

My Way vs God's Way

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[Psalms 107:1-43](#)

Intro

My Life

Career

Age

Wife

Kids

grandkids.

no other family

John, our Pastor

Our hearts are knit together

“Healing for the sake of Evangelism”

both are funny

a professional laugher

A personal tract

Education

Not many of you were wise when you were called – I Cor 1:26-30

My way – Avg Student

Terrible at grammar/spelling

Save my Degree

God's way - I prayed for favor

verbal spelling test

Results

First generation College Grad

Education (cont.)

My Way – applied to Grad School

GRE

God's way – I prayed

Put me on probation

Master's in Computer School Studies still on probation with a 3.8 GPA

Education (cont.)

My way – very inept

change words because I couldn't spell them

find Wisdom ... Prov 3:13-18

God's way – prayed for wisdom

Reading my bible every day

took me 1 ½ - 2 hours to read 4 to 5 chapters

takes me 20 min now

I read technical manuals

read tax instructions & prepared taxes

Education (cont.)

God's way

Grade and correct research projects

business emails

communicate with CEOs and Government officials

wrote a business plan

I have a good grasp on verbal and written communications

Reading God's Word, and praying for wisdom changed my life drastically

Love

Love must be sincere - Romans 12:9-10

My Way– worldly love

Self-serving love

only model I knew

I married the Love of my life

I tried to do all the right things

I tried to say all the right things

The more I tried the more I failed

Trying out of Obligation doesn't work and very frustrating

Love (cont.)

My Way (cont.)

abandoned me / turned on me.

homeless in high School.

They were supposed to love me.

finally ready for God to show me what true love was.

Love (cont.)

God's way

I made a mess of my marriage

I cried out to God – He said, “Just love her”

“I don't know how,” I steamed back - “I'll show you”, he whispered

Love is: - I Cor 13:4-8a (180 degrees off – so put her first not me)

I started loving her & putting her before myself always

The more I put her needs ahead of mine, the more I loved her

The more I loved her the more I put her needs ahead of mine

Love (cont.)

God's way

Motivated by love - things came easy

She started loving me & trusting me

We are happier and more passionate than we have ever been

tremendously better now

It's better now than I ever imagined

* Free Marital advice: almost ever conflict in marriage steams from selfishness on one or usually both parties

We wasted a lot of years

Pray for God to restore the years - Joel 2:25-26

Christianity

How long will you waver between two opinions - I Kings 18:21

My way

Self-serving love

I tried to do all the right things

I tried to say all the right things

The more I tried the more I failed

Trying out of Obligation doesn't work & very frustrating

Christianity

God's way

I made a mess of my life

Set your hearts on things above Col 3:1-3, 12-15

cried out to God – He said “Just love me” - Got it - Like Michelle - put You first

started loving Him & putting Him before myself always

The more I put Him ahead of me, the more I loved Him

The more I loved Him the more I put Him ahead of me

Motivated by love doing and saying the right things came easy

Financial

Trust in the Lord → Prov 3:5-6

Meticulous - I looked for 4 hours for a 2 cent mistake

My way

I tried to build a budget

I tried to add up expenses & compare with income - we came up short

God's way

We were tithing & our expenses were always larger than our income

But, We always had enough money – it drove me crazy – it didn't add up

Financial (cont.)

My way

an unexpected expense - we decided not to tithe

We got the only overdraft ever

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse – Mal 3:10

God's way

We decided to never skip tithe again – no more overdrafts

Tithe always comes first – Prov 3:9-10

Started giving more & more - God always provides

Tithe off the Gross or net? It is all God's & you can't out give God

Financial (cont.)

God's way

My boss announced retirement

I applied

13 yrs in District and didn't get an interview (dear John letter)

Appt. /w Superintendent → interview

I did – had no idea of my qualifications

Later summoned to meet /w HR Superintendent & Superintendent

Questioned my loyalty & reassigned me to teach MS Math

Dist job Tech Integration → Took \$16K stipend away

Financial (cont.)

God's way (cont.)

I told everyone God had my back and would provide → 5 long months

God created a new program and a new job just for me

Got a raise not a decrease in pay – Praise God for he always provides

One year later got another \$16k pay cut.

It is funny that the enemy doubled down. God will provide. He always does.

Work

Not an impressive person, but God has allowed me to do some pretty nice jobs

Skilled worker will serve before Kings - Prov 22:29

By the grace of God I have a BS in Education – Major in Math & MS Technology

My way

Quit my first teaching job → with my education it should be easy to get a job

the 80s & I work with technology – should be easy!

Sent out hundreds of resumes – should be easy right?

Unemployed for a year and a half → took a job that didn't need my degrees

Work (cont.)

God's way

Fired from my Dir of Technology position at a College - for no reason

It was April fool's day & I thought it was a joke

My wife told me that someone I worked with was after my job

I didn't listen and they got my job

* Note to self "Listen to your wife"

Michelle prayer for vindication because of this injustice

(God laid it on her heart from Ps)

Work (cont.)

God's way (cont.)

storm came up & lightning struck the building I used to work in

It literally blew bricks out of the side of the building

It also fried every computer in the building

They called me back to fix them.

fixed a few & they gave the rest as parts for me

I knew God was going to provide.

I spent my days mowing at the Church and praying

Work (cont.)

God's way (cont.)

Michelle got mad at me because I wasn't actively looking

One week before my severance pay ran out, ABT offered me a job

Michelle didn't want to move to Philly so I turned them down.

Two days before my severance pay ran out, they ask me to consult for them

Work (cont.)

God's way (cont.)

Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta (convert SW)

Paid me very generously and all of my expenses

Paid for me to fly back every other week (5 Months)

I was able to bring my family down for a couple of weeks

Started our Technology business (I used the computers they gave me)

Work (cont.)

God's way (cont.)

I connected a civilian contractor for Ft Leavenworth Army base

They matched my previous salary rate to help maintain the Army's tech

Took care of their technology for 2 years while still running the business

Downturn in the economy (90s) - people stopped paying me - Church people

Because of Y2K (told everyone I couldn't see anything happening)

City of St. Joe hired me as their first Network Administrator

Prepared them for year 2000 & setup a city wide WAN of 27 buildings

Conclusion

God has allowed me, a nobody,

to go from an abandon young man who was homeless in HS

To experience great things when I relied on Him (His abundant provision)

When I did things my way, it was always disastrous.

I try to do things His way now.

It always works out far better than I imagined.

Dream Big with God

I read a quote the other day

“If your dreams don’t scare you, they are not big enough.”

Let God allow you to dream big

trust Him to take you to them and through them.