

## But, How Do I Get There?

II Timothy 2:2

It had to be one of the most sobering, humbling, reality checks of my life. My father-in-law had been giving me flying lessons. After breakfast he said, “*Get ready; we’re going to take a little trip.*” The morning was perfect for flying, not a cloud in the blue northeastern Colorado sky as we prepared for a short trip to a little place called North Platt, Nebraska.

I was excited about the confidence Ernie had in my learning curve when he told me to crawl into the left seat. After the normal pre-flight checks were completed, he said, “*Okay son, let’s go.*” And go we did! The take-off was perfect. After a few minutes we were at altitude, and I felt confident and in control. It was then he handed me this inverted “U” shaped hood that would allow me to see only the instruments. The most important seemed to be the compass (that was long before GPS), the altimeter for altitude, and the gyro which revealed if the plane was flying horizontally.

I didn’t like the “hood.” I wanted to “see” where we were going and the terrain below; so I cheated. I raised my head enough that I could see past the hood. Unexpectedly, I realized we had flown into a heavy cloud formation and thunder storm. As I looked at the moving, turbulent clouds, I adjusted to the conditions . . . that is until I heard a command that sounded more like it came from a drill sergeant than a father-in-law, “*Look at your instruments son.*” They had to be wrong. We were headed for Texas rather than Nebraska, and according to the altimeter and gyro, we were dropping like a rock . . . side ways. Ernie took the controls and, based solely upon the instruments, leveled out the plane, regained our altitude, and headed back north.

The experience was sobering, if left to me, we would have likely died. It was humbling because I *felt* all was so right and I was so *wrong*. It was a reality check in that we have to trust absolutes, in this case instruments, and not simply fly by the “seat of our pants.”

What if someone could promise us that we could get precisely where God wants us to go regardless of the winds, rain, clouds, and storms of life? What if we could know with confidence that we could have the kind of lives, homes, relationships, and excellence in schools or our professions that God desires for us? We can under one condition—that we trust and follow His instruments.

Most of us have a pretty good idea of where God wants us to go but too often we tend to “fly by the seat of our pants” rather than simply trust His instruments. It’s so natural to fly through life by sight, that is until we lose perspective in the storms we all face and the potential disasters.

Today not only will we clearly see where God wants us to go, but we will discover how we can get there by simply trusting His instruments.

### LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on II Timothy 2:2, “*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*”
2. As you focus on this simple passage, think about the different possibilities in which you might find yourself as you get to where God wants you and us as a church to be.
  - What and from whom are you learning?
  - Who are you teaching/mentoring what you are learning?
  - How are you challenging your “student/learner” to teach and mentor another?
  - What is the sphere of possible influence for you, the one you are mentoring (faithful), those he/she is teaching, and those beyond?
3. We cannot lose sight of the ultimate purpose and structure God has for each of us from Ephesians 4:11-13. Each believer, each of us, is to be equipped and used to equip others, to bring others to faith and maturity in Christ-like-ness. Where do you find yourself in this process, and where would you like to be?
4. The church is one of God’s necessary instruments to see His purpose fulfilled in each of our lives and in those who surround us. Given the face-to-face structure of our small group, the mini church and care group as an expression of II Timothy 2:2, what can you do to facilitate the success of our purpose? What can your leadership do to help us become more effective?

Please take the initiative to communicate your thoughts to your leader or one of the staff.

## **But, How Do I Get There?**

1I Timothy 2:2

*“Clearly the church is made up of people who are followers of Jesus Christ, who have deep relationships with one another, and who increasingly reflect who God is as they manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit.”* - Dr. Gene Getz

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**WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

**BUT, HOW DO WE GET THERE?**

**GENERAL DIRECTION**

**SPECIFIC PLAN**

**OLD TESTAMENT GUIDE**

**JESUS' MODEL**

**NEW TESTAMENT DIRECTIVE**

**HOW WILL WE KNOW WE'VE ARRIVED?**