GUIDED BY GOD

Trusting God’s Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6

Trusting God’s Guidance Begins with Trusting God
Proverbs 3:5 (KJV) “Trust in the LORD ...”

- Solomon tells us in Proverbs 3, being guided by God begins with us trusting Him
- The word ‘trust’ means to lie helpless, facedown
- Solomon is telling us to trust the Lord because he has discovered through personal experience the God can be trusted
- The Lord here means “Yahweh”, which is a personal name for God, Solomon is telling us to build a personal relationship with God
- God is the object of your trust
- We are to build a relationship with God where we are completely dependent on Him and have the utmost confidence in Him
- There are two important reasons why you can trust the Lord
  1. God is a covenant-keeping God John 1:12 (NLT2) 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.
  2. The Lord is truthful and cannot lie Titus 1:2 (KJV) 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
- When you trust God, no matter what happens, you believe that God will help you no matter what happens in life
- Trust does not come from the head, but from the heart
- When we trust God, we are willing to follow His guidance

Trust God Completely
“...with all thine heart; ...”

- If our trust in God is to be true, it must be complete.
- Partial trust is not trust at all.
- Either God is trustworthy, or He is not.
- If He cannot be trusted with all, He cannot be trusted at all.
- We are to have a child-like, unwavering confidence in God’s well-proven wisdom, faithfulness, and love

Trust God, Not Yourself
“...and lean not unto thine own understanding. “
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Trotting God’s Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6

- Trusting God with all your heart means you have decided to put away our understanding and we will trust God’s understanding about the matter
- But God knows what is best for us.
- He is a better judge of what we need or want than we are!
- We are not “lean” or rely on our own understanding
- Leaning on our own understanding suggests, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and independence from God
- We must make a choice; ”Will we follow God’s wisdom or our own?”
- Our own understanding is often proven to be unreliable because:
  1. It can be “clouded” by own sins, spiritual blindness, and the hardness of our hearts Ephesians 4:18 (KJV) 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
  2. It is “limited”, we just don’t know everything
  3. It is often “contrary” to God’s wisdom 1 Corinthians 1:27 (KJV) 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
- That doesn’t mean we should omit careful thinking and planning or minimize our God-given common sense; but we should not trust our own ideas to the exclusion of all others Proverbs 21:31 (NLT2) 31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

The Benefits of Trusting God

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

- Instead of “depending on ourselves”, we are to acknowledge God
- The way we trust God is to acknowledge, or invite Him into our plans
- Our trust in God grows as we learn more and more about Him
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Trusting God’s Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6

- The more we know God, the closer we are to Him, the easier it is to acknowledge and invite Him into our plans
- We are seeking the counsel and wisdom of God in every matter
- Acknowledging God is not just for major decisions, it’s for every issue and area of our lives
- When you acknowledge God, He will direct your paths
- God directing your paths speaks of two things:
  1. God’s guidance
     - When you acknowledge God, He will guide you or chart the course for you to take
     - God will help map out a plan of action for you
  2. God’s involvement in the outcome your plans
     - When our lives are totally dependent on God’s guidance, it benefits us in two ways:
       1. We are easier to guide because we are not interfering
       2. God will direct our paths or make our paths straight
          - God will remove some of the obstacles, resistance, problems, even people to bring His plans for you to an expected end or outcome
          - Because you acknowledged God, He will make your plans fall into alignment with His will for your life
          - If you want to know God’s will for your life, follow these steps
             1. Trust in the Lord
             2. Don’t lean on your own understanding, but relying on His Word
             3. Make a conscious decision to acknowledge and honor God in all that you do
                - If we can follow these three steps, God promises to direct our paths