

SHOW ME YOUR WAY LORD

Good morning,

What path are you on ?

Who's path are you on ?

How is your walk with God ? Are You following Him?

Who is leading you on the path ?

Is it you, or is it the Lord ?

Is He just a part - time guide ?

Have you perhaps stumbled off the path ?

Are you pursuing God ?

Are you calling on Him for guidance ?

Are you trusting Him with all your heart ?

Let me share these 2 verses:

1. Show me now your ways Lord so that I may know You ... Exodus 33:13 Moses

2. Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth... Psalm 86:11 David

> What are Moses and David doing? Both praying their hearts desire, asking, pleading to God. They want Him, they want nearness to Him, they want to know His ways. (Word, Will, Ways) **This is the key ingredient to a walk with God, Desiring God and to faithfully obey**

> The 3rd verse is the Lord.....Listen to His promise..." I will instruct you and teach you, I will counsel you with my eye upon you...Psalm 32:8

My questions to you this morning: What path are you on?

1. Do you wholeheartedly want to know the path of God for your life?
2. Like Moses and David, are you crying out to God to show you His way?
3. Are you willing to do your part as God leads you ?
4. Is Jesus you Lord, treasure, your passion or is He your religion ?

Our text today will tell us how to know God's path

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. (make your path straight)

Throughout scripture, we see God invites us into fellowship. He is the one who by His grace calls us unto Himself, but we have our part to do. See here:

1. **Come to Me** all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11)
2. **Call upon me,** and I will show you great and wonderful things you do not know (Jer. 33)
3. **Draw near to Me,** and I will draw near to you. (James 4)

Similarly, in Proverbs 3, God promises to direct our path, but we have our part to do:

1. **Trust in the LORD with all your heart**
2. **Lean not on your own understanding**
3. **Acknowledge Him in all your ways**

Today, as we unpack this passage, we are going to look at what we must do in knowing God's path for us, and then we look at how God directs our path.

The Big Idea: God will direct the path to those who wholeheartedly will trust in Him.

Title: SHOW ME YOUR WAY LORD

LET'S PRAY

Before we go into the text, I want us to truly **recall our lost-ness before our salvation**. We were on a **path to Hell**. **The miracle of God's grace to save us should forever fill us with worship** of praise and thanksgiving. We now have been **called with a holy calling to glorify our Lord**. We have been **chosen to be His witnesses and His servants**. We are **no longer our own** but God's holy possession, **purchased by the precious blood of Christ**, to be now **placed on His path, to direct us to the lost and make disciples**. If we abide in Him, He will take us along His narrow and **perfect path; the path that will lead others to glory**. **This is our privilege**. Being on this path with God **should be our heart's desire**. **God speaks to us here in Proverbs giving us instructions on how to walk closely to Him....**to receive direction... to fulfill His purposes.

**WE MUST TRUST HIM.... WE MUST NOT LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING
WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL OUR WAYS**

T/S - SO LET'S BEGIN AND LOOK AT THE FIRST INSTRUCTION

1. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.... What does that mean?

Let's first look at the meaning of the word trust?

It is a bold confidence in believing that someone or something is reliable. It is an assured reliance on the character, strength and truth of that person or thing in which you are placing your trust...It is an absolute certainty, an assuredness that you can bet your life on.

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen.....It is a confidence that what is not yet seen, will for certain occur..

Example: Marie and I had full confidence that Pastor Jeff would pick us up at the airport.

What is trusting in the Lord? Trusting in the Lord is believing in the promises of God in all circumstances, even when the evidence is contrary. We believe it so thoroughly that we are willing to fully act upon it. BECAUSE WE KNOW GOD'S CHARACTER. HE does not lie.

Hebrews 11:5 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, for He who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (this tested me)

>God has given us great examples of those who have trusted God in Hebrews 11

>One of my favorites is Sarah, she realizes it is not her faith she has faith in: she depends on the faithfulness of God.

>Hebrews 11:11: *By faith even Sarah herself received the ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time because she considered Him faithful who had promised.(not our faith but His faithfulness)*

We trust in the Lord because He alone is trustworthy. He alone is faithful

> **Hebrews 6:13..To prove His trustworthiness to Abraham, For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore to Himself, “ I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you...verse 17, In the same way God, desiring EVEN MORE to show *the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose*, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge *would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.***

God swears and makes an oath to Himself to give us the highest possible assurance of His faithfulness to His promises

Are you trusting God? You can be sure He will fulfill His promises.

