

Proverbs Chapter 3  
Week 8, v. 23-26

Review Pr 3: 19-22 What does it say? What does it mean? How is it applied? Give an example of how this truth worked itself out in your life last week.

Every decision we make produces a consequence. When we choose to live by God's instructions, we benefit from His blessings.

Pr 3:23 Then you will walk in your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.

What benefits of following wisdom do we see in verse 23? Have you ever felt insecure? How does the feeling of insecurity affect you?

in your way <derek> a road (as trodden); figuratively, a course of life or mode of action; journey

securely (safely) <betach> a place of refuge, safety, both the fact (security) and the feeling (trust); assurance, boldly, confidence, hope, secure

stumble <nagaph> to push, gore, defeat, stub (the toe), inflict (a disease):--beat, dash, hurt, plague, slay, smite (down), strike, stumble, X surely, put to the worse.defeat, stumble

What does it mean to be/feel secure? Secure: to not be worried, being untroubled by feelings of fear, doubt, or vulnerability; reliable and unlikely to fail or be lost; to be safe, especially against attack.

Is there a difference in what you can accomplish when you are convinced God is directing you versus when you are unsure of your direction?

Ps 37:23-24 The steps of a man are established by the LORD; and He delights in his way. When he falls, he shall not be hurled headlong; because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

Ps 91:11-12 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Pr 10:9a He who walks in integrity walks securely,

Pr 2:7-8 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; [He is] a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones.

Pr 4:12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble.

Ps 121:3 He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.

Ps 121:8 The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever.

Have you ever been lost while trying to get somewhere? What happens to your confidence in your directions?

Stumble: to trip over, to walk unsteadily, confused or blundering, a mistake or hesitation.

Think of a time when your foot has caught something or slipped. How do you feel when you stumble? (insecure, unsure, unstable, apprehensive) How would we apply its meaning here?

According to the verses above, how confident can we be that our journey is blessed by God? What do we need to do in order to be secure in our direction?

What things keep you from sleeping well?

Pr 3:24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Ps 4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For Thou alone, O LORD, dost make me to dwell in safety.

What would cause someone to be fearful of sleeping?

What makes you fearful?

Fear is defined as a feeling of anxiety or apprehension caused by the presence or anticipation of danger. What happens to fear when we know God and follow His instructions?

What would be some practical things we can do when we have trouble sleeping at night? What verses can you think of that might give you direction? (Col 3:2; Ro 8:35,37-39; Phil 4:6-9; Ps 139:23-24)

Pr 6:22 When you walk about, they [God's commandments which you have been taught] will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you.

Do you look to God to guide you throughout your day, or only when things get tough? When you sleep, do you trust in His protection? When you wake up, is He the first thing on your mind?

Pr 2:11 Discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you,

Ps 43:3 O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places.

Ps 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; [they are] my counselors.

Ps 119:97 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

Ps 119:148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Thy word.

What does it mean to be delighted by something, to love something? Do you find great enjoyment and pleasure in God's Word, in your relationship with Him? How can you tell? Do others see it?

Pr 3:25-26 Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; for the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

Ps 112:7 He [the righteous] will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

When we keep sound wisdom and discretion (Pr 3:21) then we will not be over taken by fear when things look exceedingly bad. When judgment comes upon evil, we can have confidence knowing that we are spared from that judgment because of God's grace and mercy. With this knowledge comes peace.

Ps 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar [and] foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

Prov 1:24-33 (When we choose not to follow God – the removal of His protection)

What does it mean to have confidence in something or someone? What things do you feel confident about?

Confidence: 1. belief in own abilities; 2. belief or trust in someone or something;

v.26 For the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

Pr 14:26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge.

Ps 91:3a For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper,

1Sa 2:9a He keeps the feet of His godly ones,

When we place our trust/confidence completely in our own abilities what happens?  
When we place our trust/confidence completely in someone or something else other than God, what happens?

Think of those areas in your life right now where you are struggling. Do you need to redirect your focus? How certain are you that God will secure your path, protect you and guide you?

Proverbs Chapter 3  
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Think of the circumstances in your life right now. Who are you looking to for direction – yourself, others or God? How do you know?

How confident are you that God is in control of all things? When you lose that confidence, what are some verses you can go to for encouragement? Perhaps you can make a list of these scriptures for quick reference.

What do you typically do when you have trouble sleeping? Is there a more productive plan you can make for those times?

Do you look to God first thing when you wake, throughout your day and when you lay your head down to sleep? Is your relationship with Him continuous or on a “need” basis?

How confident are you in your relationship with God? How “big” is your trust in Him and His promises? Is your trust in His promises growing? How can you tell?

At Home

Take the time to review verses 23-26, work on memory verses, and pay close attention to personal application.

Look at Prov 3:27-28 for next week. As you read/study, jot down what you discover. Memorize the passage. Use any reference tools you have to look up a few main words in the passage. What questions come to mind that will help you to apply what you read?

**\*\*We will not meet April 7<sup>th</sup>.** Use this extra week to review your memory verses: Prov 3:1-28. Please be prepared to look at Proverbs 3:29-31 the following week, April 14<sup>th</sup>.