

## TRANSFORMING FAITH MINISTRIES

February 18, 2024 | Noon Day Service

Speaker: Min. Monica

Message: "When You Trust God Completely, Your Faith Will Transform You."

Proverbs 3:5 & 6 and I'll be reading from the KJV

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.

### KEYWORDS

- **TRUST**
- **SURRENDER**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE**

### INTRODUCTION

The book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon and centers on wisdom and wise living. Solomon emphasizes gaining wisdom and applying it to everyday life situations. In the immediate context of Proverbs 3:5-6, Solomon discusses the peace that comes from living wisely. This passage encourages us to do three things...

1. **Trust in God completely**
2. **Surrender our understanding to His wisdom**
3. **Acknowledge God in all areas of our lives**
  - *with the promise that He will provide guidance and direction to living wisely*

### VERSE BY VERSE BREAKDOWN

- **Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart**
  - **Meaning of "trust" and "heart":** The term "trust" in this verse refers to wholehearted confidence and reliance on the Lord. It involves placing one's complete security in God and actively seeking His wisdom and guidance in all aspects of life. The "heart" represents the innermost being, including the mind, emotions, and will. Therefore, trusting in the Lord with all your heart encompasses a deep, sincere, and holistic trust in God.
  - **Decision and commitment to trust God daily:** This phrase emphasizes the decision and commitment to trust God on a daily basis, regardless of circumstances. It involves an ongoing, intentional choice to rely on God's wisdom rather than human understanding and to place complete confidence in His guidance and provision.
- **Lean Not on Your Own Understanding**
  - **Limitations of human understanding:** This part of the verse highlights the limitations of human understanding and the need to rely on God, especially in difficult times. It encourages us to recognize that our own knowledge and insight are limited, and therefore, we should not depend solely on our own understanding when making decisions or navigating life's challenges.
- **In All Your Ways Submit to Him**
  - **Importance of surrendering all aspects of life to God:** This phrase underscores the significance of surrendering all areas of life to God and seeking His will above our own. It calls for a complete submission to God's authority and guidance in every area, including relationships, work, decisions, and future plans.
- **He Will Make Your Paths Straight**

- **Promise of God's guidance and direction:** This part of the verse conveys the promise that God will guide and direct our paths if we trust and submit to Him. It assures believers that by entrusting our lives to God and acknowledging His wisdom, He will provide clear direction and guidance, leading us along the right path.

## APPLICATION

### SO HOW DO WE APPLY THIS TRUST?

Before I get into that, let me first explain why it was so difficult and challenging for me to place complete and total trust in God. Not that I didn't trust him. It was just that, me and my human self, was and in some ways, still am, curious as to how the outcome I want, will come to pass. I'm sure I get in God's way... and that's not good.

I believe it's normal for us to believe that we know what's best for us.

But when we made the commitment to live for God by way of Jesus Christ We gave up the right to trust in our flesh... we gave up the selfishness.

**Some challenges you or I may face when trying to trust in the Lord COMPLETELY, may include:**

1. **Invisibility of God:** Since God is not physically visible, in the sense that human eyes don't necessarily see His shape and form, it can be difficult to trust Him completely. And this is similar to the fear that's associated with that "trust fall exercise" where you can't see if the other person or group of people are going to actually catch you. Human nature...
2. **Our Limited Understanding:** We as humans have limited understanding, making it hard to comprehend how suffering fits into God's plan. I'm not saying that suffering or all suffering comes from God to prove a point... I'm not saying that at all. What I mean is that it can be challenging to comprehend that difficult circumstances are part of a bigger plan that is ultimately good. Even saying that, it can still boggle the mind as to how the things we go through in life that aren't so pleasant play into the bigger picture.
3. **Fear of God's Will Not Aligning with Our Own:** That fear can lead to reluctance in praying for His will to be done.
4. **Difficult Circumstances:** Life's unpredictable and difficult nature can shake a person's trust in God, especially when prayers seem to go unanswered or problems are unsolved.
5. **Persecution and Opposition:** For some, trusting in the Lord becomes really questionable when or if we're faced with persecution, hostility, or discrimination due to our faith.
6. **Temptations and Sin:** Maneuvering temptations and sin while striving to lead a life that reflects God's will can also test one's trust in the Lord.

Challenges may exist, especially if you find it difficult to COMPLETELY TRUST IN GOD to direct your path. How can you begin to strengthen your Trust in Him and overcome doubt and uncertainty?

