

**GUIDANCE FROM GOD SERIES**

**TRUSTING IN THE LORD**

Lets turn to the book of Proverbs chapter 3 verse 5 and 6, which possibly some of you use as your prayer. We want to look at these two verses especially as we consider how God continue to lead our lives and bring us to the position that He wants us to be. Many of you may have even memorized these scriptures. In fact these were among the first scriptures that I really loved when I was born again.

It says here *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.* What a promise that the Lord has for us here. It tells us that if we trust Him and that if we choose not to lean on our understanding and that thirdly if we acknowledge Him, He will direct our paths.

As we receive guidance from God many of you would realize that the Lord does speak in dreams and visions. But there are a whole lot of other decisions that we have to make that the Lord expects us to hear from our human spirit rather than from the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit speaks many times it comes in visions or dreams or through the voice of the Holy Spirit or through prophecy or through many other mediums, which the Holy Spirit has.

But many of life's decisions of this physical life depend on our inward witness, which is not really a voice. The conscience is the voice of our human spirit. But the inward witness is not a voice. It is only if I can put it this way it is a spiritual feeling of comfort or discomfort. It is a feeling of uneasiness or of peace. The inward witness is only that sense that we have on our inward being of rightness or wrongness of situation. It is more like a traffic light, red light, green light, and yellow light. Those traffic lights don't speak. They are not audible but you could see them and you need to recognize what the lights mean. If we do not know what they mean we cannot interpret those signals.

In the same way there are spiritual feelings within us. We need to understand what they mean in order to interpret the signals. At the same time there are also the inward voice. The inward voice feels like almost your own self speaking. It's the voice of your human spirit speaking to you.

Now why is guidance from God important? Possibly nearly about 90 percent of your life's decisions depend on these two, the inward witness and the conscience. No doubt you can be spirit filled, tongue talking, bible carrying, Christians but 90 percent of life's decisions depend on these little things here.

When you are buying a house, you ask, "Why doesn't God guide me through prophecy? If you depend on supernatural guidance like visions, dreams, prophecies for your daily occurrences you can go wrong. Supernatural guidance has more to do with spiritual ministry. For your day-to-day affairs like getting the job that you need, doing all those things that you want, you would have to depend a lot on your inward witness than on your inward voice of your human spirit. I do not say that God could not speak in those areas. Even when He speaks or give you a vision of a particular job that you would have you will need your inward witness and your inward voice to discern and interpret.

All supernatural guidance needs interpretation. It is what I call the gap. The gap between the spirit world where the Holy Spirit resides and your mind, which makes the natural decision, is filled up by your human spirit. And it's subject to the

interpretation of the human spirit and that's where a lot of people have missed God in guidance. They have taken one prophecy out of context and that's it. They misinterpret a vision and that's it. They misinterpret a dream and that's it. Sometimes people have a dream of a disaster happening. Or they dream about something happening to a particular person. And they think it's for that same person. They interpret it wrongly. And they think something is wrong with that guy; they disassociate with that person and that's it.

All supernatural guidance needs interpretation. That is why in 99 percent of our lives including supernatural leadings we need the human spirit to guide us. What is the one percent? The one percent is where the angels arrange the circumstances together and not much decision-making is needed; you just go with the flow.

That is where we need to understand our heart. In Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart*, And then he adds a second phrase *and do not rely on your own insight*. It seems that our understanding and our hearts can be opposing each other - they should not. But many times that conflict between our minds and spirits can happen since our minds are in the process of renewal while our spirits are born perfect in God.

There are several Hebrew words for the word *trust* but there are three main ones that we will focus on. There is a Hebrew word *batah*, which means to confide or to have confidence in. The word *trust* found in Proverbs 3:5 is the word *batah*.

Then there is another one that is the word *chasal* and it is the other word that means to take refuge. When you *chasal* trust in God you are making God as your Rock and your Refuge. Maybe there are difficult circumstances and you have no one to turn to so you turn to God and put your trust in God. That word *chasal* means to take God as your refuge. You become a refugee in God. The word refugee does not have a very nice connotation for some people. In our times there are refugees of war. Remember that David at one time was a refugee before he became king. So no matter what your circumstances God can be your *chasal*.

Then there is another one not so commonly used is the word *yachal*. That is the one used by Job when he says *though He slay me yet will I trust Him*. That word is saying that if God kills him he will still trust Him. Theologically that is not true because God doesn't destroy or kill His own people. It's a statement from a human perspective. And that word *trust* means to *wait in hope*.

