

## **"TRUSTING IN THE LORD – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"**

### **PROVERBS 3:5,6**

INTRO: Proverbs 3:5,6 is one of the most well-known passages of scripture in the whole Old Testament. Many have it as their life's scriptural passage. Many quote it to others who are going to tough times. Many claim it when faced with great personal trials. **But what does it REALLY MEAN and HOW DO WE APPLY IT?** Let's examine this great passage today because the **UNDERSTANDING OF PROVERBS 3:5,6 WILL TRULY DETERMINE THE VALUE OF OUR LIFE AND SERVICE FOR GOD.**

OBSERVATION: **TO TRUST IN THE LORD IS THE VERY BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR EFFECTIVE EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING. IT IS THE ACTION VERB OF HEBREWS 11:6 THAT TELLS US THAT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD!**

- Trusting in the Lord is a COMMAND – Psalm 37:3
- Trusting in the Lord is EFFECTIVE – Jeremiah 17:7,8
- Trusting in the Lord is VALUABLE – Isaiah 12:2
- Trusting in the Lord is a RELATIONSHIP BUILDER – Nahum 1:7
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### **I. THE COMMAND: "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART"**

#### A. The Meaning of the Command

1. The word **"TRUST"** means to **"HAVE CONFIDENCE IN."**
2. The concept of **"TRUSTING IN THE LORD"** means **TO HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD TO DO THAT WHICH IS HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE.**

- a. Luke 18:27
- b. Ephesians 3:20

#### B. The Object of the Command

1. The word **"LORD"** is **"JEHOVAH"** and speaks of God as **"THE SELF-EXISTENT, REVEALING ETERNAL GOD, WHO IS ALL-POWERFUL IN ALL OF HIS DOINGS."**

**"BUT OUR GOD IS IN THE HEAVENS: HE HATH DONE WHATSOEVER HE PLEASED"**  
**PSALM 115:3**

#### C. The Essence of the Command

-To TRUST IN THE LORD with **"ALL THINE HEART."** Matthew 21:21

ILLUSTRATION:

QUESTION: **WHERE ARE YOU PLACING YOUR CONFIDENCE TODAY?**

### **II. THE CONCERN: "LEAN NOT TO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING"**

THE CONCERN STATED: Leaning NOT to our own understanding means **THE TOTAL REJECTION OF DEPENDING UPON SELF FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING!**

- A. Our Understanding is Limited – In knowing anything about God's will.
- B. Our Understanding is Blurred – By personal fears and opinions.
- C. Our Understanding is Selfish – It puts self, first, and not God or others.
- D. Our Understanding is Near-sighted – Not seeing the final chapter of matters.
- E. Our Understanding is Weak – Helpless apart from God.
- F. Our Understanding is Fleshly – Stained by Sin.

ILLUSTRATION:

WARNING: **PROVERBS 16:25**

### **III. THE CHALLENGE: "IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM"**

THREE IMPORTANT WORDS TO CONSIDER AND NOT OVERLOOK:

- **"ALL"** – **Everything we do.**
  - **"WAYS"** – **Our words, thoughts, actions, and plans**
  - **"ACKNOWLEDGE"** – **To Know and Recognize God in all things**
- A. This Involves Knowing God Personally – **NOT JUST KNOWING ABOUT HIM!**
    1. Through Faith in Jesus Christ Alone as Personal Savior
    2. Through Bible Study and Total Obedience to the Scripture
    3. Through Experiencing Him by Watching Him Work
  - B. This Involves Recognizing that God is in Control – **OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES!**

-God either **ALLOWS** or **CAUSES** but **DOES DIRECT ALL THINGS!**

-Remember the situation of Job – Job 1:12; 2:6

ILLUSTRATION:

QUESTION: TO WHAT DEGREE DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

#### **IV. THE COMFORT: “HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS”**

A. THE FACT: **WHEN WE TRUST IN THE LORD AND LEAN NOT TO OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL OUR WAYS, HE WILL DIRECT OUR PATHS!**

B. THE REALITY: **GOD WILL MAKE STRAIGHT OUR WAY AND CLEAR AWAY ALL OF OUR POTENTIAL AND REAL OBSTRUCTIONS IN HIS TIME, AND IN HIS WAY, TO ENABLE US TO GO FORWARD IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY AS WE TOTALLY TRUST IN HIM DAY BY DAY AND SITUATION BY SITUATION.**

-Psalm 37:23 – **“THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD”**

ILLUSTRATION:

QUESTION: WHO ARE YOU TRUSTING TODAY?

- Your Job?
- Your Talents?
- Your Finances?
- Your God?

#### **LESSON AND APPLICATION**

1) NOTHING CAN BE EFFECTIVELY ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR LIVES WITHOUT TRUSTING IN THE LORD! **WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO LEARN THIS?**

2) WHEN WE TRULY DETERMINE TO DENY OUR OWN STRENGTH AND DEPEND TOTALLY UPON THE LORD, WE WILL SEE GREAT THINGS ACCOMPLISHED BY HIM THROUGH OUR LIVES FOR HIS GLORY! **WILL WE LEARN THIS SOON?**

#### **ACTION TO TAKE**

1) CONFESS living YOUR life YOUR way.

2) REPENT from ordering YOUR OWN LIFE.

3) DEPEND upon God for ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE!

**THEN WATCH GOD WORK!**