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FOCUS ON THE RIGHT LANE

It was the summer before my 16th birthday. I was eligible for driver's training and went to the class. It would be the first day of driving with the instructor and two other students. The two other students each drove a short distance, and now it was my turn. The car was made especially for an instructor. It came equipped with two steering wheels. One for the student driver and one for the instructor.

I got into the driver's seat and proceeded to drive. A car was coming from the opposite direction, and as I looked at it, I started to veer towards it. The instructor turned his wheel to pull the car back into my lane where it should be and yelled at me, ***"Get back in your lane. What are you doing? Haven't you ever driven before?"*** My answer was, ***"No, I have never driven before, that's why I am in this class."*** I didn't know a thing about driving. I needed to be taught.

I didn't realize that what you focus on is where your car will take you. I learned very quickly to keep an eye on the right side of the lane I was in, and that the "hood ornament" should be my guide as it would run even with the side of the street. I finished the class and got my license and have driven thousands of miles since because someone taught me how to focus.

As I thought about this memory today, the Lord impressed upon me to share this. You see my friends, what we focus on is the direction we will go in. If we focus on our problems, then that is the direction that we will pursue. If we focus on God's promises, then we will be taken in that direction. Either one will take us in a direction, and it is up to us to focus on the right one. Perhaps you have never thought of this before. Perhaps you haven't been taught just like I had never driven and had to be taught, but the scriptures tell us in Philippians 4: 8-9 to think on these things:

- ***Things that are true – not the devil's lies***
- ***Things that are just – not things that are unjust and unfair***
- ***Things that are pure – not the vileness of the world***
- ***Things that are lovely – not the ugliness around us***
- ***Things that give a good report – not always looking for the bad in things***
- ***Things that are virtuous – not things that are filthy***
- ***Things that bring praise – not things that bring condemnation***

It is a choice to focus on the right things and not the wrong things. In the world we live in, full of chaos, death, and mayhem it is easy to focus on the wrong things. We must be conditioned to think on the right things, or we will end up in the wrong lane without an instructor to pull us back, thus ending up in a crash. Our children and grandchildren need to learn these concepts while they are young so they will learn to live in the "right" lane by focusing on what is right.