

Lessons From The Proverbs - Lesson 5

Finding The Straight Path

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Rev. John F. Kenney

The steps of life can be very hazardous without a clear sense of direction. **Wisdom can be understand as God's roadmap to clear living.** Because we struggle with the uncertainties of life and we find difficulty in always making the right decision, we need a roadmap to follow.

Proverbs is a priceless book in the life of the believer and wisdom is always appreciated when there is a noticeable absence of wisdom. We don't truly appreciate the value of wisdom in our lives until we've suffered as a result of a lack of applied wisdom to our lives. It's one thing to know **what** to do but it's another thing to **do** what you know you need to do.

How To Find The Straight Path

1) **Resist Trusting Yourself** - (vs.1-6) Our wills, desires and affections must be subject to the Word of God. Love for the Word and faithfulness to the Word are both actions and attitudes and we can't rely merely on thoughts and words. A faithful person not only believes the truth but they also work for justice.

Leaning has the sense of putting your whole weight on something, resting or trusting in that person or thing. Loving and serving God means that we believe that God can and will do what's best for us; can and will do what He has promised he will do. **Trusting in God requires putting our full weight upon God's ability, reliability, dependability and capability in managing the affairs of our lives.**

Trusting in God means that we are always willing to listen to AND corrected by God's Word. Those who KNOW themselves recognize that they lack the level of understanding to help then navigate the nuisances of life. **Trusting in God and acknowledging God in ALL our ways means that we turn every area of our lives over to God.**

We cannot restrict or ignore God's influence in our lives and God influences us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

2) **Live With Humility** (vs.7-8) - Living with humility requires a healthy awareness of one's own deficiencies. The greatest enemy of humility is self-sufficiency. Living with humility requires living a life subject to the will of God, which is shaped by our submission to the Spirit of God. Humility "nourishes" us as a result of our willingness to be led and guided by the wisdom of God.

Humility forces us to evaluate our own inability to make all the right and necessary decisions for the well-being of our lives. Living with humility is an indication that there has been a "shifting of our weight" as it relates to our placement of trust. By definition humility means "lack of pride" and we are reminded that "pride comes before the fall".

Therefore if falling is the result of pride, then humility is the result of "upright living" . Upright not from the standpoint that mistakes won't be made, sin won't be experienced, failures won't be realized but upright means that my feet will always arrive on level ground. God gives "**grace to the humble**" (Proverbs 3:34) and God's grace enables the faithful to live triumphantly through the grey-areas of life (**those areas of life where the option is not bad vs. good but rather better vs. best; great vs. greater**)

QUESTIONS

- 1) In what areas of your life have you failed to acknowledge God?
- 2) In what ways has your pride negativity affected your life?
- 3) What steps do you need to take in order to find the straight path?