What we are look at in Proverbs 3:5 and 6 is the word *batah* which means to confide in Him. But many times we have taken that to be *chasal* or *yachal*. When you say, "I got a problem but God is my trust," you mean, "God is my *chasal*. He is my refuge." But that's not what that word means. That word means more than that. And so many times when people seek guidance from God, they have taken every good idea and every impression to be from God. That's not good. There are many good ideas out there but they may not be from God.

And in that view I like to make two little sentences regarding leaning on our own understanding. No. 1 it may not be of God. Not everything that seems good is from God. Even the most spiritual people make mistakes like that. That's why sometimes when people receive guidance they impose it on others. Remember there are lines of authority that we all come under. We have no right to impose on somebody's life and say, "I got this dream about you. You got to listen onto me." You got no right because that person is accountable to God not to you. We need to respect one another. If you have the word of the Lord for one another give it and that's your responsibility. That person may interpret it differently and how you yourself interpret it may not be the way that God wants you to. We can give prophecy and not understand that prophecy. We can be used by God to deliver a word from the Lord. And in the process of time your own mind figures out what you think that word mean for that person. But that person knows by hearing the word what the Lord really wants not you. They are accountable for their own life. We need to respect the free will and free choice life that God gives to every person.

These are not people who don't know how to hear God. I am not talking about young Christians alone who don't practice Proverbs 3:5-6. I am talking about leaders. I am talking about spiritual people. It's important for us to remember when

we receive guidance from God, we keep Proverbs 3:5-6 in mind. That no matter how much God has spoken to you in any way the Word of God still comes first. We must not lean on our own understanding but we must learn how to trust God with our hearts.

God used Joshua. He was one who knows how to hear God and get miracles. Joshua chapter 3 he heard from God how to cross the Jordan. And they crossed the Jordan and miraculously saw the hand of God. He had an open vision. He saw the manifestation of God in some way and God spoke to him. Later on in chapter five he saw an angel. It was not an ordinary angel. It was a warring angel. By all means we will say that he was a very spiritual man. Even apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers have to learn to hear God. That is why you can be the most fantastic prophet, preacher or whatever and still miss God on your personal life. You can hear God and hit the power line and see the miracles of God, see the parting of the Jordan and yet you can still miss God somewhere along the line. Being a prophet is no guarantee.

We in the ministry when it comes for making decisions for our own life we cannot depend on the office of a prophet, the office of an apostle to make a decision. In our own life we got to depend on our inward witness and the inward voice. And that separates out the experienced from the inexperienced ministry.

So here is Joshua and I just have to show all those chapters to show you how experienced he was in hearing God. He had a bit of hindrance when Achan sinned but then he renewed the covenant in Joshua 8 and they even have victory and success. It doesn't mean that when a person is successful everything else they do is right. That is the deception of the enemy. It doesn't mean that if you have 50 percent right the other 50 percent is automatically right. But yet a vast majority of Christians will say that if this prophet or man of God has been successful then everything else that he does must be right. I know that rightness produces success. But not all success is produced through your rightness. It may be produced in other forms.

Joshua 9:1-5 *When all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea towards Lebanon, the Hittities, the Amorites, the Canaanities, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, they gathered together with one accord to fight Joshua and Israel. But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they on their part acted with cunning, and went and made ready provisions, and took worn-out sacks upon their asses, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes; and all their provisions were dry and muddy.*

They would have made good Hollywood actors. They came to Joshua and they all acted up very well. They looked as if they were from a far, far place. They lied to Joshua. Joshua asked them, "Where are you from? In verse nine *They said to him, "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the Lord your God; for we have heard a report of Him, and all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt in Ashtaroth. And our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, "Take provisions in our hand for the journey."*

Look at verse 12 *Here is our bread; it was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey, on the day we set forth to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and moldy; these wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they are burst; and these garments and shoes of ours are worn out from the very long journey.*

Then something happened that should not have happened in verse 14 - 15. *So the men partook of their provisions, and did not ask direction from the Lord.*

They didn't ask the Lord. Why didn't the Lord tell them? The Lord wants you to ask. *And Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.* These are all leaders. They are not young Christians. They didn't ask the Lord. They didn't consult the Lord. They consulted one and another, which was fine but make sure you consult the Lord. And all the people were deceived. After they made the covenant they found that they were their neighbors.

