

Total Trust
Proverbs 3:5-6
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Sunday, August 9, 2009

Main Idea: Living a wise life requires a relationship of wholehearted trust in the Lord of all wisdom.

Key Points:

1. **Exhortation 1: “Trust in Lord with all your heart”**
 - a. To trust someone means to have confidence in their reliability, their truthfulness; to have a firm belief in their good intentions. To trust someone means to feel safe and secure in their care—to believe that they have your best interests in mind in all they do.
 - b. When we lack trust in God, we question all he does. We wonder if He’s really for us. We have a difficult time receiving His care. Waiting on God requires trust that he’s not forgotten you. Obeying God requires trust that he’s not keeping something good from you.
 - c. In light of the cross of Christ, in light of God’s faithful care for us and His sustaining grace in our lives, He is worthy of our whole-hearted trust. We don’t have to understand or know what God is doing to trust that he is up to good.
2. **Exhortation 2: “Do not lean on your own understanding”**
 - a. Trusting God with all our heart involves *not* leaning on our own understanding —not trusting in our own comprehension of the situation, our own perspective.
 - b. The leaning described here isn’t just shifting your weight to one foot. It’s talking about the kind of leaning in which you place ALL your weight on something or someone so that they’re holding you up, supporting you.
 - c. So leaning involves vulnerability and total dependence. We’re off balance. In fact if you don’t feel off balance or weak you might not be leaning on the Lord. If you don’t feel like you’re not fully in control, you might be standing on your own two feet. What most of us want to do is to stand on our own feet, our own perspective, our own intellect and experience and just rest our hand on the Lord. Because that feels safe.
3. **Exhortation 3: “In all your ways acknowledge him”**
 - a. To acknowledge means to know, to be aware of and recognize.
 - b. What this verse is saying is that wherever we are, whatever room we’re in, whoever we’re with, Christians are called to acknowledge that God is the

greatest authority in the room, that He has the greatest claim on our lives and He is to be honored and obeyed.

- When we're sitting in front of our computer and no one else is around—we are called to acknowledge God and his commands for moral purity.
- When we have the opportunity to cut corners at work or get away with a lie—when we're pressured by a boss to do what's wrong to make a sale, we acknowledge that God is in the room.

4. **Promised Reward: “He will make straight your paths”**

- a. Straight paths are a metaphor for a wisdom-guided life—a life that avoids the hazards and dangers that come with disobedience. While the path of the wicked is crooked, dangerous and leads to regret and death—the path of the righteous, the path of wisdom, the straight path leads to life, light and blessing.

Fellowship Starters:

1. As you consider your circumstances, what are you believing about God in the midst of them? Do you believe that the Lord has your best interests in mind? Do you believe He is good and is up to good for you? Are you aware of His love and care for you? Do you believe that He is for you?
2. In what ways is the Lord calling you to grow in faith and trust in the Lord?
3. Josh shared that to “lean” on the Lord involves total dependence on God and His Word. What hinders you from leaning wholly on the Lord? In what one area of life do you need to “lean” completely on the Lord?
4. What would change in your life (e.g., in your marriage, parenting, workplace, home, relationships, etc.) if in every location and every situation you acknowledged the presence and authority of God in your life?
5. As you look back on your life and reflect on the circumstances that God has lead you through, how have your seen God's faithfulness to His promises?