

Trust in the Lord series – Discussion notes

Proverbs 3:5-10 (New Living Translation)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Part 1 – Trust in the Lord

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

- The Bible says that we as men and women are not independent.
- We are dependent on each other and on God, the source of everything.
- The Declaration of Independence did *not* declare the independence of *individuals*;
- The Declaration of Independence declared the independence of a *nation*.
- This is the same principle by which we have liberty in Christ.

Galatians 5:25 If we *live* by the Spirit, let us also *walk* by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:13-14 For you have been called to live in freedom — not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love.

How then shall we live?

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Christian Life: row boat vs. sail boat

Galatians 3:3 “Have you lost your senses? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?”

- (ESV) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Part 2 – In All Your Ways

Proverbs 3:6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

- (ESV) In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Romans 8:29 ...be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Psalms 103:7 Of David. He made known his *ways* to Moses, his *acts* to the people of Israel.

- **ways** = how the Lord thinks, the motive behind what the Lord does
- **acts** = what the Lord did
- Then people saw only the *results* of what the Lord did
- Moses understand *how* and *why* the Lord did what he did.

First, we must be willing to let the Lord lead us along our path.

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second, we must learn to hear and recognize his voice.

Psalms 46:10a “Be still, and know that I am God.”

How does the Lord direct our paths?

- A willing heart, ears that listen and hear and a daily hunger & thirst for the kingdom:

Psalms 25:4-5 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Proverbs 3:6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

- To receive God’s guidance, said Solomon, we must seek God’s will in all we do.

Matthew 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- Not everything you want but everything you need. It’s better.

Part 3 – Fear and Turn Away

Proverbs 3:7-8 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

- A warning: don't rely on your own wisdom; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
- To be wise in your own eyes is an attitude, a point of view.
- It is in independent spirit that boasts, "I did it my way."
- Within ourselves we do not have the *ability to discern* what is right nor the *capacity to always do* what is right.

Romans 6:12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires.

- Do not give in to the lustful desires of sin.
- **1 Corinthians 6:18** Flee from sexual immorality.
- **1 Corinthians 10:14** ...flee from idolatry.
- **1 Timothy 6:11** ...flee these things: love of money, craving for controversy and quarrels about doctrine...
- **2 Timothy 2:22** ...flee youthful passions...

Romans 6:22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

- Paul writes the equivalent of shouting in an emergency, "Get out of the building!"
- Flee sexual immorality and idolatry and all the rest... flee, get out of there, run for your life.

Romans 12:2 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.

- We need to fear sin. We need to fear the way of thinking that leads to sin.
- We need to fear being wise in your own eyes... and flee!

Proverbs 3:8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

- Like a cold drink of water on a hot day fearing the Lord and turning away from evil is refreshing, which means that it makes you fresh again.
- This is a promise from the Lord: healed flesh and refreshed bones.
- Health to your flesh (Hebrew word literally *navel*, the center of your physical being)
- Refreshment to your bones; bone damage affects everything around it.

Proverbs 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

- Our imagination – how and what we think – has an effect on our physiology.
- We must learn to fear God more than we fear anything else, real or imagined.

Part 4 – More Than Enough

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Exodus 36:5 They went to Moses and reported, “The people have given *more than enough* materials to complete the job the Lord has commanded us to do!”

- What motivates people to give more than enough to accomplish the work the Lord has commanded to be done?

Exodus 35:21 All whose *hearts were stirred and whose spirits were moved* came and brought their sacred offerings to the Lord. They brought all the materials needed for the tabernacle, for the performance of its rituals, and for the sacred garments.

Genesis 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.”

- El Shaddai = Hebrew “the powerful one,” translated as God Almighty.
- The Lord doesn’t promise Abram many descendents; he promises countless descendents.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. *I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in!* Try it! Put me to the test!

Isaiah 58:10 Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

2 Corinthians 9:7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God will *generously provide all you need*. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Proverbs 11:24 Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.

2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

Part 5 – Honor the Lord

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

- Before we can learn to “*honor the Lord with your wealth*” we must first understand what it means to “*honor the Lord.*”
- Hebrew word translated honor = “*to be heavy*” – to have weight.

Psalm 22:22-23 I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people. Praise the Lord, all you who fear him! **Honor** him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

- Honoring the Lord means *to give weight* to what the Lord requires.
- Who gives the weight? You do.
- What the Lord tells us through his Word, through prayer, through others, only means as much as you determine. It’s completely up to you.

Matthew 15:8-9 These people **honor** me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.