**I have about 7 practical ways to give your worries to God and seek His will in decision-making and trusting His guidance are:**

1. **Speak Words of Faith:** Instead of voicing words of doubt or complaining about the problem, you can speak what God's Word says, affirming your trust in His guidance and provision.
2. **Feed Your Faith:** If you feed your faith, you'll starve your fears. Focus on strengthening your faith by immersing yourself in God's Word, prayer, and positive Christian fellowship. I'll repeat that last one again... POSITIVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP... not all Christian fellowship is positive. Seek God on that too. So, Starve your doubt by redirecting your thoughts and words towards faith and trust in God.
3. **Choose Faith Over Fear:** I know I mentioned Feed Your Faith, but you don't allow doubt to take hold when you choose faith. You won't question if a decision is right or wrong because you are choosing to acknowledge God's sovereignty. You'll trust in His goodness, even during confusion or difficult circumstances.
4. **Regular Time with God:** Establish a consistent time with the Lord, even when things feel difficult. Spending regular time with God, especially when you're going through, can help you continue to trust in Him.
5. **Honesty and Obedience:** Be honest with God about your struggles and doubts, and then act on obedience by trusting that He will ultimately take care of the rest. This involves going to God and His Word whether life is hitting you like a ton of bricks or not. Act on obedience while trusting that He will hold you securely.
6. **Develop a Mindset of Gratitude:** By focusing on God's past faithfulness and provision in your life, you can cultivate a positive outlook that strengthens your trust in His ongoing care and guidance. Take time to reflect on past experiences where God has come through for you and allow gratitude to transform your heart.
7. **Seek Wise Counsel:** Seek wise counsel from mature Christians who can offer you spiritual support and wise advice. You can receive greater clarity and confidence in your decisions by surrounding yourself with mentors, pastors, or trusted friends who can help you stay grounded in faith. Don't let doubts and fears hold you back - seek guidance and support from those who have walked this same direction.

**And how can applying those practical ways benefit us in our daily lives?:**

**IT CAN LEAD TO:**

1. **Greater Happiness and Joy:** (Proverbs 16:20). He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. It leads to a sense of contentment and well-being, knowing that our lives are in God's hands.
2. **Peace of Mind:** (Isaiah 26:3). Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. It provides a sense of tranquility and assurance, even during challenges and uncertainties.
3. **Deliverance and Protection:** Those who trust in the Lord will be delivered from wicked schemes and plans of evil people (Psalm 37:39-40). But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is our strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help us, and deliver us: he shall deliver us from the wicked, and save us, because they trust in him. So, trusting in God offers a sense of security and protection.

4. **Prosperity and Fruitfulness:** Trusting in the Lord leads to prosperity and fruitfulness (Proverbs 28:25, 26 NLT). Greed causes fighting; trusting the LORD leads to prosperity. Those who trust our own insight are foolish, but anyone who walks in wisdom is safe. It is associated with God's favor and blessings in various aspects of life.
5. **Mercy and Surrounding Grace:** The mercy of the Lord surrounds those who trust in Him (Psalm 32:10-11 NLT). Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the LORD. So rejoice in the LORD and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure! Trusting in God is linked to experiencing His abundant grace and mercy.
6. **Safety and Security:** Those who trust the Lord will be safe and secure (Proverbs 29:25). Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety. Trusting in God provides a sense of safety and refuge.
7. **Freedom from Anxiety:** Trusting God can free you from anxiety as you learn to cast all your worries on Him and find comfort in His care (1 Peter 5:7). Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.
8. **Transformation and Peace:** Developing a habit of trusting God can lead to transformation, peace, and enjoying life. It can shift from confusion to peace as we learn to trust God at all times and in every area of life. Proverbs 3:5,6

### **Trusting in God Helps with Our Decision-Making and Problem-Solving through:**

1. **Guidance and Direction:** By seeking God's will and acknowledging Him in all aspects of life, we can experience clarity and reassurance in our choices.
2. **Peace and Confidence:** It allows us to approach problems calmly and confidently, knowing we are not alone in our decision-making process.
3. **Wisdom and Discernment:** This can help us make wise choices and solve problems effectively, as we rely on God's infinite understanding rather than our limited knowledge.
4. **Relief from Anxiety:** By casting our worries on Him and seeking His guidance, we can experience relief and assurance, enabling us to approach decisions with a clear mind and a committed heart.

