

# Doctrinal Mastery: Proverbs 3:5–6

## “Trust in the Lord with All Thine Heart”

*The book of Proverbs is a collection of brief but wise statements that teach lessons about life and the gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the proverbs from the ancient Israelites urges us to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts.*

---

## Possible Learning Activities

### Know the doctrine

Imagine a child asks her parents lots of questions. Though her loving parents answer many of them, they only partially answer others, and they purposefully leave some of her questions unanswered for a time.

What are some reasons why parents might choose not to immediately and completely answer all of their child’s questions?

---

How might it bless a child not to receive an immediate answer?

---

How might the child’s trust in her parents affect how the child reacts when they don’t tell her the answers immediately?

---

Similarly, we ask many questions of our Heavenly Father. Though He hears us and gives us assurances and hope, He might only partially answer some of our questions, and He might even leave some questions unanswered for a time.

President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency suggested we do the following as we wait for answers to our questions:

---

*First*, remember that God loves His children and will surely do what is best for each of us. *Second*, remember this familiar Bible teaching, which has been most helpful to me on a multitude of unanswered questions:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6). (Dallin H. Oaks, “Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 26)

---

Take a moment to write down in your study journal an important question that you are seeking an answer to. As you continue your study, ponder how Proverbs 3:5–6 may help you answer your question.

Proverbs are a collection of wise sayings. Some proverbs are thought to be authored by King Solomon, but as a whole the book of Proverbs is considered to be a collection of wisdom from the ancient Israelites.

Read Proverbs 3:5–6, looking for what the Lord does if we trust in Him with all our hearts.

One principle we can learn from these verses is that **if we trust in the Lord with all our hearts, then He will direct our paths.**

Though the Lord might not answer every question we ask in our time and way, He promises to “direct [our] paths.” He will help us know what we should do in our individual situations as we trust in Him.

What do you know about the Lord that helps you to trust in Him?

---

How might remembering the attributes of the Lord that you just listed help you face difficult or unanswered questions?

---

What is one way you could do each of the following?

— Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

---

— Lean not to your own understanding.

---

— In all your ways acknowledge the Lord.

---

How might the Lord direct your paths (or guide you) as you trust in Him?

---

### Practice application

Robert is struggling. His parents were married in the temple, but now they are getting divorced. Robert has always had a testimony of eternal families, but he wonders, “Will I be sealed to my parents in eternity?”

Pick one of the three principles of acquiring spiritual knowledge (Act in Faith; Examine Concepts and Questions with an Eternal Perspective; Seek Further Information through Divinely Appointed Sources). As you read the following statement from President Henry B. Eyring of the First Presidency, look for ways President Eyring applied the principle you chose to his own worries about his family being together forever:

---

The Savior sent the Prophet Elijah to Joseph Smith to restore the keys of the priesthood (see Doctrine and Covenants 110). With those keys came the sealing power, offering God’s greatest gift to His children—eternal life in families bound together forever. ...

... For some, that eternal joy may seem a faint or even a fading hope. Parents, children, brothers, and sisters may have made choices that seem to disqualify them from eternal life. You may even wonder whether you have yet been qualified through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

A prophet of God once offered me counsel that gives me peace. I was worried that the choices of others might make it impossible for our family to be together forever. He said, “You are worrying about the wrong problem. You just live worthy of the celestial kingdom, and the family arrangements will be more wonderful than you can imagine.”

To all of those whose personal experience or whose marriage and children—or absence thereof—cast a shadow over their hopes, I offer my witness: Heavenly Father knows and loves you as His spirit child. While you were with Him and His Beloved Son before this life, They placed in your heart the hope you have of eternal life. With the power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ working and with the Holy Spirit guiding, you can feel now and will feel in the world to come the family love your Father and His Beloved Son want so much for you to receive.

I testify that as you live worthy of the celestial kingdom, the prophetic promise that “family arrangements will be more wonderful than you can imagine” will be yours. (Henry B. Eyring, “The Hope of Eternal Family Love,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Aug. 2016, 4–5)

---

How does President Eyring’s statement illustrate the principles of acquiring spiritual knowledge?

---

What is one meaningful way Robert could practice the principle of acquiring spiritual knowledge that you chose?

---

If Robert followed your suggestion, what difference do you think it would make in his life?

## **Memorize the reference and key scripture phrase**

### **Review the passage**

---

## **Commentary and Background Information**

### **A statement on children, sealings, and divorce**

The August 2015 issue of the *New Era* includes a statement that helps answer the question “If my parents were sealed in the temple and then got divorced, which one am I sealed to?”

---

For Latter-day Saint children of divorce, questions like this can add to the sadness and uncertainty that divorce brings. But here’s a fact you need to know: children can be sealed to only two parents. So if you were born to your parents after they were sealed in the temple (born in the covenant) or were sealed to them in the temple yourself, you are still sealed to them—both of them—even after a divorce. This is true even if your parents’ temple sealing to each other is canceled. The important thing to remember is that Heavenly Father loves all of you and wants the best for you, both now and in eternity. If you keep your covenants, your relationships in the next life will be fair and right. You can seek peace in these matters by praying and, if you feel you need extra support, by counseling with your bishop. (“To the Point,” *New Era*, Aug. 2015, 41)

---

---

## **Supplemental Learning Activities**

### **Trust in the Lord**

Watch the video “[Trust in the Lord](#)” (3:30), from ChurchofJesusChrist.org. In this video, Sister Bonnie H. Cordon, Young Women General President, explained what it means to trust in the Lord and features youth sharing their thoughts and experiences.

### **An alternative practice application**

A young woman feels more attracted to other young women than she does to young men. She is confused by these feelings and is not certain what to do about them. She wonders what place she can have in the Church if she has feelings of same-sex attraction.

How could the principles of acquiring spiritual knowledge and the truths found in Proverbs 3:5–6 help someone in this situation?

---

In her efforts to receive guidance and direction, the young woman searches for recent counsel from modern-day prophets and Church leaders on the Church’s same-sex attraction web page, ChurchofJesusChrist.org/topics/gay.

What did you learn from the statements you studied that could be helpful to the young woman in this scenario?

---

How can acting in faith bring hope to someone who experiences same-sex attraction?

---

In what ways can an eternal perspective help someone who experiences same-sex attraction feel that they belong in the Church?

---

