

THE LORD'S DIRECTION: *PREPARATION* PROV. 3:5-6

This is a 2 part sermon: Preparation & Application

Much like exercise → baseball. Exercise is not baseball but it is essential to playing baseball.

Solomon gives 3 specific commands in order for God to direct your path. This is preparation → becoming guidable, directable or teachable!

This is much like a spaceship.

I. Growing reliance on Christ

Proverbs 3:5-6 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Everything in the Christian life revolves around trust &/ faith &/ believing.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

But it doesn't stop there:

- **I trusted Him for salvation.**
- **I learn to trust Him in life & for life!**

3 concepts:

- 1. God knows what is best.**
- 2. God wants what is best.**
- 3. I can trust Him.**

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Proverbs 16:20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he.

Proverbs 22:19 That thy trust may be in the LORD....

Proverbs 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you:

but I will teach you the good and the right way:

Deuteronomy 10:13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, **which I command thee this day for thy good?**

I trusted Him for eternity → & I'm learning to trust Him in time.

II. Growing rejection of self-confidence

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; **and lean not unto thine own understanding.** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:7 Be **not** wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 26:12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

If I have learned anything about people:

- **They believe they know what they should do!**
- **That once they get saved they tend to make decisions the same way as before but they**

Follow your heart! (emotional)

God with your gut instincts! (intuitive)

Think, analyze, plan & figure out all your options! (intellectual)

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Proverbs 20:24 Man's goings *are* of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;

III. Growing responsiveness to Christ

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **In all thy ways acknowledge him**, and he shall direct thy paths.

Luke 16:10-12 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Least → much

Material → eternal

Another's → mine

The Lord directs:

Small → large

Known → unknown

Written → unwritten

Revealed → concealed

So how do I demonstrate a growing responsiveness to Christ?

By acknowledging & obeying Him in small things, known things, written things & revealed things!

Do I pray?

Do I witness?

Do I tithe & give offerings?

Do I study, memorize & meditate on God's word?

Do I serve?

Am I committed to the church?

Who cares about that? I want to know...!

How can God speak to you about big things when you never listen about small things?