### **THE EVIDENCE: BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF TRUSTING IN GOD:**

#### **Abraham: Trusting in God's Promise**

Abraham's journey of faith begins with a radical act of trust. God calls him to leave his homeland, family, and security to go to an unknown land. In Genesis 12:1-4, God promises to make Abraham the father of many nations, a promise that seems impossible considering Abraham's age and his wife Sarah's barrenness. Yet, Abraham chooses to trust in God's promise, demonstrating a profound faith in God's power and faithfulness. This trust is not blind but is based on a relationship with God that grows deeper through various trials and tests, culminating in the ultimate test of faith in Genesis 22, where Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac reaffirms his complete trust in God's promise.

#### **Moses: Leading with Trust**

Moses' trust in God is evident in his leadership of the Israelites out of Egypt. With the daunting task of confronting Pharaoh and leading a nation to freedom, Moses relied on God's guidance

and provision. The crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus 14:13-14 showcases Moses' trust in God's deliverance, as he encourages the Israelites to stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord. Moses' life reflects a journey of learning to trust God's power and timing, even when faced with impossible challenges.

### **David: Trust in Adversity**

David's trust in God is evident from his youth, as seen in his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:45-47), where he declares his confidence in the Lord's deliverance. This trust is not a momentary act but a consistent use in David's life, even during times of personal struggle and adversity. Through the Psalms, David expresses his trust in God's faithfulness and protection, demonstrating how trust in God provides strength and refuge during life's storms.

### **Daniel: Faithfulness and Trust**

Daniel's trust in God is tested in exile and persecution. Despite the pressures to conform to Babylonian culture and worship, He remains faithful to God, trusting in His protection and authority. Daniel's deliverance from the lion's den (Daniel 6:22) is a powerful testament to the protection afforded to those who trust God, even in the face of death. Daniel's life exemplifies unwavering trust in God's faithfulness, regardless of circumstances.

### **Esther: Trusting in God's Providence**

Esther's story is a remarkable example of trusting in God's providence. Faced with the potential genocide of her people, Esther risks her life to intercede before King Xerxes (Zerksees). Esther 4:14, where Mordecai suggests that Esther has come to her royal position "for such a time as this," highlights the belief in God's providential placement and guidance. Esther's courage to act, motivated by trust in God's timing and purposes, leads to the Jewish people's deliverance.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Trust in the Lord with all your heart:**

- Solomon emphasized trusting God entirely rather than relying on yourself.
- Trusting in God involves surrendering yourself completely to His guidance and sovereignty.
- It signifies a deep confidence in God's character and promises.

### **Lean not on your own understanding:**

- This admonition urges against relying solely on human wisdom or intellect.
- It emphasizes prioritizing God's wisdom and guidance over human reasoning.
- Trusting God means choosing His understanding over our limited perspective.

### **In all your ways acknowledge Him:**

- Acknowledging God in every aspect of life involves seeking His guidance and honoring Him in all decisions and actions.
- It implies inviting God into every aspect of our lives and recognizing His authority and presence.
- This acknowledgment extends to seeking God's will and direction in significant decisions and everyday matters.

### **He shall direct your paths:**

- This is the promise that follows from trusting and acknowledging God.
- God promises to guide and direct the paths of those who trust Him.
- Trusting God leads to a life controlled by His wisdom and purposes, aligning with His will and fulfilling His plans.

So, in order to receive the promise in verse 6: And he shall direct our paths. **We have to remember the precursors:**

**TRUST** – Completely

**SURRENDER** – Completely

**ACKNOWLEDGE** – Completely

**Part of Our Church Scripture is:**

**Romans 12:1**

**In order to move forward, we have to obey.**

**In order to obey, we have to put complete and total trust in God.**

**REMEMBER: PROVERBS 3:5,6**

- **Surrender to His Will:** Trusting in the Lord with all your heart means fully surrendering to His will and guidance, recognizing His sovereignty and steadfast character.
- **Seek Divine Wisdom:** It's crucial to avoid relying solely on our own understanding and instead to seek God's wisdom and guidance, valuing divine insight over human reasoning.
- **Acknowledge God in Everything:** In every aspect of life, acknowledging God is key, seeking His direction and honoring Him in all decisions and actions. This involves welcoming God into every part of our lives, acknowledging His authority and presence in both significant and minor matters.
- **Promise of Divine Direction:** For those who trust and acknowledge God, there is a promise of divine direction. He commits to guiding and directing the paths of those who place our trust in Him, leading to a life that aligns with His wisdom and purposes, and fulfilling His plans for us.

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