

# 'WHO CAN I TRUST?' PROVERBS 3: 5 – 7

Warren Payne, 17 Jun 2018

## Introduction: Chair – blind- folded illustration

In our complicated and yet exciting world one of the most affirming things you can say to another person is "I trust you". However, as we will all know trust is not something we earn easily. Trust comes from relationships, and these relationships are tested in many ways. Once trust is broken, it takes a lot of effort and time to restore that trust. Trust can be broken in an instant, and may take years to restore.

If I was to ask you if you have ever experienced broken trust, I would think most adults and sadly many young people, and some children would answer, yes. Many of us may find it hard to trust particular people. Maybe a parent has broken your trust. Maybe a friend has broken your trust. Maybe a company has betrayed your trust.

Whatever your situation, I want to share with you that God can be trusted. Jesus Christ can be trusted.

Young people - What gift would you like to receive from your parents and grandparents when you graduate university and move maybe move from home to work?

## Ask for answers from YP.

Now let's ask all who have children - What would you give your son or daughter or grandchild as a gift when they start out on a new path in life?

## Ask for answers from parents

# When I was 17, and left home to work in another part of NZ my parents did not give me money, but my mother gave me a Bible verse and her promise to pray daily for me. No money or other gift, just a Bible verse and love. However, for me this gift was for me, the greatest gift I could have received and I honour my mother for that.

Come with me on a short journey through the words of the verses of **Proverbs 3: 5 -7** which I hope after today you will store - remember in your heart. These verses are all about **TRUST**.

**Proverbs 1: 1** (read) – written by King Solomon

**Proverbs 1: 8** (read) – Gives us a guide to good family relationships

**Proverbs 2:1 (and 3:1)** (read) – He tells his son to listen to, and store in your heart, what He says.

**Proverbs 3: 5 - 7** (Read in English, Japanese and Chinese)

V5 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding.'

V6 'Seek His will in all that you do, and He will show you which path to take.'

V7 'Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.'

# When we first arrived in Japan on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1974 we were stopped at customs because we had not declared unaccompanied baggage..... (explain)

Insurance companies have many terms and conditions in fine print on their policies and

sometimes they won't pay out when a customer puts in a claim. The reason being that the customer has not fulfilled the conditions that they signed they had fulfilled.

The Bible is full of God's Terms and Conditions so as we look at Proverbs please note the Terms and Conditions found in today's verses.

Have you ever wondered what God's plan for your life is?

When I was child I often asked my mother - what did she think God wanted me to do? She would kindly just say – 'wait God will show you'. How surprised I was when God showed me that his will was for Doreen and I to go to Japan as missionaries.

# How did he show me? **Genesis 12:1-9** knowing God was speaking to me. 12 accepted Christ, 14 Bap and camp decision, 23 BCNZ, Nelson, Japan.

**Trust is simply the bringing of our minds into line with God's mind.** It is adjusting our expectations to the promises of God in complete assurance that the God of the whole world cannot lie and will be faithful to all who believe His Word. Beginning a journey in obedience to what we know at the time.

3 conditions from **Proverbs 3:5 and 6**

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
- Don't depend on your own understanding.
- Seek His will in all that you do.

These 3 terms and conditions raise a number of questions.

#### **Q. Who should we trust?**

**God** = The word 'Lord' is used here. This means a God who is alive, can be trusted, so the question is whether we are willing to obey him. God is love and man is made for God. God and man exist for each other, and neither is satisfied without the other. God did not create robots, but men and women who have free will. God has made us so we are most satisfied when we follow Him as our Lord and Saviour.

**Q. Why can we trust God?** When we have a revelation of who God really is, then and only then, do we have revelation of who we are as a loved child of God. God is not trying to make life hard for us when he sets out his terms and conditions. He is our loving heavenly Father who wants only what is best for us. He made us and He knows that for a person to live within the boundaries of God's love and care is for our good. God has blessed us all with wonderful gifts and he knows where and how we should use these gifts. The where may be different for each person but the how is clear. Trust in the Lord.