> All His precepts are true. > His name is Faithful and true.

Trusting in the Lord begins with believing in Jesus for salvation.

For by grace you have been saved by faith and not of ourselves, it is a gift of God.

> We believe in our hearts The Gospel

> It is a faith that comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

GOD HIMSELF IS THE SOURCE OF THIS TRUST

If we truly trust that His blood washed us clean, then we can certainly trust Him for all.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART

First, what is the heart? It is the core of our being. The heart is the ruling center of a person’s will, mind and feelings. It is the control center of life.

>It is where the affections of the soul are housed. It is from the heart that the issues of life flow and reveal our true intentions and feelings toward God. (In the Bible over 1000 time). To give Him everything but not your heart is to give nothing, IT WILL NOT CUT IT

> It means there is no more room for anything or anyone else.

>You’re SOLD OUT, No lukewarm-ness, totally surrendered

> God has the rightful claim to the throne of your life. Your life is a living sacrifice. Your being is consumed by the Almighty God and your hope is only in Him.

> We no longer place our trust in our programs, plans, religion or past successes.

>When we wholeheartedly trust the Lord, even when we stumble, we will not waiver because our trust is based on faith in the promises of God.

>To trust God with all our heart is to have no hesitation or reservation in trusting HIM completely.

Job 19:27 - My heart yearns within me. God is the culmination of my innermost desire.

(Commentary on Job 19:27).. Is God the culmination of your innermost desire?

Jeremiah 29: Seek me with ALL YOUR HEART, then you will find Me. ONLY THEN!!!!

THIS IS A CONDITION!!! (Love God with all your heart)

2 Chronicles 16:9-For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth seeking to support those hearts whose HEART IS COMPLETELY HIS

>The Bible says in Proverbs 28:26, *He that trusts in his own heart is a fool*, but in Jeremiah 17:7 - *Blessed is the man trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord*

**T/S So, let's look at the second instruction from the Lord.
LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING**

Now that Jesus is our Lord, we must rely totally on His direction and ways. We abandon all self-confidence, pride and lean not on our understanding, but God's.

Since the fall, our nature has been corrupted. **We were born in sin and our understanding, wisdom, knowledge and motives are tainted, fallen, incomplete, partial, and destructive.**

**Our vision is limited, finite, we only see in part.
GOD KNOWS BEST, HE SEES THE OBSTACLES AHEAD, WE DON'T....**

> **God has plans that are beyond** our imagination and will at many times look foolish
i>**Corinthians 1:18. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God. God's wisdom is, at times, foolishness to man. IT IS COUNTER CULTURAL**

>**If we are to follow Him, we must abandon** our ways no matter how good they may seem. >We must not insist God making sense in our limited minds. In doing so, we may be setting ourselves up for spiritual trouble, especially the pragmatics of trusting past successes.

Example of the danger of leaning on your own past successes

Joshua after a victory in Jericho goes to Ai and gets defeated. **He did not consult with God, He assumed this would be an easy win, but this was not God's plan.**

Warning from God's Word: There is a way which seems right to man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 16:25

Remember Isaiah 55: 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Examples in our church of trusting God's plan and not man's plan: Radio station, Pastor to Vermont (God saw Tonya and Ellen), Brock & Monet, Griffin & Lauren to VT.

>**Our peace we have in leaning not on our own understanding is being fully confident that God knows best.**

Let us be like this: I considered my ways but turned my feet to your testimonies. Psalm 119:59

T/S Let's now look at the 3rd instruction God gives us in this passage

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL YOUR WAYS

This verse is self-explanatory. In every place, in everything, in every conversation, In every thought, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.

> **The NIV Study Bible says:** “Nodding in God’s direction is not enough, you must know Him by living closely with Him, relating to Him personally in every aspect of life.

>**Your prayer life, your work, your relaxing time...**When you sit down, walk by the way, when you lie down and rise up. Every decision you make, every turn you take. **Acknowledge God!**

> **As our Brother Matthew says,** we put the Cross right in front of our eyes, full frontal vision.

> **We set God before us always in view, considering Him always present with us, with every step we take always asking for His advice and wisdom.**

>**Warning: Do not exclude Him in any aspect** or decision of your life at any time. Do not restrict or ignore His influence. This could be dangerous, disobedience or even a sign of arrogance.

