

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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- 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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- 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