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Proverbs 3:5-6 "Discovering God's Will For My Life"  
November 11, 2018

All right. Let's open our Bibles this morning to the book of Proverbs, Chapter 3 verse 5.

The word for proverbs in Hebrew is a word that means to tell a parable or to make a comparison. It is a book filled with very practical advice that you can put into practice immediately in the present tense. It is designed to bring God's wisdom to us. It was mostly written by Solomon. Solomon has the unique qualification of -- we're told of him in I Kings Chapter 3 that the Lord made him wiser than any man that had ever lived up until that point, and that he was wiser than anyone that would follow. So the wisest guy that ever lived wrote the book by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The first nine chapters is all about Solomon writing first person to his son, giving him advice. From Chapter 10 through 21 there's a whole body of work, the Psalms of Solomon, or the Proverbs of Solomon, if you will. Chapters 22 and 23 and 24 weren't written by him, but they were collected by him. They were written by others that he liked. Chapters 25 through 29 were written by him, although not really written down. Hezekiah's soldiers gathered these together and wrote them down. So the book is filled with a man who is made wise by the Lord and then passing that wisdom off to us. Simple advice in many ways on living in a godly way.

Well, this morning we want to just look at two verses, and I know that you know them well. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path." It has a lot to say. If you want to summarize these two verses, here's the summary: Trust God, don't trust yourself. Do a lot of praying and you'll find yourself right where God wants you to be. There you go. If you need to leave early, there you go. You can leave with that. Be plenty of information.

But I would like to look at these verses in terms of discovering God's will, because ultimately doing the first

three of those little phrases leaves you in a place where you're right where God wants you to be. Do you know where God wants you to be this morning?

The Bible does teach us that God has a purpose for our life. Every one of you have a purpose in His plans. I don't know what your purposes are necessarily, but you should know. And what's interesting is the Bible teaches us very clearly that God, because He knows our decisions and that we want to follow Him, will actually go before us in our lives to prepare a way for us. Paul wrote to the Ephesians and he mentioned that very clearly, that in Chapter 2, "We were the workmanship of God in Christ, so that God before ordained the ways that we should walk." Literally we are always in the process of either being prepared for something or accomplishing something that we were prepared for. So it is important that you and I know what God's plans are for our lives. We may not know the bigger picture -- maybe we're along the way -- but we know where we're supposed to be going and where God would have us to be.

The Bible is very clear that God uses human instruments to accomplish His will. I'm not sure that's a good idea, but He's God. I look around here -- look around here. Look around here. This is the hope for the church. Look around here. Look up here for that matter, for crying out loud. We're in trouble. But yet that's God's choice, to use you and I. And so we want to know where God has put us. And because we are His instruments, He prepares us.

For example, if you look at Paul's life, Paul in Chapter 9 of Acts was told that he would be the apostle to the gentiles. He probably didn't think that's where he belonged. He loved the Jews. He had a lot of Jewish background. But that's what the Lord said to him, made clear to him. But yet if you go back and look at that path to become that, it was a long road. Paul got saved in Damascus, or outside of Damascus. He was brought into town. He departed from there and he went to Arabia, the Bible says, where for three years he just kind of drops off the scene. And for three years we have no idea what happened to Paul, other than the Lord was teaching him there in the desert. He came back to Damascus figuring he was ready to preach to the Jews, even though he had been told otherwise. They about killed him. He got in a basket and escaped over the night. He ran to Jerusalem, where he was out for 15 days, according to the book of Acts. Very few people wanted to meet with him. Barnabas wanted to set up meetings with the apostles and a lot of them were not

interested in talking to a guy who was killing Christians. They finally took him down and put him on a boat and said go home. And Paul went home to Tarsus, hundreds of miles to the north. And for the next dozen years, you don't find Paul at all. He's just disappeared again from the radar, until a revival begins in Syria in a place called Antioch. Barnabas is sent there by the Jerusalem church. He finds that there's great salvation happening, but he doesn't feel equipped to be the pastor and he goes to find Paul, in Tarsus. And Paul's calling in this gentile area becomes clear. And he begins to minister there, spends a year pastoring and training. And from that church over the next 15 years, the gospel will go out to all of the world, really through the ministry of Paul's missionary kind of journeys. But it took a long time for him to get there.