James 4:13. *Come now you who say ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such a city and spend a year and engage in business and make a profit... Instead you should say if the LORD wills we will live and do that, but as it is, you boast in your arrogance, all such boasting is evil.*

Arrogance to think God saves me, but now I can live and do what I want...dangerous attitude **WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE A STEP WITHOUT HIM. NEVER LET GO OF HIS HAND** for it is **HIS PRESENCE THAT IS OUR PEACE.**

Jeremiah 10:23 / *know that my life is not my own. It is not for me to direct my step*

T/S NOW THAT WE LOOKED AT WHAT OUR PART IS, LET’S LOOK FROM GOD’S WORD HOW HE DIRECTS OUR PATH .

FIRST, give a simplified statement to the meaning of “and He will direct our path”, is to say **God will rightly guide us on His Mission, and keep our path from sin and destruction. He will lead us into righteous living for His name sake.**

TODAY I WANT TO TOUCH ON TWO WAYS GOD DIRECTS OUR PATH

1. **HE SPEAKS TO US.** (Will look at two ways He does this by His Word and through prayer)
2. **BY THE EMPOWERING AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Before we do this, is there anything in your life that would hinder you from hearing from God. Please inspect yourself.....Pastor Jeff’s sermon (Seven Hindrances to Prayer)

>**Unconfessed sin, wrong motives, not honoring your spouse, doubting God, hardened heart to others, idols, and unforgiveness.**

How is your hearing? Are you continuing to listen by responding to grace, loving God and others, a faithful obeying no matter what (Shema), a repeating of His Word and a continuing.. If so, you are at the best place to be led by our Lord and to hear His voice.

John 10:4, When He puts forth all His own, He goes ahead of them and the sheep follow Him because they know His voice

THE WORD

So let's look first at how God speaks to us by His Word.

The major way God speaks to us is through His Word. The Bible which is the Holy Book that contains the Word of God, is the only source of divine truth. From the Bible we learn Jesus is the Word and that the Word is God.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (verse 14).*

>**And today, God speaks to us in His Son.**

Hebrews 1:1-3 *God after He spoke long ago to the fathers and the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power...*

Every word Jesus spoke was perfect and pure and His Word will reveal to us His Will and His Ways.

2nd Timothy 3:16. *All Scripture is inspired by God for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God will be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

Let's look at this from Come and see Christianity (Pastor Jeff on the Word of God 2:56)

What does God's Word say about God's Word Psalm 19:7-8.

*The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

God's Word is our guide to God's path Psalm 119:105 *-Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Barnes commentary.

It is a light which shines on the road that a man treads, so that he may see the path, and that he may see any danger which may be in his path. The expression is very beautiful, and is full of instruction. He who makes the word of God his guide, and marks its teachings, is in the right way. He will clearly see the path. He will be able to mark the road in which he ought to go, and to avoid all those by-paths which would lead him astray. He will see where those by-roads turn off from the main path.

> **Directs from stumbling into sin Psalm 119.133** *Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let iniquity have dominion over me.*

> **Gives life, sustenance, hope Matthew 4:4** *Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God*

> **God's Word speaks and is everlasting and can be trusted**

> **Isaiah 40:8** *The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of God stands forever.*

Examples in my life of how God's Word has guided me from despair. (How about you)

1. *The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining* **1 John 2:8**

2. *Fear not for I have chosen you, I have called you by name, you are Mine.* (**Isaiah 43:1**)

Have you ever thought God has placed a special passage in the Bible just for you?

God's Word is authoritative, gives instruction and can be trusted, Luke 5:5 *And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your **word** I will let down the nets."*

>**Gives affirmation and confidence** **Isaiah 43:19** *Behold I will do something new, now it will spring forth: will you not be aware of it. I will even make a roadway in the wilderness.* I know this speaks to some here at the Bridge

> **So we can trust God and His Word to guide us. GOD INDEEDS SPEAKS TO US BY HIS WORD**

LET'S LOOK AT PRAYER

Prayer is the most wonderful privilege we have as Christians. To be in constant contact with God in reverence and in awe responding to His love with praise and thanksgiving, making requests, sharing our hearts and asking for guidance and being still and listening to what God may speak.

