

## ***Driving in London***

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**A**s most people are aware, the British drive on the left side of the road with the steering wheel on the right side of the car. It was a challenge for Melanie and me to reprogram our years of driving experience to fit these new circumstances.

But a bigger challenge than actually operating an automobile was navigation. First, London is a vast city. Secondly, the road systems are completely asymmetrical and filled with one-way streets. Thirdly, sign-posting is woefully inadequate. Signs are either missing or labeled according to destination rather than by name; i.e., “To Croydon” (or Camden Town, or whatever town or village was down the road). Throw in the inevitable detours for road works, the occasional marathon or march through London, and the general morass of cars, double-decker buses, taxis and pedestrians, it often seemed as though you would never get where you wanted to go.

Melanie and I quickly became dependent upon our “A to Z” (pronounced A to Zed) – a detailed atlas of London’s streets. Before driving into a new area we would map out the whole route street for street, turn for turn, taking note of every landmark that would help keep us on the proper course. As we drove, Melanie would carefully follow our progress in the atlas. One wrong turn could mean disaster.

Our driving experience in London merely serves to illustrate a spiritual lesson. Our dependence upon that atlas to guide us is analogous to the Christian’s dependence upon the word of God. This world is a maze of temptations, pressures, philosophies, rationalizations and false doctrines all of which threaten to knock us off course. There will be delays, detours and difficulties. We need the constant counsel of the Scriptures to show us the way.

As we gained more experience driving in London, we would not consult the A-Z at every turn, but more than once we found ourselves needing the atlas we had left at home. In such situations, we would simply not venture into unfamiliar territory.

Likewise, spiritual maturity enables us to make daily decisions without literally consulting the Bible for each one. As we grow, Scriptural principles become a natural part of our thinking and our value system. But that same maturity also keeps us out of areas where we are not on solid Biblical ground.

*“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer 10:23).*