And then if you go the other way, we know that God prepared Paul before he was born for this calling. He was born in Tarsus. It happened to be a free city in the Roman empire. It means nothing to us, but a free city meant that you got your privileges as a Roman citizen without having to pay for them or work for them or bargain for them. It was a gift and it couldn't have been better for you. You couldn't be put to death as a Roman. You had, lots of appeal privileges. Paul would use those with Festus to ask him to appeal his cause to Cesar when he was falsely accused. It served Paul well. As a Roman citizen living in a very culture that is steeped in Greek, Tarsus, Paul learned about the ideologies and the mind-set and the hearts of the gentile. His parents eventually sent him to Jerusalem to sit at the feet of and learn at the feet of one of the most celebrated Jewish rabbis of his day, Gamaliel, who taught him, scriptures and Hebrew thought. Paul was extremely well educated. And God put it all together. I don't think Paul, until he got saved, and maybe years later when he came to Antioch, would have been able to look at his life and go, "Man, God sure prepared me for something." But looking back, he could certainly see it.

And God's doing that with you today. Preparing you. You might say, well, what is he preparing me for? I don't know, but I know He's promised to do that. And you'll discover it if you'll follow these two verses, because you'll -- the end of these two verses is, He'll direct your paths. You'll be right at a place that God wants you to be.

Moses was called by the Lord to bring the children of Israel out of bondage from Egypt, to lead them to the Land of Promise. Before he was ever born, God was at work. Can you imagine

moving a couple to have a son in a country that is killing all male children to reduce their population? Not exactly the most ideal situation. But Moses' parents were moved in their hearts. The Lord spoke to them about a son they were going to have, even told them that his future would hold. And they had a son, by faith, we read in Hebrews 11. As God would have it, Moses' mother was allowed to nurse him, to wean him, and spend the next four or five years of his life with him before he was taken by Pharaoh's daughter into the palace. In those four or five years, mom conveyed to Moses, this is your calling. This is God's purposes. This is what God wants. Imagine trying to convince a five-year-old of that. But they got it through to him and he moved into the palace, and for the next 35 years was surrounded by luxury and paganism and everything that you might as a mom worry about, but yet God had His hand on Moses. At 40 years old, he felt like it was time to go and join the Jewish people; his heritage, his people. Lead them out. He even raised himself up by fighting off and killing an Egyptian who had been mistreating a Jewish man, thinking the people would rally to his case. They did not. They ratted him out. And rather than joining him, they turned on him, and Moses ran to the desert. 40 years he lived in luxury; now 40 years lived on the back side of the desert, beginning to learn about God and His ways. As he was there for 40 years, he knew where the springs were and the water sources and the roads and the opposition and the enemy. All that would come in really handy when he was bringing 2 1/2 million people through the desert. Did he know that's what God was doing? He didn't, but he was walking with God. At 80 years old he was ready to go, and the Lord brought him back, and for the last 40 years of his life he led these millions to the border of Canaanland, the Land of Promise.

God has a way of preparing us for what He's prepared for us. And that is your situation this morning. Not all of us are called to full-time positions in ministry, but we're all called to full-time walking with God. In fact, Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians like he opens a lot of his letters. He says Paul, comma, an apostle by the will of God, period. Paul, this is me, this is what I do, this is God's will. Can you do that for your life this morning? This is who I am and this is what I'm doing by the will of God. You should be able to do that. As the head of His body, the church, God seeks to place His people everywhere; whether you're a teacher or a laborer, whether you're a painter or a stockbroker, whether you're a professional athlete or you're just a pastor of a local church. He sends forth His word through His people

filled with His Spirit.

