not come from God, **“The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’”** (**Matthew 4:3-4**). Secondly, he tried to get Him to become self-centered, forgetting about worshiping and serving God and focusing only on worldly things, **“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’”** (**Matthew 4:8-10**). Finally, he tried to get Him to test God, by testing His power, **“Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test’”** (**Matthew 4:5-7**). He tried to get Jesus to not be fed by His father, he tried to get Him off track forgetting to eat from His father, and he tried to get Him focused on using His father’s power, instead of being directed by His father. The way that Satan tempted Jesus after He was baptized in the Holy Spirit, I believe is the same way he tries to tempt us. I believe this because it happened to Jesus and He is our example. What Jesus went through we can expect to go through. Also, I went through the same temptations after I received the Holy Spirit and still find Satan trying to tempt me in the same 3 ways.

Number one, Satan tries to limit our direction, to not listen to God. Once we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to hear from God. We can actually hear God and be taught by God. If Satan can get us to listen to only man and never God, he greatly limits what we can do for the Kingdom. This is the first step in taking our power away for the Kingdom of God. We receive revelation and hear from God when we become saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. At this point we are full of direction and life. If we don't keep receiving revelation and hear from God, we will either become all direction and no life, no direction and no life, or all life and no direction. We must continue to communicate with God. This is why Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God." God's words are life. He speaks life unto us. If we do not continue to hear from Him we will start to die.

Number two, Satan tries to get our focus from building God's Kingdom, to building our kingdom, from worshiping and serving God, to focusing only on worldly things. Once a person starts working miracles for the Kingdom of God, people will want to glorify the person instead of glorifying God. When Jesus spoke to the multitude and performed miracles, they wanted to crown Him as king. **"When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone" (John 6:15).** Satan will try to shift our focus to becoming a mighty man of God, and doing wondrous things for God, instead of being a humble servant like Christ was.

Instead of preaching a Spirit-filled sermon and turning to God for confirmation, Satan will try to get us to look for confirmation from the congregation, which leads to praise and gives us self-fulfillment by receiving acceptance from man instead of God. Satan will also try to get us consumed with worldly things so that we forget about our obedience to God. Just like Eve in the Garden of Eden, Satan is always trying to wave things that appeal to our eyes (flesh) in front of us, trying to see if he can get us to stumble. Whether it is pride, fear, a job, selfish ambitions, the opposite sex, drugs, etc., he is constantly trying to keep us focused on worldly things and worldly behaviors.

Number three, Satan will try to get us to become consumed with wanting to see miracles and testing the Lord. Instead of praying over someone to be healed because the Lord told them to, because the Lord has prepared the victim's heart to be healed, they pray over someone to be healed, wanting to see a miracle, testing the Lord. Satan told Jesus to throw Himself off the pinnacle and His Father would save Him. Satan dared Jesus saying if "He was truly the Son of God" then His Father would save Him, **"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone'" (Matthew 4:6).** Satan tried to get Him to go against the will of His Father and use His Father's power, without receiving direction.

Satan tries to get us to do the same thing. Instead of getting direction from God and becoming filled with the Holy Spirit before praying over someone, he will try to get us to pray on our own will proclaiming a miracle. The miracle does not happen because it was not in the will of God and people's faith is weakened.

Whenever Jesus was questioned about what He had said or what He had done, He always

said that He did not speak on His own accord, but only the words that His Father had given Him, **“Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me” (John 17:7-8)**. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit and communicated with His Father, doing the will of His Father. This is to be an example for us. We need to realize that by ourselves we do not have the power to heal. It is from the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ that He can use us to heal. If we do not feel the power of the Holy Spirit leading us to pray over someone and proclaim a miracle, it does no one any good to profess a healing. We must be led by God. God does the work, God heals their heart (or the hearts around them), and then the disease is secondary. I had many people pray over me when I was sick. But the Lord did not heal me until I had a change of heart. I am not by any means saying that it is wrong to pray over sick and diseased people. God answers prayers. Cast your cares upon the Lord, **“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you” (Psalm 55:22)**.

All I am saying is that if we confess a miracle, we better have heard from the Lord telling us that He has healed them. Otherwise, Satan can come in and destroy our faith or other people’s faith around us. This is the goal of Satan, to steer us away from God. If he can lead us to believe that we serve a God that is a dud, one that cannot heal us, then he can shatter the faith of many people. I am not down playing miracles in the slightest. If you ask me, our society does not believe, or ask God for miracles near enough. We serve a mighty God, a God of miracles.

However, like Jesus and the disciples did, we must receive direction from God and the power of the Holy Spirit first. There wasn’t anyone that Jesus prayed over that did not get healed. This is because everyone He prayed for was ready to be healed. However, when Jesus healed the man by the pool, he was the only person He healed, **“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked” (John 5:8-9)**. There were many sick people by the pool; however, Jesus only healed 1 man. If Jesus does not want us to be sick, why didn’t He heal everyone by the pool?

