

“Time Well Spent”



John 15: 4-5 (NIV)

4 Remain in me and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**

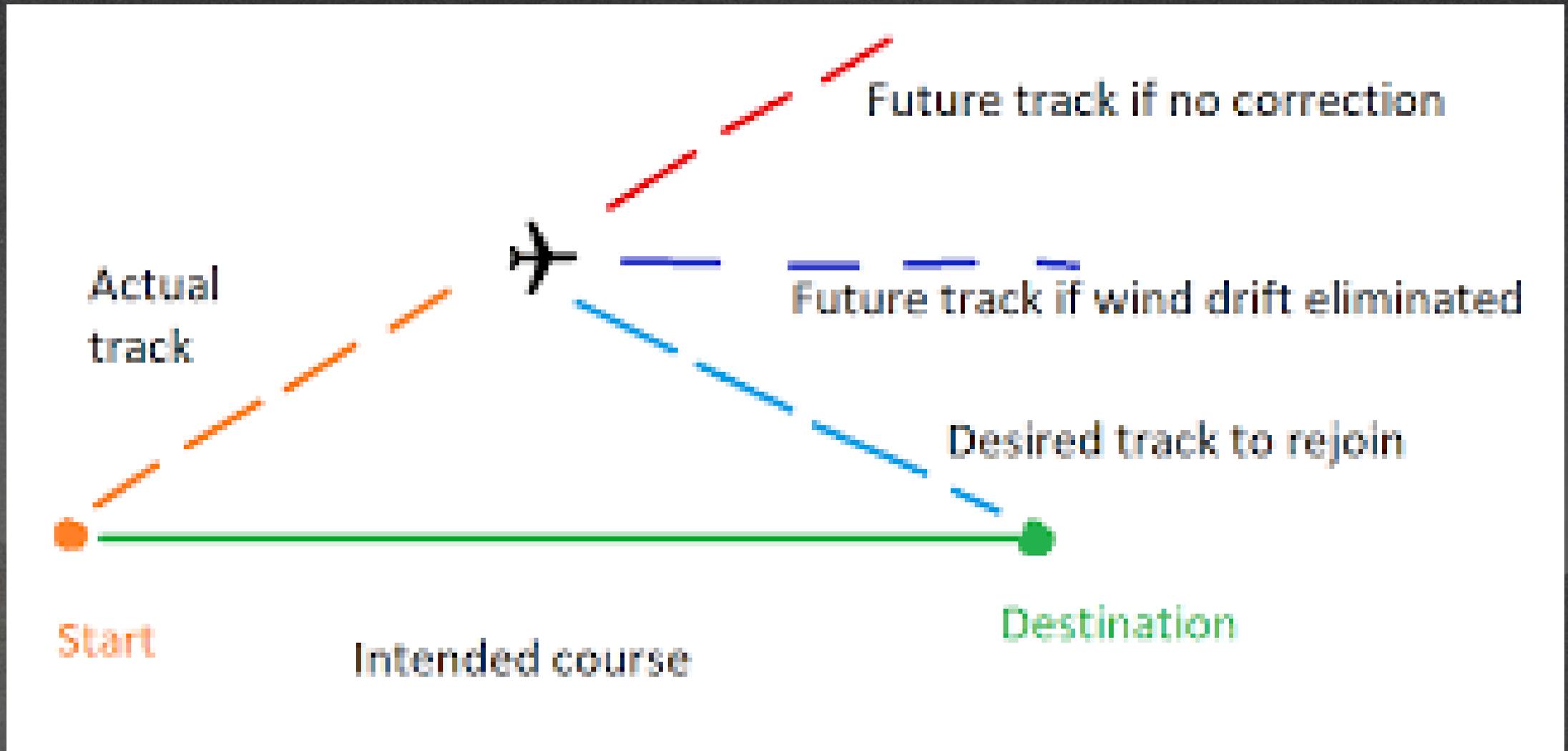
'Remain'

stay, abide, continue or dwell in a continuous vital connection

What is Fruit in my Life?

- In my character (Gal 5:22-23)
(increasing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)
- Lives transformed by the Gospel (Col 1:6)
- Godly lives trained through discipline (Heb 12:11)
- Making disciples (Matt 28:19)

Navigational Drift



Challenges to Remaining - Drifting

- 2 Samuel 11: 1 NIV

¹ In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army...but David remained in Jerusalem.

Challenges to Remaining - Distraction

Luke 10: 38 - 42 NIV

³⁸...a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

³⁹ She had a sister called Mary who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' ⁴¹ 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

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Questions for Reflection

1. What is my current experience of seeing God's fruit in my life?
2. In what area of my life do I currently need God's refuelling?
3. Is carving out more time to be with God an area he is speaking to me about and a step of faith needed in response?

Resources

Too Busy Not To Pray – Bill Hybels

The Practice of the Presence of God – Brother Andrew

App: The Bible with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel

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