



Trusting God

To ensure that we are trusting the Lord, let's turn to **Proverbs 3** in the Word of God for help with this.

This portion of Scripture outlines 6 steps we can take daily to make sure we are trusting God (adapted from biblestudytools.com). Let's look at each verse and the corresponding step.

1. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding." (Proverbs 3: 5)

When difficulties or struggles happen, God calls us to trust in Him and not ourselves. We are to rest in God's wisdom and trust Him completely by consciously laying aside our plans and expectations and surrendering to Him. This can be challenging! To trust God, we need to know who He truly is. How do you trust someone you don't really know?

Take the time now to ask yourself the following Clarifying Questions:

- Who do you say God is?

- What does Scripture say about who God is? (*Check out Psalms 103*)

- What does TRUSTING GOD mean to you?

- How are you trusting God currently?



2. *"In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."* (vs. 6)

Acknowledging God begins in our hearts with a desire for Him and moves to an outward expression of practicing an awareness of His presence with us throughout our day. We will intentionally seek His will in our lives. Faith-filled affirmations of trust and surrender will draw us closer to the Lord.

Clarifying Questions:

- How do you include Jesus Christ/God in your decision making?

- What does acknowledging God in your everyday life look like?

3. *"Fear the Lord and turn away from evil."* (vs. 7)

Turning away from earthly pleasures and sin is not easy. Yet, God instructs us to *"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."* (2 Timothy 2:22). When we revere God, remembering He is holy and reject all evil, we are demonstrating our trust and faith in Him. We are looking to Him to meet our needs and separating ourselves from those things that drag us down and keep us apart from Him.

Clarifying Questions:

- What changes do you need to make in your life to pursue righteousness and peace?



- How are you separating yourself from things that displease God and drag you down?
- What gets in the way of making right choices?

4. “Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so that your barns will be filled with plenty.” (vs. 9 & 10)

Make God your first priority. Our earthly culture encourages us to put ourselves first, reward ourselves when things are going well and console ourselves or blame others when things go wrong. If we truly love and trust God by putting Him first in every area of our life (finances, relationships, jobs, etc.), He promises to bless us, teach us and prepare us to do HIS work.

Clarifying Questions:

- What is first in your life?
- If God is not first, how can you change that?



- How will making God first benefit you?

5. *"Do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent His rebuke."* (vs. 11)

Because God loves us and sees the whole of our lives, He knows what is best for us. Even in times where we feel disciplined or corrected, we can trust that all God is doing, is for our good. His loving truth can always be found in His Holy Word and aligning to God's Word is the true measure of Trust.

Clarifying Questions:

- When have you felt God's discipline in your life?
- How has God's discipline worked for good in your life?
- How has God's discipline strengthened your trust in Him?

6. *"Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son He delights in."* (vs. 12)

We all experience circumstances that make us wonder where God is, if He sees us and if He cares. The truth is, God is with us in the midst of every situation.



He sees the greater picture of who we are and what we need. When we understand that God uses challenges to shape us into who He created us to be, it changes the perspective completely. Our setbacks are no longer failures, but opportunities for our loving Father to work in our lives.

Often we transfer the shortcoming of our earthly father to our Heavenly Father. We must conscientiously remember that God is our perfect Father, the One we always longed for and needed. Matthew 7:11 reminds us, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

This verse assures us of God's goodness and that is why we can trust in Him with all our hearts. Our Heavenly Father cares for us every day and gives us what we need to thrive. He continuously pours His blessing upon us. He is perfectly good.

Clarifying Questions:

- How has your experience of your earthly father impacted what you believe about your Heavenly Father? Does what you believe about Him align with Scripture?

- What do you need from your perfect Father in Heaven?

- Describe a time in your life when God turned a difficult experience into a positive learning.



Following these 6 steps from Proverbs 3 every day is not easy, but it will help you move toward trusting God more. Trusting the Lord takes true commitment as well as understanding Him in truth (both in our mind and heart). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust God more. We are never alone; He is in it with us.