



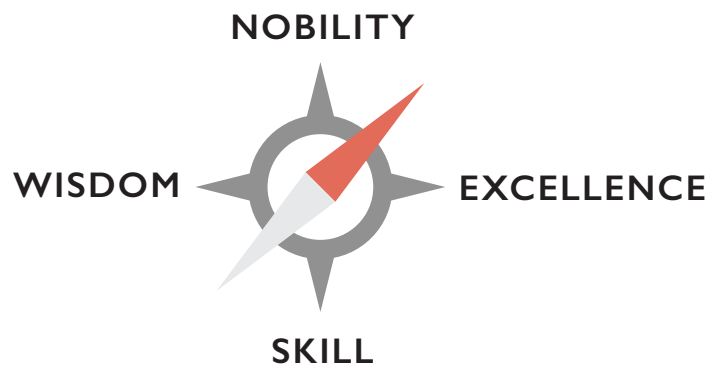
COMPASS

LIVING THE UNCOMPROMISED LIFE

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COMPASS: INTRODUCTION

When the compass was introduced in the Song Dynasty more than 1,000 years ago, it absolutely changed the game of navigation. It must have felt like magic in the hands of common men. The discovery of its usefulness gave explorers fierce courage as they orienteered their way through the high seas. Many days the sky was overcast and foggy, and, as a result, landmarks were not easily seen. The compass gave them a way forward.

Our generation is in desperate need for a compass. Without clarity, cowardice is certain and compromise is inevitable. When fog is present, fear is sure to follow. However, Courage to live an uncompromising life comes from clarity. Our motivation for creating Compass is to provide clarity for young men and women in crisis. We want to change the game of life-navigation; we want to provide a way forward and help a generation live an uncompromised life. We see a generation living from a place of nobility, excellence, wisdom and skill.

If we're honest, most of us don't have a clue how to navigate the waters of current society. The emerging generation is bombarded with information and data faster than anyone could possibly process. Robert Frost had it easy. In his world, only two roads diverged in a woods. He took the one less traveled, but what if there are more than two roads? It's much more difficult to identify the road less traveled in our generation. We must wade through an overwhelming number of choices, and it has paralyzed us from moving into the future with clarity and courage. Because of a crisis in the home, we are unsure of who we really are and where we belong. Because we have been conditioned by applause since age five, we are afraid to make a mistake and believe we are defined by our skill or performance. Because our attention span has been dulled by gaming and technology, we are painfully aware that we might not have what it takes to finish what we start. To top it all off, we are frightened that we will forever be alone on this journey. The fog of confusion closes in and we feel like a sailor without any control, competence or confidence in the direction we're heading.

The Compass tool is designed to help us answer three powerful and directional questions (in the proper order) that act as a compass that will help us live un-compromised lives even in the foggiest of conditions. The first question must remain our true North. The second question brings together East and West, and the third question is powerful and good when it's properly placed at the South of our lives.

North = Nobility Who are we really? Our spirit.

East/West = Excellence/Wisdom How should we carry ourselves? Our soul.

South = Skill What do we bring of value? Our body.

"You are a Spirit. You have a Soul. You live in a Body."

Again, the most vital point on any compass is True North; we must start there. When we reverse the order and begin with South questions, we confuse our identity with our activity; fog overtakes our lives. Furthermore, if we conclude that our value is found in our skill, then it only takes one bad game or one bad performance to label ourselves as failure or fraud. There is a huge difference between failing and being a failure. In each of our lives, many days the sky will feel overcast and foggy and as a result landmarks will not be easily seen. The compass will give us a way forward to live an un-compromised life.

NORTH: NOBILITY

Watching people obsess when their image has the potential to be posted on social media is revealing. Girls and guys alike will go to great lengths to make sure that when their picture shows up in public, it shows up well. Nobody wants to be equated with average. The quest for nobility, value and greatness lies deep within the human condition. We are in a desperate search for our own worth and we want it to show up in the world. We want our "image" to be viewed with importance by those we deem important. Could it be that we desire greatness precisely because we were destined for greatness? I believe the answer to that is an emphatic yes. The grave danger, however, in our quest for that greatness is that we might allow our activity to outweigh our identity; our skill to be placed superior to our nobility. When South becomes North, we are destined to end up lost and disillusioned. South must never define us. Let's talk about True North and allow it to sink deep into our ways of thinking.

As we ask the question, "Who are we really?" Our hearts are shocked by the answer. Are you ready for it?

