

- What do we learn about this kind of wisdom in the life of Solomon (1 Kings/2 Chronicles)?
  1. It **comes** from God (1 Kings 4:29)
  2. It **increases** through prayer (2 Chron 1.10; James 1.5)
  3. It **surpasses** worldly wisdom (1 Kings 4.30)
  4. It **distinguishes** God's people (1 Kings 4.34)
  5. It is **embodied** in Jesus Christ (Col 2.2-3)

### *Background to Proverbs 3:1ff*

- This manual for Life's-Training is so profound, so rich, so relevant, so sufficient, so divine! It's the Truth for Youth; It's a Father's guidebook for His Son. It's to give you ***Wisdom = Skill for Living!***
- The basic summary of Proverbs: The Fear of the LORD leads to divine wisdom for Godly Living (Prov 1.7; 3.5; 9.10; 22.4)
  - ✓ Prov 1 — the foundation & the getting of wisdom;
  - ✓ Prov 2 — the benefits of wisdom;
  - ✓ Prov 3 — the Father making the case: *you need this to get you thru life!*

**THESIS — *You need God's wisdom to get thru life!* 6 Fatherly Imperatives.**

### **I. TREASURE GOD'S WORD! (1-2)**

I will keep your Law with all my heart (Ps 119.34).  
God's words are the joy of my heart (Ps 119.111).

### **II. EMULATE YOUR GOD! (3-4)**

Kindness & Truth — how God describes himself in Ex 34.6-7. Learn from God, emulate Him! Follow Him!

### **III. TRUST YOUR GOD! (5-6)**

The real issue in Prov 3:5-6 is this: "Whose understanding will *RULE and GOVERN* my life? Mine or God's?

To Trust God mingles these 4 elements together:

1. I must *KNOW* him
2. I must *DECIDE* to lean upon him
3. I must *RENOUNCE* self-confidence & totally lean on him.
4. I must *CONTINUALLY* lean upon him

**Verse 6 - ... In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight:**

This is not a promise of personal guidance and divine whisper-speaking (God doesn't whisper to us or speak to us today outside of His written Word). He clearly & sufficiently speaks in His written Word, the Bible. Today, God does not speak apart from the written Word of God.

1. This idea does not mean that God directs/guides us subjectively by feelings, voices, impulses, hunches, or God's speech
2. The immediate context has everything to do with walking according to God's written WORD & nothing to do with receiving fresh, new revelation.
3. The larger context of Prov contains No texts directing us to look for mystical, almost-prophetic- revelations and feelings to make life's decisions. Instead: we must GO to God's revealed Word, undertake the responsibility of wise decision-making and trust fully in God's sovereign providence & plan.

So a proper understanding of Proverbs 3:5-6 – in **4 helpful ways:**

1. Go to Scripture!
2. Make informed decisions!
3. Trust God's providence!
4. Walk with integrity!

#### **IV. LIVE WITH HUMILITY! (7-8)**

#### **V. GIVE WITH GENEROSITY! (9-10)**

- These verses imply the following:
  1. you're **working** (produce/what you make)
  2. you're **giving** (honor the Lord...)
  3. you're **prioritizing** (from the first...)
  4. you're **supplied** (v.10; so your barns are filled & overflowed)

- New Testament directions for Local-Church Giving — from **1 Corinthians 16:1-3** —
  1. It is to be a **collection** done **corporately** (v.1a)
  2. it is to be a **priority among the saints** (v.1b)
  3. it is an **act of obedience to God** (v.1c)
  4. it is to be a priority **to give to God in His church** (v.2a)
  5. it is to be **according to how God prospers you** (v.2b)
  6. it is to be **regular and consistent** in frequency (v.2c)
  7. it is to **further the work of the gospel** (v.3)

- Some **motives** for financial giving. Generous giving of your money to the Lord...

1. increases your joy
2. expresses your gratitude
3. protects your heart
4. advances the gospel
5. obeys your God
6. ignites many thanksgivings
7. evidences your faithfulness
8. tests your obedience
9. guarantees your reward

**How New Testament saints should give financially — principles from 2 Corinthians 8-9**

- *Saints should give joyfully (2 Cor 8.2)*
- *Saints should give participatingly (2 Cor 8.4)*
- *Saints should give increasingly (2 Cor 8.7)*
- *Saints should give worshipfully (2 Cor 8.9)*
- *Saints should give proportionately (2 Cor 8.12)*
- *Saints should give generously (2 Cor 9.6)*
- *Saints should give cheerfully (2 Cor 9.7)*
- *Saints should give trustingly (2 Cor 9.8)*
- *Saints should give expectantly (2 Cor 9.10)*
- *Saints should give purposefully (2 Cor 9.13)*

## **VI. EMBRACE GOD'S DISCIPLINE! (11-12)**

## TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
and to take him at his word;  
just to rest upon his promise,  
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust him more!**

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just to trust his cleansing blood;  
and in simple faith to plunge me  
neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just from sin and self to cease;  
just from Jesus simply taking  
life and rest, and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that Thou art with me,  
Wilt be with me to the end.

## TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

Samuel Rutherford on the **exceeding benefits & surpassing glory & unrivaled beauty of Christ** —

*"There is much in our Lord's pantry that will satisfy his children, and much wine in his cellar that will quench all their thirst. Hunger for him until he fills you. He is pleased with the importunity of hungry souls. If he delays, do not go away, but fall a-swoon at his feet. Every day we may see some new thing in Christ. His love has neither brim nor bottom. How blessed are we to enjoy this invaluable treasure, the love of Christ; or rather allow ourselves to be mastered and subdued in his love, so that Christ is our all, and all other things are nothing. O that we might be ready for the time our Lord's wind and tide call for us! There are infinite plies in his love that the saint will never be able to unfold. I urge upon you a nearer and growing communion with Christ. There are curtains to be drawn back in Christ that we have never seen. There are new foldings of love in him. Dig deep, sweat, labour, and take pains for him, and set by as much time in the day for him as you can; he will be won with labour. Live on Christ's love. Christ's love is so kingly, that it will not wait until tomorrow, it must have a throne all alone in your soul. It is our folly to divide our narrow and little love. It is best to give it all to Christ. Lay no more on the earthly, than it can carry. Lay your soul and your weights upon God; make him your only and best-beloved. Your errand in this life is to make sure an eternity of glory for your soul, and to match your soul with Christ. Your love, if it could be more than all the love of angels in one, would be Christ's due. Look up to him and love him. O, love and live! My counsel is, that you come out and leave the multitude, and let Christ have your company. Let those who love this present world have it, but Christ is a more worthy and noble portion; blessed are those who have him."*