

BECOMING Wiser

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do get, good judgment.
Proverbs 4:7

LESSON 5 // WISDOM TO GUIDE YOUR DECISIONS (PART 1)

Guidance, decision-making, choices. These are important and sometimes intimidating words.

We all need wise guidance to make good decisions and right choices. People do all kinds of things, including foolish things, to find guidance for their decisions and choices.

It's valuable and reassuring to know that God wants to be your Source for guidance. He has given you a book of Divine Guidance. The Bible truly is a Guidebook for Life.

God wants you to make wise choices and decisions. In the wisdom of His Word, you will find principles that guarantee clear guidance—if you follow these principles!

Proverbs 3:5, 6 is one of the many passages in Scripture that lay out some wise, simple guidance principles:

Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NKJV) *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.*

Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NLT) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

How can you receive God's guidance and make the right decisions? How can you make sure you stay in God's will? You need to:

1. Address your trust issues.

Trust issues develop when a person has been hurt, rejected, abandoned or dismissed by significant people, especially if this has happened repeatedly.

Guidance from God starts with trust in God. You will never discover and fully walk in God's will for your life unless you trust God and what He "wills" or "wants" for your life.

How can you address your "trust issues" with God?

- Believe that God is loving and good and knows and only wants the best for your life.
- Seek healing from the hurts that hinder your trust.
- Obey God's instructions, believing for His blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1, 2; Isaiah 1:19; Jeremiah 17:7; Matthew 7:24, 25).

2. Adjust your “lean.”

Your natural tendency is to “lean to your own understanding.” This tendency can keep you from receiving and walking in God’s guidance because there are lots of problems and weaknesses with your understanding.

Your understanding is very limited, deceptive and contaminated with faulty thinking (Isaiah 55:8, 9; Jeremiah 17:9, 10; Proverbs 14:12; Ephesians 4:22-24). It is easily influenced by natural human thinking, wrong people and misinterpreted circumstances (1 Corinthians 2:14; 15:33), and it can also be influenced by your spiritual adversary (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 2:25, 26).

God’s understanding always exceeds yours. Lean on it to receive His guidance.

3. Acknowledge God’s attention, authority and availability.

Getting God’s guidance involves “acknowledging Him” in all your ways. This means that you:

- Stay continually aware of God’s attention. He’s got His eyes on you!
- Consistently submit to God’s authority. He has the right to tell you what to do and not do.
- Remember God’s constant availability. He never leaves you!

4. Anticipate God’s supernatural guidance.

Proverbs 3:5, 6 contain a wonderful promise. If you walk wisely, doing what God asks you to do, He will “direct your paths” (or “make your paths straight”—NIV).

When we do our part, we can expect and anticipate that God will do His part. He will get you where you need to be, doing what you need to be doing, as you address your trust issues, adjust your “lean,” acknowledge God in all your ways and believe that He will direct your paths.

Discussion questions

1. In what ways do you struggle to “trust in the Lord with all your heart”? How can you address any “trust issues” that may be part of this struggle?
2. Read Isaiah 55:8, 9, Jeremiah 17:9, 10 and Proverbs 14:12. What do these verses tell you about the difference between your understanding and God’s understanding? In what ways does this encourage you to “adjust your lean”?
3. Why is it so important to submit to God’s authority if you want His guidance in your life? What happens when you consistently submit to Him and obey His Word?