

GOD'S SATNAV



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LifeinJesus.net

'God's Satnav'
by
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Cover photo by Katherine Hilditch

GOD'S SATNAV

Do you have a satnav? It's a device you use in your car which will give you directions to where you want to go. If you have one, you will no doubt have stories to tell about how it sent you the wrong way! I'm using the satnav as an illustration in this booklet, but I'm presuming that it works perfectly.

God has a Satnav

God has a plan for everyone's life. He has a plan for your life – a road for you to follow. In Jeremiah 29:11 He says – *“I know the thoughts that I think towards you ... thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give*

you hope and a future.” When you ask God to direct you where He wants you to go, He will. He says in Psalm 32:8 – *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go.”*

Step by Step Guidance

A satnav doesn't show you the whole map at the beginning of your journey – just the next few 100 yards or so. It doesn't tell you every twist and turn of the whole route and expect you to remember it and follow it. God often works the same way. He guides you step by step. Psalm 119:105 says – *‘Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.’* God's Word, the Bible, is a lamp, but it isn't shining down the road, it is shining on your feet so you can just see the next step and not stumble. And God's Word is also a

light shining on the path ahead, not straight ahead lighting up the destination like a floodlight. God will show you each individual step and some way in front of you to help you as you follow His road for your life.

Unconditional Guidance

A satnav will work no matter who you are or what's going on in your life. It doesn't care if you've forgotten to brush your teeth or if you're a criminal. God loves you totally unconditionally. When Jesus died, He suffered the punishment for all sin, so forgiveness became freely available to everyone. God isn't judging people by their performance – He looks only to see if they've received Jesus. It's then that you are born-again. (To read about being born-again go to the end of this booklet.) Of course you

need to acknowledge when you've gone wrong. Then you can receive the forgiveness Jesus won for you and walk forward in freedom with God. James 1:5 says – *'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.'* So God doesn't judge you when you ask for wisdom – He gives it freely.

Off Course

The satnav map highlights the road to take. But you may go off that road if you get confused or distracted or just choose to go a different way. So what does the satnav do then? It doesn't say – “You're not following so I'm going to switch off,” or “I'm sending you back to the beginning to start again,” or “If you won't follow I'll never give you

directions again,” or “You’ve got yourself into this mess, you get yourself out of it,” or “I’ll give you one last chance.” No – it recalculates. It works out where you now are and sets up a new route from there to where you want to go.

If you’ve gone off God’s course for your life for any reason, He doesn’t say – “You’re not following, so I’m not communicating anymore,” or “I’m sending you back to where you went wrong so you can start again,” or “If you won’t follow I’ll never give you guidance again,” or “You’ve got yourself into this mess, you get yourself out of it,” or “I’ll give you one last chance.” No – He recalculates a new plan from where you’ve ended up to where He wants you to go. No-one has followed God’s plan for their life perfectly and it’s so easy to get bogged

down in regret, but ‘What if’ and ‘If only’ are treacherous roads to follow. You may be condemning yourself, but God isn’t. He says in Romans 7:1 – *‘There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.’* The more you focus on the past, the less likely you are to hear God directing you. God wants you to walk away from the past and forward with Him. In Isaiah 43:18-19 He says – *“Don’t remember the former things, and don’t consider the things of old. ¹⁹Behold, I will do a new thing ... I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”* God’s satnav even works in the wilderness and in the desert. He can always get you back on track – His guidance always starts from ‘here’ and ‘now’.

How to use the Satnav - Connect

Information for a satnav is around you all the time. But to access it you have to switch the satnav on to connect to the signal. You have to connect with God in relationship with Him. To get the best guidance from a satnav you need to have 'live traffic'. This gives you information about what's going on ahead on your route. It can then avoid you any problems by changing route or, if that's not possible, it will explain why there's a delay. Your relationship with God needs to be live too – it's no use just going through the motions. To receive God's guidance, you need to be in touch with Him through Bible reading and study and prayer. You need to know God through experience as well as understanding.

How to use the Satnav – ‘See’ and ‘Hear’

A satnav displays a map showing the highlighted route. There is information about how far ahead the next junction is and a diagram showing you the direction to take at it. You can't follow a satnav without 'seeing' the map. God's satnav map is His Word – the Bible. Read and study it to understand how He wants you to live your life and the direction He wants you to go in.

A satnav has a voice as well as a map. It will tell you where to turn at the next junction and if there are any problems ahead. You can turn the sound off, but you won't get the satnav's full benefit. God will speak directly to you through His Holy Spirit. The Holy

Spirit will also remind you of Bible verses which are relevant to your situation. Jesus says in John 14:26 – *“The Holy Spirit ... will remind you of all that I said to you.”* And He will help you to understand what you read in the Bible. If you’ve got music on in the car it can be difficult to hear the satnav’s directions. And if you fill your life with ‘noise’ it is difficult to hear God. The noise might simply be the television or the radio. Or it might be ‘noise’ inside your head – busyness, worry, pressure. Give God the opportunity to speak to you so you can hear Him.