In a one word description, you are Nobility. You come from noble blood which makes you royalty. This is True North. This is your destiny. It's true, you bear the image of the King. In fact, it's the most true thing about you. While it's true that we fail, we are not failures. While it's true that we sin, we are no longer sinners. What's true is not always Truth. Truth is much deeper. Truth lands in realm of spirit, not soul or body.

"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own and his own people (his royal subjects) did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God, (not just royal subjects, but royal Sons) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:9-13

Here's the truth: we are born into Nobility. If we choose to accept, believe and confess that we are indeed of noble blood, we can live a life of true greatness. However, it takes training. Just as someone who is born into a royal family can refuse to accept their place in that family, we have the choice to ignore our nobility. We call that living from the South. Living from North to South takes practice and training as it's not our natural inclination.

It states vividly in God's Word the way God views those who are His. We must meditate and allow these words to become part of our way of thinking.

I am accepted in Him: I am..... God's child and Christ's friend, justified, united with the Lord and one with Him in Spirit, bought with a price and belong to God, a member of Christ's body, a saint, adopted as God's child, and have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins; I am complete in Christ.

I am safe with Him: I am..... free from condemnation, assured that all things work together for my good, free from any charges against me, cannot be separated from the love of God, have been established, anointed and sealed by God, hidden with Christ in God, confident that the good work He has begun in me He will finish, citizen of heaven, have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind, can find grace and mercy in time of need, born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am significant to Him: I am..... the salt and light of the earth, a branch of the true vine, a channel of his life, been chosen and appointed to bear fruit, a person witness of Christ, God's temple, a minister of reconciliation, God's co-worker; seated with Christ in the heavenly realm, God's workmanship, may approach God with freedom and confidence, can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Believers are not in the process of becoming children of God; rather, they are children of God who are in the process of becoming like

Jesus. Our encounter with God, like Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, has forever changed us and marked us. We are no longer what we were; we are Nobility. We are His sons and daughters. "For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of Light." Ephesians 5:8

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:9-10

Knowing who we really are, where our value comes from is the foundation for living the uncompromised life. If we fail or falter, we can now look in the mirror and say: "That's not who I am" and we are empowered to get back up. Everyone gets knocked down. Nobility stands back up. The Bible says: "Although a righteous man falls, seven times he gets up again." Seven is the number that signifies infinity. In other words, the righteous will never get knocked out. They just keep getting up. The knowledge of who we really are leads us into a resilience and grit that causes us to ultimately carry ourselves with wisdom and excellence.

EAST & WEST: EXCELLENCE & WISDOM

In the deepest part of our being, our true north, we are nobility. We are not becoming nobility. We already are nobility because we are sons and daughters of the King. The Soul realm of our person however is a little different. The Soul has the potential to be rooted in one of two orientations: North or South. Remember the quote: "You are spirit, have a soul and live in a body." You are nobility, you are called to carry yourself in wisdom and excellence and offer your skills to the world as protection and provision.

One of the most common deceptions of the enemy is to seduce us into being defined first and foremost by the South (skill) realm of our lives. This is the battle between spirit and flesh. Rooting ourselves primarily in our skill, leads us not only into making foolish decisions, but into making average decisions. Average and foolish are inevitable fruits of being rooted primarily in our abilities. Foolish and average, however, are not terms that are fit for God's noble sons and daughters. As a master of deception, the father of lies questions our identity by making us feel that we are no more valuable than what we can offer to others. Then once we give into the temptation, he challenges our integrity. It's the one-two punch of the accuser: He entices and then exposes. He deceives us then accuses us. He's a liar! When we live primarily rooted to our behavior or abilities, we can be assured we have forgotten our noble blood-line as sons. Forgetfulness is a primary enemy of faithfulness. You don't fight for what's forgotten.

The enemy is also a master politician. I'm not saying that politicians are demonic or evil in any way. I'm proposing that politicians use the weapon of manipulation and compromise masterfully. In the world of secular values where the lines are blurry, this can be helpful. However, in the world of Spiritual realities, we are called to be uncompromising and even stubborn in our commitments.

According to the dictionary, "compromise is simply accepting standards that are lower than is desirable." That's what politicians do for the sake of forging agreement. They give a little to get a little. It's a world filled with compromise. Monarchies and houses of nobility are very different than democracies. The nobility of a monarchy is called to carry the standard that has been set forth from ancient days past. The traditions and values of the blood line are upheld with great attention to detail. Democracies on the other hand are ruled by the popular vote of the day and only uphold standards that are agreed upon by those masses. Monarchies have a code, an ethic, a seat of standard that must be upheld by the nobility and it never shifts.

The Kingdom of God is not democratic. You have not been voted in and you can never be voted out. You were "purchased, adopted and grafted" into the Beloved family of Christ. You are a true son of the King. A real King with real emotions, desires and standards.