What are they going to do now? Point one it may not be of God. It was a good idea to make covenant with people and be friendly. Now they did not immediately make the decision. They would naturally consult one another. In verse 15 the rulers of the congregation swore to them. And in verse 16 it says they had made a covenant with them. How could it happen? This is Joshua we are talking about. This was the one who saw the Jordan parted. This was the one who heard God and commanded the priests to carry the ark. This was the one who saw the angel. This was the one who saw all the wars. He made a mistake. He forgot the principle of Proverbs 3:5-6.

I encourage you no matter how successful you are check every idea with God. Some ideas may not be of God. I have found that when people become successful whether in the world or in the kingdom of God, they begin to assume that every idea is of God. They are so used to having success from God that they don't check the ideas. Now here is the word "*batah*". There is another form of it in a different way is "*mibtah*". The root form of the word "*mibtah*" means to speak with. See the word confide means to share something. And many times we have taken the word *trust in the Lord* means I have trusted in the Lord. God is not speaking about "*chasal*". He is not speaking about whether you have taken Him as a refuge in times of troubles. He is not talking about whether you put your hope in God. That's what people mean when they say *I put my trust in God*. But He is asking you, "Have you have a word with Him yet? Have you spoken to the Lord about this?"

Many times when people have good ideas, no matter how good the ideas are, the first thing I ask them, "Have you asked the Lord?" The word "*mibtah*" means to confide in the Lord. And many times we have not asked the Lord. We asked every Tom, Dick and Harry we know but we have not asked the Lord. Maybe we did but He didn't say anything. Hello there - does it sounds familiar to your life story? "I have consulted my father; he says O.K. My mother says O.K. All my loved ones say O.K. O God what do you say now?" And you wait for a while and all you get is silence from heaven. God if you don't answer I am going to go in O.K. Lord my devotion time is up to 7.30 you got only 15 minutes to answer. And when God is silent you took it as a yes. It is dangerous. When God is silent what must you take it as? Take it as a no first. How does God reply to you? Through your inward witness and through the inward voice.

Remember the apostles and the elders, when they wrote the decree concerning observing Jewish laws in Acts 15: 28 it says, *It seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us.* They sensed it on their inside. As you sense what is right and you sense what is the right thing to do and you follow those steps, God will answer in some form. He sometimes answers by dreams, prophecy and other supernatural means. But many times the answer comes from the sensation of your inside.

If you haven't asked the Lord about it, it means that you haven't trusted the Lord. A good idea may not be of God. How can it not be of God? Firstly, sense knowledge can deceive. You say all the circumstances point to that thing. Joshua and the people were deceived by sense knowledge. They went by what their eyes saw and the hands felt. They saw the moldy bread. They saw the garments. It was the same way Jacob deceived Isaac. Satan who is crafty can manipulate circumstantial evidence. Secondly, all the facts are not in yet. They only told them what they wanted them to know. But they didn't tell them what they ought to know. What we don't know can sometimes be very important. They didn't know that these people are from nearby. And they may not realize how deceptive these people are around them. Remember it is not what you know that can hurt you; it is what you don't know. And all our lives we don't know everything. Nobody knows everything. Therefore we have to trust in the Son of God Jesus who knows everything. There may be some facts that He is trying to get across to us that takes time to come to us.

Thirdly, the good idea may not be for you to carry out. It may certainly be of God but it may not be for you. That is why we must trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding.

Lets turn to II Samuel chapter 7:1-3 *Now when the king dwelt in his house; and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies round about, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the Lord is with you."*

David wants to trust or confide in the Lord with all his heart. He loves the Lord. He wanted to do something for God. And it is of God to build Him a house. It was in line with the Word to build Him a house. But it was not for him. Even if you passed the first test you got to pass the second one. It may be of God but it may not be for you. Of course if it is not of God you got to drop it. But even if you pass the test that is of God, it may not be for you. It may not be for you to do those things although they are good things. Which is the reason why we must recognize boundaries set by God.

If God has appointed somebody to go to Russia, how they do it and what they do there only they would know. I am not there to judge them. But if God has asked you to do something in your life, in your ministry, that is not within my jurisdiction and if you come and ask me for my judgment or my opinion I can give you the best spiritual counsel from my level. But then I will leave it to you to make your own decision. I recognize that each one is responsible for our own decision-making. I have to respect your call though there may be things I may not agree with; that I may do it differently. But how we do things depends not only on principles. How we do things depends also on our character and our personality.

