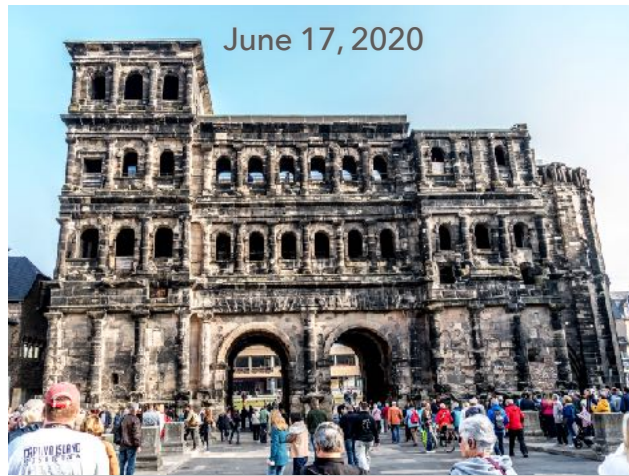


Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13



We believe in many things we are told but have never seen. I saw this stone wall while in the city of Trier, Germany's oldest city. I'm told it is a Roman gate at the entrance of the city and dates back to about 180 AD. I'm told it was named "Porta Nigra" ("Black Gate") in medieval times due to its dark coloring. I'm told it is the largest Roman gate north of the Alps. I believe all of this simply because I was told. Of course, I did not see it built but I take it on faith. I believe a lot of things that I haven't seen with my own eyes.

“GPS Faith”

When it comes to directions, I'm a loser — at least since I've been married to Christie (who I jokingly refer to as “Ms. Direction”). Before I was married I lived in LA and I managed to find my way around. Ever since I learned that Christie was a directional genius, my mind goes into neutral whenever we are in the car together. When she says “turn,” I turn, without thinking. I have faith in her directional prowess.

Apparently, Christie is an outlier. “They” (whoever “they” are — probably men) say men are better at directions because they use a compass-based approach — *north-south, east-west* — which is more reliable “they” say than the landmark approach that most women rely on. Christie flips that script.

Having said that, I've done better since GPS navigation came along. Several years ago, I was taking Reichen to an appointment in the Denver area. I had the GPS navigation feature on my phone so I used it to get to the office; no problem. On our way back to Reichen's house, the phone was telling me to turn onto a street but it didn't seem right. We had been to Dave and Carly's house in Colorado a couple of times and I sort of remembered the street I turned on before but this wasn't it.

I asked Reichen if he knew whether we should turn on this street and he said he wasn't sure. I said, “well I guess we'll put our faith in the GPS and see what happens.” He agreed and we made a little game of it, almost like a song: *“We put our faith in the GPS!”* As we turned onto the unknown street and came to another, I said “I don't recognize this street.” Reichen looked at me and smiled real big, raised his index finger and said “Put your faith in the GPS!” I said, “you're right! We put our faith in the GPS!”

Sure enough, the map program on the phone got us back to Reichen's house, albeit by a different route than I had

known before. We put our faith in something we could not see: the “global positioning system” (GPS). We didn't recognize the route it directed us to take, but we had faith that it would get us home — and it did.

Reichen was quite young, but I tried to make a point about how the Bible is like a GPS. He nodded his head because he was an agreeable little guy. Later, I thought more about our directional experience and how true my point about the Bible is. God tells us some things that may not make sense to us at the time. The Bible talks about many things in the past that we haven't seen and about the future that we can't see. But we buckle up and put our faith in the GPS — God's “positioning system.”

Many refuse to trust God because they can't see him, yet, they readily rely on an iPhone direct them to destinations unknown. They put their faith in their phone's GPS.

Everyone believes in things they have not seen. Christians believe in promises and we *“put our faith in the GPS!”* Romans 4:21 says that Abraham did that. He was *“fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”* That's the most succinct definition of faith in the Bible and it's what we do.

Remember Thomas? He struggled with this. After Jesus was raised from the dead, Thomas told his fellow disciples that he would not believe until he saw, with his own eyes, the wounds in Jesus' flesh. When he saw and believed, Jesus gave him credit for believing. But then Jesus added, *“have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”* (John 20:29).

We are blessed when put our faith in the divine “GPS” — God's word, believing things we can't see. Sometimes it takes us down unfamiliar roads, but that's OK. Reichen had it right: *“Put your faith in the GPS!”*