

On task, on target

I imagine if you're like many people, including (at least sometimes) myself, you sometimes like to wander a bit. If you're driving over familiar territory, a little bit of wandering isn't a bad thing. A couple of months ago, my wife bought me a GPS Receiver for the car, and whenever I start to wander a bit from the prescribed path, the GPS receiver lets me know. Mostly that's good -- sometimes, it's really annoying.

But in our lives and our path to success, wandering is usually not the best course of action. Sure, occasionally you just have to go off-task for a while, just to re-position your life; sometimes, staying on the same path for too long leaves you stale. Sometimes, even on a path to success, a little bit of wandering is a good thing.

But most of the time, when we wander and get off task, we wind up never getting back to our path. We wander a bit too much, until all evidence of a target destination is left in the dust.

There's the famous story of the Cheshire Cat in Alice and Wonderland. When Alice comes to a junction, she asks the cat (helpfully sitting at the junction) which path she should take. The cat responds that decision depends purely on where she wants to go. When Alice responds that she does not know which where she wants to go, the cat tells her that it really doesn't matter which path she takes, then -- does it?

And such is life. When we don't know where we want to wind up, what we wish to accomplish, or where we would like to see, our path isn't important. But when we wish to attain a particular destination, achieve a particular success, or attain a particular goal, our path becomes supremely important.

For most people, even if they try for a goal, they never reach it. Either they never set a path, or they never start out on the path. To change books (or movies) for a minute, if Dorothy had never started down the yellow brick road, she never would have gotten to Oz.

And that's where most people are -- stuck among the Munchkins, wondering where the wizard is.

I doubt many of us are going to find an Emerald City or a Yellow Brick Road, or a Cheshire Cat on our travels -- but that's probably all right. We probably won't find a lot of witches or flying monkeys or mad hatters, either.

My GPS Receiver has the ability to get me back on track, when I listen to it. It finds a path to put me back toward my goal, and then persists in recommending turns until I'm back on track. In our own lives, we need to find our destination, and then make the turns and changes needed to find our way to success.

Our lives are so very important -- and living our lives in the best way possible is extremely important to ourselves and to those we love. It's important for us to take those steps to find where we wish to wind up, and then put ourselves on the road to success..

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