

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 3, v. 5-7

Review Pr 3:2-4 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.

What kinds of things do people trust? What or who have you trusted in the past? How did that work for you?

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

Trust <batach> properly, to hie (*hurry*) for refuge; figuratively, to trust, be confident or sure:--be bold (confident, secure, sure), put confidence, (make to) hope, (put, make to) trust.

Trust: reliance, confidence in; hope for the future: hopeful reliance on what will happen in the future; faith, belief, hope, conviction, confidence, expectation, dependence, count on, be sure about

Confident: convinced – sure about the nature or facts of something; certain, positive, in no doubt (ant: unsure)

Sure: definitely true, unquestionably true, firmly believing, bound to occur; firm, secure, and steady, without a doubt, inevitable

We are to trust (be 100% sure of God's plan and direction for our lives and others) in the Lord with all our heart (feelings, will and intellect), and not rely on our own understanding (the ability to grasp the meaning of every situation; we are unable to comprehend God's perfect knowledge of the future.).

It's easy to put our full confidence in God when things are going well. How steadfast are we in our trust when circumstances get difficult or move too slowly for our liking? How about when situations don't take the turn we expected? How do we trust when things do not make sense to us?

When circumstances are difficult or confusing, do we hurry to God for refuge first or only after we have tried everyone and everything else?

What kinds of “symptoms” do you recognize in your life when you are having trouble trusting God? Does God care about every detail of our lives or just the “big” things? How do you know?

Ps 65:5 By awesome [deeds] Thou dost answer us in righteousness, O God of our salvation, Thou who art the **trust of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea**;

Isa 26:4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, [we have] **an everlasting Rock**.

Na 1:7 The LORD is good, **A stronghold in the day of trouble**, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

1Pe 5:7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because **He cares for you**.

Ps 9:10 And those who know Thy name will put their trust in Thee; For Thou, O LORD, **hast not forsaken those who seek Thee**.

Ps 91:14-15 Because he has loved Me, therefore **I will deliver him; I will set him [securely] on high**, because he has known My name. He will call upon Me, and **I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him, and honor him**.

After looking at these scriptures, what would you say it means to “trust in the Lord with all your heart”? What does this look like in your day-t0-day life?

Pr 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

1Ch 28:9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and

understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

Jer 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Pr 20:24 Man's steps are [ordained] by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?

Acknowledging God is not a casual, "I know You're there". It is seeking His direction, asking for guidance, desiring His wisdom, wanting to know His instruction in every aspect of our lives.

In order to truly acknowledge God in this way we need to be humble before Him and recognize that He alone has perfect understanding. We need to admit our need for His guidance.

How is God acknowledged in your decisions? How aware are you of Him in every circumstance? *Before* you make decisions, do you pray for direction? *During* the process, do you continually seek His guidance? *After* the fact, does He get the praise and glory?

The world we live in promotes self-sufficiency. *What's wrong with this idea for someone who has placed his or her trust in God?* Even as a Christian, we sometimes forget that independent living is not what we are about. It sounds like this: "I can handle it" or "I don't need any help" or "I don't want to bother anyone". We can dig our heels in, bracing for the worst circumstances, and forget that we not only have a family in Christ to help us through but most importantly an all-knowing, loving, faithful God.

Pr 16:3 **Commit your works to the LORD**, And your plans will be established.

1Sa 30:8 And *David inquired of the LORD*, saying, "Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?" And He said to him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them,

and you shall surely rescue [all]." (The Amalakites had raided the city, burned it and taken the women and children captive. Everyone was so upset at this that David's life was in danger because of their anger towards him. David sorrowed for his loss then took the time to ask the Lord what his next step should be.)

Ne 2:4 Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" *So I prayed to the God of heaven.* (Nehemiah is concerned for Jerusalem but before he answers the king, he seeks God's guidance for words.)

Ps 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Isa 30:21 And your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Jas 1:5-6 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Are you dependent on God? How great is your need for Him? Do you *need* His guidance and protection to keep your path straight? Have you ever followed your own path? How did you do on your own?

Ps 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Jer 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

Pr 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Verse 7 gives us three actions to be taken: 1) do not be wise in your own eyes, 2) fear the Lord, and 3) turn away from evil.

