



10/15/25

I remember memorizing Proverbs 3:5-6 as a kid, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." It's one of the many passages that is easy to memorize, not so easy to live. When I think of what we learned from Psalm 104... the power of God in creating the world and all that's in it, and how He is so intimately invested in every detail from beginning to end, I begin to grasp why we can trust Him with all our hearts. He has loved us with all HIS heart. Amen!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Proverbs 3:1-12 ~

What does YAHWEH ELOHIM, the personal, unique, all powerful God want to teach me in these words of wisdom?

Vs. 1-2 ~ Solomon, who was blessed with the gift of incredible wisdom, wrote to his son... Do not forget what I'm about to tell you... These words are important to remember because circumstances in life will distract and even try to make you choose other, lesser paths. Don't just remember the teaching, put it into practice. It's one thing to KNOW the words. It's a whole other thing to LIVE the words. Living according to these words will make all your days on earth peaceful. Truly, what would it matter to have a long life if you had no peace?

O Lord, please help me to pay attention to these words, and live by them. Sadly, Solomon's son who succeeded him as king did not take heed to these words. He caused the nation of Israel to be divided. His heart did not follow the Lord. His life was not filled with peace. I pray that I will NOT follow in his footsteps!

Vs. 3-4 ~ What are the first words of wisdom Solomon wrote to his son? "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you." More than power, more than honor... the thing that matters is that my heart is filled with steadfast love and faithfulness. The Hebrew word for steadfast love is "Chesed." This is a covenant loyalty love that can only come from the covenant loyalty

love of God. HIS love. HIS faithfulness working in and through my heart. My heart is where my feelings, emotions, and decisions live. Let the depths of my heart be filled with unconditional, undying love and trustworthiness that can't be broken.

With God's love and faithfulness pouring through my heart, I will receive favor (grace) from both God and man. And both God and man will esteem me as one with integrity and wisdom. That's the original meaning of the "good success" I will find with God and man. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." What pleases the Lord more than having His character of love and faithfulness?

Vs. 5-8 ~ What do these verses tell me TO do? What do they tell me NOT to do? And what are the benefits of obeying these commands?

DO ~

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart... Make every feeling, thought, and decision bow to the Lord in confidence of who He is.*
- In ALL your ways acknowledge Him... In every single circumstance of my life, seek to understand the Lord MORE than I seek to be an expert of my circumstances. This is HARD. Even the smallest issues can make me focus on the issue and not on the One who is LORD over every issue. I have to be INTENTIONAL if I'm going to do this. It will NOT come naturally.*
- Fear the Lord... Worship and be in reverent awe of the Lord, not me.*
- Turn away from evil... Not trusting the Lord and worshiping Him necessarily turns me TOWARD evil. Anything that does not come from the Lord is not good or holy... it is evil.*

DO NOT ~

- Lean (not) on your own understanding... Never think I know better than the One who gives me breath and spoke the world into existence. His perspective is much bigger than mine. "God's will is what we would want if we had all the facts" (William Thrasher). Trust that God has all the facts, and I don't.*
- Be (not) wise in your own eyes... Romans 12:16 says, "NEVER be wise in your own sight." Proverbs 28:26 says, "Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool." Why should I not be wise in my own eyes? Why would that make me a fool? Well... that's like trusting a toddler to do brain surgery rather than putting my life into the capable hands of a renowned brain surgeon. If I think, "Well, I'm not a toddler! I know better than a child," then I'm probably giving myself too much credit. That would make me a fool. O Lord, please help me to seek wisdom from You... the wisest One who gives it generously.*

When I'm wise in my own eyes, I am necessarily turning TOWARD evil. It won't end well.

BENEFITS ~

- The Lord will make your paths straight... I don't understand the problems like He does, so I can't fix the problems like He can.*
- It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones...*

God has made us whole beings... body, soul, and spirit. When I'm not trusting the Lord and leaning on Him and worshiping Him, the effects are not compartmentalized. They impact my whole self. What happens when I get bad news, or I do something I regret, or I see something that makes me afraid or angry? It affects my heart rate... my stomach may feel sick... I may get dizzy. It affects me physically. But when I turn to the Lord and let Him be my wisdom, it also affects me physically... I am filled with peace. He calms my heart. I follow Him on His paths of steadfast love and faithfulness.

So... if I don't have peace, and if I'm anxious or angry or afraid, I need to look at where I'm placing my trust. What wisdom and understanding am I relying on? I can be sure... it's not the Lord. I'm probably questioning His steadfast love and faithfulness. But He will never fail in those. O Lord, please help me to take these words to heart.

Vs. 9-10 ~ Honoring God with my money is an act of trust and worship. God doesn't need my money. He says in Psalm 50:10-12, "For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine." If He owns everything, I can be sure that honoring Him with my wealth is an opportunity for me to tangibly show Him that I trust Him... and He blesses me for it.

Vs. 11-12 ~ "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." The Lord knows that trust in Him does not come easily. When He disciplines me, it is to help me trust Him, lean on Him and not me, seek to understand Him better, follow His straight paths full of steadfast love and faithfulness, find my wisdom in Him and not in me, worship Him, and turn away from evil. Hebrews 12:10-11 says, "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." He disciplines me because He knows that peace is a fruit of righteousness. He's helping me to grow in righteousness so that I can experience lasting peace. He does NOT discipline me to condemn me. Psalm 103:10 says, "He does NOT deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities." For truly... "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared (worshiped, trusted)" (Psalm 130:3-4).

What does the God who spoke the world and all its fullness into existence want from me? Trust. What does He give me? Peace, straight paths, righteousness, steadfast love and faithfulness. O Lord, please help me to REMEMBER these words. Please help me to write them on my heart. I will never regret trusting You.