I think maybe the most difficult and yet most rewarding calling in the world is to be a mom. I had a mom talk to me a couple weeks ago. She really felt like she wanted to be involved in missions. And then she said this, "I have six kids, all under 12." And I went, "Eh. I also would like to go to the mission field if I had six kids under 12 in my house." Now, that's her mission field, and that's where God has called her. The next generation is going to depend upon her doing her job very well, in passing along those spiritual truths, nurturing as a godly mother and setting an example.

Some ministries are certainly far more reaching, it would seem, than others. Billy Graham reached thousands, if not millions, of people before television was much of a deal, and certainly before the internet was ever invented or used, and yet upon his death his funeral was viewed by over a billion people. You might never have that kind of impact, yet where would Billy Graham have been without the local church; the praying of the saints, the bringing of people with them that they cared about, the diligent prayers, the laborers, the setup, the givers? God knows. I preach every Sunday morning here to thousands of people. Every week. We meet on Wednesday. We're on the internet to thousands more people around the world. I could never pull that off without everyone that's here. It's not really me; it's us, isn't it?

I love the little kids. We had a baby dedication second service. This little girl, every time she saw me, cried. I thought, this is not going to be a very good baby dedication. But today she was on her best behavior, didn't cry at all. But she looked at her dad like, he's going to let me go pretty soon; right? Kids are great, but not in the service. If there are a bunch of little kids in here, you're not going to pay attention to me. You're going to look at that cute little face and you are going to make faces. Pastor Chuck used to say, "Kids are like New Year's resolutions: They're best carried out." And I can't really disagree with that. But we have Sunday school workers and nursery laborers. We're blessed, man. God uses the church as a whole. So I'm the one who's seen, but, our Sunday school staff, our nursery workers, our musicians, our ushers, our janitors, the maintenance crew, the pastoral staff, the girls that answer the phones. It is kind of a work together. So as long as you find the place God wants you to be, it will all work out. He'll put it all together.

We're on over 400 stations across the country. It's extremely expensive. God has provided all that we've needed. He's been so good to us. But we would have never be on all of those radio stations, plus the live internet feeds around the world. And it's amazing, the letters we see. You know, but we wouldn't have ever done that without producers and editors and I.T. people and livestream folks and radio owners and translator towers. We can't do it. But everyone does their part and God's Word gets out, and that's His plan. They hear me, but they should see what God has done.

We decided many years ago that every dollar of profit in what my wife wrote or I've written or our bookstore has sold or our thrift store takes in, every dollar of profit would go to the radio. That's where it goes. But any ministry's success that comes is in large part due to the faithfulness of others who walk with God where God has placed them. Now, that's the reason why it is not so important to the Lord how visible your ministry is or not. His only concern is your faithfulness to your calling. And if we'll all do that, we'll all get the same reward. It doesn't matter if you reach a billion or you reach two, you raise four kids or six kids in your home, or you go to the ends of the earth; as long as you do what God has given you to do. How do I know where that is? You follow these two verses.

Paul wrote to the Philippians in Chapter 4 and he said, look, we are those people who are not concerned about the flesh. We have no confidence in our flesh. He said to them, as they gave, and the Philippians gave to Paul, I think the first church in Europe to support him, and he wrote back in the Philippian letter and he said, "Look, I'm so thankful for your support, not that I need it, or that I'm looking for a gift, but what I want to do is bear fruit that can be placed into your account." We can do this together. And Paul saw it that way. He told the Corinthians in the first letter, Chapter 3, that one day in heaven all of our works would be tested of what sort they were, or if you will, what motivation drove them. Are they going to be burned up in the fire like wood or hay or stubble, or are they going to survive it like precious metal? If it survives, then you get a reward; but if not, it'll be burned up.

