

## **Hands Free Driving**

In case you have not seen the new commercials for some of the new vehicles for sale, select models now have an option that permits “hands free driving.” Ford calls their version “Ford Blue Cruise,” and General Motors calls their brand “Super Cruise.” Just when you thought that driving could not get any more challenging, you will now have to face drivers sitting back in their seats saying, “look Ma, no hands.” So, what is hands free driving?

Super Cruise, for example, (with an attentive driver, and under the proper conditions), utilizes advanced technologies and uses precision LiDAR map data in addition to real-time cameras, sensors, and GPS to maintain control. It uses GPS with real-time corrections and map data to determine the vehicle’s location, while the Lane Sensing Camera detects the marked lanes on the road. This helps the vehicle steer and keep its lane position...you hope. How many of us have experienced wrong directions when using the GPS system options for getting to a driving destination? They miss detours and re-routing sometimes.

Supposedly, this system only works on “compatible roads.” A compatible road is one that is mapped and uploaded into the GPS system. Not to be confused with “smart roads,” which utilize electronic devices in the roadways to control traffic and yes, the new GPS cruise systems. Not to worry, they have a safeguard in the system that monitors your head and eye position, so you stay alert. Drivers must always pay attention to the road as the Super Cruise’s head-tracking software helps make sure your eyes are on the road, and it alerts you when you need to pay more attention or take back control. It will not detect vehicles crossing the road ahead, including at intersections, and will not automatically steer or brake to prevent a collision. You must manually brake and steer the vehicle. This, along with a stern warning to pay attention while driving and do not use a handheld device should be sufficient, right?

Wow, why don’t they use that now to stop people from texting while driving? I guess trees and other vehicles are better deterrents. I am sure their warnings will work as well as “don’t drink and drive.”

We have probably all heard of the story of a man who bought a new Winnebago and set the cruise control to 70 mph and got up to make a sandwich? Well, it is a false urban legend but not to be discarded, there was a woman in the United

Kingdom who *did* buy a new motorhome and set the cruise control to 40 mph. She *did* get up to make a cup of tea. In a matter of seconds, she slammed into a tree. She was unhurt as she landed on the couch. She was fined and lost her license. They walk among us! And they drive...

I know what you are thinking, where is he going with all this? As we read in the essay, it mentioned “God is my Co-pilot” and the edited version of “God is my pilot.” How much trust would you have in hands-free technology? People are putting their lives in the hands of something they cannot see, all the communication between the vehicle and the GPS, and betting the LiDAR is functioning properly. That is a lot of trust and faith.

How sad it is that we do not have the same faith and trust in God as we do in technology? Letting go of the wheel and let God do the driving with our lives seems to take a lot more effort. We cannot see Him either (**John 1:18-** “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”), but we know His presence is all around us. We can see Him in His creation.

**Psalm 19:1-** “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.”

We cannot see the wind, but we know it is there. We can see the effects of it when it is blowing. We know Him and can feel His presence through His Holy Spirit.

**John 3:8-** “The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know the place from which it comes and the place to which it goes; so also is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.”

**1 Corinthians 2:10-13-** “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God. For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God; Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by *the* Holy Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*.”

The Bible to most people, is just a book. To those who profess to be a Christian and do not follow what God tells us to do in it, it is something to make them feel warm and fuzzy on a Sunday morning. The man behind the box at the front of the church, will share a few lines of scripture along with a heartwarming story and off to heaven they go, after you throw some money in the collection plate as the road to salvation is not cheap...

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16-** “But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ.”

To truly have the mind of Christ, we must let go of the steering wheel in our lives and trust The Lord in every aspect. We cannot step up or step in and say to God, “I’ve got this.” Have you ever wondered why we fail in trials or find ourselves in conflicts and they have no resolution in sight? Before we get into launch mode, we need to take a step back and look at the situation. Are we trying to fix something ourselves that may be a lesson to draw us closer to the will of God?

**Psalm 127:1-** “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD keeps the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

Even Jesus Himself did nothing apart from the will of God the Father.

**John 5:30-** “I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father, Who sent Me.”

We can get so caught up in circumstances, we want to expedite the process and “help” God along in fixing our problems. Wait is that four-letter word that nobody likes. We are a “fast food” society, and we want satisfaction immediately. Patience is a virtue, one on which I am still working. I had plenty of it when I was working. I would thrive in the crisis scenarios but go into orbit over trivial things. Praying before you start a project or anything you do can set the stage to avoid unnecessary conflict. Trusting in God to guide you through what you are facing is critical.

**Proverbs 3:5-7-** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.”

At present, it can be difficult and even overwhelming with the constant barrage of trials and conflicts we face in an immoral society. So called churches are not immune as so many are polluted with false teachings and pastors more interested in turning a profit rather than teaching God's truth. How can we trust God when the evil goes unpunished and without consequence? We begin to question God's sovereignty.

**Psalm 82:2-** "How long will you judge unjustly and respect the persons of the wicked? Selah."

But their judgment and punishment *are* coming. God is being merciful as He does not desire for anyone to perish. How long did He wait for some of us to come to repentance and His truth?

**2 Peter 3:9-** "The Lord is not delaying the promise *of His coming*, as some in their own minds reckon delay; rather, He is longsuffering toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The unrighteous may think they are riding along on cruise control, but their actions and conduct will not go unnoticed or unpunished.

**Proverbs 3:32-35-** “For the crooked man *is* an abomination to the LORD, but His secret *is* with the righteous. The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous. Surely He scorns the scorers, but He gives grace to the lowly. The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools.”

**Proverbs 29:16-** “When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; but the righteous shall see their fall.”

I find it amazing that so many professed Christians fail to read these words and remember them. Even more absurd are those pastors and preachers who fail to teach the truth when the words are in their own Bibles. I cannot imagine what it would be like to be an object of God’s hate.

**Proverbs 6:16-19-** “These six *things* the LORD hates; yea, seven *are* an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that plots wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness *who* speaks lies, and he who sows discord among brethren.”



**Galatians 1:8-9-** “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!”

Pride is blinding and not keeping God’s Commandments as He instructs us to keep them will *never* yield His truth. People will be content riding on cruise control, worshiping God the way *they* want to, never coming to understand the plan of God.

**1 John 2:3-4-** “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

Self-elevation is commonplace in our society. People on social media lie about their profiles, jobs, or social status to impress total strangers. This is nothing new as Job thought too highly of himself without the aid of Facebook. God let him know otherwise.

**Job 38:4-** “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare it, if you have understanding!”

God does not need our assistance; He wants us to love Him first. He does not require our help; He commands our obedience. He is more than capable of “taking the wheel.”

**Isaiah 55:8-9-** “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Placing our trust in technology is not always a dreadful thing, we do it every day. It is debatable whether hands-free driving is or will be an advantage to motorists. From what I have seen of the driving habits of those here in Naples, I think I will trade my truck in for an M-1A1 Abrams tank. I thank God it does not snow here in Florida as these folks cannot drive on dry roads, much less to trust them with a hands-free option.

**Psalm 56:11-** “In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

**Psalm 62:7-8-** “In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.”

God is sovereign. God can turn wounds into pearls, and He can absolutely be our pilot. It is a sincere leap of faith to let go and let God take control of our lives. I will put all my trust in God and let Him take the wheel. Amen.

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