

# ONWARD

from the desk of Chris Greer



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Hey . It's me, Chris.

Have you ever tried to accomplish something without any guidance, rules, or order?

A trip to Cairo, Egypt changed my life. I'll never forget the sound of Arabic on Egyptian tongues, the sight of the pyramids touching the sky, or the stories about Jesus (*Isa!*) saving people in the Muslim world.

Nor will I ever forget the ...

## **TRAFFIC.**

Seriously y'all: it was insane.

Imagine taking a kid's ant farm, dumping it on the ground, then watching those little boogers scurry in a thousand directions. *That's* an areal view of traffic in Cairo.

And why? Because there are absolutely no rules.

Cars, trucks, taxis, mopeds, donkey-drawn carts, bikes, *and* pedestrians travel the same road simultaneously. It's an impervious and incessant traffic jam. and no one goes very far very fast.

I've never been more thankful for the many rules and boundaries that make American roads safe, efficient, and effective. Our traffic regulations free us to go where we need to go quickly and easily.

This is a perfect setup for expounding the glories of God's Ten Commandments, but I'll save that for another day.

Instead, let's continue what we started in [last week's ONWARD](#), and look at another way to get unstuck and keep moving onward when uncertainty or indecision bogs you down.

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## quote of the week

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."

— Paul, in Romans 12:6

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I once asked my friend and mentor, George, how he decided which initiatives to pursue as a leader. He said, "If it's under my umbrella, I do it. If it's not, I don't."

Some years before, George learned to discern the various areas of life and leadership that align with his spiritual gifts (see Rom 12, 1 Cor 12, and 1 Peter 4) and that God uniquely created him to invest in.

He uses his "umbrella" of spiritual sweet spots to explore the opportunities for which he's well suited and eliminate those for which he's not. If it fits under the umbrella he can say "Yes." If not, he says "No."

**His umbrella of spiritual gifts, aptitudes, interests, and responsibilities forms a framework for fruitfulness and of freedom.**

Now, unlike "Do Something" and "Do Only One Thing" in [last week's ONWARD](#), figuring out your umbrella takes time, prayer, Scripture study, and community discernment. But it's possible. And powerful.

**I encourage you to explore what might fit under your umbrella by talking with God and your Christian community about your spiritual gifts and skills, and your areas of influence, service, and leadership.**

Here's a peek under my "Umbrella":

I've discovered that God designed and called me to...

- KNOW God
- LOVE Kerry
- LEAD Jacob and Emma
- FOSTER Community
- WRITE Books
- GUIDE Experiences
- PRAY Fervently.

Do I do other things? Sometimes.

Are all Christians called to some of the same areas? For sure.

Will these areas change over time? Some might, some won't.

But for now, one thing is certain: **I discover real life, enjoy God, and bear fruit when I participate with him in these seven specific areas.**

They form the umbrella that helps me remember what God made me to do and the traffic boundaries that help me go where God wants me to go.

I wonder...what did God build you to do? How do you know? And who's helping you discern it and act on it?

I can't wait to hear what they are.

Onward,

Chris

I had an appointment to see my psychic next week, but she just called to cancel.

She said I won't be able to make it.

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Did you miss one? Check out past ONWARD posts at [Chris-Greer.com/onward](https://Chris-Greer.com/onward).

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