

Finding God's Will Proverbs 3:5-6

Introduction:

A. Familiar Verses

1. Years ago Kellogg's had an advertisement for Corn Flakes that showed a bowl of old fashioned Corn Flakes, the kind we ate years and years ago, and the ad said, "Corn Flakes, taste them again for the first time."
2. Sometimes we get used to certain texts in the Bible and they're kind of like Corn Flakes.
 - a) We've heard these over and over again.
 - b) The memory verses for last week and this week are like that.
 - c) If we were in a testimony meeting and asked people to share favorite verses, somebody would stand and say these verses because they are ones that we all love.
 - d) Proverbs 3:5-6 - turn to them and taste them again for the first time!
 - ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
 - ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

B. The Good News!

1. The question that is most often asked by Christians is, "How can I find God's purpose/will for my life?"
2. But here's the good news.
 - a) Our text tells us, and many other texts tell us, that God will guide us in His will.
 - b) Would you like to have the assurance that God is guiding your life?
3. Isaiah 58:11 (ESV)
 - ¹¹ And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.
 - a) Now, isn't that awesome?
 - b) Not off and on, not haphazardly - "the LORD will guide you continually..."
4. Psalm 32:8 (NKJV)
 - ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.
 - a) Are you close enough to the Lord He can guide you with His eye?
 - b) God promised to do that!

C. God's Workmanship - Ephesians 2:10.

- ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
1. Workmanship = *poiema* = literally means we're His poem, we're His work of art.
 - a) Before He saved us, God had a wonderful purpose for our lives.
 - b) There's a Father above us who's directing all things.
 - c) There's the Savior beside us guiding our footsteps.
 - d) There is the Holy Spirit within us directing our hearts.
 - e) We have a God who will guide us.
 2. Psalm 37:23: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord..."
 - a) The steps—step by step by step—our heavenly Father wants to guide us and lead us.
 - b) And He has a plan and a purpose for each one of us.
 - c) I am where God wants me.
 - d) And if you're in a business, if you're in a job, if you're in school, whatever you're doing, if you are in the will of God, there is no higher calling or place than being in the will of God.
 3. Let's look at four steps, that come out of our memory verses.
 4. They help us to find, to follow, and to finish God's will for our life.

I. Let God Choose the Way – v. 5

A. Trust the Lord – v. 5a

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
- ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
1. In order to let God choose the way, you've got to have confidence in God because we're not told to trust a proposition.
 - a) This is not a script or a formula.

- b) You have to have a vital connectivity with God Himself.
- 2. "Trust in the Lord..."
 - a) In the Lord, a person who is totally trustworthy.
- 3. You can't trust somebody that you don't know and you don't love.
 - a) You can know them and still not trust them.
 - b) As a matter of fact, that might be the reason you don't trust them because you know them.
 - c) But if you really love a person, then you trust them.
- 4. For example, if Betty said to me, "Dan'l, close your eyes and open your mouth," then I would do it!
 - a) She would take something wonderful that she has created that is delicious and probably chocolate.
 - b) If a perfect stranger told me, "Shut your eyes and open your mouth," there is no way I would do it because I don't know them.
 - c) I love Betty and she loves me, and I know that she loves me so much she would never willingly harm or embarrass or hurt me in any way.
 - d) You cannot trust someone you do not love and you cannot love someone you do not know.
 - e) And you cannot know someone you don't spend time with.
 - f) The reason many people do not know God's will for their lives is they do not love Him because they don't trust Him because they do not know Him.
 - g) We're to trust in the Lord with all of our heart.
 - h) To know Him is to love Him.
 - i) To love Him is to trust Him.
 - j) To trust Him is to obey Him.
 - k) To obey Him is to be blessed.

B. "... lean not to your own understanding." – v. 5b

- 1. One of the hardest things for us to do is to set aside our own personal wisdom and to stop trusting in it.
 - a) Proverbs 3:7, says, "Be not wise in your own eyes..."
 - b) Most of us are wise in our own eyes.
- 2. Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."
 - a) You can be wise in your own eyes, and it can seem right to you.
 - b) That's where we get in trouble sometimes because we trust our own wisdom and human ingenuity rather than trusting in the Lord.
- 3. Jeremiah 10:23 "I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."
 - a) Jeremiah is saying don't trust your own understanding.
 - b) Lay your pride in the dust and say, "God, I don't have what I need," and don't be afraid to let God choose the way.
- 4. Are you willing?
 - a) Are you really willing to let God choose the way?
 - b) "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths."

C. Noah Trusted God

- 1. And Noah acknowledged God in all his ways and did not lean on his own understanding and God directed his paths.
- 2. Someone wrote: All I will ever need to know I learned from Noah.
 - a) Don't miss the boat.
 - b) Remember that we are all in the same boat.
 - c) Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark .
 - d) Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big.
 - e) Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
 - f) Build your future on high ground.
 - g) Speed isn't everything. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
 - h) When you're stressed, float awhile.
 - i) Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
 - j) No matter what the storm, when you are with God there's always a rainbow waiting.
- 3. Noah was a man who trusted God.
 - a) What did God do for him and his family?
 - b) God saved Noah and his family from certain destruction.