So finding the will of God is extremely important, and there are a lot of generalities when it comes to God's will that applies to all of us. If you go, I don't know what God wants me to do, I can give you a list of things I know he wants you

to do: Wants you to stay in fellowship, wants you to be in church, wants you to be involved, wants you to be praying, wants you to be studying your Bible. He wants you to forgive those who have hurt you, and die to yourself, and bless others, put them before you. It's true for everyone. You know, specifically when it comes to your personal life, your career path, your marriage, your ministry, your vision, God will have to show you. But it starts with this, these two verses. You apply these and you're going to find yourself at every place along the way, at least according to verse 6, you're going to find yourself exactly where you're supposed to be.

I talked to one of my buddies several years ago who was -- he really felt like God wanted him to go to the mission field. He was actually a doctor. And I said, "You really feel --" "I just feel like God's prepared me to be a missionary." I said, "Well, that'd be great." He goes, "As long as God doesn't send me to Africa." I said, "Well, what's wrong with you?" He said, "Well, I've been there. I don't like it." I go, "Well --" "So as long as He doesn't send me there, I'll go." I thought, what a goof. So I said this to him -- well, he is a friend. I can -- I said, "You know, if that's in your heart, then God will never send you to Africa, or He'll change your heart." Because the Bible says His burden is light, His yoke is easy, and if you're carrying this big worry around, that's not the Lord, man. Just put that down. That's not His plans. But discovering His will is important.

I've been teaching the Bible for over 40 years. I love what I do. I am now of retirement age. So I'm here to announce today . . . that I'm not retiring. I love what I do. Unless I fall over like the last year, or get nuts, which is really a couple of steps in the other direction, I want to continue to do what I do. I like what I do. I was on a jury duty a couple of months ago, and sitting in this jury pool, a lady said to all of us, "Man, I hope I get on one of those long juries for like a month, because they pay me and I don't have to go back to work." I thought, it must be horrible to have a job like that. I was sitting here thinking to myself, I want to get on, like, a jury trial for a jaywalker with pictures. "Yeah, there he goes. He's guilty. Can I go home?" I wanted it to be over in like 20 minutes.

And I didn't get to where I was a pastor overnight. I got saved in a home Bible study in 1973 in Bellflower, and fell in love with the Lord. When I got saved, a lot of things just

changed. I quit doing drugs right away. Never drank again from that point forward, but I did a lot of smoking still. That took a while. But I didn't, like, step in to be pastor. So three years I was in this Bible study. 90 people roughly coming every week. The guy was a great teacher. He decided to take a pastorate in Oregon. He left. He said to me, "I'd like you to take over the study." I was already just studying, and I loved what I was doing and I was -- I thought I was pretty good at learning. And I said I'd be happy to. And I took over the study, and honestly -- I think I've told you -- but in 10 or 12 weeks the study went from 90 to three people. Three. 87 people bailed. "Hey, you coming back?" "No. We're busy all of a sudden every day." Nobody wants to come back. I must have stunk. I went and talked to a friend who was a pastor in Long Beach and he said to me, "Look, I'll tell you something I've learned." I said, "What?" He said, "If you're willing to study as much as you're studying to teach one person, God can use you, but if you're not willing to do that unless there's 100 people in the room, you'll never be able to be used." And I took it to heart. And eventually the people came back. Not the same people. Folks who didn't know any better, they started coming back. And God through a natural way began to move me forward, and He'll do the same with you. And these are the steps He follows. And they're not usually steps that you get as advice from people on determining God's will.

There's a lot of folks I know, especially young Christians, they'll go, "I read about the fleece of Gideon, so I'm just laying a fleece before the Lord." That's dumb. They say things like, "Well, if somebody calls me by noon tomorrow, then I'll know." Or, "If the light turns red, I'm going to go left." Okay. You're going to get lost. Or they'll try the Bible roulette method: "I'll just go (indicating). 'Judas went and hung himself.'" Okay. No. Let me try it again. Ready. 'Go and do likewise.' No. 'What you do, do quickly.'" That's not the way to determine God's heart for you at all.

