

January 7, 2024
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
A Study of Proverbs: S2/Ep. 2 – Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World
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“In trust we offer an invitation to God and in leaning not on our own understanding the humility to ask for help.”

In Proverbs 3 we find a recipe for a life of peace and prosperity.

Proverbs 3:1-4

My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
² for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity.

What are the ingredients of the blessed life?

“It’s impossible to get lost on a straight path.”

Trust: Vs. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

- In verse 5 we are trusting from a place where according to Prov. 3:1 God’s commands are stored.

Understanding: Vs 5b and lean not on your own understanding.

- בִּינָה bîynâh, bee-naw'; from [H995](#); understanding:—knowledge, meaning, × perfectly, understanding, wisdom.
- **VOÛΣ** noûs, nooce; probably from the base of [G1097](#); the intellect, i.e. mind (**divine or human**; in thought, feeling, or will); by implication, meaning:—mind, understanding. Compare [G5590](#).
 - **Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Knowledge: Vs. 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

- To “acknowledge” is to testify as to what you “know”.
- יָדָע yâda‘, yaw-dah'; a **primitive root**; to know
- To acknowledge God means to make him known at the beginning, middle and end of everything you do and he will make your paths straight.

When we finally commit to making Proverbs 3:5 a manifesto for our life, God bends our every movement towards his pleasure and our prosperity.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart, and how can we practically apply this trust in our daily lives, especially in challenging situations?
2. How can we distinguish between our own understanding and God's wisdom in decision-making, and what steps can we take to lean less on our understanding and more on God's guidance?

3. In what ways can we acknowledge God in all our ways as mentioned in verse 6, and how might this practice lead to a more straightforward and purposeful life?
4. Reflecting on the idea that when we trust in the Lord, He bends our every movement towards His pleasure and our prosperity, how can we foster a mindset of continuous trust and reliance on God in our daily lives?
5. Describe how your life would change if you lived according to Proverbs 3:5?