“do not be wise in your own eyes”

Wise <chakam> wise, (i.e. intelligent, skilful or artful): -- cunning

In your own eyes <`ayin> a fountain (as the eye of the landscape):--affliction, outward appearance, think best, conceit,

Conceit: excessive self-pride – a high opinion of your own qualities or abilities, especially one that is not justified; self-importance, pride, vanity, smugness, arrogance. The opposite is modesty.

Do any of you suffer from sometimes having all the right answers or the best ways to do something? Is it okay to have confidence, skill, intelligence?

Ro 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Pr 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Pr 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Isa 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And clever in their own sight!

When we are “wise in our own eyes”, how is our trust in God affected?

How did you acquire the abilities you have? Is there anything you can take credit for?

Who created you? Isa 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, *Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk in it,*

Who made you His child?

Isa 42:6 "*I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,* I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God;

Jas 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore [it] says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Who gives you the ability to make wise decisions?

Pr 2:6 For *the LORD gives wisdom,* From His mouth [come] knowledge and understanding.

Who allows you to experience joy and thankfulness?

Ec 3:13 moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor--it is the gift of God.

Ps 4:7 *Thou hast put gladness in my heart,* More than when their grain and new wine abound.

Who provides everything you need and more?

Ec 5:19 Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

Where does your strength come from? Who gives you peace?

Ps 29:11 *The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.*

Ps 68:35 O God, [Thou art] awesome from Thy sanctuary. *The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power* to the people. Blessed be God!

Who protects you? Have you experienced success in your family or at work or school? Who has allowed this in your life?

Ps 84:11 For *the LORD God is a sun and shield, The LORD gives grace and glory*, No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Ec 2:26a For to a person who is good in His sight *He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy*,

Who causes you to be able to be at peace in the midst of turmoil?

Mt 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and *I will give you rest.*"

Salvation is a gift from God given to us by grace, not at all because we have earned or deserve anything, but because He loves us. Wisdom, intelligence, skills and qualities are all gifts from God. Our personalities and looks are from God, all the things that make us unique. Even the ability to make right choices is from God. The only One we are to have a high opinion of is God.

The 2nd part of verse 7 says "**fear the Lord**".

What are some things that you fear? Are there any people that you fear? Why?

Fear <yare'> to fear; morally, to revere; caus. to frighten

Fear: 3. reverence – respect or awe for somebody or something

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, *fearing God, and turning away from evil.*

Pr 8:13 "The ***fear of the LORD is to hate evil***; Pride and arrogance and the evil way,
And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Can we fear God without understanding the first part of verse 7: "be not wise in your own eyes"? When we recognize our own insufficiency and come to God with humility of mind understanding our need of Him, then we are able to fear God as our Lord and Master and Sustainer.

Why is it important to fear God?

Pr 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.

Ne 5:15 But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people and took from them bread and wine besides forty shekels of silver; even their servants domineered the people. But I did not do so because of the fear of God.

Pr 16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.

Ps 34:11-14 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life, And loves [length of] days that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.

Ecc 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, [is:] fear God and keep His commandments, because this [applies to] every person.

Job 28:28 "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"

When we fear God we are able to fulfill the 3rd part of verse 7 – **turn away from evil**. **Do the choices we make each day point us toward God or pull us from God?**

All emphasis (bold print, underlined) mine. NAS used unless otherwise noted. Encarta English Dictionary used for definitions. Strong's Concordance used for Hebrew/Greek definitions. Commentary used where noted.

Proverbs Chapter 3
Week 3, v.5-7 – Application Questions

Are you confident in God's plan for you for today and for the future? Can you completely trust in Him even when circumstances seem unbearable? If yes, how do you know? If not, how can you get there?

Is your acknowledgement of God casual, "I know You're there", or active – seeking His direction, asking for guidance, desiring His wisdom, wanting to know His instruction? What can you do to rely more upon God rather than yourself and the world's wisdom?

Who/Where do you turn to first in times of trouble? Do you turn to God only after you have exhausted other possibilities?

Do you fear God? What is your reaction to the thought of offending God? Is it stronger than the thought of offending man? Who are you more afraid of – God or man? Who directs your decisions? Has the fear of God caused you to change your thoughts and actions?

What other questions have come to mind while looking at these verses?

At Home

Take the time to **review** verses 5-7, work on memory verses, and pay close attention to personal **application**.

Look at Prov 3:8-12 for next week's study. 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?