Table of Show Bread: Life on a Straight Line

Once we have submitted our life and have been filled with His life, then it is about staying on a straight line. If the life never gets direction, then the life is useless to get a job done. Once we have the life, we have to start putting some direction to the life. I always start out with straight lines with a horse and then work to curved lines. Once you have a good solid Stage 1 with the Lord and have been filled with His life, He will usually give you a line, a Scripture or show you something for your life. If He does not give you a line (some direction for your life) then the line is whatever line you are currently traveling on. Just try to travel on the line He has you on, without letting the driving factors come back in.

As you get up from your round pen exercises with your mind and go throughout your day, try to keep your mind doubled. The prayer meetings and your individual time of "talking, listening, and sharing" with the Lord are to act as your round pen. However, when you get up and go to work, that is like opening the gate to the real world, and that is when the "rubber meets the road." Try to keep your driving factors under control, try to keep your mind on the Lord. Keep your mind doubled around what you felt, saw, heard, read from Scripture, or experienced during your quiet time. The more time you spend with Him, the easier it will get. The goal is to go throughout our entire day working, conversing with people, but keeping our driving factors submitted and our mind on the Lord. You may think that this is impossible. It is difficult, yes, but not impossible.

Remember, we are building a foundation for perfection, not for mediocrity, and it just takes practice. There will be times during the day when you have to give your entire mind to your work, or what you have to get done during the day. However, I am sure there has to be some time during the day when your mind is just idle in self-preservation. During these times practice Stage 1. Remember how you felt when you were madly in love with your significant other, and you couldn't keep your mind off them, right? Return to your first love (Revelation 2:4). We are the bride of Christ (Matthew 25).

To keep my mind doubled I have packed a pocket-sized Gideon's Bible in my pocket, to act as my post during the day. Whenever my mind would get to running off with self-preservation I would just say, "Lord, we're having a runaway, give me a scripture!" I would then say, "Holy Spirit, speak to me." Then, I would just crack open my Bible and read the first scripture I came to. I would read it over and over until I had it memorized, and then I would put my Bible away and just chew on the scripture like a piece of meat, as I was working. If the first scripture I came to didn't make any sense, I would keep reading until I found something that did. I would then say, "Holy Spirit, speak to me, teach me from this scripture, and feed me." You see, the Holy Spirit is like saliva and we need it in order to chew on Scripture and properly digest it. I have chewed on a single verse and have kept my mind doubled for hours.

Direction: Finding Your Line

Once the horse's life has been submitted to me and I have filled them with my life, I then try to get the horse to travel in my perfect will; on a straight line to a specific point. I pick a spot in the far off distance and try to ride as straight as I can to it. However, the horse does not know the spot that I have picked for him and his driving factors (hindquarters) are going to be driving him in all different directions, most often everywhere but on my line. If you have submitted your life to the Lord I guarantee you He has a line picked out for you and waiting for you to find it. If your driving factors are having trouble finding that line (peace) I hope the next 40 days will help you find it. The goal of the next 40 days is to try to help you find God's perfect will for your life. To help you find the line today that will lead to where God wants you in the future. God has His perfect will planned out for your entire life; He has every hair numbered on your head, He created you and knows everything about you inside and out. You are God's workmanship and He has set aside (pre-ordained) good works that you should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

Although you may not see it yet, He has a set line in front of you that will lead you to the perfect spot in the future. I hope you are as excited about finding that line as I am about teaching you what I have learned in finding it. I going to tell you a little secret that the Lord showed me about how easy it is to find God's will for our life. I hope you are ready for this; it is the easiest concept and yet most difficult task I have found in my life so far. Here is the secret to finding God's will for your life: Quit looking to where you think God wants you in the future and start looking to where God wants you today. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (KJV). Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own (NIV; Matthew 6:33-34).

Let me explain this concept with the horses and then relate it back to our life. I do not try to direct my horse's head to the spot that I have chosen for the future; instead I direct his driving factors (hindquarters) to the line that will lead to the spot that I have chosen. If I am focusing on his head and pointing his head to the spot I have chosen in the future, often his driving factors will be trying to go somewhere else. Although I may eventually get to the spot I chose, the process of getting there may be a lot of work and not peaceful for either one of us. This has happened many times in my life. God shows me something in the future and instead of staying focused on where God has me today that will lead to the future, I keep pointing my head (mind) to the future and my driving factors end up going away from the Lord. Although I don't mean to, my mind starts drifting away with self-preservation thoughts and finding comfort thinking about all I can do for the Lord. Eventually my driving factors are primarily being fueled with self-preservation and I have more thoughts about me than I do about the Lord. There will be some days that I try to think about God all day, but instead of feeling filled with life and energy I am tired and drained. The Lord then just softly reminds me, "Wade, it's no wonder you are tired, you were in your self-preservation all day."

Let me tell you something God told me which has helped me a lot in finding lines for my life.

God's presence is in the present.

Find Him in the present and He'll take you to the future. Look for Him in the future and He's waiting in the present.

Meaning it is hard for God to talk to us in the present, if our minds are running off in self-preservation in the future. Find Him in the present; let the presence of the most high God saturate your body, taking away all your self-preservation and then He will take you to the future giving you direction for your life. God has a line for each and everyone one of us, each and every day. He has a line, a perfect line today, that will lead us to where He wants to take us tomorrow, next week, next month and years to come. However, the only way to make sure we are where God wants us next year is to make sure we find the line of where He wants us today.

