

## Look farther down the road

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“Lovely church. Do you do funerals?”

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I recently read a Q&A on quora.com, a website where people ask questions and anyone can answer. Someone asked: “What can we learn about driving a car from professional drivers?”

An insightful answer was: “My wife gave me the two-day Porsche Driving School course for an anniversary present. It was a fun experience and I learned a lot of things.

“One lesson that stuck with me was the idea of looking where you want to go (in the distance) rather than immediately in front of you. Most drivers focus on the space 10–30 feet in front of their car where the immediate action is, but then you’re not prepared for major changes. The instructors told us to focus about 100–300 feet or more in front of where you are and drive to that moving destination. While looking into the distance, our peripheral vision will naturally pick up what is happening closer in.”

There’s a good life-lesson in this anecdote.

In life, we’re often short-sighted. Instead of “looking farther down the road” we focus on the immediate. Activities that demand our attention (alleged emergencies) get it, and they distract us from more important thoughts, like planning our future.

- On a regular basis, take the time to think about the future. What do you want to do and be six months from now? Two years from now? Ten years? Spend time thinking about long-term goals

instead of just negotiating short-term issues.

- In your conversations, notice where the conversation is and where it should go. Then steer the discussion toward that destination.
- Instead of getting stuck in the moment, continually think about the near-future. Even projecting 4-6 hours in the future is beneficial.

For more on this topic, I recommend Steven Johnson's book titled *Farsighted*. It is a terrific, engaging book that gives practical advice about how to "look farther down the road."