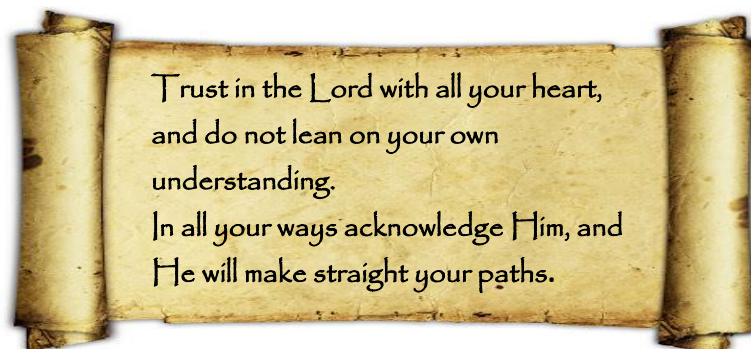
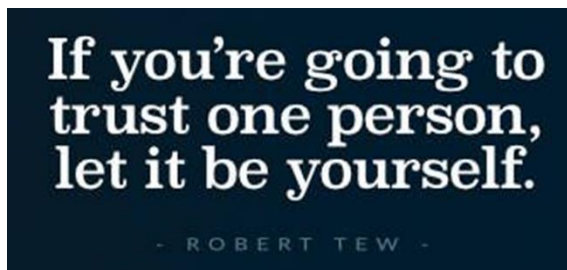


The wisdom of Trusting and Acknowledging – Prov. 3:5-6



This week's teaching brought into focus a vivid contrast expressed in the lives of people. Launching your Connect Group interaction, **discuss how you see these two approaches playing out** with those you observe and/or know.

- When someone adopts the LEFT modern proverb...what is the result? What examples come to mind?
- What about someone who adopts the RIGHT ancient proverb? Examples?
- Does your own personal life journey represent a shift from the LEFT to the RIGHT? How so?

Let's Explore in the WORD A key to the blessing of this proverb (i.e., the Lord "making straight" our paths) is the genuine willingness to do three things in the course of day by day living. Tackle and discuss your answers to the questions under each action item.

#1 TRUSTING in the Lord

- What is trusting (or, we might say, "living by faith")? Cf. Romans 4:4-8, Hebrews 11:1-6
- What does the Lord expect us to trust Him for? Cf. Romans 1:16-17, Gal. 2:16, 2:20, Heb.11:13-16
- What else? Matthew 6:25-27, Philippians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 John 1:9-2:1
- Anything else come to mind?

#2 NOT LEANING on one's own understanding

- Is this statement true as is or in need of some modification? -- "The Lord gave me a brain; He expects me to use it without having to bother Him."
- How does Scripture encourage us not to "go it on our own"? Eph. 6:12-18, Phil. 4:4-7, 1 Thess. 5:16-18
- To what extent would you say you *lean* (i.e., "support yourself") frequently *on your own understanding*? Any mid-course correction needed?

#3 In ALL MY WAYS acknowledging Him (i.e., the Lord)

- Those familiar with the Hebrew suggest that the word "trust" originally had the idea of *lying helplessly face down* before. How might this insight clarify what it means *to acknowledge* the Lord?
- "To acknowledge" is literally "to know intimately." What does Psalm 139 teach us about the Lord's eagerness to KNOW us?
- What are your life's "ways"? (i.e., the things you regularly do)? Name a few, and then ask, "How often do I purposely acknowledge (or know) the Lord in these things? Has He been excluded from some important ways?"

Let's Prioritize APPLICATION

This study, taken seriously, could truly change how I conduct the "ways" of my every day life. What is ONE WAY (of yours) about which you want to TRUST HIM and ACKNOWLEDGE HIM?

NOTE IT: _____ (pray over it!)

