

DIVINE DIRECTION FOR THESE TIMES

Big Idea: Divine Direction – Part 1

Read Isaiah 35:8-10 NLT

Pastor Steve Crutchfield

What areas of your life right now are you looking for direction? This week Pastor Steve kicked off a brand-new series, Divine Direction for These Times. Some of you are in a wonderful place right now. Some may be in the worst place you've ever been. And the rest are somewhere in-between. One thing that's for sure, when it comes to the 'state of things' from the American worldview; We are full of uncertainty, unrest, lack of direction, questioning everything – social, political, financial, mental, relational, and spiritual. One could say we have created a type of *wilderness experience*...

"...an inhospitable place; a neglected area; a position of political disfavor..."

During these times of uncertainty and feeling directionless, there is one thing we can know for certain. **Our hope is Jesus Christ. Jesus is** our divine direction for these times. How do I know that? God made a way for His people in the actual wilderness. (Isaiah 35:8-10) And through Jesus, God makes a way for **all** of us in our wildernesses.

Three things about this highway in the wilderness.

1. It's a highway of **Grace**. - (read Isaiah 35:9^b, Acts 10:14-15; 15:8-9; John 14:4-6)
This road, this way in the wilderness - our Divine Direction for these times has a name. The name is Jesus, and you will remember it!
2. It's a highway of **Safety**. - (read Isaiah 35:9^a; 1 Peter 5:8; Psalm 91:13; 2nd Tim. 4:17)
Pastor Steve encouraged us to stay close to Jesus. There's safety there. The way God has prepared for you is safe, you have nothing to fear.
3. It's a highway of **Joy**. - (read Isaiah 35:10; Luke 15)
We can rejoice because we were lost but now we're found!

Discussion Questions

- Do you follow the directions when assembling something? Why or why not? And how successful are you?
- Pastor Steve used the illustration of lane assist on newer cars, that technology is there to help keep you safe but it doesn't take responsibility for getting you somewhere. That's the Holy Spirit's role in the believer's life, to instruct, lead, convict, and counsel. How has He helped you in these areas?
- How can we sing, be joyful, and choose joy when circumstances are tough?

Prayer Focus

Father, we thank you so much, that you loved us so much that you prepared a way for us in advance. I thank you that there is a highway of grace, safety, and joy through Jesus. Lead us to you. In Your name, Amen.

Next Steps

Pastor Steve shared that we are all on a journey, and at various places on that journey. If you have not yet trusted Jesus Christ with your life. That's the first step. If you are experiencing troubled times. Jesus leads us down a highway of safety. Seek strength in Him – Get connected to a Group. You don't have to journey alone!

Leadership Tip

We will never find Divine Direction by just looking for a way through our circumstances. We will only find divine direction by looking for **The Way**. Encourage group members to share some personal "Highway of Grace" stories.