

Proverbs 3

My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; 20 By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes—Keep sound wisdom and discretion; 22 So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. 23 Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble. 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; 26 For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught. 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you. 29 Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety's sake. 30 Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm. 31 Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; 32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright. 33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. 34 Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

How would you like the Lord to direct each step you take? It sounds like a pretty good plan to me. The most famous verses in this chapter are verses 5 and 6 where Solomon writes, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." In order for the Lord to direct our paths there are three things that must happen first. They are:

1. **Trust in the Lord with all your heart** – I like this word trust. To me it describes a deeper aspect of our faith than the word believe does. Trust takes faith out of the mind and puts it into action. We must trust that:
 - God knows more than we do. Why else would you want Him to direct your paths?
 - God desires to take us on the path that leads us where we want to go.
 - God has the ability to remove the obstacles that make the path difficult. Jesus tells us that the path that leads to eternal life is narrow and difficult. We must trust that God can deliver us safely down this straight and narrow path.
 2. **Lean not on your own understanding.** – Sometimes we think we know better than God. We don't! God's understanding is always right. God himself says in **Isa 55:8-9** "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,*" declares the LORD. *As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
- When what we think contradicts what God has revealed, we're wrong!
3. In all your ways acknowledge Him. This work acknowledge carries with it the idea of committing your entire way of thinking to Him. Consider 1 Chron 28:9-10 where David says to Solomon, "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it."

Only after we have trust in God, forsake our own understanding, and acknowledge Him will he direct our paths.