



Soul Patrol

By Bonnie Terk

Taylor Hicks, the latest male American Idol winner, had the support of a group of people that he referred to as the “Soul Patrol”. This group of people cheered him on, they supported him with their votes,

they encouraged him and mostly, they didn’t give up while he battled his way to the ultimate position of top idol. Taylor was unique in his style of performance and many people criticized him because of his uniqueness. Yet Taylor persevered because of the support of his soul patrol fan base.

Of course, Taylor’s focus was on musical soul not spiritual soul but in life, we all need a “Spiritual Soul Patrol”. Many of us are trying to be the **sole patrol**. We rely on ourselves and our own limited knowledge and judgment of how we should be living our life. One of the definitions of soul is, *The moral and emotional nature of human beings*. Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak”. He warned them, and us, to be watchful of our nature.

To become victorious in life and in heaven, we need to establish a patrol to regularly observe and maintain the protection of our soul. The dictionary defines patrol as, *The action of going the rounds for observation or the maintenance of security: also: a person or group performing such an action*. Our security comes from being watchful; therefore, we should do our best to follow His instruction. In Matthew 26, Jesus asked his disciples to help keep watch, yet they kept falling asleep on the job! Surely if Jesus needed a group of people to help him keep watch, we too should surround ourselves with a team of people.

Establishing a support system is important for helping us to progress from week to week toward the ultimate victory. Your soul patrol can consist of a variety of people but they should be practicing Christian’s. Start with Jesus your biggest fan. Then a mentor, a Simon Cowell in your life, someone who isn’t afraid of being honest with you. They may not deliver the message with the loving kindness of Paula Abdul but their instruction can be helpful nonetheless. Your Pastor’s weekly sermons are excellent guideposts for daily living. Church leaders can also help you connect with smaller groups of people. In addition, you can take advantage of the numerous daily encouragements and scriptures that are available online.

The Bible is your soul patrol manual and reading it will keep you anchored daily. God made promises as referenced in Hebrews 6:18 (NIV), “We who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul firm and secure”. As you establish your soul patrol keep in mind, they are there to cheer you on and encourage you so you won’t drift away. They are there to keep you anchored with their honesty and to share their strength in your times of weakness. With Jesus as your biggest fan and God as the final judge, you and your “Soul Patrol” will all be WINNERS!