Compromised lives come as a result of two erroneous patterns of thought: 1) We forget our identity. 2) We identify our selves by our skills. Or a combination of number one and two.

When we ask the question: "How will I carry myself?" the answer comes from where our identity is rooted. Not where it should be rooted, but where it actually is rooted. If we respond by allowing our latest performance in school, sports or work to define our identity, our response will be shame and guilt, or even worse, pride and greed which leads to foolish decisions and average living. If our response comes from an understanding of our position of nobility as sons and daughters of the Royal King, then our response becomes a life filled with a pursuit for excellence and wisdom. Of course excellence and wisdom are defined very differently in the Kingdom of Heaven.

SOUTH: SKILL

Like any weapon, your skill can kill you, but it wasn't meant to kill. It was meant to protect and provide. If we begin our journey of living the uncompromised life thinking our skill (south) is the truest part of who we are, our skills will kill us. We've all seen and been around athletes who lose their minds when their playing days are finished. Stripped identity is the cruelest of torture. However, when we get it properly oriented and our ability builds on the foundation of our identity, we become a powerful tool in the hands of the Father to provide and protect.

Unfortunately, in the world of faith, skill and work carry negative reputation. Well meaning teachers and leaders tell us the truth about how to enter into the race of faith, which requires only believing on the obedience of Jesus. They tell us to trust in the finished work of the cross and they are absolutely correct. However, the Gospel message is like a race. It has a beginning line and a finish line. In our metaphor of the Compass, our nobility is the starting point. It will forever be who we are. We are runners in a race. Yes, it's true that His obedience got us into the race, and our obedience is what will cause us to win the race. Paul the apostle said it like this; "Do you not know that in a race all runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it!"

Allow me to set the record straight and avoid any confusion, skill and the four letter word it takes to develop that skill, w-o-r-k, are vital to living in true greatness. It will take tremendous amounts of effort to win the race of destiny. Let me say it another way; your skill and abilities deeply matter to God. The Father doesn't just want you to carry a noble heart, but He also will train you to have a skillful hand.

*"He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;
from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance. With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand." Psalm 78:70-72*

Notice that the word "heart" precedes the word "hand" in the description of how David led his team. His heart preceded his hand. God trains us from the inside out, but the point of importance here is that skill is not left out of His development program.

The way you train your hands largely affects the doors that will open to you in life. The skill of your hands determines the ripple of your heart. Nobility satisfies our identity question, but ability satisfies our skill questions. If we are to be who God has called us to be we must look both North and South.

Let me give you a million dollar statement: Ability birthed from the place of identity unleashes your destiny. Go back and re-read that sentence again. Ten words that can absolutely change your life. It's a word picture that illustrates our abilities being carried like an unborn baby in the womb of our identity. We must grasp this deeply if we are to live uncompromised lives. We must place emphasis on both the identity and the ability and not become lazy when it's time to go to w-o-r-k.

Greatness requires deep and broad training of our hands. People of faith can become offended by the process of development. We want it to be a "gift." Greatness is a gift, but it's also a grind. Just because we come to grips with our nobility doesn't mean our skills match our potential. Skills must be developed and our hands must be trained, just as God trained David.

After David was anointed and made Noble by the man of God, Samuel, he didn't immediately rise to the throne. In fact, it was more than 15 years after his discovery of his own nobility that he stepped into his full ability. Could it be that God was so committed to David being a good king, that he left him in the fields? Shepherding sheep was God's way of training for reigning. He does the same with us. He will lead us into a knowledge of our nobility, and then lead us into the fields of sheep. Don't be offended by the training. David knew he would become king and it powered his time among the sheep. God knew, and eventually David came to understand, that only the heart of a shepherd can truly carry the noble role of King.

JOURNAL: Write a short paragraph about why you are motivated to live an un-compromised life.

JOURNAL: Write a short paragraph that reflects your resolve to live from True North. Make sure to use several "I am" statements that reflect your nobility as a royal family member.

JOURNAL: Write a short paragraph that contrasts wisdom with foolishness and excellence with average. Look at Proverbs 9 and write out the one verse that will help you in your journey of wisdom and excellence.

JOURNAL: Write a short response to these three questions your own words: Who am I really? How will I carry myself? What skills am I developing in order to bring value?

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MULTIPLi believes that every great story leans on a leadership story. We cultivate a mindset of multiplication in leaders around the world. We collaborate with partners in global cities who carry the DNA of a multiplier and plant new churches that become like lamps providing light in the midst of dark places.



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