



August 24, 2014 | The Outcome of Worship | Proverbs 3:5-8

Reading one chapter of Proverbs a day is a great way to grow in wisdom. We're encouraging everyone at Valley to do so this summer. (See the plan at valleycommunity.cc/resources/proverbs.)

[Q] This past week, as you read through Proverbs, did you find something that you can apply to your life? Please share with the group. (We're asking this question each week this summer.)

Proverbs 3:5-8

[Q] Discuss: In what area of life do you need guidance from God?

Read Proverbs 3:5-8:

- 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 will make your paths straight.*
⁷ *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*
⁸ *This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.* NIV

[Q] Other than God, what/who do you tend to lean on, or put trust in? (3:5)
Note: To trust means "to lean our whole weight upon".

- My own understanding
- People
- Profession
- Possessions
- Religion – my good deeds

[Q] What is the problem with trusting these good things?

Leaning not on your own understanding doesn't mean turning off your brain. The caution is for us not to depend on our own wisdom and experience or the wisdom and experience of others. (Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Skillful*, "Be" Commentary Series)

[Q] What is to be the quality and extent of our trust according to Proverbs 3:5-6?

In the Bible, the heart is not the seat of emotions as we think of it. Rather the heart is the center of thinking, treasuring and deciding. It is the mind. (Dan Phillips, *God's Wisdom in Proverbs*)

[Q] Read Proverbs 3:1-4. What are you to do with your heart in this section?

[Q] What would it look like for you to trust God wholeheartedly with the item you mentioned in the beginning discussion question?

Acknowledge means: to know

- Know Him in all your journeys/directions in life
- Know that He is Lord over and in all situations

[Q] What are some practical ways that we can *acknowledge* God in our daily lives?

[Q] How can acknowledging God *in all our ways* turn into worship?

[Q] Who are we really worshipping if we are leaning on our own understanding (3:5) or being wise in our own eyes? (3:7)

[Q] How might we miss God's guidance if we are wise in our own eyes?

Straight paths means: right or righteous paths, not crooked or evil, not smooth or easy.

[Q] If you are worshipping and treasuring Christ, putting your whole weight on Him, acknowledging Him in all the details of your life, HOW do you think He will guide you in His right paths?

[Q] How will you worship Him this week?

Pray

And so, ...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:9-10 (ESV)
