

# The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

## SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 8

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Proverbs 3:5–8

Related Passages: Proverbs 18:10; 29:25

Sermon Date: November 11, 2007

### **Trust in the Lord.**

Did you ever stop to think about the word “trust”? Trust is a confident positive expectation based upon experience. If we “trust” someone, we believe they will do what they promise and carry through with their commitments.

As a child growing up, perhaps you put your trust in your parents. As a small child, we believe that our parents can do anything, solve any problem and keep us safe. As time goes on and we grow older, we learn that they are not infallible and then as we become teenagers, we begin to question everything including our parents wisdom, i.e. we no longer have that sense of complete trust in them or anyone.

Trust is something that takes a long time to earn and can be lost in an instant. This week we are looking at trust and putting our “trust in the Lord”.

Why should we want to put our trust in God? Why can we trust God? These are questions that we are going to explore together in this week's study. Let's take a look at this important concept together and discover why the Lord has earned our trust.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>Key Verse Proverbs 3:5-6</b> (NIV)</p> <p><b>3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;</b></p> <p><b>3:6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.</b></p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p><b>3:8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.</b></p> <p><b>18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.</b></p> <p><b>29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.</b></p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. Our key verse for this week says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart”. Why should we trust in the Lord? (Consider Proverbs 3:19-20 and 18:2)
5. Proverbs 3:5 tells us to lean not on our own understanding. What does it mean to lean on your own understanding?
6. What are some reasons we keep leaning on our own understanding? Consider Proverbs 1:20-33.
7. What are some steps we should take in order to enjoy full confidence in God? Consider Proverbs 3:21-26, Isaiah 26:3-4, Psalm 23 and Romans 1:20.
8. How would someone know if you are “trusting in the Lord”? How do you recognize someone else that is trusting in the Lord? Consider 1 Peter 3:8-15.
9. An unbeliever might say that “trusting in the Lord” is a cop-out and a dodge to avoid developing our own way of thinking and acting. How would you answer this argument?
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week? Consider Psalm 91.

**Memory Verse**

**Proverbs 3:5—6**

**<sup>3:5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**

**<sup>3:6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

Fortunately for us, we have a God who can always be trusted and is completely and forever trustworthy. Trusting in the Lord is a something that we learn by doing. First, ponder the sight of his faithfulness in creation, in his unfolding work of redemption through many ages, in his infallible Word and in the God-Man, our Savior Jesus. The more that we look and listen to God, the more we invite his Spirit to teach us to trust. And the more we trust God, the more we will keep seeing of his faithfulness in his Word and the more he will continue to grow our trust and our spiritual vision. Looking leads to trusting which leads to seeing.

Stephen said "Look, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). Have you too begun to see that Jesus Christ is truly the Risen Savior" ? Take time right now and surrender your self to God's calling. Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and give him your trust.

Remember though that trusting is something that we have to work at. Trusting in the Lord, at least in my experience is something that I do well part of the time and at other times, I can fail miserably. I find that I have to remember to keep trusting the Lord constantly. It is too easy to fall back on my own understanding and think that I can "do it myself".

Let's never give up surrendering our hearts to the Lord in a deeper way every day, and as we do so our trust in him will grow stronger.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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