

## A BROKEN COMPASS©

By Keith Z. Yezdanian

The definition of a compass is: a device used to discover a geographic direction. In other words it's a device used to **guide** us to where we want to be or need to be.

You may have used a compass in the scouts, military or while hunting. And if you have ever been **lost** you know how important it is to have something to **guide** you back home. Now to properly use a compass it takes some time to learn. The use of a compass can be as simple as just finding magnetic North or as detailed as plotting and mapping. Using a compass sounds much like our walk as Christians doesn't it? When we first give our lives to Christ our magnetic North is Sunday morning. As we grow we get involved in Bible study, local outreach or we may even get involved in missions, our walk begins to be refined and detailed, we start plotting and mapping our spiritual walk.

I like to watch *Survivor Man* on TV. Les Stroud once said that when things go wrong a person in a survival situation can get so desperate that they stop relying on good working equipment and start to rely on themselves. If they panic and don't think back on their training, in the end they could end up dying. **They stop trusting their equipment and training and begin to rely on themselves to save them. Interesting!**

Now what if the compass I'm talking about isn't man made, but in fact is God given and is known as our spiritual compass? In **John 16:13** it is written, "**He will guide you into all truth.**" He will guide us. And also in **Luke 1:79**, "**He will guide our feet into the way of peace.**" He will guide us. From **Exodus 15:13** to **1 Timothy 5:14** we see the word **Guide** in the text. We are reminded that He is guiding us on our journey. **He is guiding us and we are to guide others to Him.** And those who had a good working compass but thought it was broken, we must help guide them back before they get lost and eventually die.

The definition of **A Guide**: One who shows the way by leading, directing or advising.

But Keith you just said that they thought their compass was broken. I thought the title of your Message was "A Broken Compass?" Well, you are correct but the compass is only broken if we allow ourselves and our circumstance to overtake our training and convince ourselves that our equipment is broken. When my Dad passed away in July, I thought that my compass was broken! Suddenly in a split second I was one of the Disciples on the boat crying out when the storm hit.

In reality my compass was not broken but my vision was blurred out of focus. It was like I was snow-blind...okay bad example we don't get that much snow here, so let's say it was like a thick fog had rolled in and I was just floating around. Well what do you do then? What do you do? Well you continue to follow your compass and maintain that heading.

Like our missionary friends Jack and Trudy when they shared the story of Trudy's Dad fishing and the fog rolled in. Trudy's Dad told her sister to hold the wheel and to keep their heading and he used a rod to feel the bottom of the sound all the while whistling until they were safe in the harbor. But what happened when he stopped whistling? That's right he heard others crying out...don't stop we are following you!!! Just like our compass we must remember that when we are hit with things that shake us, yes shake us, we must not let them brake us! When we are in the fog we must follow the Church head, **Christ** our **guide**, and remember that our compass is not broken.

The good news is that we can't break our compass, we can set it down or we can choose not to follow it. We have been given a Gift, a Gift of Grace, Mercy, Love and **Compassion**. Let's take a look at the definition of **compassion**.

**Compassion**: Concern for the suffering of another and the inclination to give aid and or support to show mercy.

Now this took me awhile since I'm not the best speller, but **what's the difference in spelling compass and compassiON?** That's right the three little letters **I, O** and **N** these three little letters. ***Write these letters down and in a moment you will see why.***

Now there was a time when our compass was broken and Adam and Eve held the hammer in their hand. But thanks to God and His Grace, His Mercy, His Love and His Compassi**ON**. We have the best working compass that will never break and never send us off course. Because of His compassi**ON** for us and knowing we will be born into sin and without a working compass we would die. He decided to send His only son to not only teach and guide us, but He sent Him to die for us and to give us the best gift only He could give, a compass that will not only guide us here on earth but will guide us to the true North our Heavenly home. And by Him adding those three little letters to His compass **I Owe N**othing! So remember when your fog rolls in just grab your compass and start whistling. And because of His Compassi**ON** and our **Spiritual Compass you and I Owe Nothing and you can enjoy your journey.** AMEN!

*"A Broken Compass"* was written 27 December 2009