To get the best out of a satnav you need to be able to ‘see’ it and ‘hear’ it. It’s the same with God – to receive His guidance, you need to be ‘seeing’ His Word and ‘hearing’ His Holy Spirit.

How to use the Satnav – Understand It

To use a satnav you need to know how it works. To hear from God you need to know Him and who you are in Jesus. Proverbs 3:5-6 says – *‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and don’t lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.’* Get to know God better.

How to use the Satnav – Trust It

There’s no point in using a satnav if you don’t trust it. You have to choose to believe it knows the best route, and trust it knows more than you do about what’s happening on the road ahead. If you don’t trust God

you're not going to be able to benefit from His guidance. Be humble and choose to believe that He knows better than you do about where you're heading. Psalm 25:9 says – *'He will teach the humble his way'*.

Remember the verse in James 1:5 – *'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.'* Now read what comes next in James 1:6-7 – *'But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. ⁷For that man shouldn't think that he will receive anything from the Lord.'* If you carry on tossing an issue around in your mind after you've asked God for wisdom, then you're doubting that He will give it. You're still trying to work it out for

yourself. God says that He won't give you His wisdom then.

You don't need to beg God to direct you or keep praying or fast – you need to trust Him and take Him at His word. That's when He says His wisdom will come. Ask for guidance and then choose to believe He will give it even if it takes time. Begging and trying to make God respond means you're doubting His promise.

Once you've asked for guidance, your prayer is then – “Thank You Lord that You have heard me and will give me Your wisdom.” Decide not to keep tossing the issue around in your mind and not to keep discussing it with everyone else to see what they think. Trust is a choice, not an emotion. Choose to trust God and He will prove Himself true.

To Benefit You Must Obey

To benefit from using a satnav you have to obey it and then you will get to where you want to go with the minimum of trouble. As you obey God's directions you will get to where He wants you to go with the least difficulty. If you disobey you're going to run into problems, not because God is punishing you, but because you've chosen a different way and there are always consequences.

The world is shouting all sorts of stuff at you. But there are many examples of how God's way is different from the world's way. Here are just 3. The world says there are many ways to God, but Jesus says – *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me,"* (John 14:6).

The world says you can't do it, but God's

Word says – *'I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me,'* (Philippians 4:13).

The world says there's no such thing as truth, but Jesus says – *"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,"* (John 8:32).

Here is a list of more verses which you can look up for yourself in the Bible and see how what they say is directly opposite to what the world says –

Genesis 2:24, Genesis 5:2, Matthew 6:19-20,
Matthew 6:33, Matthew 24:6, Matthew 24:35-36,
John 10:10, John 16:33, Romans 8:1,
2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 5:13,
Ephesians 1:3, Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:4,
James 4:10, 1 Peter 1:16, 1 Peter 2:24,
1 John 1:9.

Study the Bible and you will be able to find many more for yourself.

The world's got it wrong; God's got it right. Jesus says in Matthew 7:13-14 – *“Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter in by it. ¹⁴How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it.”*

God isn't a Satnav

Of course God isn't a satnav! A satnav isn't alive, but God is. A satnav has been pre-programmed and has no knowledge or wisdom of itself; God has all knowledge and infinite wisdom. A satnav will stop working if it needs recharging; God is always fully

charged – He never stops working. A satnav has no emotions – it can't have a relationship with you; God is motivated in all He does by love – He sent Jesus to die for you so you could have a relationship with Him. A satnav works through technology; God works through Jesus. Because of Jesus, God's satnav software is no longer based on punishment, but mercy; not performance, but unconditional love; not anger, but peace. His software is programmed with grace through and through.

Choose to Use God's Satnav

A satnav is no use in the glove compartment of your car. You need to switch it on and connect to the signal. Believe God has a plan for your life and decide to seek it and follow it. Cultivate your relationship with Him –

read and study His Word; listen to His Holy Spirit. Don't beg God to direct you. Instead, choose to believe His promises and trust Him. Be patient and wait expectantly. He will guide you and it will be perfect for your life. If you go off course He won't be angry with you; He will recalculate and come up with a new route from where you've ended up to where He wants you to go. Decide today that you're no longer going to listen to what the world says, but are going to listen to and obey what God says. God's satnav always starts from 'here' and 'now'.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your

Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you’ve done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you’ve ever done wrong or

ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
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One day when we were in the car using our satnav
we went off the highlighted route
and the satnav said it was 'recalculating'.

God spoke through that saying
"That's what I do when you go off course."

It really impacted me
and I began to think about
the ways in which God's guidance
is similar to the satnav's.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the

booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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