



# DISCERNING DIRECTION TOGETHER

Date: 09-11-2022

**John Blake**

Personal Discerning Direction Statement Report



---

## Your Personal Discerning Direction Statement

# John Blake

Thought-partner and equip organizational leadership to greater unity in the Body of Christ.

### Introduction

Shelves of books have been written on “finding the will of God”, “guidance” or “how to discern the will of God.” Most of these works are focused on training individuals to pursue the discovery of God’s direction for their lives- *individually*. Terms like *Purpose*, *Calling*, *Leading*, and *Passion* are often used in this discussion. All of these words have a biblical precedent and place in clarifying the concerns of individuals in seeking God’s will in their own life.

---

**At I to We, we assert that there is a vital need for additional discernment; an approach based on belief that finding direction does not happen in isolation and should not be carried out alone.**

---

A personal decision to follow Jesus connects us to the Community of Christ. As individuals around the world respond to the call of Jesus to follow him, they are immediately caught up in a process that is not exclusively private or isolated. Intentional followership takes place with others: in pairs, house churches, Christian NGO’s, small group Bible Studies, volunteer teams, and mega-churches. The particular form is not the issue; it is the function of following along **with others** that is essential

---

**Deciding to follow Jesus instantaneously involves us into an interdependent group process.**

---

The phrase “Moving from I to We” describes the developmental process of becoming a disciple of Jesus. As members of the Family of God, we are not called to follow Jesus by ourselves. We have joined a global movement that attaches us organically and relationally with all other Jesus followers around the world. We may not know that or feel like that from day one, but that’s the truth. It is a reality that radically transforms our individualism of ‘my personal Walk with Jesus’ into a Body Life adventure.

### What is the Discerning Direction Together Statement?

**Personal DDT Statement defined:** It is the captivating vision or heart concern that motivates you to extraordinary levels of sacrifice. In other words, it is your ministry, burden, and passion. Your Personal DDT Statement defines where you believe the Lord is leading you in this season for contribution to His Kingdom.



---

The DDT Statement defines what you are hearing from the Lord for this season of your life.

---

## Why is understanding My Discerning Direction Together (DDT) Statement important?

**Biblical Example:** In Romans 15:15-20 the apostle Paul portrays his burden for Gentiles to come to Christ. It was not that he disliked the Jews. Rather, he was passionate about giving his life for the Gentiles, even if it meant going all the way to Spain.

In all of Paul's journeys to reach the Gentiles, scripture is clear that Paul journeyed with others. His discernment of where and when was influenced by others and led by the Holy Spirit.

**Where does My DDT come from?** For some people, our leading from the Lord comes out of the core of heart emotion and can be hard to explain why it is there. For others it is woven through years of experience, sometimes tied to pain or joy in one's history. It may also be tied directly to spiritual gifting like teaching, encouraging, or helping.

**What is it not? A performance review.** Also, your DDT Statement is not the only thing you can- or ever will do- to contribute meaningfully to the Kingdom of God. It is not a license for you to chase the statement in isolation away from the Body of Christ, and it is not the exact same for every season of your life.

**Reflect on your statement:**

- How has your DDT Statement been shaped throughout your life bringing you to its current form?
- How does it impact your decisions and goals?
- What role did it play in you being a part of this team?

**How do we ensure that it is accurate?** There are two primary steps we will strongly encourage you to take in your review process:

**1. Abiding together.** Are you actively spending time in community worshiping together? Is there active prayer and sharing Christ-like life together? If not, this is an important foundational step you should pursue.

**2. Thriving personally and collectively.** How are you doing right now as you are in this process? How has stress, self-neglect, or even burnout impacted you in the past season (2-3 months) or the present season? Lack of holistic health will have an impact on how you can- and should- lean into your Discernment Statement.



---

## Your DDT Statement in Current Context

---

**EVERYDAY** we are either living out our DDT Statement or setting it aside

---

# 60%

**How much of your life you believe is invested into the core of your statement.**

In the context of Body Life, our Christian community, we must be intentional to share our DDT Statement and to encourage those around us to share theirs. This intentional listening process empowers us to understand how God may be deepening, expanding, and shifting our direction together through the Holy Spirit in each one of us.

### Reflect on your statement in the context of your current team:

- How have you shared your DDT Statement with others, and pursued understanding theirs?
- How are those you are currently called to impacted through your team?
- What impact would it have on you if you increased your percentage of time in the focus area of your statement?
- If an increase of time investment is desired, what makes that seem challenging? What would make that possible?
- What portion or aspect of your DDT Statement is most motivating to you?

## You as part of Discerning Direction **TOGETHER**

---

**At I to We, we believe that direction should emerge from the people God has brought together**

---

God designed us for relationships. He is wise in bringing people together. His plan is that we would listen and pursue each other to discern more clearly where we are to grow together. Based upon our commitment to these principles, we must actively discern the Lord's leading through constant pursuit, understanding, and adjustment to who the Lord brings, and how we are growing in Him.

### Reflect on your statement as part of Discerning Direction Together



- 
- Where- and with whom- do you find it is comfortable to share your direction with others? When it is challenging? Why?
  - Who has the Lord placed on your heart as someone to pursue a deeper conversation about overlap and connection of the leading and focus of your direction?
  - How has your direction influenced your current team? Who has drawn it out of you?
  - What would be important for you to share from your DDT report and your further understanding of it with your team?