**PP <u>Let the Wise Hear</u>**

**Part 6 Proverbs 3:1-8-*Let the Wise Trust the LORD*** **3/8-9/2026**

Charles Blondin was a tightrope walker who, in 1859, crossed the Niagara Falls on a 2" rope
Once past the middle, he began to run and then did it again from the Canadian side, carrying a box camera on his back, when he stopped in the middle, set it up and took pictures
Over several weeks, he walked across that rope again and again, backward, blindfolded, and one time while pushing a wheelbarrow as the waters raged over the falls below
One legend said he asked the crowd if any thought he could push the wheelbarrow across with someone sitting in it, and everyone raised their hands
But when he asked for a volunteer, all the hands stayed hidden and out of sight
But then, Blondin stepped onto the Canadian side of the rope, with his manager Harry Concord on his back, and he carried him all the way to the American side
Friends, I would ask if you trust God like Harry Concord trusted in Blondin?
**PP *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."* Proverbs 3:5-6**

**PP 1-*'<u>Trust in the LORD</u>'***
Wise people put their ***'trust in the LORD'***
**PP** The word ***'trust'*** here means to *lie on the ground, face down in surrender*
An interesting fact about sheep is they will not lie down until free of any anxiety
To trust in the LORD is to lie down, free from worry, relying on Him above any and all else
Many of us tend to rely on both God and someone or something else, even self
Many don't realize how much they trust in money to bring security until their investments tank
Many don't understand that they are trusting their beauty to give them self-confidence and satisfaction until they gain 15 lbs or develop the inevitable wrinkles
Many don't realize how much they trust in their own ability to control everything until their lives begin to spiral out of control
Then wisdom comes to the one who loves his money: **PP *"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy."* 1 Timothy 6:17**
Then wisdom speaks to the one losing her beauty: **PP *"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."* Proverbs 31:30**
Then wisdom says to one losing control: **PP *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe."* Proverbs 18:10**
To ***'Trust in the LORD'*** is to put yourself into His hands, surrendering to Him, confident in His character and attributes
So Solomon says, trust in the **PP *'LORD'***, Yahweh, God's most sacred and personal name which reveals His absolute, unchanging character and unending faithfulness of love for us
Yahweh is trustworthy, He cannot fail us, He cannot be anything but good to us, He cannot, even more than He will not, break His promises to us
Jesus is the guarantee that God will always keep His promises: **PP *"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]."* 2 Corinthians 1:20**
The Word of God declares, over and over, God is faithful, He is worthy to be trusted fully
**PP** *If you struggle to trust the LORD, it is because you are not confident in His character and attributes*

**PP 2-*'with all your heart'***

The ***'heart'*** is mentioned 93 times in the book of Proverbs, it is the target zone of wisdom

The heart is the control center, the intersection of the mind, feelings and will, the source of our thinking, our desires, and our motivations

As we trust the LORD, the Holy Spirit works deeply in us to believe what is true, feel and desire what is right, and choose what is holy and good

Christian, **PP** Trusting God begins in our mind as we trust the objective truth of God's Word, and that begins to change the desires of the heart, which motivates us to right living

If you are addicted to lust, or a compulsive liar, or any number of habitual sinful behaviors, your deepest need is a changed heart, not more effort to fight the temptation

As we trust God and our minds are renewed by the bible, God changes our desires so that more and more, we want what God wants and hate what God hates

Gospel change is always from the inside out, a change in desire which motivates a change in behavior and it begins by trusting God, what the New Testament often calls *'faith'*

The most popular application of **Proverbs 3:5-6** is how we can know God's will in our lives

Think for a moment of a crossroad in life where you tried to discern God's will?

