



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

DRIVING A CAR. AVOIDING CROWDS! PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE PART III

Warm welcome! Today we continue our series about 'Preparing for the Future'. Some of the advice is practical and some is spiritual and some concerns the current events of the world and how they may affect us. **So this is edition is our first one on practical advice.**

DRIVING A CAR ON THE ROAD.

Let's start with a little humour, taken from my book 'Pieces of China' **

'THE ALMIGHTY ARM STORY'

"When you come to China it's important to come with your eyes wide open in every sense. On the other hand it's also important to be very open to change and to new ways. What 'works' for you at home, may not 'work' for you in China. While the 'seas' of China may be full of beautiful and exotic fish and opportunities; they are also full of sharks. I have found a cheerful smile works wonders as we all should know, but at the same time you should temper this with wisdom. Particularly in physical things like body language and 'how we do it

back home' is **not** the mentality you should have when you enter this vast land. The Chinese have their own way of doing things.

To give you an example, in Jakarta, Indonesia, it is common to see people crossing the traffic-congested street or even highway, "armed" with nothing more than their own arm or hand, which at an appropriate moment they will hold out to the oncoming traffic, which by the way, in Jakarta, is usually moving at a snail kilometre an hour pace.

Knowing that the traffic is slow, an average East Javanese will expertly move his (usually left) arm or hand signalling the



Photo-by-Yudha-P-Sunandar on coming traffic to slow down even further, enabling him/her plus child/ren to make it safely across to the other side. Statistically speaking, this has proven a very successful and uniquely Indonesian way of crossing all kinds of roads. One dear friend of mine has called

this the 'AAS,' or 'Almighty Arm Syndrome'.

One East Javanese visited Chicago, USA, several years ago, and as was his habit, he wanted to cross a busy (Chicago) street, (not at the intersection lights presumably!).

Although the traffic was not quite as slow as in his native land, he decided to trust his 'Almighty Arm' and stepped forward in good faith on to the road. This poor man ended up in a Chicago hospital with an arm and leg both broken! Obviously the Americans give no truck (excuse the pun) to the Almighty Arm of the East Javanese. Of course, he should have known that Americans don't give much truck to anything else! But let the reader be warned! - Place no faith in the 'Almighty Arm' in America, and at the same time when you enter the physical and spiritual roads and seas of China, don't place too much faith in your previous frame of reference nor physical senses; they may very well fail you at the moment you most need help!" End of book excerpt.

Yes, so we see, things change for us depending on where we are. How we drive, cross a road, manner of walking, use of our body language etc.

Here are my thoughts and advice, as a missionary, for those of you who ever get in a car, remembering we are living in dangerous times.

Firstly, NEVER get into your car, nor even turn on the ignition without first praying by yourself or with others who may be with you. Take a look around the car first before you have even done that; are all your tyres up? Do you notice anything else unusual? If you do these two things then you can drive off.

As you commit your day to the Lord He will help you make the best decisions, including your driving while doing errands

In recent years driving here in the United Kingdom, and I don't know how it is in your country, beloved brethren, but I have noticed a lot of changes in how the country drives. People now drive a lot faster, some people drive dangerously and in unsafe cars. They overtake at higher speeds and don't anticipate the road ahead of them. There are also a lot more criminals driving, and foreigners, who are not familiar with UK rules on the road, not that I have anything against our lovely foreigners, but they are statistically more likely not to have insurance or a car that has passed its yearly test, being predominantly as they are, from countries with very loose traffic laws, hardly enforced. They are also statistically in recent years here, far more likely, proportionately speaking, to end up in jail for all major crimes. I am very aware of this as I enter unknown (to me) territory like Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham; I see far more crashes in these cities as I drive through them.

Never drive when you are angry. If you drive in this manner, you are opening yourself up for a demon to come and bring another car along you or near you that will upset you. Your spirit and body will be affected and you may become the victim



or even the cause of Road Rage. ++

This is something I really have to watch out for; there are so many more %\$*&?@”KF people driving now, that it is easy if I am out of the Spirit, which I frequently may be, to be affected by other people's spirits, or their accompanying demons. **Remember that people's driving is merely a reflection of their 'personalities'.**

If I drive in the Spirit of God, I will drive slightly slower than the speed limit, I will be **courteous** and deferring to others if I can. I will be aware of the environment on the road on all sides of my car. I will smile and allow others to also proceed.

