

“TRUSTING GOD”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trusting God is one of those truths we think we understand until we are called upon to actually do it, and then we discover that there is more to it than we realized. Trusting God is essential to Christian life.

Psalm 4:5... Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
And trust in the LORD.

Psalm 37:3–5... Trust in the LORD and do good;
Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. **4**
Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you
the desires of your heart. **5** Commit your way to
the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalm 118:8... It is better to take refuge in the
LORD Than to trust in man.

The Old Testament Scriptures give us many examples of what trusting God looks like as it is lived out in this fallen world with its attendant troubles. Consider Abraham, Moses, David, etc.

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Our text is striking in its simplicity. There is nothing difficult about it. Kids can understand it (This passage was the key Scriptures that were taught to our kids at Kid's Camp). Older believers can understand it and apply it to their lives. These words cling to our heart because they speak to a great need we all have—*the need for direction in life*.

Making good decisions will have huge implications in your personal life and in the life of this church. During those key moments when decisions must be made you will need to consider how seriously you intend to take your faith. Will it impact your morals, your relationships, your money management, your career, and the search for a new pastor? Have you ever thought about what God wants to do with the rest of your life or what He desires for the future of this church? Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6.

Proverbs 3:5–6... Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Here's the truth we've got to embrace . . .

TRUST THE LORD!

If we truly desire God's will for our personal life and for the corporate life of CFBC, we must learn to trust the Lord. Today I want to share three simple truths related to this important aspect of our lives as believers.

1. THE EXPLANATION OF TRUST

Life can be complex. Making a good decision can become clouded by our own short-sighted knowledge and understanding and by the well-meaning advice of others. Impatience can goad us into making rash decisions. We must learn to trust God, but what does that mean?

Here's the positive aspect of trusting the Lord . . .

“Trust” means “to lean with the full body, to lay upon, to rest the full weight upon.” To trust in the Lord is to rest your whole weight upon him—to depend on him completely.

“With all your heart”—The Bible uses the word heart to refer to the entirety of a person. It involves our intellect, our emotions, and our will. It refers to your whole life. Your entire purpose for living is wrapped up in the Lord. It’s a picture of total commitment.

Matthew 22:37... And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’”

Have you trusted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? Do you deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him? Does your life revolve around Him and His will for your life? The famous preacher Dwight L. Moody once said . . .

Trust in yourself and you are doomed to disappointment. Trust in your friends and they will die and leave you. Trust in money and you may have it taken from you. Trust in your reputation and some slanderous tongue may blast it. But trust in God and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.

Let me ask you, can you really trust Him when...

- **He confronts you about a sin you must forsake**
- **He allows you to go through a great trial**
- **He expects you to forgive someone who hurt you**

Here's the negative aspect of trusting the Lord . . .

“Lean not on your own understanding”

Leaning is what you do when you walk with a cane or hold on to a walker because you are unsteady. You lean on something when you are not strong enough to stand alone.

Ray Pritchard wrote . . .

When you take the word “lean” and bring in the idea of “understanding,” then add the negative, the meaning is something like this . . . “Use all your mental powers, but do not lean on them for total support.” Don't trust in your own ability to figure out your life. Lean instead on the Lord! Rest your weight on Him!

This is a conscious choice not to be self-reliant. Proverbs tells us that our feelings and our wisdom are unreliable . . .

Proverbs 14:12... There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 28:26... He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

The question that looms big is this—*are you willing to submit your feelings and the prevailing wisdom of the world to the Word of God and the will of God?* You can never adjust your life to the will of God unless you are ready to trust Him implicitly!

TRUST THE LORD!

This involves *the explanation of trust*. Secondly . . .

2. THE EXERCISE OF TRUST

Listen to the Amplified Version's translation of verse 6...

“Do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him.”

“Acknowledge Him” means to know him, to have an intimate acquaintance with him, be aware of him. To know God is to be in relationship to God (Hos. 6:6). Knowledge of God involves reverent obedience to him (Prov. 1:7).¹

The Hebrew word also has the sense of *“advise.”* It means to ask God for His advice.

- **Recognize the power of God.**
- **Admit the supremacy the God.**
- **Defer to the wisdom of God.**
- **Receive the goodness of God.**
- **Submit to the authority of God.**
- **Experience the love of God.**
- **Accept the answers of God.**

¹ Freedman, D. N., Myers, A. C., & Beck, A. B. (2000). *Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible* (777). Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans.

“In all of your ways” – That is every day. In every way. We are to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ over every area of our lives—*our religious life, our families, our careers, our finances, our education, and even our friendships*. It means to have the mind of Christ. Nothing in your life is too small for our Lord’s loving attention.

Let me ask you a question. Do you pray about the decisions you make; even those you might consider trivial? Listen, just one unyielded area of your life can have devastating consequences. . .

TRUST THE LORD!

This involves the explanation of trust. Secondly the exercise of trust. Now, I want you to see . . .

3. THE EXPECTATION OF TRUST

“And He will make your paths straight” –

Straight means to smooth out, make level, or remove the obstacles in preparing a roadway. It means that He will give our lives direction, purpose,

focus, and fulfillment. I find it truly amazing that our Lord longs to lead us and guide us throughout our lives. Because it is the Lord our God who gives us this principle, we know that the direction He provides is infallible.

Proverbs 16:3... Commit your works to the LORD
And your plans will be established.

How does God direct us?

- **By the Word of God**
- **By the Holy Spirit**
- **By the counsel of godly believers**

Claim this principle once you have met the conditions!

CONCLUSION

God has not saved you by spilling the blood of His own Son in order that you might live out some form of *“Nerf-ball Christianity.”* I want you to go to bed tonight and wake up in the morning with refreshing new energy to tackle the day for God’s glory. Believe

me, He has a plan for your life! I am not saying that your life will be free from problems or pain, but I am saying He is calling you to the adventure of living for Him and bearing much fruit for His glory. I want you to live out the one truth we have hammered home today.

TRUST THE LORD!

This involves the explanation of trust. Secondly the exercise of trust. Thirdly, the expectation of trust.

Is He calling on you to trust Him in these areas?

- **What about salvation?** Is God speaking to your heart about your need to quit “*leaning on your own understanding*” so that you can trust His glorious gospel? He will not adjust to you; you must adjust to His will! Come to Christ in repentance and saving faith.
- **What about church membership?** Is God speaking to you about becoming a member of this church? Surrender to His will and join this Body as we serve the Lord.

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- **What about some moral issue?** Is God confronting you about some sin in your life? Are you willing to repent and obey Him today?
- **What about God's purpose for your life?** Is He calling you to get out of your comfort zone and to serve Him or to glorify Him in a way that He has never done before?