

Trust in God's Guidance is the way of blessing

Proverbs 3:5-8 (David Yeh)

In Taiwan and many other Asian countries, the most visited place, or the most profitable nonprofit organization, is the temple — especially when the economy is not going well. People go to the temple to seek guidance and ask for blessing.

I believe we all want to be blessed. No one wants to go through their life full of trouble. We all want to have a 'good' life, a life where everything goes smoothly for us. When we make important decisions in life we want those decisions to be the right decisions. We want them to bring us good results.

Today I would like to share with you what we need to do so that our life will be blessed

1. Trust in the Lord with your whole heart v5a

Pr 3:5 ***Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.***

With all your heart — this means 'totally', 'the whole', 'all', 'any and every', 'completely'.

So it means more than just believing in your head. It means trusting the Lord, letting Him have control of your life. It is easy to say with our mouth that we trust in the Lord, but saying it and meaning it in our heart it is not so easy. If, for example, you are always worried and anxious, then obviously you are not trusting the Lord totally. Only when we truly trust the Lord with all our heart do we get to the stage, or the place, of learning not to worry. There is a little song that asks, "Why worry when you can trust?" You see, worrying and trusting do not go together.

E.g. **Walking on the rope over Niagara Falls:** The tightrope walker had gone to the other side of Niagara Falls and back and then he asked people, "Do you believe I can do it again?" Everyone said, "Yes, you can!" The tightrope walker then asked, "Do you believe I can carry someone on my back and cross over the Falls?" Everyone said, "Yes, of course!" The tightrope walker then said, "Now then is there anyone here who would allow me to carry them over the Falls?" No one answered.

This is not a real believing. Real believing is, you let the person have total control of your life. Whatever he is going to do just let him do it. Of course trusting in some people may not be wise. They may not be trustworthy. They might let you down. However God is totally trustworthy. He will never let you down. Whatever He wants to do in your life let him do it. Don't use your way of wisdom.

E.g. **Swimming and drowning,** people can't save the person drowning if the person keeps on struggling. It is only when the swimmer stop struggling that you can save them.

In our struggles we rush around looking for help. We listen to this person and that person. We try this and we try that. The more we do, the more confused we get, and we find ourselves in a worse state than we were before. In our struggles we complain about God, and as a result we dishonor His Name. Sometimes God actually needs to give us a smack, allows trouble crush us, for only then can He teach us to stop trying

to use our own strength, to stop trying to do things our own way. When we stop trying to do things our own way and in our own strength then God can save us.

2. Don't depend on your own understanding v5b, v7

5b *"and lean not on your own understanding;"*

Proverbs 3:7 *"Do not be wise in your own eyes."*

How often when we see trouble do we rely on our own experience, and presume we can handle things just as we have done in the past? We may be facing a situation where we are not sure what is the right thing to do. We may be faced with a grey area – is it black or is it white? Is it right or is it wrong? Well, because there seems to be no other way, and because it does not seem to be obviously bad or wrong, we take the easy way. We rely on our own understanding, but end up making a mistake. We end up doing the wrong thing. We end up in trouble.

In other situations, we just dare not to move on, even when God has told us to do so. We think it will not work, so we hold back. We do nothing. But we must remember, our wisdom is limited. We don't always know what God is doing. His wisdom is far greater than our wisdom. We cannot always understand His ways for His ways are higher than our ways.

The scripture here tells us not to rely on our understanding, because what we understand is limited. We can only understand what we have come across, what we have learnt, what information we have – things that have come to us by hearing, or reading, or seeing or through the things we have experienced.

There is no comparison between the little we know and the vast, unlimited knowledge of God.

Job 38:1-21

After reading this you realize how small we are, how limited we are. If He can make days, sunrise and sunset, if He can put the four seasons in a year and make the plants and flowers follow the life cycle, if He can put this complex universe together, do you think it is too hard for Him to solve your problem?

Isaiah 55:8-10

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We can't understand everything. Sometimes we find it hard to understand or accept things simply because we are not mature enough yet. Our faith needs to grow, to mature. As it does we learn to trust Him. We learn to accept His plans and His ways. When the time comes we will understand, even if not on earth, one day in heaven we will know.

Photos

Carrot: Don't look at the outside

Digging: You don't know what is ahead, just keep on going. Don't rely on your own understanding.

It is interesting thing that this word "understanding" also means understanding in the **physical** realm. What we see with our eyes is the physical world's situation. We don't see what is happening in the **spiritual** world. So when the scripture says, "Don't rely on your understanding", it means don't rely on what you see. We must not see things from the purely physical and material world but from the spiritual aspect.

In the spiritual realm God is already preparing all the resources to accomplish His good work in you. In the spiritual realm He is building His final victory over Satan. Jesus was nailed on the cross. He said "it is finished!" In people's sight or way of thinking that means "it is over". But those who see with spiritual eyes know it means "it is completed!" Jesus has completed the work of salvation by paying the penalty of sin.

When you face or going through difficulties in your life do you see them as "over" or as "accomplished". Do you see it as "I am doomed, I will not be able to go through this," or believe that God has already accomplished and given me all the necessary resources to go through the problems.

After you have gone through the problems do you see the difficulties you have gone through as simply 'past' or can you see that God accomplished something in you and through you when He allowed you to go through those difficulties. What has God accomplished in your life as a result of the crises or difficulties you have faced?

3. Let go and let God v6, v8

Proverbs 3:6 ***"...in all your ways submit to him [or acknowledge him], and he will make your paths straight."*** [a] will direct your paths

When we let God do His work, He accomplishes His purposes in us and through us. His purposes are not just worked out in the physical realm but they are also spiritual, and they are good.

"Acknowledge" means let him be part of this event.

If we have given our problem to God, it no longer is our problem but God's problem. Of course, we still need to work with God but He takes hold of the responsibility. When you pray, God is already bringing all the resources needed to meet every need. He is able to 'accomplish' or sort out your problems. He will guide your path. He will tell you what to do step by step. He will take you to the right resources, the resources that you need.

As a tourist you don't know where you are going you must follow a guide if you want to get to the place you want to go. We must trust our life to him. If you go on your own way, you will get lost or get into danger. Jesus will guide us if we allow him to do so. But we must trust our life to him.

Proverbs 3:8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Many sicknesses come from worry which causes our immune system to go down, but when we trust in God, then we will not need to bear these unnecessary health problems.

Picture of the Prayer

Even if we don't understand what is happening, even if it seems impossible, even if it did not turn out the way you hoped for, even if the sky crashes in on you, trust in him and you will start to hear his voice. Don't rely on your ways because it can mess up your life but let God be in control of your life, for His way is always the best way.