I will smile, or at least be humble in my demeanour. **Driving is one of the most dangerous things you can do on this earth.** There are many excellent drivers, considerate and law-abiding drivers, male and female who know what they are doing, there are many believers on the road, but this

verse is what God has recently given me to warn me:

'The wicked drive on every side' of my car.

Psalms 12: 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.⁸ The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Continue to pray as you drive along; if you are in a less busy area, this is also a good time to pray over things in your life, friends, family, missionaries, situations and also to praise the Lord, sing to Him, or sing along with praise songs, as long as you don't get too high in the Spirit that you completely forget where you are! Ha! Enjoy yourself in your car, your personal 'beast' of burden that the Lord gave you. Keep it clean, regularly de-clutter it of all stuff that makes it look disorganised, take care of it inside and out, (this will have a very definite and positive impact on your spirit!) Also, keep your tyres at the right pressure so you save them and the fuel consumption.

Well, a lot of this is common knowledge, but it is worth repeating anyway.

Use your vehicle for the glory of God. Dedicate it to the Lord. Pray over it, lay hands on it and I am not joking as I always lay hands on **any** electrical or mechanical things I have bought and ask the Lord to keep and preserve them for a LONG time! that it will last a long time. Pray for the Lord's angels to encompass your vehicle on all sides. By the grace of God, I have not had an accident for the last 46 years, and this is only due to prayer, as there have been many times when I have

driven unwisely, angrily, or in a hurry, may God forgive me. **We all need the mercy of God when we drive.**

Proverbs 12:10

A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

Traffic Jams.



It is extremely important to ask God if you need to drive and where and when you need to drive. There is nothing more I dislike than being stuck in a traffic jam for more than 2 minutes! While we are 'in a hurry' to get home or while someone in the back seat will be sure to say; 'Are we nearly there yet?'

I have learned in the past two or three years, through dire experiences, (flooding, accidents, police interventions on criminals etc), that God expects me to look at the route I am thinking of travelling along; what time of day it is going to be and if there is a plan B to exit a jam or go a quieter route. **Remember the world we live in today is full of people who just do the easiest most convenient things, we are all conditioned that way.** And why not! Well there are a lot of why nots, which we could discuss in another issue.

So I am learning that traffic jams are not acceptable for the most part to me as a servant of Jesus Christ, unless the Lord has a

specific purpose for them for me that one time. I don't have to be in them especially with children. I don't have to be part of that traffic jam world. The Bible says 'ye are not of the world, even as I am not of the world'. John 15:19). I don't have to accept it and can pray for ways to avoid it or at least decrease it substantially.

I pray these few points have been a blessing.

AVOIDING CROWDS



Over the last years I have seen a remarkable increase of cancelled airline flights or trains being cancelled, at least in this country. The result of this is that thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of people are left stranded, or they are left with no way to go on holiday or return home. They have to fend for themselves. Many have children with them in these enormous queues; babies, crying and just waiting to hear from the airline or train staff when (if ever) their flight or train will depart! Money lost, nerves strained and distress of soul. Not something we wish to choose or endure.

This has been distressing to see, but at the same time it has put a real understanding in my heart from the Lord, that the rule is this, just like traffic jams above; Don't go anywhere, don't plan to go anywhere today unless you know God has ordered that for you and your family or team; otherwise I feel sure you will end up just like these multitudes of people in this living nightmare of a situation.

Travel is not the only problem. Around the world now there are

many people protesting. People gather in small or very large groups to protest for or against all kinds of crazy things. These people many of them led by the enemy of our souls cause great disruption to all the people around them. Sometimes causing emergency services to be unable to reach accidents or hospitals. Sometimes these groups develop into violence with others or other groups. I suggest you take nothing for granted at all in these days.

We should remember that nowadays many societies are becoming polarised in their political and religious views. People have become Woke. People are becoming more left wing in some cases and this only opens the door to more violence as that is the baseline of left-wingness—violence.

You will remember in the book of Acts that the whole city of Ephesus shouted out for two hours "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Let's call it the Ephesus Syndrome!

Acts 19: 32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused: and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

35 And when the town clerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?

36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

Why not read the whole chapter for the whole Wokery event!

Interestingly, in the Bible there are a great deal of verses about crowds! Often the Bible calls them 'Multitudes' or a crowd, and sometimes their armies are referred to as a multitude. Here are a few references.