Bunyon said, "Prayer is the highest activity of the human soul".... It is a conversation with God. It should be the most natural thing we do, like breathing.

PRAYER IS A TIME OF TRUE INTIMACY WITH GOD WHERE WE CAN HEAR HIM SPEAK

By prayer, we can confidently go to God.

> **Hebrews 4: 16** *Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

>**God promises to hear our prayers and answer them.** *Therefore, the Lord longs to be gracious to your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.* **Isaiah 30:19**

>**We pray and ask God for direction** **Exodus 33:13.** Moses, "Show me the way"

> **Ask God for wisdom** **James 1:5**-If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who gives it generously...

>**To open us a door to share the words** of the Gospel ,**Colossians 4:3**, *Praying at the same time that God will open up for us a door to speak the mystery of Christ.*

> We pray for God to lead us not into temptation and that His will be done **Matthew 6.**

>Jesus prayed all night before choosing the twelve apostles

>We pray, as Paul did, to choose elders **Acts 14:23**

>We pray for the right words to share to our weary brother **Isaiah 50:4** *The Lord has given me the tongue of disciples that I may know how to sustain a weary one with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.*

>While we pray God can lead us right then Acts 10, Peter on a rooftop/Paul worshipping Acts 13

>We pray for discernment like Daniel, who prayed to interpret dreams.

>Apostles were devoted to prayer and to the Word so as to know how to lead. Acts 6 Like Pastor Jeff did recently when he went away to be alone with God, and **GOD spoke.**

>Prayer is our open door to God, to ask for guidance..... **Our part:** Trust with all our heart, lean not on our own understanding, acknowledge Him in all our ways.

T/S Now that we looked at some of the major ways God speaks to us, let's look now how God empowers us on His path and leads us by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God, He is the third person of the Godhead. He dwells within the miraculously transformed, born again believer.

In John 14, Jesus let the disciples know that the Father would send to them the Spirit of truth who would be the One that would guide them in all truth. He would speak not on His own initiative but whatever He hears. This is so important to understand. The Holy Spirit will only and always be leading according to the will of God and will never be contrary to God's Word. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Guide.

Got Question: He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living. He is the ultimate guide, going before, leading the way, removing obstructions, bringing understanding, and making all things plain and clear.

The Empowering

>**When we were born again, we were instantly adopted into the family of God by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5**

>**When we believed, we were marked in Him, sealed with Him, the Holy Spirit of promise. Ephesians 1:13**

>**The Holy Spirit affirms our spirit that we are children of God Romans 8:16**
The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. We cry out Abba Father.

>**The Holy Spirit empowers us to be God's witnesses to all the world.**

Acts 1:8. *And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth*

> It is Impossible to be led on God's path without the Holy Spirit. He empowers us.

THE LEADING

>**Romans 8:15** *For all who are being led by the SPIRIT of God, these are the children of God.*

>**How do we know we are being led by the Spirit?** **Romans 8:14** says because, *by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body.*

WE are now new creatures in Christ . We now love God and hate evil

The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit.
Romans 5:5

We now desire God's righteous ways, now we have the power to walk in righteousness. Our walk now glorifies God and in doing so He directs our path into righteousness for His name sake. Psalm 23:3

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are being sanctified and made more into the image of Christ: led on a path to a more holy, God glorifying life for Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:13 Because God has chosen us from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit.

>**The Holy Spirit gives us the power** to resist temptation.

>**In Galatians 5:16, it says,** *But I say walk in the Spirit and you will not carry out the deeds of the flesh.* Our path will be straight and narrow characterized by God's attributes.

>**The Greek translation of walk, means a continuous action or habitual lifestyle. Walking also implies progress...as the believer submits to the Spirit's control that is responding to the simple commands of the Gospel, he grows spiritually...**

>**As Holy Spirit filled believers in Christ, rather than walk in the flesh, we will walk in the Spirit and by His power,** He will produce in us the fruit of the Spirit, those attitudes that will characterize our lives.(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control)

> **The Holy Spirit leads us to an understanding** of the Scriptures which the natural man cannot understand. ***But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit for they are spiritually appraised.*** 1 Corinthians 2:14. (I was blind but now we can see)

How does the Spirit lead us? Bring remembrance of Scripture. **John 14:26** He can do this by speaking into our hearts, minds, our consciousness from God's Word that provides for us wisdom for that exact moment. He may bring scriptures to our mind that may direct us to an action. **(Be slow to speak and quick to listen, Take every thought captive, Think of others more than yourself)**