Solomon's counsel here is far wiser, so four little clauses. I know you never thought we'd get to them, but look, here we are. And I'll talk fast. We'll be out of here by 2:00. "Trust in the Lord." The word "trust" is a word in Greek that means to have implicit confidence in. Almost a childlike trust that doesn't waiver when it doesn't understand. This little baby that I had a chance to pray with today, such a cute little girl, and she was looking at me out of the corner of her eye, because she doesn't trust me. She doesn't -- she



had no trust in me. But she would look at her pop and hee-hee-hee, and then look at me like he's just -- I'm keeping an eye on you. That's the kind of faith God wants us to have. He wants us to have a confidence in Him that He will get us to where He wants us to be; that it isn't upon you or dependent upon you to open a door, to kick it in, to make the right contact, to push his way through. If the Lord is in it, He'll get you there. You just trust Him. It doesn't mean you shouldn't be ambitious or try hard or work hard. However, I trust what God's doing. It's all a matter of where I place my confidence. Even when I don't understand, I trust Him. And if I will not trust Him implicitly, I'm going to find 100 reasons to abandon ship along the way. Well, I thought He was going to do this, or I thought He was going to do -- but He didn't and I quit. You'll find lots of reasons to bail out.

When Jeremiah, who was just a teenager, was grabbed by the Lord, He said, "I'm going to send you to the nation and you're going to tell them My Word." It wasn't a good time to go to the nation. Nobody wanted to hear from God. Jeremiah tried to get off the hook. He said, "You know I'm just a kid. They're going to turn away from me. I'm just a kid." And the Lord said, "Don't you ever say to Me you're just a kid. You're My kid and I'm going to give you words and you're going to go speak them and I'll take care of you. Just a kid is not going to work with Me. Trust Me instead." And he did. No confidence in the flesh.

It is only sin and pride that will have you leaning upon your own wisdom and resources. I think that we would rather be -- we would rather hear the words "you have a lot to learn" rather than hearing "you can't do anything without the Lord." Because one gives me hope. I can do it. Other leaves me broke. I can't do anything without Him. I can't do anything without Him. Cursed is the man who trusts in man, makes the flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. That was Jeremiah's word to the people. He's like a shrub in the desert. He won't see when good comes. But blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord.

When Phillip was in Samaria, there was this huge revival. In fact, in the Bible it is next to Jerusalem the greatest revival of the early church's life. People were getting saved right and left, and Phillip was right in the middle. And somewhere along the way, one night the Lord said to him, "Go to the desert." "What do you mean go to the desert?" "Just go to the middle of nowhere. Leave all of this glory

behind and hit the road, boy." Now, if it had been me, I would have very well said that's the devil, because we're packing the stadiums every night. And he was. But he knew it was the Lord, and so he walked forward and went to obey the Lord, fully trusting that God would not lead him astray, and he arrived in the middle of nowhere waiting for further instructions. He trusted the Lord.

Look, you can do that this morning. God isn't going to mess up. He doesn't need your help. He doesn't need a break. He doesn't need you to call somebody. He'll work it out. Trust Him to get you to where He wants you to be. And second of all, the flip side of that is, don't lean on your own understanding, because when it comes to knowing the will of God, your understanding is a faulty counselor for determining His will. I get that there is a lot we can understand, but the will of God for your life is -- comes through revelation, not through book learning, if you will. It comes through revelation. It is inspirational. It isn't striving. It's not perspiration.