- The priority of honoring the Lord over our own preferences is demonstrated in many ways throughout Scripture. For example, the Lord’s prayer:

Matthew 6:9 (NKJV) In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, **hallowed** be Your name.

- We begin our prayer by honoring the Lord, honoring our heavenly father’s name.
- And then we proceed to pray about our needs.

Psalm 50:23 But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly **honors** me.

- Jesus Christ took the time to give his life for us.
- Certainly he is worthy of the time it takes in our daily lives to honor him.

Psalm 141:1-2 A psalm of David. O Lord, I am calling to you. Please hurry! Listen when I cry to you for help! Accept my prayer as incense offered to you, and my upraised hands as an evening offering.

- v2 equates our prayer as the OT burning of incense and the lifting up of our hands in praise to the OT evening sacrifice.
- The transition from OT ritual to NT practice is significant.
- Burning incense and evening sacrifice were key intercessory rituals that reflected a point of contact between the Lord and his people.
- We honor God with our lips only as long as our heart is near him.

Part 6 – With Your Wealth

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

- **Honor the Lord with your wealth...** = This is what you own, your possessions.
- Hebrew word translated wealth = “substance”, lit. enough.
- To have wealth is to have enough; translated in NKJV & ESV as possessions
- How much do you have? What would it all look like if you piled up on your front lawn?
- See “**Material World: A Global Family Portrait.**”

Psalms 112:1-3 Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. 2 Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. 3 They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever.

- How do you honor the Lord with your wealth?

Use your wealth for your family and for those in need.

Acts 2:44-45 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

Acts 4:32-37 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

Pay your tithes to your local church to be used for needs domestic and foreign.

2 Corinthians 9:7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

Luke 6:38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

- This may sound like a formula but it is not. It is about an attitude.
- The Lord by his nature is generous; his ways lead to more than enough.
- But what we give does not always return to us in kind.
- Sometimes it returns to us in ways we could not imagine.

How do we honor the Lord with our wealth?

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Philippians 4:19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Part 7 – Full Barns, Bursting Vats

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Exodus 36:5 They went to Moses and reported, “The people have given more than enough materials to complete the job the Lord has commanded us to do!”

- God’s people gave *more than enough* to accomplish the work the Lord has commanded to be done. That is why the Lord blessed them: to pass it on.

Mark 10:21-22 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

- This young man was not one of A&E’s hoarders. But he was hoarding nonetheless.
- His life was full, he had no room for anything more.

Matthew 25:35-36 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

- Simply put, the Christian life looks like this: follow Jesus and love other people.
- Everything else is a distant second. Nonessential. Clutter.
- Jesus is not trying to tell us that owning all those things, that wealth, is bad.
- There are many who are wealthy who don’t hold on to the wealth like this young man did. They use wealth the way Proverbs 3 tells them to use it: to honor the Lord.
- If your wealth honors the Lord you won’t have a problem letting it go when Jesus asks.

Mark 10:26-27 The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

- The rich young ruler walked away sad. He should have fallen to his knees and asked Jesus for the power to be transformed, for deliverance from his addiction to clutter, from his need to hang onto everything, from his fear to let it all go.
- Jesus says, “Come, follow me.”
- Our response: “Change me Lord. Help me to love God and love people.”

Part 8: There Once Was a Man

Proverbs 3:5-6 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.

- What does it look like to trust the Lord with all your heart?

Job 1:1 There once was a man named Job...

- Job's story is one of tragedy, of great loss and suffering... and of great restoration.

Job 42:10 When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!

- What then was the point of it all? Why did Job have to suffer?
- The Bible shows suffering to be an everyday part of our experience as Christians.
- How can that be? Why should Christians suffer? Because everyone suffers.

Job 1:8 Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."

- Job was minding his own business being faithful to the Lord. He was a good husband, a good father, a successful businessman, and a faithful follower of God.

Job 1:12 "All right, you may test him," the Lord said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically."

- This happened not once but twice. Why? To provide us with an example of someone who in the worst of circumstances trusted in the Lord with all his heart.
- Did Job question God's actions? Yes he did. And God responded.
- But the Lord did not explain his *actions*. Instead, the Lord explained *himself*. Why?

Psalms 33:20-22 We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

- The Lord did not explain his actions to Job because our hope is not in explanations.
- Our hope is in God alone.
- We are not to trust in the Lord because he explains himself and we understand him.
- We are to trust in the Lord with all our heart, not depending on our understanding.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Psalms 13:5 But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me.