I would imagine, as you think of that experience, the way you should go was shrouded in fog: *Should I marry this person?; Should I accept this job offer?; Which college should I attend?; Where should I invest my money?; Which medical treatment should I take?*

Yahweh is not trying to His will from His children, He wants to reveal it to you

You don't need to flip a coin to make godly decisions, or treat the bible as a horoscope, or crack it open like a fortune cookie to find that magical verse

He delights in us knowing His will, and as we are constantly reading and meditating on His Word, He is giving us His desires, which will spring forth in wise life decisions

As you sit in that foggy crossroad, not knowing what decision to make, don't panic or look for worldly wisdom, look to God in trust, praying, searching His Word, and you'll begin to desire what God desires, and be motivated to walk in the direction God wants for you

**PP** ***"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*** **Romans 12:2**

**PP** ***"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."*** **Psalm 37:4**

**PP** ***"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*** **Philippians 2:12–13**

Trust Him, believe in His love for you, look into His Word, walk with Him and He will begin shifting your desires, and open and close doors, revealing His will to you

But wisdom gives us a warning: **PP 3-*'and do not lean on your own understanding'***

We are all prone to what the bible calls, *'double mindedness'*, what can be described as being wishy washy or vacillate between indecision

**PP** A double-minded person is prone to second-guessing because he doubts the LORD

It is a spiritual heart condition and the arteries of faith are clogged with distrust

As difficult as it may be to admit, if you are a double-minded Christian, you do not trust God with 'all your heart' but at best only part of your heart and that is a sputtering faith

If this is you, then carefully consider, *Why do I believe God has failed me?*

Not, why I think *God will fail me*, but *has failed me*, because this false belief is what is short-circuiting your faith

Yahweh, Who, by the way has another name, Jesus, would like to ask you, *Where have I ever failed you? Why won't you trust Me? Why won't you lean on Me?*

And leaning on God is the picture of one who truly trusts Him

**PP** ***'lean'*** does not mean to incline on something, but support yourself fully by it; to rely on it

To lean on your own understanding is, as **3:7** says, to be ***'wise in your own eyes'***, thinking you are smart enough to figure out life, to want to remain in control

**PP** ***"Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered."*** **Proverbs 28:26**

Gain common sense, do research, get advice from others, but all of it is prone to error

**PP** Martin Luther once said, *'The first thing that faith does is to knock the brains of reason out'*

Faith, trusting the LORD moves us to surrender our life to His authority and care, and wisdom tells us what will happen when we do

**PP 4-*'In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths'***

**PP** ***'acknowledge'*** means more than admitting or accepting that God exists, it is a very intimate form of knowing…personal knowledge…or experiential knowledge

Look at our passage for a moment and notice, when we learn, love and live God's Word (Mind, Affections, Will) we experience His favor and blessings (verse 4) and yield our very lives into His hands by abandoning our own efforts to control life (verse 5), ***'He will make straight your paths'*** **3:6b**

Ancient roads were constantly in need of repair from the rainy seasons

When a king traveled, teams of servants went out and smoothed rough places, removed fallen trees and landslides, in order to make his journey free of obstacles

This is what God does for His children, He removes obstacles, smooths the road, makes the way clear for us to reach that which He intends for us

In other words, when we trust God with all our hearts, surrendering to Him and relying on Him above all else, He changes our hearts so we will see clearly the path of wisdom that leads to life, and helps us stay on it

The ***'straight path'*** is not so much a smooth one, it is the wise one

Wisdom is God's knowledge in practice, so how can we respond to the truths of these verses?

**PP** First, spend some dedicated time this week being honest with yourself: *Do I truly trust God?*

Look carefully at your typical responses when you are stressed, when you are criticized, when you are rejected, when you are frustrated, when you are anxious

You may begin to see that deep down in your heart, you are trusting God less than you realize, and relying on yourself more than you should

**PP** Second, ask God to help you see any accusations that you may against God

If you struggle to trust God, it is likely you believe God has failed you in the past

Recall times of difficulty and pain and suffering in your life, and honestly, with God's help, see if they may have seeded doubts in your heart eroding your trust in God

**PP** Third, this week, spend time reading in the bible of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

The greatest evidence of our promise-keeping God is the death and resurrection of His Son

**PP** Finally, if you discover areas where you distrust God, confess them, repent, and believe