There isn't a king or a prophet in the Bible that discerned the will of God simply by saying, "Well, that's how I felt." Or after careful consideration, "This is what I came up with." Nathan, who was a prophet in the days of David, was called to the palace and David said, "Nathan, look around here. I dwell in the most beautiful house made of cedar, and I look out the window and I see the tabernacle of God existing under a tent. You know what I'd like to do? I'd like to spend some state money. I'd like to build the Lord a beautiful house to live in. What do you think about that?" And Nathan went, "Oh-ho-ho, great idea. High five, David. May the Lord bless you in all of your endeavors. Oh, I can't wait to see what that looks like." And he left. And then he went to pray that night and the Lord said, "Hey, Nathan, about that meeting you had with David, what's wrong with you?" "What do you mean?" "I don't need David to build me a house. That was you talking about you, for you. You should have checked with Me." "All right." "Now, you go back and tell him you're wrong." "Eh, telling him the prophet's wrong could get you killed." "Yeah, you go tell him." Because he was being moved by his own feelings and self-confidence. Doesn't mean you shouldn't be educated or have your mind renewed. But it does say this: The plans of God are found by you trusting in the Lord by faith, not by working at it on your own.

Years ago, I was at a pastor's conference in Hawaii, which I really like to go to, teaching with a bunch of guys. Skip

Heitzig was there, and he was teaching on this verse, and I don't remember everything he said, but the line that I remember stuck in my head was when he got to this verse he said, "I walk the straightest when I'm leaning the furthest." And I liked that a lot. When I'm leaning the furthest, when I'm most dependent upon the Lord, I'll walk straightest. I'll find the right path to take. Unfortunately, we often do the opposite. We plan, we brainstorm, we sit together, we come up with the best ideas, and then we go to the Lord and go, "Hey, bless this." Like this is the first time He's getting involved, and you want Him to, like, sprinkle some blessing on it, "There you go." And then you go, "Oh, isn't the Lord good?" No. He had nothing do with this, because we haven't acknowledged Him. We've been leaning on our own understanding.

Instead we should do what verse 6 says. We should acknowledge Him in all of our ways. The word "acknowledge" is a word that means to consider or to recognize, or to place great weight upon. If you acknowledge the Lord, or if you want, let the Lord be involved in all of your planning so that you might be directed. If you will, in all of your ways, acknowledge Him, then He will be able to direct your path.

Go back to Phillip for a minute in the Samaria revival. He walked out of the Samaria revival having to say to a whole staff of people, "The Lord told me to go to the middle of nowhere." "But we have a meeting tonight." "Yeah, I'm sorry. You can handle it. I got to go." And he went 100 miles into the desert, and then he stood there, waiting to be told what to do. He did step one faithfully, then he got to step two; right? If the Lord had come to Phillip in Samaria and said, "Phillip, I know that the place is hopping, but I got a guy from Ethiopia heading home tomorrow from the feast day in Jerusalem. He's going to be in a chariot. He's going to be reading his Bible. He's going to be very confused. He's really ripe for the picking, So I'd like you to go and share with them. In fact, study up on Isaiah 53 tonight. You're going to need it. And then I'll send you out there right where he crosses, and you run over and you join him. You get in there, you preach. It's going to be great. We're going to reach all of Ethiopia. It's going to be really great." Phillip would have said, "Cool. I'm in." Didn't happen that way. The Lord just said, "Go to the middle of nowhere and I'll let you know what to do." And that's how often God works with us. He doesn't lay it out. We would like Him to give us the whole agenda. Here's your agenda, and then we'd like a pencil. "Yeah, that's not going to work

for me. That's a bad idea. I'll change that." We'd like to have editing privileges when it comes to God's plans. Well, it just doesn't work. So what do we read? "In all your ways acknowledge Him."

But Nehemiah was finally called out in Chapter 2 by the king for having the long face. The king said, "What do you want?" You'll read these words, "And I prayed to the God of heaven and I said to the king." It's all one sentence. "In all your ways acknowledge Him." And that's what God wants. He would like to be intimately involved with your daily life. He would like you to be checking in with headquarters more often.