Exodus 23:2

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil;

2 Chronicles 14: 11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee.

12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.

Psalm 5:10 Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Sometimes a multitude of people carry with a multitude of sicknesses and diseases and a multitude of 'transgressions' or sins.

Psalm 42:4

When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that

kept holyday. Sometimes a multitude can be great if they are all following the Lord!

Psalm 74:

18 Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.

19 O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the congregation of thy poor for ever.

20 Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.

Jesus said the multitude would not enter the narrow (strait) gate. Only a few (not a multitude) could enter the narrow way.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the strait **gate**: for wide is the **gate**, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the **gate**, and **narrow** is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Remember the city of Sodom? The sodomites quickly created a huge crowd when the two angels came to the city to rescue Lot. Check these amazing verses out! Genesis 19.

4 But before they (Lot and his family and the angels) lay down (for the night), **the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: ****

Eventually the angels had to blind the multitude and bring Lot and four other people out alive. I mean that was one dangerous multitude! This is also a clear reminder to us that we may very well need angelic and supernatural help if we fall

into a 'Crowd situation'

Finally I would say by my gut feeling which I hope is of the Lord, is that we who love Jesus, will not normally seek out crowds of people who are not necessarily saved people. What is there to see or learn from them? Very little, I believe. They are the world. Unless we go there to share the Gospel which is often better shared in much smaller groups or even one to one situations.

Take care driving and pray to avoid crowds, road rage and other nasty things of the devil, Amen?

I close with a short testimony of how the Lord once led me to a future disciple in the midst of a crowd! Love in Christ

Jerry and the WCF Team

(Taken from the book

Shake off the Dust!++)

Many times we just met people God had ordained for us to meet. The feelings or witness in our spirit each time were remarkable. I remember leaving a skyscraper in another part of the city one evening after teaching English at a company, and I stepped up to the bus stop and there was God's appointment for me, **a young woman in the crowd of people who stared at me with such an intense look of longing and interest.**

I returned her look and

The Lord gave me discernment that she was already a future disciple of Christ and I walked over to her. We talked and got on the same bus and amazingly she lived nearby our apartment with her husband. It was not until about four months later though that the Lord led us to visit them, and a further time before we shared the Gospel with them both which they readily and eagerly accepted.

This young woman, Irene, told us that she had seen Emily leaving our apartment and her face seemed to glow and shine. She asked how her face could become like that?

We told her Emily's story (Emily was our first 'convert' in China) and how much she loved the Bible and studied it with us. Irene determined then and there to visit us every morning before work for a Bible study and prayer time. She faithfully came at around 6am every morning for about one year for fellowship. This meant that one of our team had to be ready for her arrival with some special class

or devotions for the day also. 'Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness', Jesus said, 'for they shall be filled'.

Irene and her husband Edi then spent about two years in fellowship with us and are such wonderful souls. We truly thank God for them. Today this young woman has gone with her husband and child to a northern city, and continues to love the Lord and His Word very deeply.

Irene and Edi in our early days in China.



**** Pieces of China: A Foreigner's Guide to navigating life in China! eBook : Finch, Jerry: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store**



++ Road Rage - Google Search

The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race and Identity by Douglas Murray | Goodreads

#1807 - Douglas Murray - The Joe Rogan Experience | Podcast on Spotify (I believe you need to sign

[in or create an account to hear this podcast\)](#)

[the danger of crowds - Google Search](#)

[the danger of crowds - Google Search crowd surges. Physical danger of being in a crowd. Death or suffocation.](#)

What makes crowds dangerous?

When crowd surge occurs, people are often at the mercy of the movement of the crowd. In fact, a mass movement of people can lead to forces of over 4,500 Newtons, or 1,000 lbs. This level of exertion can bend steel railings and seriously injure those involved.

[crowds become insane - Google Search a fascinating study that I knew very little about before. Worth praying and reading some of this search.](#)

[avoiding crowds - Google Search](#)

[Understanding the Fear of Crowds \(Enochlophobia\) \(verywellmind.com\)](#)

**** There seem to be NO accurate estimations of the population of Sodom at the time of Lot. Some figures are 400-600, others say 40,00 plus, and still others 1.5 million! A strange state of affairs.**

++Shake off the Dust!: True amazing testimonies from a missionary working in over 20 countries with lessons applied for the reader! eBook : FINCH, Jerry, Finch, Jerry: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store



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