Many people get discouraged when God doesn't tell them His will for their future. However, if we could just learn to focus on God's will for today and stay in His will every day, each day would lead to the next and we would find ourselves "in the future," "in His perfect will." God does the same thing with us that I do with a horse. When working with a horse, if I give the horse peace when his driving factors are pointed straight to the line or on the line, eventually the horse will learn to keep his driving factors (hindquarters) on the line I have set. If the horse's driving factors are on the line, their head (mind) will be on the line and we will both be able to travel in peace to the spot I have chosen in the future.

In doing this (keeping the driving factors on the line) sometimes the horse's driving factors are pointed nowhere near the spot in the future that I have chosen, and that is ok. I am not worried about the future; I am worried about the straight line in the present that will lead me straight to the future. Let me explain this a little further. If I have picked a spot straight north and the horse's driving factors begin driving him back to the barn (south), when I give him his head and push him he is likely to go left (west),or right (east) to get back to the barn. This is often the case with the Lord as well. Often our first line with the Lord is out of our comfort zone. Often it is in the exact opposite direction that our driving factors are naturally pushing us. It is often a line to a spot that may be a little unfamiliar and as the Lord pushes you your driving factors will want to run back to what feels comfortable; run back to what you know is safe and familiar.

If the horse's driving factors (hindquarters) take him to the left (west) and I turn his head back to the line (north) often his driving factors will still be seeking comfort and companionship back to the barn (south), so his driving factors (hindquarters) will be traveling north-west. Due to the fact that I want the horse to go to the north and he wants to go to the south, I will be riding with constant pressure on the rein trying to hold him on my line. I don't know if you have ever been here in your life, I know I have. Trying to stay focused on where you think God wants to take you in the future, but not having any peace while living in the present.

When the horse's head is going one way and his driving factors are going another, I need to get his driving factors (hindquarters) pointed back to the line that is pointed north, back to the line that is in my perfect will. Similarly, it doesn't do us any good to be trying to find God's will for us in the future and be living in our self-preservation and seeking comfort and companionship away from Him in the present. We need to find the line today that will lead us to God's chosen destination in the future. To get my

horse's driving factors pointed back to my line, sometimes I have to direct his head clear to the east before his driving factors are pointed to the line heading straight north. Just like the horse you might have to point your head (focus) away from where you thought you needed to go, to get back to the line that is going to get you where you need to be.

As the horse drifts to the left and I pull him back to the right, his driving factors will want to keep going right (east) and head back to where he is comfortable at the barn (south). Before he is able to switch his driving factors to the south I will turn his driving factors back to the left (west), back to the line heading north. Eventually instead of pointing his driving factors east to west to bring him back to my line, I will start pointing them north-east to north-west to bring them back to my line and eventually the driving factors (hindquarters) will settle heading straight north. At first it is a lot of work for the horse and it is a lot of work for us, to get out of our self-preservation daily in order to find our daily line. However, just like the horse the more we take time to find our daily line; we will learn that it is so much easier to travel in the peace of God's perfect will. After enough days of working on this, we will also find our self not even wanting to fall into our self-preservation, but wanting to stay in God's perfect will every second of everyday.

I have certainly not attainted this, but I know enough to know that there is always a line in front of me that is peaceful. I am just not always willing to get out of my self-preservation to experience it. I do not worry about the horse's head in this drill, only using the head to point the driving factors to the line heading north (to my set destination). As long as the horse's driving factors are pointing to the line, or on the line, I give the horse total relief. The Lord does the same thing with us. He also uses pressure and relief to help us find God's invisible line; His will for our life. Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). If you want to know God's will for your life point your driving factors to Jesus. He says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). When our driving factors are pointed to Jesus, He promises us we will have peace. This is a scripture I try to take to the bank daily and draw my deposit from the Holy Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).39

When working the horse it's like there is a brick wall on either side of my invisible line. When the horse goes past the line he runs into the wall bounces off and goes the other direction. Pretty soon through pressure and relief (bouncing off the walls) the horse learns to find the invisible line in the middle and stays in my perfect will all the way to the destination I have chosen. Just like the horse experiences peace when he points his driving factors to my line, we are promised peace when we point our driving factors to Jesus. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). If we have our driving factors pointed to Jesus we will experience the "light of life" and we will have "life more abundantly" (John 10:10). If you are walking in the light, God will reveal His plans for you (Jeremiah 29:11) and you will no longer have to walk in darkness; walk in the uncertainty, doubt and despair of what the future will bring. Jesus is the line today that will lead us every day to God's perfect will for our life.

Make sure you find God's line for you today, this is our daily bread (Luke 11:3) and it will keep you traveling in God's will into the future. Just like the horse, we are constantly bouncing back and forth on either side of the line. We are constantly falling into our self-preservation and seeking comfort and companionship away from Jesus. Do whatever you have to do to point your driving factors back to the line, back to Jesus. Just like I said earlier you might have to point your head (focus) away from where you thought you needed to go, to get back to the line that is going to get you where you need to be. I constantly have to do this. God has told me many things for my future and often His plan is so exciting that all I want to do is think about it.

However, when I find myself getting tired and worn down, I know I need to get my mind off the future and redirect my focus to the present. It may be that my line for the day is showing love to my wife instead of thinking about what I am going to get done for God in the future. Once I work to get my mind off the future and point it directly to Jesus, I then begin to feel His peace again and I am able to travel in the perfect will of God; that is until I run off again in self-preservation. I am here to tell you just like your horse it is a process, it takes lots of time and lots of work. If it was easy, Paul wouldn't have said "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31). I pray that over the next 40 days, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, you will find the invisible line that He has placed in front of you. I pray you will find the peace and contentment found in the perfect will of God