

Proverbs 3:5,6

God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ. As always, it a wonderful to be with you and to have the great privilege of sharing some of God's Word with you. I would like to take some time today to discuss some verses that are probably very familiar to you. But they are certainly worth re-reading and thinking about.

Proverbs 3:5,6

When we look at these two verses, it is very plain that there are two different aspects in them; what we do and what God does. We are going to take some time today to look at both sides of this. We start in verse 5.

The word "Lord" is translated from the Hebrew *Jehovah*. There are different names for God in the Bible, each with a bit different emphasis. Perhaps the two most common in the Old Testament are *Jehovah* and *Elohim*. It is the same God in each case, but the different names emphasize different things. *Elohim* is God as the Creator. As the Creator, He has a relationship with all His creation. The name *Jehovah* is God in a covenant relationship. God as *Jehovah* established covenants with individuals or with groups of people and acted within the bounds established by that covenant. Not everyone or everything in the creation had that type of a relationship with God. While we could spend a lot of time talking about this topic, we'll only look at one place in the Word where one verse has both names for God used. I think that this will make the point.

II Chronicles 18:29 – 32

We won't take the time to read the entire chapter, but briefly, Jehoshaphat (the king of Judah) had joined with Ahab (the king of Israel and not a very good man from God's point of view) and they decided to go to war together against Syria. In verse 31, Jehoshaphat cried out and the Lord (*Jehovah*) helped him and God (*Elohim*) moved the enemy soldiers away from him. It was the same God, but the two words emphasize different relationships.

While we are on this point, remember that at what we call the Last Supper, Jesus stated that his blood was establishing a new testament (covenant). Since we have accepted Christ, we have that new covenant relationship with God. Now back to Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 3:5

The word "trust" is translated from the most common Hebrew word for "trust". It means "to confide in" and there are several versions of the Bible that translate it that way. It basically means "to have confidence in without any fear". It is essentially the same as the New Testament word "believe". We can have confidence in the Lord because the Lord is always faithful.

We can trust or confide in Him with all (not some, part or even most) of our heart. The heart is the seat of your personal life. It is the deepest part of you.

Proverbs 4:23

Matthew 12:35

The first half of verse 5 and the second half of verse 5 are mutually exclusive. If we trust the Lord with all our heart, then we are not relying on our own understanding. If we are relying on our own understanding, then we are not trusting God with all our heart.

“Our own understanding” means our own insights, our own perceptions. Our capacities in this regard are very limited compared to God’s. Now we go to verse 6.

Proverbs 3:6

“In all our ways acknowledge Him”. Again, we see the word “all”. Not some, part or even most. In all thy ways acknowledge Him. He is right there with you wherever you go, whatever you are doing. God is there with you; He wants you to acknowledge Him. Perhaps this truth was best said by David in Psalm 139.

Psalm 139:1 – 18

Learning to think this way, to acknowledge Him is in part what a monk by the name of Brother Lawrence in the 17th century referred to as “practicing the presence of God”. Now God is there wherever you go and whatever you are doing whether you acknowledge Him or not. Since He is there, confide in Him, don’t try to figure life out all by yourself. Acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths, He will give you His thoughts.

Now the question is How does God direct your paths? How does God give you His thoughts? First and foremost, with His Word.

Psalm 119:105

His Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our paths. His Word gives us direction for the ways in which we should conduct our lives. In addition to the written Word, there is the gift of holy spirit that we have with the new birth.

John 14:16, 17, 26

That gift brings with it nine enablement’s or abilities, nine manifestations. As you know, these are listed in I Corinthians 12:8 – 10.

Of these nine abilities, five are specifically ways that God can give you His thoughts. Two of these five, interpretation of tongues and prophecy, will not give you guidance. They will however, provide encouragement and comfort for your life. That's why we pay such attention to these when they are utilized in a meeting of believers. The remaining three, word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits, provide information and instruction concerning specific situations. They are the Father providing His thoughts about the situation and directing our paths.

Let's close by re-reading the two verses that we started with.

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