There may be more than one way to do something. There may be more than one right way to solve a problem. There is always more than one solution. Don't get the first solution straightaway. If you are in the habit of jumping to the first solution, sometimes the first solution may be the good one. But if you "*mibtah*" or confide in God and have a secret meeting with God, sometimes the second one can be better. Sometimes the third one could be even better. "*Mibtah*" makes it better. Confide in God. It may be a good idea but it may not be for you. We need to respect how each individual solve problems using the same biblical principles though the outcome may be different. And I cannot expect you to do things the way I do. If I am in charge of vacuuming this place, I may want to go from the corners to the center. But you may want to go from the center to the corner. Who am I to say that is wrong? The most important thing is to get the results. It's the result that counts. The fruit is the most important thing. There may be more than one way to your solution. And we need to "*mibtah*" with God until we see three, four, five solutions. And we got to pray, "God how would you want to do this? O God I am confiding in you."

David could have just gone and built the Temple. Do you realize that David could have just done it? He didn't even have to tell Nathan. He was the king; he had the money; he had the authority. But first he asked the prophet, "Nathan you are the prophet of God, what do you think?" You throw things at one another. That's what I like to do when I meet with men of God in the five-fold ministry and who are of the same level. I used to throw ideas out. Some people don't understand the realm of fellowship. Lets say you are living in the time of David and you are a prophet and David asks you, "What do you think of this? I want to build God a house." Then you go around saying that David is going to build a house for God. He didn't say he was going to. He is just throwing out ideas and feelers. There are some people who easily mistake things like that. These are not the kind of people for you to throw out ideas and feelers when you fellowship with them. They will just distort what you say.

So David said, "Nathan you are prophet. I dwell in a nice place. I will build God a house." And Nathan felt good about it. Remember point three it may not be for you. It may be of God but it may not be for you. Remember God was not involved yet in the decision-making. Nathan said, "Go and do it." Nathan gives the approval. And that night God came to Nathan and basically said that it is not for David, but for his son Solomon to build the house of God. The idea was of God but it was not for him. One of the things that we learn is how to cut back on the good things. Some things are good but too much of the good things can cause us to lose our balance. Too much of good things can make us extreme. Just because water is good it doesn't mean that you drink gallons and gallons of it. Good things are good but you must keep them in its proper balance.

Lets see what God said to David in II Sam. 7:12 *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My Name.* God is saying it is not for you. Lets remember that this physical life is only a pattern and I treat it as a test. This whole life is just a test to live for God. And our real reward comes in heaven. Every one of us has our walk with God and our call to fulfill. If you try to fulfill somebody else's call you may be trying to rob them of their reward. All of us have rewards that are ready for us based on God's predestined call. If you

are faithful to that you will be rewarded. If you try to do somebody else's work you are actually trying to steal their reward from God. It was Solomon's job to build Him a house.

But there are some other things that David revealed that God said to him when he was passing the responsibility to Solomon in regard to building God a house. Let's turn to the book of I Chron. 28:3 *But God said to me,* (this was not recorded in the other portion but recorded here, as usual the bible sometimes give details from another writer,) *"You may not build a house for my name, for you are a warrior and have shed blood."* Now was it wrong for David to shed blood and be a man of war? David himself tells us that it's God who trains his hands for war. And it's God who enabled him to fight the fight that he has to do in his lifetime. It was God who anointed him to fight all the wonderful battles and victories that he had when God called him into the kingdom. So was it wrong for him to be a man of war? Was it wrong for him to shed blood? It was not. David had an anointing to be king. He had an anointing to make war. He says it's God who trains my hands for war. It's God who helps him to leap over the wall and run to the troop. So he was fighting with God's anointing.

We could turn to other passages to show that every time he fought a battle he asked God, "Lord shall I go for that? Lord shall I fight?" And God says, "Go ahead." David has his job to do. And he must do it with all his heart. So it was a good idea to build God a house. But it was not for David. In the kingdom of God sometimes when we begin to do something and we receive the power and the ability to do many things we must learn to stop ourselves from doing things that are good things that are in line with His will but may not be God's will for us to do. Learn how to say no. In our times today every church wants a bible school; every big church wants a T.V. program. But it may not be God's will.

Let's go into the secular world. There are a lot of businesses that can make money here. It may not be for you. Some people may be called to those areas. It may not be for you. So genuine ventures may be of God but that may not be for you. We are talking about trusting or confiding in the Lord with all your heart and leaning not on your own understanding. Our understanding blocks us from trusting in God. Not every good thing is from God. And even many good ideas may not be for us.

