

We like to maintain some degree of control over what is happening. *Proverbs* reminds us God is wiser than we are, and he has the ability to address issues we cannot. We are challenged to trust God with what we think we know, what we know, and what we cannot comprehend. As we live in obedience to him, he will guide us.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. *Proverbs 3:5,6*

1. Trust God

Trust in the LORD with all your heart

The English definition of trust points toward the belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something. The Hebrew concept of trust paints a picture of throwing oneself down as a servant might to receive instructions or casting hopes for the present and future on another. The wise biblical writer seeks to challenge God's people to turn to him rather than the substitutes we are tempted to choose when taking matters into our own hands.

When we think about our faith-talk, it is odd that we surrender all to Jesus in a step of faith and then live as if all depends on our ability to negotiate life's issues.

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. *Psalm 20:7*

2. Recognize Limitations

lean not on your own understanding

Do not be wise in your own eyes...

Proverbs 3:7

He who trusts in himself is a fool...

Proverbs 28:26

The writer compares leaning on one's own understanding to leaning on a broken crutch. The psalmist reminds us of the way God gave people what they asked for and along with it, they got an empty heart (*Psalm 106:15, The Message*). When we know God's way and choose our own way, we are claiming we know better than God. Perhaps we should learn to pray: *Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.* *Psalm 25:4, 5*

3. Exhibit Faithfulness

in all your ways acknowledge him

Jesus taught us to seek to live our lives honoring God. When he taught us to pray, he reminded us prayer is not about getting our will done in heaven but about getting God's will done on earth. That will not happen if our relationship with God is built around our desire to get God to do what we want. To acknowledge God, we must *love the Lord our God with all our souls and with all our minds and with all our strength....and love our neighbor as ourselves.* *Mark 12:30, 31*

Yes, we may well have misunderstandings, sickness, and distress, but we need to trust God in them. We may also see good fortune, success, and joy, and trust God in them. (refer to *Philippians 4:10-13*)

4. Keep Straight

and he will make your paths straight

The Old Testament writer introduces us to the coming of our Lord with language from his day. *In the desert prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.* *Isaiah 40:3,4*

Before the king could come, roads had to be repaired and the buildings on the side of the road freshened. This language is meant to tell us to mend our ways by addressing the rubbish and broken places in our lives. On the highway, we would go around these places. In life, we are tempted to ignore them. But to know the best of God, we need to address them in God's way.

A man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. *Proverbs 5:21*

Where trusting God has been replaced by doing things your way, it is time to acknowledge God and let God direct your path.

