

## *~ False Direction ~*

**False Direction** – The horse puts slack back into the rein by giving his nose, without breaking in the poll, “rubber-necked horse.” On the outside the horse is giving, but on the inside they are tight and stiff, unwillingly submitted.

### **Guidelines to identify false direction:**

- 1) Do not break in the poll – hairline remains straight, hairline should curve between ears
- 2) Nose is not directly underneath the eye, tilt their head when they give
- 3) Can see white in the eye (white leaves when horse is looking back instead of forward)
- 4) Poll and loin do not make a perfect “C”
  - Can’t ride a perfect circle (“C” is half an “O”)
- 5) After tipping the nose, the front feet and hind feet do not travel on the same path as the nose
- 6) Poll and loin are “I” shaped instead of a “C” shaped in turns
  - Results in dropped shoulders and leaning out in turns, kicking hindquarters out or hopping in spins and rollbacks, and not holding a pivot foot
  - Also results in rubber-necked horses, hard mouths, stiff movements, cross-firing, and missing leads

\* Pretty much any problem you are going to have with your horse other than a little confusion comes from not having any direction, or having false direction\*

The best example of false direction from the Bible would have to be the scribes and Pharisees. Like a horse with false direction, they too looked like they were giving on the outside (tipping their nose, putting slack in the rein). However, on the inside they were tight and stiff (“I” shaped poll and loin, full of self-preservation). **“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye” (Acts 7:51)**. They were following the Lord’s commandments on the outside. However, they were stiff-necked and hard-hearted. The Jews missed the first coming of Christ, because they were caught up in religion, and resisted the Holy Ghost.

Listen to what Jesus had to say to the religious people of His day. **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (Matthew 23:25-28)**. No matter what kind of act we put on for our friends, Jesus can see right through our mask and see the true intentions of our heart.

I think if Jesus was to return to the Church today, He would have the same thing to say to many of us. God’s primary concern is not for us to attend church on Sunday, go to Wednesday night Bible studies, and go on living our life. God wants our entire life, every second of every day. We are to lay down our life and let the Holy Spirit totally wipe away all our self-

preservation (flesh). Jesus said anyone who wishes to come after Him, must take up their cross daily and follow Him (**Luke 9:23**). Do not resist the Holy Spirit like the scribes and Pharisees. Let the Holy Spirit totally wipe away your self-preservation and bring direction to your life.

The scribes and Pharisees were stiff-necked because they resisted the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51). The Holy Spirit is the comforter and removes our self-preservation, bringing us total peace in Him. Jesus said, **“In me you will have peace, in the world ye shall have tribulation” (John 16:33)**. The scribes and Pharisees were too busy living in their self-preservation to submit to the will of God and experience the all-consuming peace that can be found “in” Him. Tribulation comes from the Greek word meaning *pressure*. It is easy to tell if someone is riding with false direction or not. If a person truly has direction, the horse will be willingly submitted and will experience peace “in” the person riding them. If the person truly has direction, the horse will willingly move off “pressure” and seek the relief that comes from following your will. However, horses that have false direction (unwilling submission) must have constant rein and leg pressure. The instant the “pressure” stops, the horse returns to their own will, doing what they want to do. They never learn to find “peace” in your will and must always be ridden with “pressure.”

If you find yourself going through life with no peace and surrounded by tribulation (pressure), stop and submit to the will of God. It is like my dad says, “It takes pressure for relief to be effective and relief for pressure to be effective.” God has us experience pressure in this life to draw us to Him, **“that in me ye might have peace” (John 16:33)**. If you are going to church and doing everything you think you must do to be a good Christian, but are still experiencing pressure in your life, more than likely you are operating through false direction. You are giving on the outside, but on the inside you are still living through self-preservation. Jesus told us “In me you will have peace.” If you do not have peace, you need to learn how to stay “in” Him.

You need to learn how to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit (comforter) and not fall into the deceitful ways of your flesh. **“Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16)**. Do not live your life operating through self-preservation, unwilling submission, and false direction. Let the Holy Spirit take away your self-preservation and experience the peace that can be found “in” Him. Then enjoy the fulfillment that can be found in living with willing submission, good communication, a balanced life to direction ratio, and a solid foundation of maneuvers. I am far from having this every second of every day with my horse, or with the Lord. However, I know that it is attainable and I will spend the rest of my life trying to attain it, learning to stay “in” Eden, where there is true unity and willing communication.