One of the things that I have found is that many people don't ask God. They do not know how to "*mibtah*" with God; to confide in the Lord. There is one thing I always say, "Have you prayed about that? Have you asked God?" If the answer is "No," it doesn't matter how good it was, don't. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.

What do you mean by acknowledge Him? Read Proverbs 3:5-6 very carefully. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and the "*mibtah*" must be sincere and not half-heartedly. Sometimes when people consult you or ask you things they do it half-heartedly. Sometimes when you are in a position as a counselor and when people come for counsel, they don't really come for counsel. Half their heart is already made up. They only want to come to check what you said and that's all. Or to find a second agreement that agree with them. That's not trusting with all your heart. If we come to God with that attitude God will keep silent. If we made up our mind before the Father, He will have to let us go like the prodigal son. Remember the prodigal son came to his father. You know what the prodigal son had done. He has already made up his mind. He says, "Give me my part of my inheritance and I will go my way. I have my own ideas about my life." What did the prodigal son's father do? Nothing. He just gave in to his son's request. His son had already made up his mind. The bible says that the prodigal son came to himself. In the end he realize his error.

It's important for us to understand that this mind of ours must be submitted to our heart. Don't make up our mind and come to God. Come to God with an open mind and an open heart where God can say no to what you are bringing to Him. We can plan; we can have very good ideas; but without God it goes nowhere. Learning how to bring and submit our ideas to God is a capacity of patience that we need to have. It's a capacity of saying, "God if you are not in this I am not going into it." We must have the capacity of trusting in the Lord with all our heart. Come with an open mind in order to receive guidance from Him.

You see the condition is with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Verse 6 *In all your ways acknowledge Him.* What do we mean by

acknowledge Him? It means three things. No. 1 give Him the respect and the right place. Respect is something that we learn in our relationship with one another. God says respect Him. Give Him the right place in your heart. No. 2 acknowledge Him involves worshiping Him. No. 3 acknowledge Him involves talking about Him publicly. You will say, "I got to talk this over with Jesus. How will Jesus be glorified in this situation?" In other words we are not ashamed of Jesus. We don't put Him in a storeroom. We put Him in the boardroom. Acknowledge that Jesus must be in the boardroom where the decision is being made. You give Jesus the chairman seat. Let Him be a part of your decision-making. When that happens your blessings are *He shall direct your path*. He will take control of the circumstances. When you start in verse five your circumstances may not be in His control yet. And you cannot lean on your own understanding. You cannot depend on the circumstances. But when you do all those processes your circumstances will be controlled by God. His angels are in line to bring every circumstance that is out of your reach into control.

Let me point to some incidences in Jesus' life where there is no way He could control the situation any more only God. When Jesus was on the cross there was a prophecy that says *they will see Him whom they have pierced*. It is a prophecy that must be fulfilled. Jesus had no control in a sense that He could have asked God to help Him anytime. He had no control in the physical sense that He had surrendered all to the Father. You could say that there were some prophecies Jesus purposely fulfilled. Fine He obeyed and He fulfilled. But there were some prophecies that were not in His control. Some other force controlled it. And the soldier could have a choice to pierce in His belly or pierce Him at the side or to knock off one of His legs. These are circumstances that God has to come in and place all His angels so that no devil can put the wrong thought on the soldier that was about to pierce Jesus at the side. What happens if he missed and pierced His hand instead? Sorry, prophecy not fulfilled. There are a lot of things that were out of the control of the people themselves. So they surrender to the Controller.

There were a lot of circumstances Paul's life that were not in his control. And I want to encourage you that God can be in control if you learn Proverbs 3:5-6. If you learn to share and confide in God; trust in Him. And remember the two points that were shared with you. It may not be of God. Point two it may not be for you. Let these points guide us so that we only walk in what is of God and what is really for

you. When God says, "David this is not for you." David says, "Fine. God I will obey you but let me do all my best to help Solomon to do what is for him to do." He had a willingness to say, "O.K. that's fine since that's beyond my jurisdiction."

God spoke to Paul in the book of Acts as he was going to the temple and he was captured and taken a prisoner in Acts 23:11 *The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified about Me at Jerusalem so you must bear witness also at Rome."* Now God says you will be in Rome. But Paul was not in control of his life. He has surrendered his life to God. He was in control in the sense spiritually but he was not in control of his physical and legal sense because he was a captive prisoner. It looks like he was under the control of the Roman Governor. But when he surrendered and trusted in the Lord, he didn't understand how God's word to him was going to take place. In fact there was a delay of several years before he entered Rome. He was languishing in the prison for some years. In Acts 23:11 Jesus personally delivered to him the prophecy that he will be in Rome. As you read on in Acts 24:27 *But when two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.* Now there were at least two to three years that he was in prison before he was sent to Rome. Paul must have been waiting in prison wondering when he will go to Rome. How can a prisoner have control of the circumstances?