# Story of God's provision – car repair in Nelson - trusting God in prayer for provision our whole lives.

#### **Q How should we trust?**

V5 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart,'

'With all of your heart.' **Proverbs 4:23** 'Guard your heart for it determines the course of your life.'

Keep close to God in prayer and Bible reading. Meet with other believers and seek their advice. But be careful as you will never truly know the will of God in the presence of other people. You will only know what to do **in the presence of God**. One of the basic principles of

the Christian life is that once you are confident about what God wants you to do, you should not deviate from that path just because life gets difficult. The process of getting to where God wants you to be, is just as important as the actual goal.

#Struggle to know God's plan about returning to Japan after 20 years in Japan. Honda resignation etc.

### Q. What about my intellect?

V5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding.

V7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

### A. God does not want our abilities only, He firstly wants our availability.

Do your best for God in all you do. Go for the highest qualifications you can, but don't rely on them. **Proverbs 3: 7** "Don't be impressed (rely on) with your own wisdom, instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil" Being impressed with your own wisdom and abilities causes pride and to God pride is sin. SIN = 'I ' in the middle

Quote paraphrased from Hudson Taylor :

'One of the greatest proofs of the sinfulness of man is our inability to **completely trust God**. It makes us hesitate to give everything to God. Distrust of God makes us fearful he may require us to do something beyond our abilities. Something too hard for us to give up.

The real secret to **an unsatisfied life** is often found in a life **not surrendered to God's** will.

Do we think we are wiser than God? Do we think we know better than he does? Do we think our human love is enough to get through life satisfied?

When we refuse to trust God 100% we grieve our Heavenly Father.

# Odagiri sans story -Tracts, English class, Church, BS – daughter of socialist party member of the local provincial council & My story re language learning – With God's help.

### Q How do I seek God's will?

V5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding.

V6 **Seek His will** in all that you do, **and He will show you which path to take.**

A. Jeremiah 6:16 gives an answer "This is what the Lord says: Stop at the cross roads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path and you will find rest for your souls."

# In Japan one of the verses that God has greatly used is Matthew 11: 28 -29 and verse 29 repeats the same phrase as Jeremiah. .... **you will find rest for your souls**. How? By being so close to Jesus that when He turns right, I turn right. When He turns left I turn left and throughout the journey I relax in His presence.

Trust God, believe in Jesus, read and obey what he tells you from his word and in prayer always acknowledge your humble dependence on God. Circumstances will change, but your focus on Jesus, and His will for your life, should never change. Love God, love others and love yourself! Be joyful, thankful and flexible before God and He will show you the best and most exciting pathway for your life.

#Takada san - Aomori university, motor bike (church sign), PO, Bible College now a Pastor. From our small church of about 25 people, over the years 3 young people went into full time service and two married pastors.

Q. Is God really that interested in ALL I do?

V5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding.

V6 Seek His will in all that you do, and He will show you which path to take.

A. The answer is a big YES! Everything you do is important to God. The Bible says pray about everything! Your private life and your public life. God is not only interested in all the small and big things you do but He also, and primarily interested in our love for Him.

God looks on the heart and is looking for people whose heart is right with God.

YP – God is interested in your home life, school life, work life and church life. **How fully you trust God now**, is one of the keys to knowing God's blessing in the future. Are you passionate are you that your friends who do not know Jesus, come to know Jesus?

# Application to OMF question. Have you ever lead a person to Christ? Hitch hiker story. Trust God now and you will be learning how to trust God in the future! Share your story and the story of Jesus with your friends here in NZ and you will be surprised what God will do through you.

Read **Proverbs 3:5-7** together.

The key to a satisfied and happy life as a Christian, is not where you go, what you do, or how intelligent you are. The key is the surrendering of your will to the perfect will of God.

Blank Paper illustration - Verse at top in English, Chinese and Japanese.

Prayer