

21ST CENTURY WISDOM Part 6

Trusting in the Lord is the Anchor

ANCHOR PICTURE

Building Block: Make a 'stake-in-the-ground' decision to TRUST GOD.

When the STORMS come in, if you do not have that ANCHOR deep, firm & strong, you will be TOSSED TO & FRO.

Big Line: STABILITY does not depend on your CIRCUMSTANCES; it depends on your ANCHOR.

→ *What do the storms of life tend to look like for you? In general, do your circumstances shake you or does that anchor keep you stable?*

→ *Why is it that you can confidently trust God?*

The SEQUENCE of PROVERBS 3:5-6

1. The primary decision SHOULD, indeed MUST be a determination to TRUST GOD with ALL your heart.

2. Resist all temptation to LEAN on your own understanding.

3. In ALL your ways SUBMIT to Him.

4. And HE will make your paths STRAIGHT.

→ *Have you driven that trust stake into the ground, once and for all? What are the things that tempt you to lean & how often do you give in to them?*

THE BREAKDOWN = We EXPECT God to make our paths straight, but, in reality, we're not 'DOING' Prov 3:5-6.

* When push comes to shove, do we REALLY trust God?

→ *Is it irrational to 'expect' God to make our paths straight if we're ignoring the instruction of Proverbs 3?*

→ *What does it mean to say, 'He makes our paths straight?'*

If TRUST is the ANCHOR, what's that got to do with wisdom?

A choice to trust God will ALWAYS lead you TOWARDS wisdom.

DOUBTING, MISTRUSTING, IGNORING God will always lead you AWAY FROM wisdom and into FOOLISHNESS.

→ *Are these two statements true? Always?*

1. You make far wiser decisions when you TRUST GOD to fix it, rather than trying to fix it YOURSELF.

* Key Revelation = God is CLEVERER than me (Isaiah 55:8-9).

In what ways / under what circumstances do we tend to trust ourselves?

a) IMPATIENCE

b) VENGEANCE / UNFORGIVENESS

c) When we trust / follow our own FEARS

→ *Are you vulnerable to any of that trio? How, and perhaps more importantly, why?*

→ *"It's a great relief to know that God is cleverer than you and you don't need to have all the answers." Discuss!*

2. You make far wiser decisions when you go the WORD way, rather than the WORLD way.

* Every time you CHOOSE the Word, you take a step onto the ROCK. Every time you REJECT, IGNORE, FORGET the Word, you take a step onto the SAND (Matt 7:24-27).

* More often than not, our decision whether to choose the WORLD'S way or the WORD way comes down to TRUST.

→ *Where does choosing to follow the Word take you? To what possible places might rejecting, ignoring or forgetting the Word take you?*

→ *For you, is it reject, ignore or forget? Or is it another verb altogether?*

10 Pithy Proverbs

What do you reckon the Bible has to say about these ...

a) A leopard cannot change its spots (Rom 12:2, Psalm 51:10)

b) A problem shared is a problem halved (1 Peter 5:7)

c) Beauty is in the eye of the beholder (Psalm 139:14, 1 Sam 16:7)

d) God helps them that help themselves (Prov 3:5-6, Heb 4:14-16, John 14:25-26)

e) Ignorance is bliss (Ps 14:1, Eph 4:18, Prov 4:5-9)

f) Money makes the world go round (Phil 4:11,19, 1 Tim 6:10)

g) Revenge is a dish best served cold (Rom 12:17-21, Matt 18:21-22, Mark 11:24)

h) The ends justify the means (Prov 14:21, 1 Pet 1:15-16)

i) What you don't know can't hurt you (Hos 4:6, John 8:32)

j) You have to kiss a lot of toads before you find a handsome prince

3. You make far wiser decisions when you trust the IMPULSE of the SPIRIT, rather than the INSTINCT of the FLESH.

* The Spirit of Wisdom & Revelation will ALWAYS lead you to BETTER PLACES (Rom 8:6-9).

* FLESH will always lead you AWAY FROM God.

* In the whim of the moment / at crunch point, flesh will cry out, 'FOLLOW ME,' but it is RARELY WISE.

→ *Why is the flesh the enemy of godly wisdom? Where does Rom 8 say the flesh leads you? What about the Spirit?*

STRONG TRUST: Trust comes out of RELATIONSHIP.

You CAN trust God and the better you KNOW Him, the more you'll FEEL ABLE to trust Him.

→ *If God is, by definition, by character and by reputation, utterly trustworthy, why do we sometimes struggle to trust Him? And how can we change that?*

How do we grow that trust?

- i) Feed on the WORD (Romans 10:17).
- ii) Be a WORSHIPPER (Prov 14:26 AMP).
- iii) Dialogue in PRAYER (Jude 1:20).
- iv) Spend time with people of FAITH (Prov 27:17).

→ *Which one of those jumps out at you today? What are you intending to do to grow your trust in that area and how can we pray for you?*