

# The Long Trek Back



**“Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of  
my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**

**King David | Psalm 25:4-5 (ESV)**

## A Hard Lesson

When I was 15, my Boy Scout troop took a three-week backpacking trip through the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains in New Mexico, the

adventure of a lifetime! We were challenged not only physically, but mentally, emotionally. Midway through a hard 12 miler, we experienced a bit of a hiccup.

Before the onset of GPS, we navigated via maps and compasses, remember these? Our Scoutmasters gave us the decision-making power that day, agreeing to say nothing. A solid mile after a fork in the trail we realized we had gone the wrong way. Ugh! Fuming, we retraced our steps. As our emotions eased, we realized that our leaders had said nothing but they still walked the whole way with us! “Why didn’t you correct us?” we asked. Let’s say we had a “constructive” talk on the trek back as we learned the value of a hard lesson.

## There’s More

How many times have you found yourself seemingly way ahead of God or off in the wrong direction? Often if you’re like me! Always with good intentions, I feel an urgency to pursue my Life Mission, the reason God has me here. I latch on to an idea and get going... only to find myself out in the wilderness, lost. Having hit a dead end, it’s time to take the long trek back to reconnect to the right path.

“God, why did you let me go so far out of the way?! Isn’t time too precious to waste?” As I make my way back, I realize that God, like those Scoutmasters, has never left my side. He simply let me go on my errant way, knowing the value of the hard lesson, and I’m sure, relishing our pending conversation on the long trek back.

*“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,’ says the Lord. ‘And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.’”*  
*The Lord | Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)*

It seems like God would rather work on me than help me accomplish the Life Mission he gave me. Does he value building my character more than expanding the Kingdom of Heaven?

## God Prevails in All

Our Lord, in his infinite power and wisdom, is not constrained to “Either/Or” ...he’s always about “All” ... yes, he will build your character and yes, he will ensure that all of his purposes will prevail, including the Life Mission he’s assigned to you. Honestly, a huge relief!

*“You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.” Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)*

Yet I’ve learned that God's most precious purpose prevails as we walk together on the long trek back. David said it well, “...for you I wait all the day long.”

## Nothing to Prove

Finding yourself a mile off in the wrong direction after trying to do something good is painful, humbling, even exhausting... but it leads to true life.

*“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” The Apostle Paul | Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)*

When we realize we are lost, our first reaction might be anger, “Why didn’t you say something God?!” But there is nothing like the long trek back with him at your side. I imagine a slow, quiet trek... God’s loving arm around my shoulder. Life gets good when you realize your “King of the Universe”

Dad has everything under control and you don't have to prove anything to him. Ahhh... so sweet! Now I embrace...

## The Long Trek Back

### Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

#### The Lord Prevails in Everything, Walking with Me the Entire Way

"He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

King David | Psalm 23:3-4 (NLT)



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## Don't know your Life Mission?

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“

“If one is seeking direction in life and looking forward to new adventures, **this workshop is the perfect trail map** to get you to your destination!”

~ DAN B.

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## Adventuring with God

Latest Blog Posts



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I went on a beautiful hike last spring. The trail, "Misery Ridge," winds up and over a gorgeous rim and through a gorge along the Crooked River in Central Oregon. The pastel volcanic cliffs are known for fantastic... [Keep reading](#)



## Bad Leaders Make Good Team Members

In our church service a couple of weeks ago a woman stood up to give her testimony. "Follow your heart!" she said as she explained how she made a major decision in her life. I felt a twinge in my gut... [Keep reading](#)

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