



**Guardrails Protect Everything in My Life**  
April 23 & 24, 2022

**What is a guardrail?**

A system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous areas.

**What is a spiritual guardrail?**

A standard or behavior that becomes a matter of conscience that serves as a guardrail for me.

**Culture doesn't encourage guardrails. Culture is content with painted lines.**

**My new guardrails are a product of:**

**1** Second birth.

**John 3:3-7 (CEV)**

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you for certain that you must be born from above before you can see God's kingdom!' Nicodemus asked, 'How can a grown man ever be born a second time?' Jesus answered: I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don't be surprised when I say that you must be born from above."

- **As a non-believer: born once, die twice.**
- **As a child of God: born twice, die once.**

**2** Spiritual growth.

- **Salvation - "A gift received by faith in Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection alone without any action on my part" = Eternity with Jesus.**
- **Sanctification - "Obedience in response to my salvation produced by practicing spiritual disciplines while yielding to the Holy Spirit" = A temporary life of fulfilling God's purposes.**

**Ephesians 1:17 (NLT)**

"...asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God."

**Colossians 2:7 (NLT)**

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

**3** Church family.

**Hebrews 10:24-25 (TPT)**

"Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love. This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing. In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning."

- **Get into a small group now.**

**4** God's Word.

**1 Peter 2:2 (TPT)**

"In the same way that nursing infants cry for milk, you must intensely crave the pure spiritual milk of God's Word. For this 'milk' will cause you to grow into maturity, fully nourished and strong for life..."

**Guardrails protect and establish my:**

- **Personal conduct**
- **Private time**
- **Friendships**
- **Dating life**
- **Married life**
- **Finances**

**Ephesians 5:15-18 (TPT)**

"So be very careful how you live, not being like those with no understanding, but live honorably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes. And don't live foolishly for then you will have discernment to fully understand God's will. And don't get drunk with wine, which is rebellion; instead be filled continually with the Holy Spirit."

Putting up the right guardrails means I:

## **1** Invest great care in how I live my life.

**Ephesians 5:15 (TPT)**

“So be very careful how you live...”

- **Ask the question, in light of my present situation, my current state of affairs, and my future plans, is this the wise decision to make?**

## **2** Avoid stupid decisions and keep a sober mind.

**Ephesians 5:15-16 (TPT)**

“... But live honorably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes.”

**Ephesians 5:17-18 (CEV)**

“Don't be stupid. Instead, find out what the Lord wants you to do. Don't destroy yourself by getting drunk, but let the Spirit fill your life.”

**In 4 specific areas:**

- My family and friend relationships.
- My character and reputation.
- My time management.
- My faith and values.
  
- Let the Holy Spirit completely control my life.
- How? By intentionally being quiet enough to listen to God.

## **3** Worship God through every victory and defeat so I can truly grow.

**Ephesians 5:19-20 (TPT)**

“And your hearts will overflow with a joyful song to the Lord. Keep speaking to each other with words of Scripture, singing the Psalms with praises and spontaneous songs given by the Spirit! Always give thanks to Father God for every person he brings into your life in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **Worship together as believers.**
- **Why? So, God receives the glory through the Gospel of Jesus.**

**Hebrews 1:3 (TPT)**

“The Son is the dazzling radiance of God's splendor, the exact expression of God's true nature—his mirror image! He holds the universe together and expands it by the mighty power of his spoken word. He accomplished for us the complete cleansing of sins, and then took his seat on the highest throne at the right hand of the majestic One.”



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