You can through Proverbs 3:5-6. I want to encourage you no matter how out of control your situation is; no matter how you felt imprisoned by the circumstances around by other forces greater and physically more powerful than you, but if you trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; you acknowledge Him in all your ways; He will cause everything to be directed in your path. And you will go to the destination that He has assigned for you. Thank God that He can control circumstances. God's power is released to arrange the circumstances. God takes control of our hearts, our lives and our circumstances.

And look at how many people God has worked with. He has to work with No. 1 the governor's heart. And it does says in the book of Proverbs the hearts of kings are in God's hand. So God placed it upon the governor's heart to make a decision for Paul to go to Rome. Then he had to arrange all the circumstances so that all the soldiers are involved to give protection to Paul. Remember how the people were

trying to kill him. He has to protect him so that he could reach Rome safely. There were several assignments attempt at Paul's life. But if God wants him to go to Rome the assignments will not succeed. So God has to work with the circumstances. Some of it through a little boy. Remember the Jews were plotting to kill Paul and Paul's sister's son overheard the conversation. God put the son in that situation to overhear the plot and the son has to run and tell the soldier. Then the soldiers arranged for extra protection for Paul. How does God direct our path? He places the right people in the right place all along the way or your path of life. So that all you have to do is remember He will direct your path. You just have to walk in the will of God. All your circumstances you just place to God. Take it one step at a time and you will flow in God's will.

Even when Paul was on his way in the journey there were circumstances beyond his control. I will summarize and close by illustrating with the journey of Paul in chapter 27:1 *And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort, named Julius.* So they were traveling in a ship and Paul had no legal authority, no physical authority but Paul was a prisoner more of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is finally on his way to Rome. And he is headed for Rome, which is a prophecy God gave him nearly two to three years ago.

Now that he is on his way in verse 9 and 10 Paul sensed something. See there were circumstances beyond his control. And Paul advised them saying *I perceive that this journey will end with disaster and much loss not only of the cargo and the ship but also of our lives.* So Paul knew that although they were supposed to go to Rome, he knew that they were not supposed to rush there. And he sensed that there was physical danger. None of the other people could sense that. None of the other people trusted the Lord. Everything looks nice but Paul sensed something in his spirit and it was troubling him. And Paul says there will be danger. We should not go through this whole voyage. But Paul was not in control. He was only a prisoner. But if you trust in the Lord and not lean on your own understanding; if you acknowledge Him He will direct your path.

Along the way danger comes. For many nights there were so much danger that the

people who were in the natural were frightened. But Paul waited on the Lord. Then finally verse 21 *As they had been long without food, Paul then came forward among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and should not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss.* There was something that was lost. I believe that when you trust in the Lord you will not lose anything. The Lord is our Shepherd we shall not want. The Lord is not in the business of making you lose in order to trust Him more. Just as some people who were praying the wrong way. They say, "O God take everything away from their lives until they have to trust in You." No, that's not the way to pray. That's the devil who steals, kills and destroy. If they had listened they wouldn't even lose the cargo. The cargo doesn't belong to Paul. But God is in the business of restoration not in the business of stealing. In verse 22 *I now bid you to take heart; for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the ship. For this very night there stood by me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said. "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and lo, God has granted you all those who sail with you.* Paul trusted in God. He leaned not on his own understanding. He did not know how he is going to end up there. And here he tells the people don't go but they still went. As he is a prisoner he had no choice. He got dragged along. But God was in control of the circumstances.

You will always come out on the top when you trust on the Lord and lean not on your own understanding. When you acknowledge Him He will direct your path. The good news is you come out on top. You may start at the bottom of the ladder but you will come out on top. You may start in the worse position but you will end up on top. Just like Joseph in prison. You may start at the bottom of the ladder. You will end up on top. I encourage you no matter how bad your circumstances are, no matter what kind of problems you are facing now; remember there is more than one solution. And no matter how low at the bottom of the rung of the ladder you are that if you trust in the Lord and understand the two main points that we focused that firstly, it may not be of God. Secondly, it may not be for you. Then you say, "What then is for me?" Listen to Him, confide in Him, walk very softly and surely with Him and you will discern the will of God.