The Spirit leads us in prayer: He empowers and leads our prayers.
Ephesians 6:18, *With prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit.*

To "pray in" in the Greek it means to "with the help of", "by the means of," "in connection to" **Does not refer to the words we pray but how we pray: by means of the Spirit's leading, power and according to God's will.. Even when we don't know what to pray, the Spirit prays for us in our weaknesses.** **Romans 8:26**

Leads us by the Conviction of Sin **John 16:8**... to turn and lead us away from sin and from the wrong path. *Now to Him who is able keep you from stumbling* **Jude 24** He re-routes us and makes our path straight.... He warns us to turn now.

Conviction of righteousness. Holy Spirit can nudge us to good works (**Ephesians 2:10**).

He may lead us to visit the sick, the orphan, the widow, encourage the weary, feed the hungry and go to one with the Gospel

He will give us the words to speak when we are being persecuted for the faith **Matthew 10:19-20**. Jesus told the disciples not to be worried about what to say, for it will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you

He will lead us in discernment of what action to take when you are within the guard rails of Scripture. **Proverbs 26:4** **Answer a fool, don't answer a fool. / expose the wrongdoer, don't pull up the weeds from among the wheat.**

And as we see in the New Testament, the Spirit can direct us to places or people to share the Gospel; to go to the lost, Jesus said, I have come to seek and save the lost.

Jesus after He was baptized, was led by the Spirit in to the wilderness **Matthew 4:1**
The Spirit spoke to Philip and said go up into the chariot **Acts 8:29**
The Spirit told Peter to go with men to Caesarea to speak to Cornelius **Acts 10:19-20**
He told Paul to go to Jerusalem though bonds and afflictions awaited him. **Acts 20:23**

Who may God be speaking to you to go to and share the Gospel?
How has the Spirit been leading you; are you listening, are you obeying?

If you follow the path on how God has directed our Bridge Church (His people), it is amazing. **There is no other explanation other than by the direction and power of God.** He is speaking to His people who will listen: through the Word, by prayer, others, divine circumstance and by the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

From a Kentucky seminary, to Kent Island, to Vermont, to Uganda, to India and now this very week, Pastor Jeff and Christine are with our Uganda family as well as with our Brother, Pastor Frederick from Kenya... God is directing our steps. He is speaking to us and empowering and leading our walk by His Spirit, All for His glory.

He has saved us and is sending us...John 20:21

THE CLOSE

**As we come to the close, How about you?
My question when we started, Why do you want to follow God... is it religion or worship?"**

Do you want to walk His path or yours? *Jesus said my food is to do the will of the Father (John 4:34).*

He also said so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father has commanded Me. John 14:31

Jesus wanted to do the will of the Father, "Not my will but Your will be done."

JESUS'S PATH LED STRAIGHT TO THE CROSS

The Tree Stained with the blood and flesh of our Savior. There He drank the cup, the cup of the wrath of God that was meant for us redeemed sinners.

How much do you really love God? How far are you willing to go for God and with God? Will you deny yourself and pick up your cross and follow Him daily?

God has a plan and direction for all those He has called... It is a plan of good and not evil Jeremiah 29:11 It is for those who fear Him and seek Him with all their heart.

When we walk His path, clothed in His righteousness, we will be witnesses to the transforming power of God's grace. As we pursue Christ, He will direct us to the lost and ultimately to the Elect. To all the world, we will proclaim the Gospel, pour into the persons of peace and make disciples that will make disciples. We will find the lost and grow the found.

Do you want Him to direct your steps? Will you follow God no matter what?

**For the true Christian, there is no greater joy than to walk with God.
Exodus 33, Moses said, If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.**

Jesus said, and everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mother, or children or farms for my name's sake will receive many times as much and will inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:29

Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy and in your right hand are pleasures forever.*

If you truly follow God's path, this is what will happen; you will truly love one another. *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* **John 13:34**

Today, God has given us a guide to His path

The question is, is your walk with Jesus just religion or is it an ever surrendered, faithful obedient life surrendered to the will of God no matter what because He has saved you and poured into you a love for Him ?

If you want Him to direct your steps, He gives us three steps in Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. (make your path straight).*

CLOSE WITH PRAYER