



# FOOLPROOF

## THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS

### CONNECT

- Have you ever needed to confront someone who was about to make a foolish decision? What happened?
- Describe a time where you had to rely on someone else's experience or knowledge in making a decision

### WORD

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."

Proverbs 3:5 -7 (NIV)

### THOUGHT

Trust in the Lord in every area of your life!

Proverbs 3:5-7 applies to all believers, but even more to those who are in the service to God. God never chooses anyone to work for Him because of their training and ability within themselves. God chooses people like Jeremiah, who was just a lad with no formal training. Jeremiah doubted his ability because of his youth, yet God put the words in Jeremiah's mouth (Jeremiah 1:9) to give to the people. When we depend upon our own ability, we fall short. For ministers of God to be effective, it must be God speaking and working through them. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

Proverbs 3:6 "in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

## THOUGHT CONTINUED...

Three commands are given in verses 5 and 6: Trust, meaning rely and depend on; Lean not, meaning do not depend on your own native instincts, and Acknowledge him, meaning have fellowship and intimacy with God in all aspects of your life. The result of such devotion is that God will make the paths straight before you.

Here, again, we get into our self-will. We have to be willing to accept God's help and to give God the credit for a job well done. As Christians, we must first make sure the Lord is in the things we're pursuing. Proverbs 16:3 holds a command and a promise: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed." True success can only come when we submit our will to the Lord.

Along with trusting God and submitting our will to Him, we must also acknowledge, or give the praise and honor to God, constantly. The author of Hebrews writes, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Hebrews 13:15) In this way, our trust in God reflects in a lifestyle of gratitude and declaration for all He has done for us.

Proverbs 3:7 "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."

The most dangerous thing, if you are trying to succeed in the world, is to get satisfied with yourself. You cannot grow with an attitude of complacency. When we rely upon our self, we are always disappointed. No one likes a know-it-all or a conceited person. We must remain humble. What little knowledge that we do have is because of God's generosity towards us.

The fear of the Lord will take away all arrogance and pride. In the first chapter of Proverbs, we learned that the fear of the Lord is true wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). Fear here could be looked at again as reverence or high praise instead of physical terror. When we see God as he truly is, this is an appropriate reaction, and further underscores the need for us to give Him the glory for everything.

## DISCUSSION

1. How can we know if God is trustworthy?
2. Where does true wisdom come from?

## DISCUSSION CONTINUED...

3. Have there been times in your life where you've seen God direct your path when you've submitted to Him?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- In which areas of your life can you begin trusting God more fully this week?

## PRAYER

- Are there successes in your life that you haven't attributed to God? Confess and proclaim God's goodness in your life to others.