

TRUSTING GOD

TRUSTING GOD AUGUST 14, 2022 FACILITATOR GUIDE

FINDING YOUR WAY

GPS is a satellite-based system that puts a map at your fingertips. No need to keep a map in your car (and know how to fold it back up!). Sometimes, however, there are some directional issues.

New iPhones apparently come equipped with a very specific Apple Maps error that has been directing people to drive right onto an active runway at a major Alaska airport. Two different people courageously ignored numerous security gates and drove onto the tarmac before it had to be barricaded completely.

Sabine Morceau of Belgium got into her car and told her GPS to give her the best route to pick up her friend in Brussels, which is 90 miles away and probably around a two-hour trip. Morceau finally realized that the device had led her astray two days later after she had driven 900 miles across Europe.

Have you ever had a GPS mishap?

Have you ever gotten lost while on your way somewhere?

Have you ever been led astray in life by someone who told you one thing, but things turned out totally different?

Have you ever questioned the direction your life has taken?

Are you where you thought you would be when you were 16?

Do you think you chose the right path? Why or why not?

In case you have questions about which path is the right one for you to take in life, let's look at what Solomon's GPS says:

Proverbs 3:5-6—

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.

There are four phrases within these two verses. Let's break these down.

1. TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Is it easier or harder to trust God or man? Why? [Some will say it is easier to trust man because you can see and talk to them. Others will probably say it is easier to trust God because man will nearly always let you down.]

Would you describe yourself as more of a thinker or feeler?

Does trust come from the heart (emotion) or the head (think/know)?

John 20:29 —Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Mark 9:24 —Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

How are the heart and the head related when it comes to trust? [The head must make the choice to trust based on what it knows to be true. The heart needs to support the belief. The more we determine to have trust, the more the heart will believe.]

So then, how does wrong thinking lead to problematic feelings and actions?

2. DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

What is something that you've attempted to do, only to find out you didn't have the right knowledge or skill set to do it?

What do you think don't “lean on your own understanding” means? [Don't rely on your own strengths. Completely depend on God. Let go of what you *think* you know.]

Which of your traits do you tend to have the most confidence in—your education, your money, your looks, your talents, your natural abilities, etc.?

When was the last time you prayed over a decision—financial, business move, a relationship, an educational choice, or an action?

Do you think you sometimes depend on your natural gifts and resources to get you by first, then resort to prayer when things are in question?

3. IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

Acknowledge in Hebrew is “yada.” It means “to **KNOW** or to **RECOGNIZE**.”

When you pass an acquaintance, how do you acknowledge them? [Say hello, wave, nod, etc.]

How do you greet a dear friend? [Talk, hug, share deep concern, laugh, etc.]

When someone has achieved a great milestone, how do you acknowledge them? [Honor them, celebrate them, show respect, etc.]

This tells us there are varying levels of “acknowledgement” depending on your depth of relationship and/or the person’s achievement.

In what ways may people who have only a surface relationship acknowledge God? [Wear cross jewelry, point to the sky after scoring in sports, go to church, use God’s name in a conversation, sing, etc.]

How might a person with a deep relationship and love for God acknowledge Him? [Praise in all situations, speak a heartfelt prayer, give honor, show great respect, obey His commands, give Him all the credit for the good things, etc.]

Do you consider your acknowledgement of God as being like one with a deep love for Him or only a surface relationship?

Revelation 4:9-11—And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

4. AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS

Of these four phrases, the first one is **POSITIVE**. [Do this.]

The second one is **NEGATIVE**. [Don’t do this.]

The third one is **POSITIVE**. [Do this.]

What is the fourth (He will make straight your paths) phrase? [It is a promise—the result that happens when we obey the other three.]

Commentator Matthew Henry puts it this way:

Those that faithfully follow the pillar of cloud and fire shall find that though it may lead them about it leads them the right way and will bring them to Canaan at last. The paths of life on which the Lord leads us often seem winding and bumpy to us. Yet from God's perspective—which is the only perspective that matters—these paths are straight and smooth, taking us exactly where He wants us to go.

Notice that the word “paths” is plural—indicating more than one.

Exodus 13:17—Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.”

**Why didn't God lead the Israelites on a direct path to the Promised Land?
[Because they were ready to face a war with another country. Several other times God detoured them from their destination because they weren't up to face the challenge.]**

If you feel that you have somehow messed up the path that God had planned for your life, don't worry! There is more than one path that leads to the destination God has planned for your life. He knows when you aren't ready for certain challenges. Likewise, if you run into obstacles and challenges on your journey, you can be sure that it is because God is with you and knows you can handle it.

When you encounter obstacles, check yourself to make sure you are trusting God, relying on Him only, and acknowledging Him as one who has a true relationship with Him.

PRAYER TIME

- As you pray spend time giving God the acknowledgment He deserves. Take time to count your blessings and give Him honor for guiding you the way He wants you to go.
- Pray for wisdom to have the trust you need to step out and face the challenges before you.
- Ask God daily to lead you to the destiny He has planned for you.