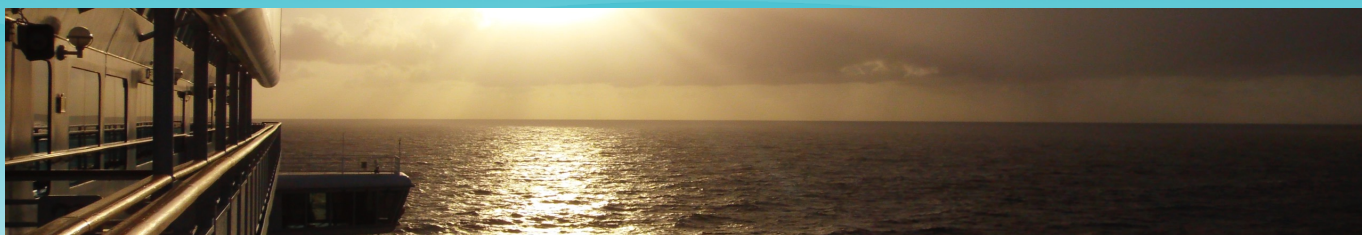


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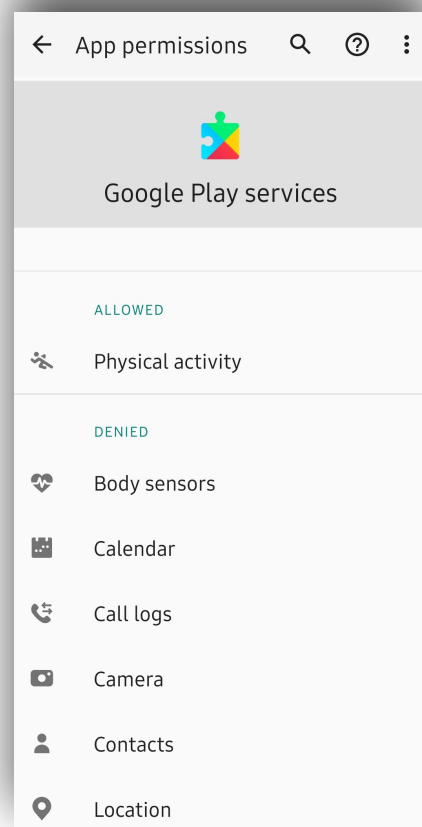


Thought for today...

You'll no doubt be aware of how the use of technology is increasing around the world, and that systems are becoming more sophisticated, with an increasing number of them not requiring much human input in order for them to operate.

I received a new work phone last week, and was alarmed to see that all of the functions (as shown in the screenshot right), had been automatically set to 'allowed'. I was able to change (deny) all but 1 of the settings, so that this particular app no longer has permission to access other functions. Curiously (and as an aside), I was not able to change 'physical activity' as the button is 'greyed' out; why Google Play has been given this access by default is anyone's guess!

I wondered then about the word 'permission', which one dictionary definition gives as: 'Approval to do something,



giving formal authorisation.'

We sometimes give the enemy permission to pervade our thoughts. He'll try to convince us that we can't complete the task that we're undertaking, or that we're unqualified or unloved, or that we'll never receive our healing and so on. Knowing that the Devil is a sly fox whose sole intention is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10), we need to safeguard against giving him opportunities and permission to achieve his aim.

Isaiah 26:3 tells us that if we put our trust in God and keep our minds stayed on Him, He will keep us in perfect peace. Romans 8:6 (NLT) warns 'So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.'

Perhaps it's time for us to consider which 'apps' (thoughts, words and actions) we give permission to influence our lives?...