When we were at the party here, the Block Party last week, there was one of the games where you had to throw a little ball into something, and the kid was maybe three or four years old. And he was trying, but he's three or four. He's not even close. So he grabs the ball, and he turns around and he says this, "Daddy, help me." You should have seen the dad beam. "Yes, I can throw a ball. Come, my son. I'll show you." And the kid was happy, and the dad was happy. And if in all your ways you'll acknowledge Him, God will be happy. Just don't run around on your own. Why bother when there's so much help available? You've been bought with a price.

If you watch the life of Abraham, Genesis Chapter 12 and on, you will find that every time he stops in a place for longer than a day, he builds an altar. The only reason for the altar is fellowship with God; prayer and worship. He does it a lot. When he later on sends Eliezer, his son, to go back into the land where he had grown up to find a wife for his son, Isaac, he gave Eliezer specific instructions. What he didn't tell him was look for a good-looking woman, which I think would have upset Isaac. "Did you say about looking good? Did you say that?" No. He didn't say anything about age or status or wealth. He just gave him specific instructions by which he could discover who God had chosen for his son. If you follow Eliezer those next couple of chapters there, Chapter 24, he is walking towards a place that he says to the Lord, "Help me. Guide my feet. Show me where to go, what to do. Bring the right woman." He shows up at a place where the animals are being watered and all, and this woman comes up and she begins to talk to him, and he realizes she's from the same family that he was sent to. And then she comes and says, "Why don't you come stay at our house? We can feed your animals and take care of you and you can rest with us." And he just -- he couldn't believe it. You get to Chapter 24, verse 26 and 27, and it says that Eliezer got on his face

worshipping God. And he began to say, as he bowed down, "Blessed be the Lord God of my father, who hasn't forsaken His mercy to me or to my master. And as I was on the way, the Lord led me here." He acknowledged that it was just a matter of praying as he went that God directed his path. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He'll direct your path. The word "direct" there means to make straight or to prosper, depending on the context of where this word is found.

If we could be delivered by trusting in our own counsel, then it would be one thing, but the Lord would say that we shouldn't trust in our own counsel. We should trust in Him. And we should pray more rather than less, and then we can find ourselves as a result of those two or three things standing right where God wants us to be: On the path to what He might have planned for us that we don't even see yet. We'll be on the road. We won't be in a ditch somewhere or waylaid somewhere or heading in the wrong direction. We'll be right where God wants us to be. How do I do that? I trust in the Lord with all of my heart. And I don't make those kind of decisions solely upon my brain power. Instead, I do more praying and less planning. Now, I know that that's maybe bad counsel, and pulled out of the context it would be, but more praying and less counsel is not bad when it comes to discovering His will. Reject leaning on your own understanding, lean on Him. The more you lean, the stronger and straighter you'll walk.

Chapter 32 of the Psalms, the Lord said to us, "I will instruct you and guide you in the way that you should go; I'll guide you with My eye. Don't be like a horse, don't be like a mule, who through bit and bridle have to be controlled, lest they won't come near you. Many sorrows will come to the wicked, but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy will surround him." In Isaiah Chapter 48, "The Lord said, the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'I'm the Lord your God. I will teach you to profit. I'll lead you in the way that you should go. Oh, just heed my commandments! You'll have peace like a river, and righteousness like the waves of the sea.'" He said in Chapter 30 to the people through Isaiah, "And if you'll walk with Me, you'll hear behind you a voice saying 'Turn left, walk this way, go right.'" God will be near to guide your steps. He said to them in Chapter 42, "I will lead the blind in a way that they don't know; I will lead them in paths that they haven't known. I will make the darkness light, and their crooked ways straight. These things I'll do for them, not forsake them."

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And don't bother just trying to figure it out. Let God be God. That's what He wants to be. And you be His children. Go to Him often. Daddy, help me. Good, good phrase. Abba, Father.

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and wonderful works to the children of men!" Trust, emptying of yourself, prayer, an acknowledgment of His ways. Is that too hard? Not so hard; right? All right. So read your bulletins.