The reason is He was only led by His Father to pray for 1 person. There was only 1 person that was ready to be healed. By Jesus’ stripes we are healed, **“and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5 KJV)**. God wants to heal us. However, He is more concerned with the health of our Spirit, than the health of our flesh. This is why I believe I got sick and why the prayers of so many people went unanswered for a long time. I was not ready to be healed yet. However, once my Spirit became healthy, then I became healthy.

Sometimes, just as Satan did with Jesus, he will give us Scripture saying that “if we are truly the Son of God, then God will save us.” We then proclaim a healing instead of receiving direction. When the healing does not take place, we begin to question Scripture and the power of God, weakening our faith. This is why it is so important to make sure we are receiving direction when we are praying over people, so that we do not profess something that does not happen and as a result weaken people’s faith, thinking that we serve a God that is a dud. A God that does not care about us, a God that does not answer our prayers.

On the same lines as miracles, Satan will also get people to be totally consumed with the manifestations of the Spirit. He will try to get them to forget about loving on Jesus and be totally

focused on the pleasures we receive from the Spirit. He will then lead us to believe that if people are not experiencing the exact same manifestations we are, they are wrong. He will try to get us to force people to experience the same things we have. Instead of being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking only the words that we have heard, we go on a rampage speaking our own words. Instead of letting the Holy Spirit work in their life, we try to tell them how the Holy Spirit should be working in their life.

I am not saying that it is wrong to try to encourage others to experience manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Throughout history and still today God has used many people in amazing ways by helping other people experience manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Peter saved 3,000 people in 1 day, after they saw manifestations of the Spirit. **“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:3, 4). “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).** However, I do feel it is wrong when the manifestations become the only focus, and we start pushing people away from God instead of to God.

I believe that these are the 3 ways that Satan tries to get baptized Christians in the Holy Spirit off track. He tries to alter our **direction** and **life**. If we have no life and no direction, we are no threat to Satan (unsaved). If we have all false direction and no life, we are a very little threat to Satan (all religion/Pharisees). If we have all life and no direction, we will become out of control (focused only on manifestations, not loving our neighbor). However, once we receive direction with life by becoming baptized in the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to do amazing things for the Kingdom of God. **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).** Satan knows this and he tries to take our power for the Kingdom away. He tries to take our direction away (hearing from God), make us become self-centered or caught up in the world, or shift our focus to only life and forget about direction. We can see from Scripture that Satan tried to tempt Jesus these 3 ways after He was baptized and received the Holy Spirit, and I too have been tempted the same 3 ways.

I have definitely been guilty of all 3 of the ways that Satan tries to get us off track. I easily get off track and consumed with the world, forgetting to press into the Lord and let Him teach me. Just like a horse, I am constantly bouncing back and forth from being on the right path to becoming lost and confused. From letting God teach me, to having my only source of teaching come from church once a week. From having direction from Scripture, but no life from the Holy Spirit, to having the Holy Spirit bring the Scripture to life.

I have also been guilty of worrying about what other people think of my ministry. I have enjoyed the praise that I received after I have preached something that the Lord had given me, instead of realizing anything good that came out of my mouth had to come straight from God and giving Him the total credit. I admit I have sometimes gotten caught up in the praise that followed speaking what the Lord had given me. It is not that I wanted to speak what the Lord had given to receive praise, but after I had spoken I will admit, that the praise felt good to my flesh. I think if a person has spoken the words of God, they should try to be unmoved by the

congregation, whether the congregation is trying to praise them, or stone them.

It is also so easy to become consumed with worldly things and fall into worldly behaviors, forgetting to worship and serve only God. I guess the main thing that I have learned is that if you give Satan an inch he'll take a mile. I have learned that if I am not totally focused on God and building His Kingdom that I am very easy to lead into worldly affairs. I am a very passionate person and I easily get caught up in what I am doing. If I am not continually focused on worshiping and serving God, I easily fall into worldly affairs.

I have also gotten caught up in manifestations, miracles and the power of the Holy Spirit. I have often tried to push people too hard, trying to encourage them to experience the Lord. Instead of introducing them to the Holy Spirit and letting the Holy Spirit teach them, I have gotten in the way too much. With my excitement in my experiences in the Lord, I have often pushed to the point that I know people have ended up feeling resentful.

In order to be successful with our horse, or with God, we must learn to keep a balanced life to direction ratio. When I was at cow camp, I had all direction and no life, which caused me to fall apart in stressful situations. However, there have been times when I was consumed with experiencing the life of the Holy Spirit and forgot the simple command to "love your neighbor as yourself." I often became selfish for God, becoming consumed with His presence and thought if I couldn't spend time with Him, I couldn't love my neighbor. However, what I need to learn is to draw close to Him through loving my neighbor. Just like a colt with all life and no direction, we need to direct the life, in order to accomplish a job. We need to keep a balance between direction and life.