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**“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”**

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VOLUME 35

March 2013

NUMBER 3

*Disoriented.* I became very familiar with that condition recently. The experience is one that I am still processing. And the more I process it seems that the more I am becoming *reoriented*. Please bear with me as I try to explain. Be patient after all I am still processing!

After a recent Saturday night session of Worship Wide Open, my wife and I had left the church building and were almost home, listening to a brand new CD of worship music. Before we had finished listening to all the songs, we proceeded through an intersection having received a green light signal. Evidently, someone coming from the red light signal section must not have received their message. The music abruptly stopped as the most horrific sound erupted and roared through the inside of the car. Suddenly, without warning and quite unexpectedly, we took a radical turn in a totally different direction. We weren't quite prepared for the ride.

After the noise stopped and the car came to rest, I focused on my wife who was behind the wheel of the car. Soon the emergency workers had her moving toward the ambulance and I was standing by the wreckage that only moments before was what we had called our van. My daughter had come to the scene of the accident and I was talking to her about what happened. As I explained our direction of travel she pointed out that where I thought we had come from was not the reality. It seems that when we suffered that mighty impact and our car was spun around at such a high rate of speed, I was completely turned around in the way I recognized the world. I think she would agree I was more than a little bit disoriented. I had totally lost my place on the planet. For the moment I had lost my way. When she pointed out my confusion, showing me evidence of my disorientation, all I could think to say was that I'd have to think about this for a while. I am still thinking about it. Processing, you know.

I have a book in my study called *Biblical Orientation*. The author claims that our English word *orient* comes from a Latin word that means *to rise* and *orient* can literally mean *to face, or turn to, the east*. In keeping with his premise, then I think we can say for someone to be oriented is to be rightly directed physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Proper orientation is knowing where we are in the midst of this world as it spins, even when our lives are spinning out of control. Orientation is simply knowing your way around. When some people are hired for a new job they sometimes go through an *orientation*, where they are shown what to do and where to go. I once heard a wise man say that if you get lost in the forest, return to the last place that you knew where you were. The last place you were rightly oriented. To the person who is lost this may not be so easy to do. Sometimes we are more lost than others. When our experiences of loss are grievous and sudden, we are often traumatized and become suddenly disoriented and out of place.

As a biblical counselor I have seen many in the faith community who are disoriented. They may have been set free by Jesus and don't yet know how to live free. Their lives have not taken on a new direction. I think I know why. My wife and I would have testified that we accurately knew the direction we were facing was the right one. But our problem was that we were locked into the last thing we experienced immediately before the traumatic event. So many times when people come to Christ they come out of a traumatic event in their lives. But unless they get reoriented and redirected they will travel many times the wrong way. One of the disciples of Jesus said that they didn't know where Jesus was going and therefore they couldn't know the way. Jesus said a profound thing. He said, *“I am the way...”* This is a great comfort to those of us who are suddenly disoriented. If we can get to Jesus we will no longer have lost our way. As the old song says, when you use your Bible for a road map you will find your way the Way. He is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam